

Compiled by Madanmohan Rao

# Pearls of Wisdom:

indian proverbs & quotations



A salute to  
Wisdom  
& Peace





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# Preface

This is a work in progress!

No work on Indian proverbs and quotations can really be said to be ‘complete,’ of course, given the depth and diversity of India’s philosophical traditions and the ongoing contributions of its prolific scholars, gurus, artistes, statesmen and leaders both in India as well as the globe-spanning Indian diaspora.

But this collection actually has its roots in my Loyola school years in Poona, when like many schoolkids I would make annual scrap-books of R.K. Laxman cartoons, newspaper cuttings, idioms, proverbs, poems and quotations. I gathered the proverbs and quotations from newspapers, magazines, the innumerable highly-affordable paperback compilations in India, and from friends and relatives.

This carried on in my college days in IIT-Bombay, grad-school days in the US at UMass Amherst, work postings in Brasil and Italy, and after my return to Asia. Many proverbs and quotations stayed in my scrap-books, but quite a few surfaced in my various PowerPoint presentations, guest-edited corporate newsletters, and as opening quotes in my books on new media and knowledge management. (In fact, I joke with my friends and colleagues that with this book I have now moved on from knowledge management to wisdom management!)

Fuelled in part by the growing global buzz about India, the unbelievable energy that India today exudes, and the boom in media about India, I decided to give my humble scribbled quotations a more permanent home in the form of this book.

All glory and thanks should of course go to the wise people and scriptures of India that graced this planet well before my time, but I hope by putting some of their words together I can bring some rays of inspiration and a smile of pride to you, my readers!

This book has now grown into a larger ongoing project called “The World of Proverbs” ([www.WorldOfProverbs.org](http://www.WorldOfProverbs.org)) to document and

chronicle humanity's heritage through its proverbs in a multitude of languages, and share it worldwide via popular and authoritative books as well as 21st century tools ranging from social media and open access models to portable devices and mobile apps. For instance, you can also get the proverbs as daily tweets on Twitter at @IndianProverbs and @WorldOfProverbs!

You may choose to read this book from cover-to-cover, or open to any page and read as much as you want, or read a page a day, or..... or whichever way you wish! Perhaps future enlarged editions of this book would have the proverbs classified by category. Perhaps future editions would be in the various Indian languages. Perhaps future editions would be brought out in the other languages of the world. This is a work in progress.....

My thanks go to my family, relatives, friends, colleagues and fellow-travellers in my innumerable journeys to the far corners of this world. Special thanks also to the countless world music artistes whose music has inspired me as much as the proverbs and quotations in this book (more on that in another book!). And heartiest thanks to Osama Manzar, Shaifali Chikermane and their team for bringing this book to light!

If you have proverbs and quotations from your own collections that you would like share, or if there are inaccuracies and errors in any of the quotes in this book, please email me at [madan@techsparks.com](mailto:madan@techsparks.com) or contact me via the Web sites [www.IndianProverbs.in](http://www.IndianProverbs.in) or [www.WorldOfProverbs.org](http://www.WorldOfProverbs.org). Your inputs will be incorporated into future enlarged editions of this book, new kinds of books, a multimedia CD, a companion Web site, and a collaborative wiki!

This is a work in progress. . . . .

Madanmohan Rao  
Bangalore



What does a monkey know of the taste of ginger?

**Hindi proverb**

The worth of the shade is only known when the sun is beating down hot.

**Tamil proverb**

Life is like a lamp flame; it needs a little oil now and then.

**Kashmiri proverb**

Do not dig a well only after the house catches fire.

**Kannada proverb**

The neighbour's curry even if sour is tasty.

**Telugu proverb**

There will always be a ditch in front of a person in a hurry.

**Punjabi proverb**

The adult looks to deeds, the child to love.

**Hindustani proverb**

A donkey cannot appreciate the taste of jaggery.

**Marathi proverb**

Knowledge is higher than power.

**Hindi proverb**

A peacock's eggs do not need to be painted.

**Gujarati proverb**

All the ten fingers are used in eating. But it is the thumb that has to push the food into the mouth.

**Assamese proverb**

If one is lazy, even nectar turns into poison.

**Sanskrit proverb**

The boat of affection ascends even mountains.

**Bengali proverb**

Even when throwing in the river, measure what you throw.  
**Tamil proverb**

Elders' advice is like gooseberries; at first sour then sweet.  
**Malayalam proverb**

Even a witch spares her neighbourhood.  
**Marwari proverb**

Anger is as a stone cast into a wasp's nest.  
**Malabar Proverb**

When the student is ready, the master appears.  
**Buddhist proverb**

The potter sleeps soundly, for no one would steal clay.

When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced.  
Live your life in such a way that when you die, the world  
will cry and you will rejoice.

**Kabir**

There can be no worship without good actions.  
**Guru Nanak**

Do not say, "It is morning," and dismiss it with a name of yesterday. See it for the first time as a newborn child that has no name.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Include the world in your love, and call yourself a cosmic citizen.

**Paramhansa Yogananda**

A fool, though he lives in the company of the wise, understands nothing of the true doctrine, as a spoon tastes not the flavour of the soup.

**Buddha**

He who sees him in all and all in him, hates none.  
He who feels for others as he feels for himself, loves all.

**Isha Upanishad**

The purpose of this mortal life is to reach the shore of immortality by conquering both life and death.

**Srimad Bhagavatam**

To attain interior peace, one must be willing to pass through the contrary to peace.

**Swami Brahmananda**

I slept and dreamt that life was joy.  
I awoke and saw that life was service.  
I acted – and behold, service was joy.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Creation is the image of the creator.

**Rig Veda**

The mysteries of life are revealed to those who keep their  
mind vigilant at all times.

**Yajur Veda**

Death is as necessary for a man's growth as life itself.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

With all my admiration and love for democracy, I am not  
prepared to accept the statement that the largest number of  
people are always right.

**Jawaharlal Nehru**

All moments are beautiful – only you have to be receptive  
and surrendering.

All moments are blessings – only you have to be capable of  
seeing.

All moments are benedictions. If you accept them with  
deep gratitude, nothing ever goes wrong.

**Osho**

A sign of intelligence is to find the one in many and the many in one.

**Sri Sri Ravishankar**

Just as a candle cannot burn without fire, men cannot live without spiritual life.

**Buddha**

Learning, the destroyer of arrogance, begets arrogance in fools

Even as light that illumines the eye, makes owls blind.

**Panchatantra**

Our mind is like a garden which can either be intelligently cultivated or be allowed to run wild.

**R. K. Murti**

Life would be dull and colourless but for the obstacles that we have to overcome and the fights that we have to win.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Heroes are made in the hour of defeat. Success is, therefore, well described as a series of glorious defeats.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

You can often find in rivers what you cannot find in oceans.

Make a wrong-doer feel shy, by doing him a favour.

**Thirukural**

Self-praise is no recommendation.

**Hindi proverb**

True happiness consists in making others happy.

Knowledge is of no use in the absence of right conduct,  
conduct is of no use in the absence of right knowledge.

**Jain proverb**

He that is baldheaded has no need for combs.

Help your brother's boat across, and your own will reach  
the shore.

Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the  
intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one get-  
ting burned.

**Buddha**

Humility is different from servility.

**Sikh saying**

Faith and trust can move mountains.

**Ramayana**

Great is the hero who does not forget his humble origins.

**Mahabharata**

The heart has no language, it speaks to the heart.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The moon has her light all over the sky, her dark spots to herself.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Spirituality is neither a privilege of the poor nor the luxury of the rich. It is the choice of the wise man.

**Swami Chinmayananda**

It is always dark at the foot of the lighthouse.

**Hindi proverb**

A cat in a cage becomes a lion.

Do not learn how to react, but how to respond.

**Buddha**

Sages say that the path of wisdom is narrow and difficult to tread, as narrow as the edge of a razor.

**Upanishads**

Most of the men and women today are not free and wise;  
they are like kites flown by priests and politicians who hold  
the string.

**Har Dayal**

I will rather have violence than cowardice masquerading as  
non-violence. Non-violence is a cult of the brave.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The beauty of a sunset is shared by all human beings.

**J. Krishnamurti**

If you see the soul in every human being, you see truly.  
If you see immortality in the heart of every mortal being,  
you see truly.

**Bhagavad Gita**

Swaraj has no meaning until it can annihilate the yawning  
gap between the haves and the have-nots.

**Maulana Azad**

Remember there can be no happiness for anyone unless it is  
won for all.

**Jagdish Chandra Bose**

Divided rule and foreign rule are both unadulterated evils.

**Chanakya**

God's great power is in the gentle breeze, not in the storm.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

All sensory pleasures in the world are like wrapping paper.  
The true bliss is the present inside.

**Sri Sri Ravishankar**

There can be no worship without good actions.

**Guru Nanak**

We do not cry for the moon. We pluck it from the skies and  
wear it upon the diadem of Asia's freedom.

**Sarojini Naidu**

Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what  
you do are in harmony.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Truth can be stated in a thousand different ways, yet each  
one can be true.

**Swami Vivekananda**

When you learn to live for others, they will live for you.

**Paramahansa Yogananda**

There are thousands of lives in one single life.

**Swami Prajnanpad**

The discriminating principle is greater than the thinking self.

**Lord Krishna**

Through zeal, knowledge is gotten; through lack of zeal, knowledge is lost.

**Buddha**

A man is a universe in miniature -- and the universe, a giant living body.

**Kabir**

Only the foolish distinguish between man and woman; the good respect both equally.

**Kalidasa**

One individual may die for an idea; but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself in a thousand lives.

**Subhas Chandra Bose**

No cruelty can be uglier in its ferocity than the cruelty of the coward.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Liberty and democracy become unholy when their hands are dyed red with innocent blood.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Truth is like the sun. No human being can ever look straight in its face without blinking or being dazed.

**R.K. Narayanan**

A crocodile at home can beat an elephant  
But if he goes abroad a dog can make him pant.

**Panchatantra**

A serpent nursed on milk will still be poisonous.

**Hindi proverb**

You should not call in a cat to settle the argument of two birds.

The wind does not choose which odour to carry along,  
good or bad.

Like the body that is made up of different limbs and organs, all mortal creatures exist depending on one another.

The new man will not be a Christian or a Hindu, a Mohammedan or a Buddhist. He will simply be religious.

**Osho**

Results are achieved only by action, not by riding the chariot of the mind.

**Panchatantra**

Facts are facts and will not disappear on account of your likes.

**Jawaharlal Nehru**

True beauty consists in purity of the heart.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The treasure of learning is imperishable.

**Swami Dayanand**

If you can observe yourself, then you can give your imagination complete freedom.

**Rajneesh**

Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Our life carries within it a record that time cannot blur or death erase.

**S. Radhakrishnan**

Let noble thoughts come to us from every side.

**Rigveda**

Dislodging a green nut from its shell is almost impossible, but let it dry and the lightest tap will do it.

**Sri Ramakrishna**

A true diagnosis is three-fourths the remedy.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Cheerful patience is required both for naughty children and your own mind.

**Buddha**

Genius does not argue, it creates.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

One's knowledge is only a handful of sand, there is still an ocean of knowledge to learn.

**Tamil proverb**

Food will last while the forests last.

**Kashmiri Proverb**

The God may grant the boon but the priest will not.

**Kannada proverb**

If you make delay even ambrosia turns into poison.

**Telugu proverb**

In a tree-less country, the castor-oil plant is a big tree.

**Hindi proverb**

You may lock up the cock, but the sun will still rise.

He who gives advice should also be able to follow advice.

**Punjabi proverb**

It is morning whenever you wake up.

**Gujarati proverb**

The tongue because it has no bone, says various things.

**Assamese proverb**

Worries are similar to a pyre.

**Sanskrit proverb**

A one-eyed uncle is better than no uncle at all.

**Bengali proverb**

Stolen jaggery is always sweeter.

**Hindi proverb**

Even stones beneath a jasmine flower attain fragrance.

**Malayalam proverb**

Where love reigns the impossible may be attained.

Everything looks yellow to a jaundiced eye.

**Hindi proverb**

A coconut shell full of water is a sea to an ant.

If it is man's privilege to be independent, it is equally his duty to be interdependent.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

If you shed tears when you miss the sun, you also miss the stars.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Rather than continuing to seek the truth, simply let go of your views.

**Buddha**

As a boat on the water can be swept away off course by a strong wind, so the intelligence may be carried away by any of the roaming senses on which the mind alights.

**Bhagavad Gita**

If God dwells only in the mosque  
Then to whom belongeth the rest of the country?

**Kabir**

To be one with the world is wisdom.

**Thirukkural**

In a forest fire, the blind and the lame can help each other reach safety.

**Jain proverb**

Nature is the book of God always open before our eyes.

**Sikh saying**

In times of need one has to bow before the buffoon.

**Hindi proverb**

It is only in your coffin that you sleep really well.

Bravery is not the monopoly of any one person.

It is latent in all, only they are not aware of it.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Darkness travels towards light, but blindness towards death.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Once you know yourself, there is no death. In your meditative consciousness, death disappears just as darkness disappears when there is light brought in.

**Osho**

Even death is not to be feared by one who has lived wisely.

**Buddha**

Faith acts as a beacon when all else is dark.

**Ramayana**

The knowledge of truth brings with it power.  
But if the power be mixed with arrogance, it slides back  
into ignorance.

**Mahabharata**

Great minds discuss ideas.  
Medium minds discuss events.  
Small minds discuss people.

**Swami Chinmayananda**

To lose is to learn.

**Hindi proverb**

A guilty conscience is a lively enemy.

Joy is never tomorrow. It is always now.

**Sri Sri Ravishankar**

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily  
admission of one's weakness.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Incarceration in my country is better than freedom abroad.

**Subhas Chandra Bose**

He who knows others is learned, he who knows himself is  
wise.

**Hindi proverb**

A word spoken in wrath is the sharpest sword; covetousness is the deadliest poison; passion is the fiercest fire; ignorance is the darkest night.

**Buddha**

Better cross-eyed than blind.

Only if money helps a man to do good to others, is it of some value.

**Swami Vivekananda**

The season of failure is the best time for sowing the seeds of success.

**Paramahansa Yogananda**

The human voice can never reach the distance that is covered by the still small voice of conscience.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Truth requires as much of strength to give as to receive.

**R.K. Narayanan**

Perseverance opens up treasures which bring perennial joy.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Let the sacred flame of divine fire shine bright in your souls.

**Rig Veda**

He who sees all beings in his own self, and his own self in all beings, loses all fear.

**Isa Upanishad**

Think of yourself as if you were the only unenlightened person in the world. Everyone else is your teacher.

**Buddha**

If we can really understand the problem, the answer will come out of it, because the answer is not separate from the problem.

**J. Krishnamurti**

When the old tracks are lost, new country is revealed with its wonders.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

You have to grow from the inside out. None can teach you, none can make you spiritual. There is no other teacher but your own soul.

**Swami Vivekananda**

We die and are reborn as we change our clothes.

**Hindi proverb**

One can seldom see the beam in one's own eye.

**Jawaharlal Nehru**

We cannot, in a moment, get rid of habits of a lifetime.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Those who sit idly in the expectation of God's help are great fools.

**Swami Dayanand**

Our desire lends the colours of the rainbow to the mere mists and vapours of life.

**S. Radhakrishnan**

Art is the response of man's creative Soul to the call of the Real.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Greed remains young forever.

**Panchatantra**

The wise will scent danger beforehand, and hold the mind from wavering when danger comes.

**Mahabharata**

Dawn arrives even without a rooster.

**Hindi proverb**

Better to have a diamond with a few flaws than a rock that is perfect.

We should know both the revealed and the unrevealed God.

**Upanishad**

Most people are unfit to have children.

**Osho**

Man's triumph will consist in substituting the struggle for existence by a struggle for mutual service.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

To serve is difficult on an empty belly.

**Hindi proverb**

To the world, wisdom is folly. To the wise, the world is foolish.

Be like a bee, taking only the nectar from your experiences.

**Tamil proverb**

The leftovers of some could be a hearty meal for others.

**Kashmiri proverb**

The quarrel between a husband and wife is till they eat and go to bed.

**Kannada proverb**

Farther hills look smoother.

**Telugu proverb**

Better a true enemy than a false friend.

**-Hindi proverb**

You never die before death arrives.

Spittle directed at the heavens falls on one's face.

**Hindi proverb**

One person's silence can ensure the peace of a hundred.

**Punjabi proverb**

One's mother and homeland are greater than even heaven.

**Sanskrit proverb**

A confectioner is never attracted by sweetmeats.

**Bengali proverb**

On a green tree there are many parrots.

**Hindi proverb**

A good friend can replace the mirror.

**Malayalam proverb**

He who has mounted an elephant will not fear the bark of a dog.

What we cultivate in times of ease, we store up to support us in times of change.

**Buddha**

If you spend your life killing, you will never be rid of all your enemies. But if you quell your own anger, you will have slain your real enemy.

**Nagarjuna**

Age considers, youth ventures.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

We must look the world in the face with calm eyes  
Even though the eyes of the world are bloodshot today.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

A smile you send, will always return.

God exists in one's heart like the pupil in the eye.  
But ignorance causes a man to seek Him far and wide.

**Kabir**

Cut your coat according to your cloth.

**Hindi proverb**

Fish and guests smell when they are three days old.

The benevolent man should serve society seeking no return.  
For how can the earth recompense the bounty of the rain  
clouds?

**Tirukkural**

A threaded needle does not get lost even if it falls on the  
ground.

**Jain proverb**

Formalities and rituals only have value when we are alive  
to their inner meanings.

**Sikh saying**

It is a greater gift to give than to receive.

Life is like a game of cards. The hand that is dealt you rep-  
resents determinism; the way you play it is free will.

**Jawaharlal Nehru**

It is the tears of the world that keep the smiles in bloom.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

An artist is not a special kind of man, but every man is a  
special kind of artist.

**Anand Kumar Swami**

An extremist or terrorist who is ready to kill someone is thereby offering to sacrifice his own life for the cause. Hence a potential extremist is an appropriate recruit for social action at a higher moral level – namely, non-violent satyagraha.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

All the knowledge in the world is no good if it deserts a person in the hour of need.

**Ramayana**

A guest is a guest for two days, on the third he is a pest.

**Hindi proverb**

Character, not brain, will count at the crucial moment.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Creation is the image of the creator.

**Rig Veda**

He who buys dear cries once, he who buys cheap cries forever.

**Hindi proverb**

God laughs when you steal from a thief.

Throughout my life I have gained more from my critic friends than from my admirers.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

While hating sin we must be gentle to the sinner.

**S. Radhakrishnan**

A game of pleasure ought to be played for pleasure alone.

**Mahabharata**

A thief is a thief, whether he steals a diamond or a cucumber.

**Hindi proverb**

Never stand in front of a judge or behind a donkey.

There is no harm if we possess the things of the world.  
But it would be a tragedy if the things of the world possess us.

**Swami Chinmayananda**

The burden of self is lightened when I laugh at myself.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Meditation is seeing God in yourself.  
Love is seeing God in the person next to you.  
Knowledge is seeing God everywhere.

**Sri Sri Ravishankar**

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Watch people do their most common actions – these are indeed the things that will tell you the real character of a great person.

**Swami Vivekananda**

One slays, another pays.

**Hindi proverb**

It is easy to forget kindness, but one remembers unkindness.

A pearl is worthless as long as it is still in its shell.

Learn to be calm and you will always be happy.

**Paramahansa Yogananda**

He who has a hundred wants a thousand.

**Panchatantra**

As we throw away our old worn-out garments and put on new ones, so the living soul after using the body throws it away when it is worn out and dons a new one.

**Bhagvad Gita**

To listen to some devout people, one would imagine that God never laughs.

**Aurobindo Ghosh**

No culture can live, if it attempts to be exclusive.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

All proofs of truth are credentials of relationship.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

The fog cannot be dispelled by a fan.

**Hindi proverb**

He who wants fruits should not pick flowers.

When you have a rock in hand, usually there won't be a dog to hit nearby.

When there is a dog nearby, you usually won't have the rock to hit it with.

**Tamil proverb**

A blind man's wife is God's keeping.

**Kashmiri proverb**

One without worries can doze off in a marketplace.

**Kannada proverb**

In the house of the wealthy, even morons are considered intelligent.

**Punjabi proverb**

The mother of a divided family has no funeral.

**Bengali proverb**

One cannot empty the ocean into a pond.

**Hindi proverb**

Learning is a treasure no thief can touch.

You can't reap a cucumber if you sow a pumpkin.

**Malayalam proverb**

To quarrel with a man of good speech is better than to converse with a man who does not speak well.

**Sanskrit proverb**

The poor look for food and the rich look for appetite.

Keep five yards from a carriage, ten yards from a horse, and a hundred yards from an elephant; but the distance one should keep from a wicked man cannot be measured.

I have lanced many boils but none pained like my own.

**Hindi proverb**

It is easy to throw something into the river but hard to get it out again.

Look upon all animate beings as your bosom friends, for in all of them there resides one soul.

**Rig Veda**

Religion can be defended by the purity of its adherents and their good deeds, never by quarrels with those of other faiths.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Belonging to a particular religion creates an unreligious world.

**Rajneesh**

God respects me when I work, but he loves me when I sing.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

What greater worship can there be than nature's own festival of lights!

**Kabir**

Crores of burning lamps cannot give light to a blind person.

**Jain proverb**

It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

**Sikh proverb**

In love, beggar and king are equal.

There are lessons to be learnt from everyone. The wise person realises this.

**Ramayana**

The king who aspires to monarchy must ever guard his kingdom with sleepless eyes.

**Mahabharata**

Agenda for today: breathe out, breathe in, breathe out.

**Buddha**

Beauty needs no ornaments.

**Hindi proverb**

Poverty makes thieves, like love makes poets.

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The artist is a lover of nature  
Therefore he is her slave and her master.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

The dawn is the dream of God's creative fancy.

**Rig Veda**

Though one may be a little bubble and another may be a mountain-high wave, yet behind both the bubble and the wave there is the infinite ocean.

**Swami Vivekananda**

Two swords do not fit in one scabbard.

**Hindi proverb**

What you know is as big as the size of your palm, what you do not know is as big as the size of the universe.

**Tamil proverb**

A man loves his own shortcomings.

**Kashmiri proverb**

There are no nuts when one has teeth and there are no teeth when there are nuts.

**Kannada proverb**

You may cover a fish with spinach, but can't hide its smell.

**Bengali proverb**

Don't judge any man until you have walked two moons in his shoes.

Even the moon has spots.

**Hindi proverb**

When money is not a servant it is a master.

All sins are committed in secrecy. The moment we realise that God witnesses even our thoughts, we shall be free.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

To travel is a better thing than to arrive.

**S. Radhakrishnan**

Like the silkworm, you have built a cocoon around yourself.

Burst your own cocoon and come out as the beautiful butterfly, as the free soul.

**Swami Vivekananda**

A ripened fallen fruit cannot re-attach to the branch.

**Kabir**

You may judge a flower or a butterfly by its looks, but not a human being.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

May your death be a step to immortality!

**Rig Veda**

The stream does not feel the loss at all if a bird takes a drop out of it.

**Hindi proverb**

Greed increases with every gain.

**Jain proverb**

We need not change the wanderings of the mind, but its character.

**Sikh proverb**

Good people, like clouds, only receive to give away.

Not every debt can be paid off with money.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

No sacrifice is worth the name unless it is a joy.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The joss-stick burns up and reduces itself to ashes – but makes the atmosphere pleasant for all around.

**Ramayana**

The deaf have no enemies.

**Hindi proverb**

Don't poison someone whom you can kill with sweets.

Take care of each moment and you take care of all time.

**Buddha**

This they call the highest state: when the five senses and the mind are still, when not even reason stirs.

**Upanishads**

When water joins with water, it is not a meeting but a unification.

**Swami Prajnanpad**

Look upon hardships with eagerness. They should not bring tears to the eye.

Look upon them as ordained to serve you, to chasten you through trials and tribulations, and finally leave you stronger, healthier, wiser than before.

**Mahabharata**

In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

If a man reads but one word of love, he becomes learned.

**Swami Vivekananda**

Science is acquaintance, not knowledge. It can never be absolute.

**Rajneesh**

Beneath the roses lies the serpent.

**Hindi proverb**

The one who teaches is the giver of eyes.

**Tamil proverb**

Your leg starts to ache when you see a horse.

**Kannada proverb**

Unless a man is simple, he cannot recognise God, the Simple One.

**Bengali proverb**

Worldly prosperity is like writing on water.

Small things grow mighty if they are skilfully combined.  
Blades of grass will make a rope to bind a raging elephant.  
Hitopadesha

Man is worse than an animal when he is an animal.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

The whole universe is to us a writing of the Infinite in the language of the finite.

**Swami Vivekananda**

I would heartily welcome the union of East and West provided it is not based on brute force.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

It is easy to hate, but healthy to love.

**R. Radhakrishnan**

The way to overcome the angry man is with gentleness, the evil man with goodness, the miser with generosity and the liar with truth.

One 'No' averts seventy evils.

**Hindi proverb**

Follow the river and you will get to the sea.

The whole world is poor, no one is rich.  
Only the one who has the wealth of God's name is rich.

**Kabir**

Pride must be turned into self-reverence.

**Sikh saying**

The real worth of a person becomes apparent not during conditions of plenty but during privation.

**Ramayana**

The heroes who fall in quest of victory or in defence of their faith are immortalised by the bards. But who remembers the widows they leave behind?

**Mahabharata**

We must become the change we want to see in the world.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Love must conquer hate, because hate can't conquer itself.

**Swami Vivekananda**

A guilty conscience is a hidden enemy.

**Hindi proverb**

Education in your childhood is like the letters in a sculpture.

**Tamil proverb**

The dosa made in any or every house has pores.

**Kannada proverb**

Blaming your faults on your nature does not change the nature of your faults.

Love has the power to derive pleasure from mistakes, discords, incapacity. A mother's love overflows at the false step of the child whom she is teaching to walk.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean: if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Knowledge is of no avail if you cannot control your tongue.  
**Kabir**

When the mind becomes stable like the water of a clear pond, then the reflection of the soul can be seen in it.  
**Jain proverb**

The body is the temple of God.  
**Sikh saying**

Those who long for power try to be close to the powerful.  
**Ramayana**

The memory of an insult refuses to die down.  
**Mahabharata**

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.  
**Mahatma Gandhi**

A man must not be judged by the nature of his duties, but by the manner in which he does them.  
**Swami Vivekananda**

The greatest task of education is not merely to collect facts but to know man and to make oneself known to man.  
**Rabindranath Tagore**

Call on God, but row away from the rocks.

**Hindi proverb**

If you have planted a tree you must water it too.

**Tamil proverb**

The son-in-law's sack is never full.

**Kannada proverb**

Be first at the feast, and last at the fight.

The sieve tells the needle: you have a hole in the head.

**Hindi proverb**

What is sport to the hunter is the death of the bird.

If we are facing in the right direction, all we have to do is  
keep on walking.

**Buddhist proverb**

The gardener may water a hundred buckets  
But the fruit will arrive only when it is due.

**Kabir**

One who conquers one's self enjoys happiness.

**Jain proverb**

Let faith be thy staff.

**Guru Nanak**

Never leave a thing undone, waiting for tomorrow. There is no tomorrow.

**Ramayana**

A successful King is one who knows the history of all his subjects.

**Mahabharata**

Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

There is a world preaching in silence.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Defeat defeat before defeat defeats you.

**Swami Vivekananda**

Do not blame God for having created the tiger, but thank Him for not having given it wings.

**Hindi proverb**

If you are buying a cow, make sure that the price of the tail is included.

**Tamil proverb**

The cawing of crows does not reach heaven.

**Kannada proverb**

Garlic is as good as ten mothers.

The diamond in your belly sparkles on your face.

**Sanskrit proverb**

We are both queens, so who will hang out the laundry?

If you give me rice, I will eat today.

If you teach me how to grow rice, I will eat everyday.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Death looks at man and laughs all the while.

**Kabir**

The young crow is wiser than its parent.

**Hindi proverb**

You do not stumble over a mountain, but you do over a stone.

Knowledge precedes compassion.

**Jain proverb**

The cause for man's suffering is that he has restricted his love only to himself and his family.

**Ramayana**

Power with humility is the hallmark of the learned one.

**Mahabharata**

Everything else can be kept tied except joy.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Those who say religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion is.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Every step I take in the light is mine forever.

**Swami Vivekananda**

Pray for one hour before going to war, two hours before going to sea, and three hours before getting married.

**Hindi proverb**

Pepper is small but not its zest.

**Tamil proverb**

Stretch your legs only as far as the bed is.

**Kannada proverb**

The frog does not drink up the pond in which it lives.

Endurance is one of the most difficult disciplines, but it is to the one who endures that the final victory comes.

**Buddha**

The world keeps dying but no one knows how to die.

**Kabir**

Expansion of love is life. Contraction of love is death.

**Ramayana**

No matter who joins whom in battle, the laws of combat should be fair and just

**Mahabharata**

An ounce of practice is worth more than tons of preaching.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The tree casts its shade upon all, even the woodcutter.

**Hindi proverb**

Even in hunger, tigers do not eat grass.

**Tamil proverb**

If the horse befriends the grass what will it eat?

A bandicoot is lovely to his parents; a mule is pretty to its mate.

**Kannada proverb**

Only bodies die. Hopes and delusions are immortal.

**Kabir**

Difficulties come and go, but morality comes and grows.

**Ramayana**

Woeful is the mother who sees her sons fighting on different sides for a cause.

**Mahabharata**

A 'No' uttered from deepest conviction is better and greater than a 'Yes' merely uttered to please, or what is worse, to avoid trouble.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

When we take one step towards God, He takes seven steps towards us.

**Hindi proverb**

A picture of a gourd is not useful to cook with.

**Tamil proverb**

He who could not dance said that the ground was uneven.

**Kannada proverb**

One enemy is too many, one hundred friends is not enough.

To the hero, dying on the battlefield is preferable to bending his knee to the enemy.

**Ramayana**

Anger is great vice. So too is pride. Together they can destroy common sense.

**Mahabharata**

Man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow-men.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

There is no ladder to climb – there is only the first step, and the first step is the everlasting step.

**J. Krishnamurti**

The appearance of a seed is in direct contradiction to its true nature.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

A scalded cat dreads even cold water.

**Hindi proverb**

Even water can be held in a sieve, if you wait till it is frozen.

**Tamil proverb**

Seeing the peacock, the rooster spread his wings.

**Kannada proverb**

A man in this world without learning is as a beast of the field.

Time can dull the sharpest ambition.

**Ramayana**

The flames of envy and jealousy lick at man's anger and keep the heart alive.

**Mahabharata**

Time is a merciless enemy, if it is also a merciful friend and healer.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

I am king, you are a king. Who is to fetch the water?

**Hindi proverb**

Don't dip your leg in water before knowing the depth.

**Tamil proverb**

The disagreeable husband finds stones in curds.

**Kannada proverb**

When an elephant is in trouble even a frog will kick him.

Power must be handed over to the younger generation in time.

**Ramayana**

Skill is a marvellous thing. It can adorn a humble man as much as it graces a king.

**Mahabharata**

Courteousness must not be mistaken for flattery, nor impudence for fearlessness.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

God gives food to every bird but does not throw it into the nest.

**Hindi proverb**

Only the cure you believe in cures.

**Tamil proverb**

Will the God who brought us to the world make us graze on grass.

**Kannada proverb**

Never strike your wife, even with a flower.

To rule wisely, the leader must take care to listen to all, scoff at none, ignore none.

**Ramayana**

When the princess is beautiful, competitors forget their brotherhood.

**Mahabharata**

If I had no sense of humour, I would long ago have committed suicide.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

A language is not an umbrella or an overcoat that can be borrowed, it is like living skin itself.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

The washerman never tears his father's clothes.

**Hindi proverb**

Giving advice to a stupid man is like giving salt to a squirrel.

**Tamil proverb**

What you give away is yours and what you hide will go to others.

**Kannada proverb**

If your face is ugly, what can the mirror do?

The contented man looks into his own heart to find total peace.

**Ramayana**

Evil thoughts do not grow alone in mature heads. They can spring up like weeds in the minds of children too.

**Mahabharata**

Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Don't bargain for fish that are still in the water.

**Hindi proverb**

I bought the nettle, sowed the nettle, and then the nettle stung me.

**Tamil proverb**

For one who drinks swill there is one to trim his moustache.

**Kannada proverb**

Whatever you are able to secure from a burning house is a gain.

Because of his attachment to the body, man is not able to understand his divine nature.

**Ramayana**

Honour is more important to the proud than life itself.

**Mahabharata**

Prayer needs no speech.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Life is a bridge. Cross over it, but build no house upon it.

**Hindi proverb**

Where there is sunshine, there is also shade.

**Tamil proverb**

In the wedding of the mad widow one who has a meal is the clever one.

**Kannada proverb**

The most beautiful things in the universe are the starry heavens above us and the feeling of duty within us.

The King may not heed the advice of his parents while waging war.

**Mahabharata**

There is a higher court than the courts of justice and that is the court of conscience.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Beauty without virtue is like a rose without fragrance.

**Hindi proverb**

One man's beard is on fire, and another man warms his hands on it.

**Tamil proverb**

It is not easy to live among material objects and give up all attachment to them.

**Mahabharata**

Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

A friend is never known till the hour of need.

**Hindi proverb**

When you give some one a space to sit, he will ask for a place to sleep.

**Tamil proverb**

There is no evil without its advantages.

Envy becomes the whole-time companion of the man who desires material satisfaction.

**Mahabharata**

Intolerance itself is a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Learning acquired in youth is an inscription in stone.

**Hindi proverb**

The thread of the garland also smells sweet.

**Tamil proverb**

To lend is to buy a quarrel.

The king must employ different methods to know the true motivations of his generals.

**Mahabharata**

I had no shoes and complained, until I met a man who had no feet.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The dew can never slake one's thirst.

**Hindi proverb**

A drunkard's words are gone by the next dawn.

**Tamil proverb**

If you live in the river you should make friends with the crocodile.

Woe and misery are relative emotions.

**Mahabharata**

Arrows that leave the bow and words that leave the mouth  
can never be recalled.

**Hindi proverb**

Even a crow finds its own child precious.

**Tamil proverb**

If you have faith in the cause and means and in God, the  
hot sun will be cool for you.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Get up, get going. Life is a race: no matter you win or loose,  
what matters is that you are a part of it!!

**Krishna Dasani**

If your head is intact, you can have a thousand turbans.

**Hindi proverb**

Only when in the sun do you miss the shade.

**Tamil proverb**

All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of  
today.

Life without love is a waste.

**Swami of Kanchi Math**

An arch never sleeps.

The soul dries up without the company of the good.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Who is poor? He who is not contented.

**Adi Shankara**

In the land of the blind, a one-eyed man is the king.

**Hindi proverb**

The frog's own mouth is its destruction.

**Tamil proverb**

Anger ends in cruelty.

The values of life are more valuable than the valuables of life.

**Swami Tejoymayananda**

Today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

**Kalidasa**

One needs to be slow to form convictions, but once formed they must be defended against the heaviest odds.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun.

If you see something evil, think that you are not understanding it in the right light. Throw the burden on yourselves!

**Swami Vivekanada**

Not one single moment of life can be regained for millions of gold coins. Therefore, what greater loss is there than time spent fruitlessly?

**Chanakya**

The drums sound better at a distance

**Hindi proverb**

Known is a drop, unknown is an ocean.

**Tamil proverb**

Large desire is endless poverty.

Silence helps one to suppress one's anger, as perhaps nothing else does.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Power of love is God. Love for power is ego.

**Swami Sukhabodhananda**

To discover what is true demands freedom from tradition, which means freedom from all fears.

**Krishnamurti**

One hand alone cannot make the clap sound.

**Hindi proverb**

Half a pot of rice is given as charity, but the announcing drumming is done all night.

**Tamil proverb**

Sit on the bank of a river and wait: Your enemy's corpse will soon float by.

You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.

**Indira Gandhi**

The loans that we take carry simple interest, but the deterioration of character goes on with compound interest.

**C. Rajagopalachari**

A man of few words will measure every word.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Freedom is a state of mind – not freedom from something.

**J. Krishnamurti**

Those with little knowledge keep showing it. Those who know all are calm.

**Hindi proverb**

The fruit falls near the tree.

The tip of a finger cannot be touched by itself.

**Sanskrit proverb**

You can buy everything, except a father and a mother.

**Tamil proverb**

Pearls are of no value in a desert.

Real beauty is the beauty of the soul.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Struggle is the law of progress.

**Lala Lajpat Rai**

A good teacher must know how to arouse the interest of the pupil in the field of study.

**S. Radhakrishnan**

The riches of him who gives do not diminish.

**Rigveda**

Stretch out your legs only as much as your blanket is.

**Hindi proverb**

The wounds of fire would have gone with time but not the wounds caused by words.

**Tamil proverb**

When a man works for an ideal, he becomes irresistible.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

How beautiful is humble courtesy!

**Rabindranath Tagore**

A king is honoured only within his own bounds.

A learned man is respected everywhere.

**Chanakya**

It is hard for an ex-king to become a night watchman.

The buffalo belongs to the one with the rod.

**Hindi proverb**

A pepper plant will not give birth to roses.

**Vedic proverb**

Faith is not something to grasp, it is a state to grow into.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

To understand the currents of a river, he who wishes to know the truth must enter the water.

**Nisargadutta**

Yoga is not a physical, mental or psychic feat. It is life itself.

**Swami Venkatesananda**

Success develops arrogance and man's spiritual progress is arrested.

Failure opens the eyes of man to his limitations.

**Maharshi Raman**

A righteous man is like a sandal tree which affords scent even to the axe that cuts it.

**Goswami Tulsidas**

Everyone needs to work. Even a lion cannot sleep, expecting a deer to enter his mouth.

**Hitopadesha**

Greater happiness comes with simplicity than with complexity.

**Buddha**

Truth can't be destroyed even by fire.

**Hindi proverb**

There is no hand that can catch time.

There are seven sins in the world: wealth without work, pleasure without conscience, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice, and politics without principle.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The man who cannot appreciate music and literature is exactly like the lower animals, even though he may not possess horns and a tail.

**Bhartrihari**

The human soul travels from the law to love, from discipline to freedom, from the moral plane to the spiritual plane.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

When the ego is dead, marriage is true.

**Raja Rao**

Old age comes with the passage of time.  
Maturity comes with deep reflection.

**Swami Chinmayananda**

Happiness depends on what you can give, not what you can get.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

If you have love, you are omnipotent.

**Swami Vivekananda**

The orange that is squeezed too hard yields bitter juice.

**Kannada proverb**

Even the devil needs a friend.

**Tamil proverb**

A wise man does not quarrel with his bread and butter.

**Hindi proverb**

Pull someone by the ears and his head will follow.

Every dog is a tiger in his own street.

You, yourself, must make the effort. The buddhas are only teachers.

**Buddhist proverb**

Ability is not always gauged by examinations.

Popularity is not a guarantee of quality.

**Indira Gandhi**

If everyone were to act, where would the audience be?

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Awareness is like living with a snake in the room. Such a state of attention is total energy. In such awareness the totality of yourself is revealed in an instant.

**J. Krishnamurti**

Prayer is not an old woman's idle amusement. Properly understood and applied, it is the most potent instrument of action.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

If you are in the moment, you are in the infinite.

**Swami Prajnanpad**

Convictions come from the head, but faith comes from the heart. There is nothing more arid and lifeless than that which comes from the head alone.

**Nirad C. Chaudhury**

The best way to cherish one's sentiments about one's country is to live away from it.

**R.K. Narayanan**

Celebrating birth is ignorance.  
Celebrating death is understanding.

**Osho**

Better than a thousand hollow words  
Is one word that brings peace.

**Buddha**

Higher education results in philosophy and philosophy is a guide to action.

**S. Radhakrishnan**

Hate is the subtlest form of violence.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The heart at rest sees a feast in everything.

The history of man is that of his voyage towards the unknown.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Immaturity lies only in total ignorance of self.  
To understand yourself is the beginning of wisdom.

**J. Krishnamurti**

Knowledge relieves all suffering. Knowledge liberates.  
True knowledge is the knowledge of our own nature.  
You must become conscious of this infinite nature in yourself.

**Swami Vivekananda**

Education is a continuing process from the minute we are born until we die.

**Indira Gandhi**

You yourself are the fish and the net.  
You yourself are the cow and the grazer.

**Guru Granth Saheb**

I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides  
and my windows to be stuffed.

I want the cultures of all the lands to blow  
about my house as freely as possible.

But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Truly wise is he who is unstirred by praise or blame, by love or hatred.

**Srimad Bhagavatam**

It is from care that blessings arise. It is from carelessness that troubles arise.

**Buddha**

Inspiration follows aspiration.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

In a tree that you can't climb, there are always a thousand fruits.

There must be intelligence even in copying.

**Hindi proverb**

True learning induces in the mind service of mankind.

**Adi Granth**

Anger is a great force. If you control it, it can be transmuted into a power which can move the whole world.

**Sri Swami Sivananda**

Knowledge is not the basis of enlightenment, enlightenment is the basis of knowledge.

**Maharishi Mahesh Yogi**

A man is but a product of his thoughts; what he thinks, that he becomes.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

Time is a wealth of change, but the clock in its parody makes it mere change and no wealth.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

He who does not fall does not rise.

**Hindi proverb**

Great anger is more destructive than the sword.

**Tamil proverb**

The eyes do not see what the mind does not want.

**Sanskrit proverb**

When the bed breaks there is still the ground to lie on.  
You stand in spiritual bliss in dumb joy.

**Rig Veda**

Life is the perennial search for the truth.

**Yajur Veda**

Patience is bearing the burden of life cheerfully.

**Bhagwat Purana**

The human body is a theatre of pleasure and pain, and they come into being with the self of a man.

**Garuda Purana**

One cannot recognise a joy if one has never tasted sorrow.

**Lord Krishna**

If your compassion does not include yourself, it is incomplete.

**Buddha**

Just as a flower gives out its fragrance to anyone who approaches or uses it, so love from within us radiates towards everybody and manifests as spontaneous service.

**Ramdas**

The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Put your heart, mind, intellect and soul even to your smallest acts. This is the secret of success.

**Swami Vivekananda**

Is there any joy as pure and sorrow as fleeting as that of childhood?

**Mulk Raj Anand**

Only two things matter in this world: a son and a daughter.

All five fingers are not equal.

**Hindi proverb**

The mere act of aiming at something big makes you big.

**Jawaharlal Nehru**

Strength does not come from physical capacity, it comes from an indomitable will.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The real man is he who being powerful protects the weak.

**Swami Dayanand**

Mind is the only basic necessity. And it can never be fulfilled.

**Rajneesh**

Knowledge is not something to be packed away in some corner of our brain.

**S. Radhakrishnan**

As rain falls equally on the just and the unjust, do not burden your heart with judgements but rain your kindness equally on all.

**Buddha**

In a deserted village the jackass is king.

While civilisation is the body, culture is the soul. While civilisation is the result of knowledge and research, culture is the result of wisdom.

**Shri Prakash**

Nothing is so easy as to train mobs, for the simple reason that they have no mind, no premeditation.

**Mahathma Gandhi**

Faith is the bird that sings when the dawn is still dark.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

God is more than humanity, but in humanity too we have to find and serve him

**Sri Aurobindo**

The task of writing is not fulfilled at the desk; the reader is in a sense a partner in writing.

**R. Dinkar**

Those who pretend to know what they don't, will be thought ignorant of even what they know.

**Thirukkural**

The hungry dog fights best.

**Hindi proverb**

A mind all logic is like a knife all blade. It makes the hand bleed that uses it.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Most good people are awful bores; rascals make better company.

**Khushwant Singh**

A clean confession combined with a promise never to commit the sin again, is the purest type of repentance.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

A harvest of peace grows from the seeds of contentment.

If you manipulate words, it is a lie.  
If you play on words, it is a joke.  
If you rely only on words, it is ignorance.  
If you transcend words, it is wisdom.

**Sri Sri Ravishankar**

The greatest error is to say that you are weak, that you are a sinner, a miserable creature and you have no power and you cannot do this and that.

**Swami Vivekananda**

If you want a mature democracy there must be discontent in the public.

**T.N. Sheshan**

The divine music is incessantly going on within ourselves, But the loud senses drown out the delicate music.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

We all ought to wash our minds completely clean, as the trees are washed by the rain, because they are so heavily laden with the dust of many centuries.

**J. Krishnamurthi**

We cross the infinite with every step, and encounter the eternal with every second.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

One drop of honey cannot claim to come from one flower and another drop of honey from another flower. In the same way, all human beings are one.

**Chandogyia Upanishad**

There are none so deaf as those who will not hear advice.

**Sanskrit proverb**

Even an elephant can sip.

**Tamil proverb**

The bitters of life, like amla, have sweet after-taste.

**Hindi proverb**

What does the blind man know of the beauty of the tulip?

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The more completely we give of ourselves, the more completely the world gives back to us.

**Buddha**

Speak the truth – but speak it palatably.

**Sanskrit proverb**

The soul of all religions is the same.

**Swami Vivekananda**

True charity occurs when there are no notions of giving, giver or gift.

**Buddha**

If we have listening ears, God speaks to us in our own language, whatever that language is.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

God doesn't easily appear in the heart of a man who feels himself to be his own master.

**Sri Ramakrishna**

A poor man has no friend.

**Hindi proverb**

Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because dawn has come.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Few cross the river of time and are able to reach non-being. Most of them run up and down only on this side of the river.

**Buddha**

Most can see other people's faults. A few can see other people's virtues. And two or three can even see their own shortcomings.

**Sanskrit proverb**

One should accept nectar even if it comes from poison and gold even if it comes from dirt.

**Chanakya**

What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty or democracy?

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The small courtesies sweeten life.

**Hindi proverb**

The first flower that blossomed on Earth was an invitation  
to the unborn song.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

Religion is a realisation – not talk, not doctrines, not theories,  
however beautiful all these may be.

**Swami Vivekananda**

For him who has no concentration, there is no tranquility.

**Bhagvad Gita**

If you have eyes you will see that the whole of existence is  
joyful. Look at the flowers – it is simply unbelievable how  
happy flowers are, for no reason.

**Osho**

If your eyes are blinded with your worries, you cannot see  
the beauty of sunset.

**J. Krishnamurti**

A poet, even one who has never experienced grief,  
can describe a broken heart and be believed. Yet one  
who truly mourns has not the skill to put sorrow into  
words.

**Sanskrit verse**

Dive deep, O mind, dive deep in the ocean of God's beauty!  
If you descend to the utmost depths, there you will find the  
gem of love.

**Bengali hymn**

If a man speaks or acts with a pure mind, joy follows him  
as his own shadow.

**Buddha**

Without luck, ability is nothing.

**Hindi proverb**

He who allows his day to pass by without practicing gen-  
erosity and enjoying life's pleasures is like a blacksmith's  
bellows; he breathes, but does not live.

**Sanskrit proverb**

Why save when your son is a good son? Why save when  
your son is a bad son?

Full effort is full victory.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

At certain ages one does not need to understand every-  
thing.

**Rabindranath Tagore**

The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war.

**Vijayalakshmi Pandit**

When the child begins to pick up the alphabet, he should be initiated into the science of the soul.

**Swami Dayanand**

Time is a rat that slowly cuts the thread of life.

**Swami Shivanand**

All wealth belongs to the Divine and those who hold it are trustees, not possessors.

**Sri Aurobindo**

Adversity is the crucible in which friendship is tested.

**Mahatma Gandhi**

The only religion that ought to be taught is the religion of fearlessness.

**Swami Vivekananda**

Freedom and love go together. To love is not to ask anything in return, not even to feel that you are giving something – and it is only such love that can know freedom.

**J. Krishnamurti**

Be like a camel – carrying sweets, but dining on thorns.

Yesterday is but a dream, tomorrow is only a vision. But today, well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

**Sanskrit proverb**

A civilisation must be judged and assessed not by the level of power it has reached, but by how it develops and expresses a love of humanity.

**Rabindranath Tagore**











## About the Publisher



The Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) targets communities across India and South Asia, and develops media and digital solutions for socio-economic benefit. These range from a series of books on ICT4D (information and communication technologies for development) and digital platforms for rural entrepreneurs to benchmarking awards and community media.

DEF also works on multi-stakeholder partnerships at the international level to assess, award and scale up digital media innovations, eg. via World Summit Awards, WSA-Mobile, Manthan Awards and mBillionth Awards. DEF coordinates and publishes research projects on ICT4D in a variety of media: print (books/magazines), Web and social media.

DEF is active in publication, projects and advocacy work in livelihood generation, health, education and culture. Its partner and co-investors include Barefoot College, IIM Ahmedabad, IL&FS Education & Technology Services, Intel Foundation, TCS, NIIT, UNDP, UNESCO, National Institute of Smart Governance (NISG), India's Department of Information Technology (DIT), OneWorld South Asia, American India Foundation (AIF), Global e Schools & Communities Initiative (GeSCI), NASSCOM Foundation, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), SRISTI, CDAC, Panos South Asia, Aagaz Foundation, British Council, Cyber Media India, Internet Society, APC and IDRC.

## Other Publications of DEF

**DIGITAL  
EMPOWERMENT  
FOUNDATION**

### India's Best e-Contents 2005

The book titled India's Best e-Contents 2005 consists of details of all the awardees of Manthan Award 2005.



### Message of Empowerment-India's Best e-Contents 2006

The book titled "Message of Empowerment: India's Best e-Contents 2006" consists of details of all the awardees of Manthan-AIF Award 2006. In addition, you can also find the analysis of the nominations in terms of their platform, media, technology, state from which they applied, and the categories they belonged to. Besides, you will have a chance to read the entire perspective of the role of e-content in the development of the nation, and how many e-content producers are adding values in the impact of the use of ICT applications.



### e-Content for Development in India

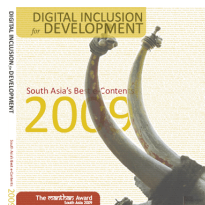
The book titled e-Content for Development in India consists of details of all the awardees of Manthan Award 2007.





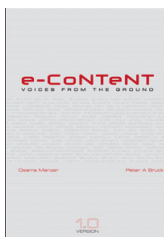
### e-Content for Development in South Asia

The book titled e-Content for Development in South Asia consists of details of all the awardees of Manthan Award 2008.



### South Asia's Best e-Contents 2009

This is the annual publication brought out on occasion of the Manthan Award South Asia 2009. It enlists all the awardees of the 6th edition of the Manthan Award South Asia plus all the associated articles appearing in the book titled - DIGITAL INCLUSION for DEVELOPMENT, South Asia's Best e-Contents 2009.



### e-Content - Voices From The Ground 1.0 & 2.0

Osama Manzar co-authored with Peter A Bruck two volumes of the book 'e-Content - VOICES FROM THE GROUND' Version 1.0 & the Sequel 2.0, each one

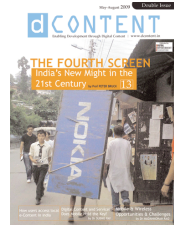
released on the occasion of World Summit Award Gala in 2003 & 2005 respectively.



### dCONTENT - The Great Content Effect

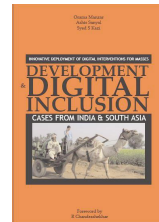
dCONTENT's Mar - Apr '2009 issue is a special issue. It looks at the local digital content scene in as many as 20 countries around the world spread from Austria to Tunis. Don't miss 'The Great Content Effect'. This time the regular featured articles have names like Madanmohan Rao, R. Sivakumar, Vasudev Varma, A.T. Jeyaseelan & Sajan Venniyoor as columnists.

## dCONTENT: Enabling Development through Digital Content



### Development & Digital Inclusion

An effort to compile the successful deployments of ICT and digital media enabled projects, its impact, and learning that in many ways impacted the society at large. This book advocates the necessity of “digital content and services” over just “technology deployment” in the name of infrastructure but not going beyond that.



## Madanmohan Rao

Dr. Madanmohan Rao (<http://twitter.com/MadanRao>) is a consultant and author from Bangalore. He is the editor of three book series: “The Asia Pacific Internet Handbook”, “The Knowledge Management Chronicles” and “AfricaDotEdu”. He is the research project director of Mobile Monday, a global network of mobile and wireless communication professionals, and co-founder of the Bangalore K-Community, a network of knowledge management professionals. Madan was also world music editor for Rave magazine, RJ for world music at WorldSpace Radio, editor-at-large for Wireless World magazine, and contributor to the Poynter Institute blog on new media trends.

Madan was formerly the communications director at the United Nations Inter Press Service bureau in New York, and vice president at IndiaWorld Communications in Mumbai. He graduated from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, with an M.S. in computer science and a Ph.D. in communications.

Madan is a frequent speaker on the international conference circuit, and has given talks and lectures in over 60 countries around the world. Madan was on the nominating committee of ICANN (International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) and was on the board of directors of CPSR (Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility). He is on the board of editors of the journal “Electronic Markets” and the Journal of Community Informatics, and was on the board of the journal Convergence. Madan was also on the international editorial board of the book, “Transforming e-Knowledge.” He is adjunct faculty at IIIT-B and the International School of Information Management in Mysore.







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