

FATE

Chance, Destiny, Fortune and Luck

1. ESSENCE

- 1445 The wheel of fortune turns round incessantly, and who can say to himself, "I shall to-day be uppermost."
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)
- 1446 Fate is the endless chain of causation, whereby things are; the reason or formula by which the world goes on.
Zeno (B.C. 335?-264)
- 1447 It is fortune, not wisdom, that rules man's life.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 1448 Fortune is a shadow upon a wall.
Geoffrey Chaucer (1340-1400)
- 1449 It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves; we are underlings.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 1450 Fate is nothing but the deeds committed in a prior state of existence.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 1451 The wheel goes round and round,
And some are up and some are on the down,
And still the wheel goes round.
Josephine Pollard (1843-1892)
- 1452 Luck is tenacity of purpose.
Elbert Hubbard (1859-1915)
- 1453 Throw a lucky man into the sea,
and he will come up with a fish in his mouth.
Arabian Proverb

2. OPPOSITES

- 1454 A man's felicity consists not in the outward and visible blessing of fortune, but in the inward and unseen perfections and riches of the mind.
Anacharsis (fl. B.C. 600)

- 1455 Birth goes with death. Fortune goes with misfortune.
Bad things follow good things. Men should realize these.
Foolish people dread misfortune and strive after good
fortune, but those who seek Enlightenment must transcend
both of them and be free of the worldly attachments.
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 1456 Fortune is never permanently...adverse or favorable;
one sees her veering from one mood to the other.
Herod I (B.C. 73-4)
- 1457 The fates lead the willing, and drag the unwilling.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 1458 Fortune gives too much to many, enough to none.
Martial (43-104 A.D.)
- 1459 That which is not allotted - the hand cannot reach,
and what is allotted - will find you wherever you may be.
Saadi (1184-1291)
- 1460 Ill Fortune never crushed that man whom good Fortune
deceived not.
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 1461 The less we deserve good fortune, the more we hope for it.
Moliere (1622-1673)
- 1462 The power of fortune is confessed only by the miserable,
for the happy impute all their success to prudence or merit.
Swift (1667-1745)
- 1463 Every night and every morn
Some to misery are born;
Every morn and every night
Some are born to sweet delight.
William Blake (1757-1828)
- 1464 It sounds like stories from the land of spirits,
If any man obtain that which he merits,
Or any merit that which he obtains.
Samuel Coleridge (1772-1834)
- 1465 Destiny has two ways of crushing us -
by refusing our wishes and by fulfilling them.
Henri Frederic Amiel (1821-1881)

3. INSIGHT

- 1466 It is wrong to think that misfortunes come from the east
or from the west; they originate within one's own mind.
Therefore, it is foolish to guard against misfortunes from
the external world and leave the inner mind uncontrolled.
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 1467 No man has perpetual good fortune.
Plautus (B.C. 254-184)
- 1468 Men are seldom blessed with good fortune and good sense
at the same time.
Livy (B.C. 59-17 A.D.)
- 1469 Fortune is brittle as glass, and when she is most refulgent,
she is often most unexpectedly broken.
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 1470 A lucky man is rarer than a white crow.
Juvenal (40-125 A.D.)
- 1471 This body, full of faults,
Has yet one great quality:
Whatever it encounters in this temporal life
Depends upon one's actions.
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)
- 1472 Everything that exists is in a manner the seed of that which
will be.
Marcus Aurelius (121-180 A.D.)
- 1473 The Moving Finger writes; and having writ,
Moves on; nor all your Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,
Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it.
Omar Khayyam (fl. 1100)
- 1474 He who owes least to fortune is in the strongest position.
Machiavelli (1469-1527)
- 1475 Fortune is a woman, and therefore friendly to the young,
who with audacity command her.
Machiavelli (1469-1527)
- 1476 Fortune is like the market, where, many times,
if you can stay a little, the price will fall.
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 1477 Men at some time are masters of their fates.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)

- 1478 Every one is the architect of his own fortune.
Mathurin Regnier (1573-1613)
- 1479 Heaven from all creatures hides the book of fate.
Pope (1688-1744)
- 1480 He that waits upon Fortune, is never sure of a Dinner.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 1481 Human life is more governed by fortune than by reason.
David Hume (1711-1776)
- 1482 Fortune is ever seen accompanying industry.
Goldsmith (1728-1774)
- 1483 Man supposes that he directs his life and governs his
actions, when his existence is irretrievably under the
control of destiny.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 1484 There is no such thing as chance; and what seem to us
merest accident springs from the deepest source of destiny.
Schiller (1759-1805)
- 1485 Shallow men believe in luck,
wise and strong men in cause and effect.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 1486 Chance happens to all, but to turn chance to account is
the gift of few.
Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)

4. POSITIVE

- 1487 Fortune truly helps those who are of good judgment.
Euripides (B.C. 480-406)
- 1488 Happy the man who can endure the highest
and the lowest fortune.
He, who has endured such vicissitudes with equanimity,
has deprived misfortune of its power.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 1489 Whatever the universal nature assigns to any man at any time
is for the good of that man at that time.
Marcus Aurelius (121-180 A.D.)

- 1490 The way of fortune is like the milkyway in the sky; which is a number of small stars, not seen asunder, but giving light together: so it is a number of little and scarce discerned virtues, or rather faculties and customs, that make men fortunate.
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 1491 Chance corrects us of many faults that reason would not know how to correct.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 1492 To be thrown upon one's own resources is to be cast into the very lap of fortune: for our faculties then undergo a development and display an energy of which they were previously unsusceptible.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 1493 The best fortune that can fall to a man is that which corrects his defects and makes up for his failings.
Goethe (1749-1832)

5. NEGATIVE

- 1494 Toil is the lot of all, and bitter woe
The fate of many.
Homer (c. B.C. 700)
- 1495 Fortune is not on the side of the faint-hearted.
Sophocles (B.C. 495-406)
- 1496 A strict belief in fate is the worst of slavery, imposing upon our necks an everlasting lord and tyrant, whom we are to stand in awe of night and day.
Epicurus (B.C. 341-270)
- 1497 When fortune favors a man too much, she makes him a fool.
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 1498 Whatever fortune has raised to a height, she has raised only to cast it down.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 1499 They are raised on high that they may be dashed to pieces with a greater fall.
Claudianus (365?-408? A.D.)
- 1500 Although men flatter themselves with their great actions, they are not so often the result of a great design as of chance.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)

- 1501 Chance is a word void of sense;
nothing can exist without a cause.
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 1502 Fortune! There is no fortune; all is trial, or punishment,
or recompense, or foresight.
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 1503 We do not know what is really good or bad fortune.
Rousseau (1712-1778)
- 1504 Man, be he who he may, experiences a last piece of
good fortune and a last day.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 1505 Destiny - A tyrant's authority for crime and a fool's
excuse for failure.
Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?)
- 1506 Diseases are often cured
Never fate.
Chinese Proverb

6. ADVICE

- 1507 See that prosperity elate not thine heart above measure;
neither depress thy mind unto the depths, because fortune
beareth hard against thee. Her smiles are not stable,
therefore build not thy confidence upon them; her frowns
endureth not forever, therefore let hope teach thee patience
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 1508 Great progress and success can be realized. But spring
does not last forever, and the favorable trend will reverse
itself in due time. The wise man foresees evil and handles
its threat accordingly.
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 1509 People naturally fear misfortune and long for good fortune,
but if the distinction is carefully studied, misfortune
often turns out to be good fortune and good fortune to be
misfortune. The wise man learns to meet the changing
circumstances of life with an equitable spirit, being
neither elated by success nor depressed by failure.
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 1510 Chance never helps those who do not help themselves.
Sophocles (B.C. 495-406)

- 1511 Persevere: It is fitting, for a better fate awaits the afflicted.
Vergil (B.C. 70-19)
- 1512 If matters go badly now, they will not always be so.
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 1513 Chance is always powerful. - Let your hook be always cast; in the pool where you least expect it, there will be a fish.
Ovid (B.C. 43-18 A.D.)
- 1514 Depend not on fortune, but on conduct.
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 1515 We are sure to get the better of fortune if we do but grapple with her.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 1516 If fortune favors you do not be elated; if she frowns do not despond.
Ausonius (310-395 A.D.)
- 1517 'Tis writ on Paradise's gate
"Woe to the dupe that yields to Fate!"
Hafiz (1325?-1390?)
- 1518 If a man look sharply and attentively,
he shall see Fortune: for though she be blind,
yet she is not invisible.
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 1519 What fates impose, that men must needs abide;
It boots not to resist both wind and tide.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 1520 There is tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries; on such a full sea we are now afloat; and we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 1521 Whether in favor or in humiliation, be not dismayed. Let your eyes leisurely look at the flowers blooming and falling in your courtyard. Whether you leave or retain your position, take no care. Let your mind wander with the clouds folding and unfolding beyond the horizon.
Hung Tzu-ch'eng (1593-1665)

- 1522 We should manage our fortune as we do our health - enjoy it when good, be patient when it is bad, and never apply violent remedies except in an extreme necessity.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 1523 It is a madness to make Fortune the mistress of events, because in herself she is nothing, but is ruled by Prudence.
Dryden (1631-1700)
- 1524 Industry, perseverance, and frugality make fortune yield.
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 1525 Chance generally favors the prudent.
Joubert (1754-1824)
- 1526 Intellect annuls fate. So far as a man thinks, he is free.
Emerson (1803-1882)

7. POTPOURRI

- 1527 No living man can send me to the shades
Before my time; no man of woman born,
Coward or brave, can shun his destiny.
Homer (c. B.C. 700)
- 1528 Death and life have their determined appointments;
riches and honors depend upon heaven.
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)
- 1529 Wherever the fates lead us let us follow.
Vergil (B.C. 70-19)
- 1530 The lofty pine is oftenest shaken by the winds;
High towers fall with a heavier crash;
And the lightning strikes the highest mountain.
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 1531 Two fates still hold us fast,
A future and a past;
Two vessels' vast embrace
Surrounds us - Time and Space.
Ma'Arri (973-1057 A.D.)
- 1532 The bad fortune of the good
turns their faces up to heaven;
the good fortune of the bad
bows their heads down to the earth.
Saadi (1184-1291)

- 1533 Fortune, the great commandress of the world,
Hath divers ways to advance her followers:
To some she gives honor without deserving;
To other some, deserving without honor;
Some wit, some wealth, - and some, wit without wealth;
Some wealth without wit; some nor wit nor wealth.
George Chapman (1557-1634)
- 1534 Will Fortune never come with both hands full,
But write her fair words still in foulest letters?
She either gives a stomach, and no food;
Such are the poor, in health: or else a feast,
And takes away the stomach; such are the rich,
That have abundance, and enjoy it not.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 1535 'Tis Fate that flings the dice,
And as she flings
Of kings makes peasants,
And of peasants kings.
Dryden (1631-1700)
- 1536 But blind to former as to future fate,
What mortal knows his pre-existent state?
Pope (1688-1744)
- 1537 Fate steals along with silent tread,
Found oftenest in what least we dread;
Frowns in the storm with angry brow,
But in the sunshine strikes the blow.
Cowper (1731-1800)
- 1538 All are architects of Fate,
Working in these walls of Time;
Some with massive deeds and great,
Some with ornaments of rhyme.
Longfellow (1807-1882)
- 1539 The wheel of the Good Law moves swiftly on. It grinds by
night and day. The worthless husks it drives from out
the golden grain, the refuse from the flour. The hand of
fate guides the wheel; the revolutions mark the beatings
of the heart of manifestation
H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)
- 1540 Fortune knocks at every man's door once in a life, but
in a good many cases the man is in a neighboring saloon
and does not hear her.
Mark Twain (1835-1910)

1541 I do not know beneath what sky
Nor on what seas shall be thy fate;
I only know it shall be high,
I only know it shall be great.

Richard Hovey (1869-1900)

1542 He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small,
That dares not put it to the touch
To gain or lose it all.

Donald Marquis (1878-1937)