

OPPOSITION

Adversity, Difficulty, Obstacles, Trials and Trouble

1. ESSENCE

- 3339 Man is born unto trouble,
as the sparks fly upward.
Job (B.C. 400?)
- 3340 Gold is tried by fire, brave men by adversity.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 3341 Adversity has ever been considered the state in which
a man most easily becomes acquainted with himself, then
especially, being free from flatterers.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 3342 Adversity is the first path to truth.
Byron (1788-1824)
- 3343 The diamond cannot be polished without friction,
nor the man perfected without trials.
Chinese Proverb

2. OPPOSITES

- 3344 Adversity reveals genius, prosperity conceals it.
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 3345 Night brings our troubles to the light rather than banishes
them.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 3346 Light troubles speak; immense troubles are silent.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 3347 Prosperity tries the fortunate, adversity the great.
Pliny the Younger (62-113 A.D.)
- 3348 It is often better to have a great deal of harm happen to
one than a little; a great deal may rouse you to remove
what a little will only accustom you to endure.
Greville (1554-1628)
- 3349 Prosperity is not without many fears and distastes,
and Adversity is not without comforts and hopes.
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 3350 Many things difficult to design prove easy to performance.
Johnson (1709-1784)

- 3351 The trouble is small, the fun is great.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 3352 The block of granite which was an obstacle in the path of
the weak, becomes a steppingstone in the path of the strong.
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 3353 He who has not tasted bitter does not know what sweet is.
German Proverb

3. INSIGHT

- 3354 If thou faint in the day of adversity,
thy strength is small.
Proverbs (B.C. 1000?-200?)
- 3355 The three things most difficult are:
to keep a secret, to forget an injury,
and to make good use of leisure.
Chilo (fl. B.C. 560)
- 3356 Nothing is so difficult but that it may be found out by
seeking.
Terence (B.C. 185-159)
- 3357 Prosperity is no just scale; adversity is the only balance
to weigh friends.
Plutarch (46-120 A.D.)
- 3358 The flower that follows the sun does so even on cloudy days.
Robert Leighton (1611-1684)
- 3359 The coldest bodies warm with opposition;
the hardest sparkle in collision.
Junius (1740-1818)
- 3360 The greatest difficulties lie where we are not
looking for them.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 3361 Adversity is sometimes hard upon a man;
but for one man who can stand prosperity,
there are a hundred that will stand adversity.
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 3362 Trials teach us what we are; they dig up the soil, and let
us see what we are made of; they just turn up some of the
ill weeds on to the surface.
Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

3363 The greatest and most important problems of life are all in a certain sense insoluble. They must be so because they express the necessary polarity inherent in every self-regulating system. They can never be solved, but only outgrown.

C. G. Jung (1875-1961)

3364 The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968)

4. POSITIVE

3365 Adversity is the seed of well-doing: it is the nurse of heroism and boldness; who that hath enough, will endanger himself to have more? who that is at ease, will set his life on the hazard?

Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)

3366 Sweet is the remembrance of troubles when you are in safety.

Euripides (B.C. 480-406)

3367 The greater difficulty, the more glory in surmounting it. Skillful pilots gain their reputation from storms and tempests.

Epicurus (B.C. 341-270)

3368 I attempt a difficult work;
but there is no excellence without difficulty.

Ovid (B.C. 43-18 A.D.)

3369 Difficulties strengthen the mind, as labor does the body.

Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

3370 Difficulties show men what they are. In case of any difficulty remember that God has pitted you against a rough antagonist that you may be a conqueror, and this cannot be without toil.

Epictetus (50-138 A.D.)

3371 Sweet are the uses of adversity, which, like the toad, though ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel in his head.

Shakespeare (1564-1616)

- 3372 That which caused us trial shall yield us triumph; and that which made our heart ache shall fill us with gladness. The only true happiness is to learn, to advance, and to improve; which could not happen unless we had commenced with error, ignorance, and imperfection. We must pass through the darkness, to reach the light.
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 3373 We are always in the forge, or on the anvil; by trials God is shaping us for higher things.
Beecher (1813-1878)
- 3374 Trouble is the next best thing to enjoyment; there is no fate in the world so horrible as to have no share in either its joys or sorrows.
Longfellow (1807-1882)
- 3375 In a democracy, the opposition is not only tolerated as constitutional, but must be maintained because it is indispensable.
Walter Lippmann (1889-1974)

5. NEGATIVE

- 3376 What does it avail you, if of many thorns only one be removed?
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 3377 He knows not his own strength that hath not met adversity.
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 3378 In the adversity of our best friends we often find something which does not displease us.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 3379 This mournful truth is everywhere confessed,
Slow rises worth by poverty depressed.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 3380 Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal.
Hannah More (1745-1833)
- 3381 Difficulties increase the nearer we approach our goal.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 3382 Opposition always inflames the enthusiast,
never converts him.
Schiller (1759-1805)

- 3383 A man's worst difficulties begin when he is able to do as he likes.

Thomas Huxley (1825-1895)

6. ADVICE

- 3384 Man becomes the master of difficult situations by refusing the assistance of weak men. He relies on his own strength of character.

I Ching (B.C. 1150?)

- 3385 In adversity
It furthers one to be persevering.

I Ching (B.C. 1150?)

- 3386 Awake, arise! Strive for the Highest, and be in the Light!
Sages say the path is narrow and difficult to tread, narrow as the edge of a razor.

Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)

- 3387 The superior man makes the difficulty to be overcome his first interest; success only comes later.

Confucius (B.C. 551-479)

- 3388 In the day of prosperity be joyful,
but in the day of adversity consider.

Ecclesiastes (B.C. 300?)

- 3389 In great straits and when hope is small,
the boldest counsels are the safest.

Livy (B.C. 59-17 A.D.)

- 3390 In adversity assume the countenance of prosperity,
and in prosperity moderate the temper and desires.

Livy (B.C. 59-17 A.D.)

- 3391 Few things are impossible to diligence and skill.

Johnson (1709-1784)

- 3392 Face all difficulties with a smile. Pain is the real eye-opener and real guide. God is putting you to this severe test to make you more strong and more powerful. Understand this secret well. Never be despondent. Ever laugh, jump, whistle and smile.

Sivananda (born 1887)

7. POTPOURRI

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- 3393 Adversity breaks the inferior man's will but only bends the superior man's spirit. Outward influence is denied the great man, who accordingly uses words sparingly but retains his central position.
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 3394 This I know - if all men should take their troubles to the market to barter with their neighbors, not one, when he had seen the troubles of other men, but would be glad to carry his own home again.
Herodotus (B.C. 484-425)
- 3395 Behold a worthy sight, to which the God, turning his attention to his own work, may direct his gaze. Behold an equal thing, worthy of a God, a brave man matched in conflict with evil fortune.
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 3396 Let me embrace thee, sour adversity,
For wise men say it is the wisest course.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 3397 Aromatic plants bestow
No spicy fragrance while they grow;
But crush'd or trodden to the ground,
Diffuse their balmy sweets around.
Goldsmith (1728-1774)
- 3398 I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death.
Paine (1737-1809)
- 3399 The fiery trials through which we pass will light us down in honour or dishonour to the latest generation.
Lincoln (1809-1865)
- 3400 He who endeavors to serve, to benefit, and improve the world, is like a swimmer, who struggles against a rapid current, in a river lashed into angry waves by the winds. Often they roar over his head, often they beat him back and baffle him. Most men yield to the stress of the current... Only here and there the stout, strong heart and vigorous arms struggle on toward ultimate success.
Albert Pike (1809-1891)