

# PERFECTION

## *Completion and Excellence*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 3564 The function of perfection - to make one know one's imperfection.  
Augustine (354-430 A.D.)
- 3565 Perfection - An imaginary state...distinguished from the actual by an element known as excellence.  
Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?)
- 3566 Perfection - Nothing more than a complete adaptation to the environment; but the environment is constantly changing, so perfection can never be more than transitory.  
Somerset Maugham (1874-1965)
- 3567 There are two perfect men;  
one dead, and the other unborn.  
Chinese Proverb

### 2. OPPOSITES

- 3568 What is most perfect seems to be incomplete;  
But its utility is unimpaired.  
What is most full seems to be empty;  
But its usefulness is inexhaustible.  
What is most straight seems to be crooked.  
The greatest skills seems to be clumsy.  
The greatest eloquence seems to stutter.  
Hasty movement overcomes cold,  
But tranquility overcomes heat.  
By being greatly tranquil,  
One is qualified to be the ruler of the world.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 3569 How can you expect me to be perfect...  
when I am full of contradictions.  
Abraham Ibn Ezra (1098-1164)
- 3570 Trifles make perfection, and perfection is no trifle.  
Michelangelo (1474-1564)
- 3571 Nature has perfections, in order to show that she is the image of God; and defects, to show that she is only his image.  
Pascal (1623-1662)

- 3572 A man must be strong enough to mold the peculiarity of his imperfections into the perfection of his peculiarities.  
Walter Rathenau (1867-1922)
- 3573 Humanity, divine limitation;  
Divinity, human perfection.  
Hazrat Inayat Khan (1882-1927)

### 3. INSIGHT

- 3574 He who wherever he goes is attached to no person and to no place by ties of flesh; who accepts good and evil alike, neither welcoming the one nor shrinking from the other - take it that such a one has attained Perfection.  
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)
- 3575 Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.  
Aristotle (B.C. 384-322)
- 3576 Things perfected by nature are better than those finished by art.  
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 3577 A hero is born among a hundred,  
A wise man is found among a thousand,  
But an accomplished one might not be found  
Even among a hundred thousand men.  
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)
- 3578 The true perfection of man lies, not in what man has, but in what man is...Nothing should be able to harm a man but himself. Nothing should be able to rob a man at all. What a man really has is what is in him. What is outside of him should be a matter of no importance.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 3579 There is a tricycle in man.  
He knows, he feels and acts.  
He has emotion, intellect and will.  
He must develop head, heart and hand.  
He must have integral development.  
Then alone he can have perfection.  
Sivananda (born 1887)

**4. POSITIVE**

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- 3580 All things are already complete in us. There is no greater delight than to be conscious of right within us. If one strives to treat others as he would be treated by them, he shall not fail to come near the perfect life.  
Mencius (B.C. 371-288)
- 3581 Only the heart without a stain knows perfect ease.  
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 3582 A perfect human being: Man in search of his ideal of perfection. Nothing less.  
Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan (born 1916)

**5. NEGATIVE**

- 3583 Excellence when concealed,  
differs but little from buried worthlessness.  
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 3584 Whoever thinks a faultless piece to see  
Thinks what ne'er was, nor is, nor shall be.  
Pope (1688-1744)
- 3585 Those who attain to any excellence commonly spend life in some one single pursuit, for excellence is not often gained upon easier terms.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 3586 The surest hindrance of success is to have too high a standard of refinement in our own minds, or too high an opinion of the judgment of the public. He who is determined not to be satisfied with anything short of perfection will never do anything to please himself or others.  
Hazlitt (1778-1830)
- 3587 Perfection does not exist. To understand it is the triumph of human intelligence; to desire to possess it is the most dangerous kind of madness.  
De Musset (1810-1857)
- 3588 If a man should happen to reach perfection in this world, he would have to die immediately to enjoy himself.  
Josh Billings (1815-1885)

**6. ADVICE**

- 3589 Perfection is attained by slow degrees;  
it requires the hand of time.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)

- 3590 Aim at perfection in everything, though in most things it is unattainable; however, they who aim at it, and persevere, will come much nearer to it than those whose laziness and despondency make them give it up as unattainable.  
Chesterfield (1694-1773)
- 3591 To feel much for others and little for ourselves; to restrain our selfishness and exercise our benevolent affections, constitute the perfection of human nature.  
Adam Smith (1723-1790)

## 7. POTPOURRI

- 3592 The seed of God is in us. Given an intelligent and hard-working farmer, it will thrive and grow up to God, whose seed it is; and accordingly its fruits will be God-nature. Pear seeds grow into pear trees, nut seeds into nut trees, and God seed into God.  
Meister Eckhart (1260-1327)
- 3593 Bachelor's wives and old maid's children are always perfect.  
Chamfort (1741-1794)
- 3594 Hung on the shower that fronts the golden West,  
The rainbow bursts like magic on mine eyes!  
In hues of ancient promise there imprest;  
Frail in its date, eternal in its guise.  
Charles Turner (1808-1879)
- 3595 So mild, so merciful, so strong, so good,  
So patient, peaceful, loyal, loving, pure.  
Longfellow (1807-1882)
- 3596 The Great Man never loses his child's heart. The infant has neither the desire nor the ability to appreciate the sensuous pleasures. It may cry all day and not become hoarse. Its innocence and its weakness are its strength. Its inner harmony is undisturbed. Its bodily organs are perfect; the years add nothing to them, but only develop their functions, but do not add to them.  
C. Spurgeon Medhurst (born 1850?)