

# PRUDENCE

## *Caution, Discretion, Economy and Vigilance*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 3844 Prudence is the knowledge of things to be sought,  
and those to be shunned.  
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 3845 Prudence consists in the power to recognize the nature of  
disadvantages and to take the less disagreeable as good.  
Machiavelli (1469-1527)
- 3846 Prudence is that virtue by which we discern what is proper  
to be done under the various circumstances of time and  
place.  
Milton (1608-1674)
- 3847 Discretion is the perfection of reason, and a guide to us  
in all the duties of life.  
La Bruyere (1645-1696)
- 3848 Caution is the eldest child of wisdom.  
Victor Hugo (1802-1885)
- 3849 Economy does not consist in saving the coal, but in using  
the time while it burns.  
Emerson (1803-1882)

### 2. OPPOSITES

- 3850 Be slow of tongue and quick of eye.  
Cervantes (1547-1616)
- 3851 The prudence of the best heads is often defeated  
by the tenderness of the best of hearts.  
Henry Fielding (1707-1754)
- 3852 Without economy none can be rich, and with it few can be  
poor.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 3853 Mere parsimony is not economy....Expense, and great  
expense, may be an essential part of true economy.  
Burke (1729-1797)
- 3854 The one prudence in life is concentration;  
the one evil is dissipation.  
Emerson (1803-1882)

- 3855 Prudence is the virtue of the sense. It is the science of appearances. It is the outmost action of the inward life.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 3856 Discretion is the salt, and fancy the sugar of life; the one preserves, the other sweetens it.  
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 3857 Not he who can extricate himself from difficulties is the prudent one, but he who cautiously bewares not to intricate himself.  
Chinese Proverb

### 3. INSIGHT

- 3858 You will conquer more surely by prudence than by passion.  
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 3859 You will soon break the bow if you keep it always stretched.  
Phaedrus (fl. 25 A.D.)
- 3860 Nothing is cheap which is superfluous, for what one does not need, is dear at a penny.  
Plutarch (46-120 A.D.)
- 3861 We accomplish more by prudence than by force.  
Tacitus (55-117 A.D.)
- 3862 Distrust and caution are the parents of security.  
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 3863 Prudence is a quality incompatible with vice, and can never be effectively enlisted in its cause.  
Burke (1729-1797)
- 3864 Every step of life shows much caution is required.  
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 3865 Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.  
John Philpot Curran (1750-1817)
- 3866 Vigilance is not only the price of liberty, but of success of any sort.  
Beecher (1813-1878)
- 3867 A sound discretion is not so much indicated by never making a mistake as by never repeating it.  
Bovee (1820-1904)

- 3868 Economy is half the battle of life; it is not so hard to  
earn money as to spend it well. 3 of 7  
Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

#### 4. POSITIVE

- 3869 The cautious seldom err.  
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)
- 3870 There is no gain so certain as that which arises from  
sparing what you have.  
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 3871 Economy is in itself a source of great revenue.  
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 3872 No other protection is wanting,  
providing you are under the guidance of prudence.  
Juvenal (40-125 A.D.)
- 3873 Those who speak with discretion  
Are respected by mankind,  
As the sun, emerging from the shadows,  
By its rays creates great warmth.  
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)
- 3874 If a wise man behaves prudently,  
How can he be overcome by his enemies?  
Even a single man, by right action,  
Can overcome a host of foes.  
Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)
- 3875 Precaution is better than cure.  
Edward Coke (1552-1633)
- 3876 Prevention is the daughter of intelligence.  
Walter Raleigh (1552-1618)
- 3877 Discretion in speech is more than eloquence.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 3878 The richest endowments of the mind are temperance, prudence,  
and fortitude. Prudence is a universal virtue, which enters  
into the composition of all the rest; and where she is not,  
fortitude loses its name and nature.  
Vincent Voiture (1597-1648)
- 3879 The first years of man make provision for the last.  
Johnson (1709-1784)

3880 Economy is a savings-bank, into which men drop pennies,  
and get dollars in return  
Josh Billings (1815-1885)

3881 The careful foot can walk anywhere.  
Chinese Proverb

## 5. NEGATIVE

3882 If one is not extremely careful,  
Somebody may come up from behind and strike him.  
Misfortune.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)

3883 The injury of prodigality leads to this,  
that he who will not economize will have to agonize.  
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)

3884 Too much taking heed is loss.  
Herbert (1593-1632)

3885 Great praise is heaped on prudence; yet there is not the  
most insignificant event of which it can make us sure.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)

3886 He that is overcautious will accomplish little.  
Schiller (1759-1805)

3887 There is nothing more imprudent than excessive prudence.  
Colton (1780-1832)

3888 There can be no economy where there is no efficiency.  
Disraeli (1804-1881)

3889 Great ability without discretion comes almost invariably  
to a tragic end.  
Leon Gambetta (1838-1882)

3890 Economy is going without something you do want  
in case you should, some day, want something  
which you probably won't want.  
Anthony Hawkins (1863-1933)

## 6. ADVICE

3891 Proceed not to speak or to act before thou hast weighed  
thy words, and examined the tendency of every step thou  
shalt take; so shall disgrace fly far from thee, and in thy  
house shall shame be a stranger; repentance shall not visit  
thee, nor sorrow dwell upon thy cheek in this or many lives  
to come.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)

- 3892 The man does not expose himself needlessly to rebuff  
by pushing forward when the time is not propitious.  
He retreats with kindred souls.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 3893 It is a good thing to learn caution by the misfortunes  
of others.  
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 3894 The bird alighteth not on the spread net when it beholds  
another bird in the snare. Take warning by the misfortunes  
of others, that others may not take example from you.  
Saadi (1184-1291)
- 3895 Let your own discretion be your tutor:  
suit the action to the word, the word to the action.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 3896 It is always good  
When a man has two irons in the fire.  
Beaumont and Fletcher (c. 1600)
- 3897 Let prudence always attend your pleasures;  
it is the way to enjoy the sweets of them,  
and not be afraid of the consequences.  
Prudence is the necessary ingredient in all virtues,  
without which they degenerate into folly and excess.  
Jeremy Collier (1650-1726)
- 3898 I recommend you to take care of the minutes,  
for the hours will take care of themselves.  
Chesterfield (1694-1773)
- 3899 Neither trust, nor contend, nor lay wagers, nor lend,  
And you'll have peace to your life's end.  
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 3900 Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great  
ship.  
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 3901 It is a maxim founded on the universal experience of mankind  
that no nation is to be trusted farther than it is bound by  
its interest.  
George Washington (1732-1799)
- 3902 Men are born with two eyes, but with one tongue,  
in order that they should see twice as much as they say.  
Colton (1780-1832)

- 3903 Be cautious, but not too cautious; do not be too much afraid of making a mistake; a man who never makes a mistake will make nothing.  
Lubbock (1834-1913)
- 3904 You must be vigilant and careful. Do not think that you possess all the virtues simply because the opposite of those does not manifest themselves in your daily life. Do not get false satisfaction.  
Sivananda (born 1887)
- 3905 One should never place trust in one's enemies. The basic truth of all treaties is distrust. Distrust produces highest good.  
Sivananda (born 1887)
- 3906 Take a second look...  
It costs you nothing.  
Chinese Proverb

## 7. POTPOURRI

- 3907 Hear the words of prudence, give heed unto her counsels, and store them in thine heart; her maxims are universal, and all the virtues lean upon her; she is the guide and the mistress of human life.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 3908 Have more than thou showest,  
Speak less than thou knowest,  
Lend less than thou owest,  
Ride more than thou goest...  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 3909 In nature all is managed for the best with perfect frugality and just reserve, profuse to none, but bountiful to all; never employing on one thing more than enough, but with exact economy retrenching the superfluous, and adding force to what is principal in everything.  
Shaftesbury III (1671-1713)
- 3910 To balance Fortune by a just expense,  
Join with Economy, Magnificence.  
Pope (1688-1744)
- 3911 For want of a nail the shoe was lost;  
for want of a shoe the horse was lost;  
and for want of a horse the rider was lost;  
being overtaken and slain by the enemy,  
all for want of care about a horse-shoe nail.  
Franklin (1706-1790)

- 3912 To preserve their independence, we must not let our leaders load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty, or profusion and servitude.  
Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)
- 3913 Put your trust in God, my boys, and keep your powder dry.  
Blacker (1778-1823)
- 3914 Before you beat the dog  
Learn his master's name.  
Chinese Proverb
- 3915 The prudent takes no poison  
even if he possesses the antidote.  
Chinese Proverb