

# WEAKNESS

## *Cowardice, Servility and Temptation*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 5791 'Tis one thing to be tempted, another thing to fall.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 5792 Human brutes, like other beasts, find snares and poison  
in the provisions of life, and are allured by their  
appetites to their destruction.  
Swift (1667-1745)
- 5793 Weaknesses, so called, are nothing more nor less than  
vice in disguise!  
Lavater (1741-1801)

### 2. OPPOSITES

- 5794 When man is born, he is tender and weak.  
At death, he is stiff and hard.  
All things, the grass as well as trees,  
are tender and supple while alive.  
When dead, they are withered and dried.  
Therefore the stiff and hard are companions of death.  
The tender and the weak are companions of life.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 5795 Excessive liberty leads both nations and individuals into  
excessive slavery.  
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 5796 God hath chosen the foolish things of the world  
to confound the wise;  
and God hath chosen the weak things of the world  
to confound the things that are mighty.  
I Corinthians (50?-100? A.D.)
- 5797 Weakness is more opposite to virtue than is vice itself.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 5798 All mankind is one of these two cowards:  
to wish to die when he should live,  
to wish to live when he should die.  
Robert Howard (1626-1698)
- 5799 Strength alone knows conflict;  
weakness is below even defeat, and is born vanquished.  
Anne Swetchine (1782-1857)

- 5800 Every man has a coward and hero in his soul.  
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 5801 Strength comes from struggle; weakness from ease.  
B. C. Forbes (1880-1954)

### 3. INSIGHT

- 5802 Vain and inconstant if thou art, how canst thou but be weak? Is not inconstancy connected with frailty? Can there be vanity without infirmity? Avoid the danger of the one, and thou shalt escape the mischief of the other.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 5803 Instead of solid accomplishments, the man pursues pleasures and self-gratification. He will never achieve anything so long as he is surrounded by dissipating temptations.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 5804 It is a law of nature that faint-hearted men should be the fruit of luxurious countries, for we never find that the same soil produces delicacies and heroes.  
Herodotus (B.C. 484-425)
- 5805 Things forbidden have a secret charm.  
Tacitus (55-117 A.D.)
- 5806 When a broken tank is filled with water,  
It certainly will leak on every side.  
Weak men who grow rich  
Seldom leave an inheritance.  
Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)
- 5807 How oft the sight of means to do ill deeds  
makes deeds ill done!  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 5808 Many a dangerous temptation comes to us in fine gay colours,  
that are but skin-deep.  
Matthew Henry (1662-1714)
- 5809 Slavery is also as ancient as war,  
and war as human nature.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 5810 The coward only threatens when he is safe.  
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 5811 To sin by silence when they should protest  
makes cowards out of men.  
Lincoln (1809-1865)

- 5812 If you take temptations into account, who is to say that he  
is better than his neighbor?  
Thackeray (1811-1863)
- 5813 The man who gives me employment, which I must have or  
suffer, that man is my master, let me call him what I will.  
Henry George (1839-1897)
- 5814 Men lie, who lack courage to tell truth - the cowards!  
Joaquin Miller (1839-1913)
- 5815 Not wine...men intoxicate themselves;  
Not vice...men entice themselves.  
Chinese Proverb

#### 4. POSITIVE

- 5816 To yield is to be preserved whole.  
To be bent is to become straight.  
To be empty is to be full.  
To be worn out is to be renewed.  
To have little is to possess.  
To have plenty is to be perplexed.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 5817 Heaven's eternal wisdom has decreed, that man should  
ever stand in need of man.  
Theocritus (fl. B.C. 300)
- 5818 My strength is made perfect in weakness.  
II Corinthians (50?-100? A.D.)
- 5819 Men are in general so tricky, so envious, so cruel,  
that when we find one who is only weak, we are happy.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 5820 Even weak men when united are powerful.  
Schiller (1759-1805)
- 5821 Why comes temptation but for man to meet  
And master and make crouch beneath his foot,  
And so be pedestaled in triumph?  
Robert Browning (1812-1889)
- 5822 No man is matriculated to the art of life till he has been  
well tempted.  
George Eliot (1819-1880)
- 5823 There are several good protections against temptation,  
but the surest is cowardice.  
Mark Twain (1835-1910)

**5. NEGATIVE**

- 5824 The dastardly spirit of a timorous man betrayeth him to shame. By shrinking under poverty, he stoopeth down to meanness; and by tamely bearing insults he inviteth injuries....In the hour of danger, he is embarrassed and confounded: in the day of misfortune he sinketh and despair overwhelmeth his Soul.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 5825 The man is indecisively unable to deal with adversity and is oppressed by something which should not oppress him. He leans on things like thorns and thistles, which are hazardous yet cannot support him.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 5826 There is nothing softer and weaker than water,  
And yet there is nothing better for attacking hard and strong things.  
For this reason there is no substitute for it.  
All the world knows that the weak overcomes the strong and the soft overcomes the hard.  
But none can practice it.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 5827 To know what is right and not to do it is the worst cowardice.  
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)
- 5828 The fire which burned the forest  
Became the companion of the wind.  
But just as the wind extinguished the fire,  
The weak man loses his friends.  
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)
- 5829 Most dangerous is that temptation that doth goad us on to sin in loving virtue.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 5830 To excuse our faults on the ground of our weakness  
is to quiet our fears at the expense of our hopes.  
To be weak is miserable, doing or suffering.  
Milton (1608-1674)
- 5831 Weakness is the only fault that is incorrigible.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 5832 Temptation is the fire that brings up the scum of the heart.  
Thomas Boston (1676-1732)

- 5833 Servitude degrades men even to making them love it. 5 of 7  
Vauvenargues(1715-1747)
- 5834 The concessions of the weak are the concessions of fear.  
Burke (1729-1797)
- 5835 The mortal race is far too weak not to grow dizzy on  
unwonted heights.  
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 5836 The last temptation is the greatest treason:  
To do the right deed for the wrong reason.  
T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)

## 6. ADVICE

- 5837 If thou wouldst preserve understanding and health to old  
age, avoid the allurements of Voluptuousness, and fly from  
her temptations.... For if thou hearkenest unto the words of  
the Adversary, thou art deceived and betrayed. The joy  
which she promiseth changeth to madness, and her enjoyments  
lead on to diseases and death.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 5838 If you find your mind tempted and entangled in greed,  
you must suppress the greed and control the temptation;  
be the master of your own mind.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 5839 The acknowledgement of our weakness is the first step  
toward repairing our loss.  
Thomas A. Kempis (1380-1471)
- 5840 Better shun the bait than struggle in the snare.  
Dryden (1631-1700)
- 5841 Every moment of resistance to temptation is a victory.  
Frederick Faber (1814-1863)
- 5842 Begin to think of this body as nothing better than the house  
you have to live in for a time, and then you will never  
yield to its temptations. Try also with consistent attempts  
to conquer the prominent weaknesses of your nature by  
developing thought in the direction that will kill each  
particular passion.  
H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)

**7. POTPOURRI**

- 5843 A great country is lowly.  
 Everything under heaven blends with it.  
 It is like the female, at all times and in every place  
 overcomes the male by her quietude.  
 Than quietude there is nothing that is more lowly.  
 Therefore a great state gains by yielding;  
 while the smaller state wins the greater by submission.  
 In the one case lowliness gains adherents,  
 in the other it procures favors.  
 Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 5844 The cord breaketh at last by the weakest pull.  
 Bacon (1561-1626)
- 5845 But Satan now is wiser than of yore,  
 And tempts by making rich, not making poor.  
 Pope (1688-1744)
- 5846 The Sensual and the Dark rebel in vain,  
 Slaves by their own compulsion! In mad game  
 They burst their manacles and wear the name  
 Of Freedom, graven on a heavier chain!  
 Samuel Coleridge (1772-1834)
- 5847 Our fellow-countrymen in chains!  
 Slaves - in a land of light and law!  
 Slaves - crouching on the very plains  
 Where rolled the storms of Freedom's war!  
 John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)
- 5848 The coward wretch whose hand and heart  
 Can bear to torture aught below,  
 Is ever first to quail and start  
 From the slightest pain or equal foe.  
 Eliza Cook (1818-1889)
- 5849 They are slaves who fear to speak  
 For the fallen and the weak;  
 They are slaves who will not choose  
 Hatred, scoffing, and abuse,  
 Rather than in silence shrink  
 From the truth they needs must think;  
 They are slaves who dare not be  
 In the right with two or three.  
 James Lowell (1819-1891)

- 5850 To cease smoking is the easiest thing I ever did.  
I ought to know because I've done it a thousand times.  
Mark Twain (1835-1910)
- 5851 Coward - One who in a perilous emergency thinks with his  
legs.  
Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?)
- 5852 I can resist everything except temptation.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 5853 Temptation - An irresistible force at work on a moveable  
body.  
H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)
- 5854 The Tongue is an instrument yielding and pliant  
Yet safe in the mouth, it ever remains,  
While the teeth are inflexible, hard and defiant,  
And frequently broken to pay for their pains.  
Chinese Proverb