

WILL

Determination, Resolution, Self-Control and Strength

1. ESSENCE

- 5974 Will is the dynamic soul-force.
Sivananda (born 1887)
- 5975 Great souls have wills; feeble ones have only wishes.
Chinese Proverb

2. OPPOSITES

- 5976 When a man lacks discrimination and
His mind is undisciplined, his senses
Run hither and thither like wild horses,
But they obey the rein like trained horses
When he has discrimination and his
Mind is one-pointed.
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 5977 For him who has conquered the mind,
the mind is the best of friends;
but for one who has failed to do so,
his mind will be the greatest enemy.
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)
- 5978 There is nothing good or evil save in the will.
Epictetus (50-138 A.D.)
- 5979 I have known many who could not when they would,
for they had not done it when they could.
Rabelais (1490-1553)
- 5980 It is the will that makes the action good or ill.
Robert Herrick (1591-1674)
- 5981 Let not thy Will roar, when thy Power can but whisper.
Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)
- 5982 All theory is against the freedom of the will,
all experience for it.
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 5983 Man is made great or little by his own will.
Schiller (1759-1805)

- 5984 Men are great or small in stature as it pleases God. But their nature is great or small as it pleases themselves. Men are not born, some with great souls and some with little souls. One by taking thought cannot add to his stature, but he can enlarge his soul. By an act of the will he can make himself a moral giant, or dwarf himself to a pigmy.
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 5985 The only way of setting the will free is to deliver it from willfulness.
Hare & Charles (c. 1830)
- 5986 If knowledge outweighs conscious will a man knows but has no power to do. It is useless knowledge. On the other hand if conscious life outweighs knowledge a man has the power to do, but does not know, that is, he can do something but does not know what to do.
Gurdjieff (1873-1949)
- 5987 Easy to bend the body...
Not the will.
Chinese Proverb

3. INSIGHT

- 5988 By steadily disciplining the animal nature, until it becomes one pointed, it is possible to establish conscious awareness of The Eternal.
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 5989 One who restrains the senses and organs of action, but whose mind dwells on sense objects, certainly deludes himself and is called a pretender.
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)
- 5990 Every duty is a charge, but the charge of oneself is the root of all others.
Mencius (B.C. 371-288)
- 5991 There are men steady and wise whose body, words and mind are self-controlled. They are the men of supreme self-control.
The Dhammapada (c. B.C. 300)
- 5992 Surely the getting up at night is the strongest way to conquer one's self...
Koran (c. 651 A.D.)
- 5993 The will of man is by his reason swayed.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)

- 5994 Although men are accused of not knowing their own weakness, yet perhaps as few know their own strength. It is in men as in soils, where sometimes there is a vein of gold which the owner knows not of.
Swift (1667-1745) 3 of 7
- 5995 Whatever the will commands, the whole man must do; the empire of the will over all the faculties being absolutely over-ruling and despotic.
Sydney Smith (1771-1845)
- 5996 We deceive ourselves when we fancy that only weakness needs support. Strength needs it far more. A straw or a feather sustains itself long in the air.
Anne Swetchine (1782-1857)
- 5997 The will is the strong blind man who carries on his shoulders the lame man who can see.
Schopenhauer (1788-1860)
- 5998 The education of the will is the object of our existence.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 5999 Everything in this world depends upon will.
Disraeli (1804-1881)
- 6000 The strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone.
Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906)
- 6001 Will is character in action.
William McDougall (1871-1938)
- 6002 When rendered pure and irresistible, will can work wonders. Will becomes impure and weak through vulgar passions, love of pleasures and desires. Fewer the desires, the stronger the will.
Sivananda (born 1887)

4. POSITIVE

- 6003 The greatest bounties given to man are, judgment and will; happy is he who misapplieth them not.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 6004 It is an inexorable Law of Nature that bad must follow good, that decline must follow a rise. To feel that we can rest on our achievements is a dangerous fallacy. Inner strength can overcome anything that occurs outside.
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)

- 6005 To enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one's family, to bring peace to all, one must first discipline and control one's own mind. If a man can control his mind he can find the way to Enlightenment, and all wisdom and virtue will naturally come to him.
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 6006 The army commander of a large State may be carried off, but the will of even a common man cannot be taken for him.
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)
- 6007 The man who has the will to undergo all labor may win to any good.
Menander (B.C. 342-291)
- 6008 And he who lives a hundred years, idle and weak, a life of one day is better if a man has attained firm strength.
The Dhammapada (c. B.C. 300)
- 6009 If you have overcome your inclination and not been overcome by it, you have reason to rejoice.
Plautus (B.C. 254-184)
- 6010 Moral conduct, self-restraint,
And control of the mind-
What else does one need
Who perseveres in these?
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)
- 6011 To rule self and subdue our passions is the more praiseworthy because so few know how to do it.
Francesco Guicciardini (1483-1540)
- 6012 He who reigns within himself, and rules passions, desires and fears, is more than a king.
Milton (1608-1674)
- 6013 Will opens the door to success, both brilliant and happy.
Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)
- 6014 Self-control is the best of all vows. Sweetness of speech, benevolence, absence of malice, anger, and hatred, forgiveness, patience, forbearance, non-violence, modesty, courtesy, good behaviour, Truth, straight-forwardness, and firmness - the combination of all these constitutes self-control.
Sivananda (born 1887)

5. NEGATIVE

- 6015 Strength, wanting judgment and policy to rule,
overturneth itself.
Horace (B.C. 65-8)
- 6016 Lawless are they that make their wills their law.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 6017 Oh! it is excellent to have a giant's strength;
but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 6018 What is strength without a double share of wisdom? Vast,
unwieldy, burdensome, proudly secure, yet liable to fall
by weakest subtleties; strength's not made to rule, but
to subserve, where wisdom bears command.
Milton (1608-1674)
- 6019 Nothing is impossible; there are ways that lead to
everything, and if we had sufficient will we should
always have sufficient means. It is often merely for
an excuse that we say things are impossible.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 6020 A man can do what he ought to do;
and when he says he cannot, it is because he will not.
Fichte (1762-1814)
- 6021 Obstinacy is the result of the will forcing itself into the
place of the intellect.
Schopenhauer (1788-1860)
- 6022 Strength is born in the deep silence of long-suffering
hearts; not amidst joy.
Felicia Hemans (1794-1835)
- 6023 People do not lack strength, they lack will.
Victor Hugo (1802-1885)
- 6024 What men want is not talent; it is purpose; in other
words, not the power to achieve, but the will to labor.
Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)
- 6025 The saddest failures in life are those that come from
not putting forth the power and will to succeed.
Edwin Whipple (1819-1886)

6. ADVICE

- 6026 Beware of irresolution in the intent of thy actions, beware of instability in the execution; so shalt thou triumph over two great failings of thy nature.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 6027 Calmness and irony are the only weapons worthy of the strong.
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 6028 Do God's will as if it were thy will,
and he will accomplish thy will as if it were his own.
Gamaliel (fl. 100 A.D.)
- 6029 Because your own strength is unequal to the task,
do not assume that it is beyond the powers of man;
but if anything is within the powers and province of man,
believe that it is within your own compass also.
Marcus Aurelius (121-180 A.D.)
- 6030 Want of control over the senses is called the road to ruin;
victory over them, the path to fortune.
Go then by which you please.
The Hitopadesa (600?-1100? A.D.)
- 6031 Do not, for one repulse,
forego the purpose that you resolved to effect.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 6032 He who is firm in will molds the world to himself.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 6033 Reflect upon the defects of your character: thoroughly realize their evils and the transient pleasures they give you, and firmly will that you shall try your best not to yield to them the next time.
H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)

7. POTPOURRI

- 6034 The primal spirit dwells in the square inch between the eyes, but the conscious spirit dwells below in the heart... The conscious spirit is like a strong, powerful commander who despises the heavenly ruler (primal spirit) because of his weakness, and takes control of the body. But when the primal spirit is fortified and defended (by circulating the inner light), then the conscious spirit presents itself like an obedient servant ready to take orders.
Lu Yen (fl. 800 A.D.)

- 6035 The will is a beast of burden.
If God mounts it, it wishes and goes as God wills;
if Satan mounts it, it wishes and goes as Satan wills;
Nor can it choose its rider...
The riders contend for its possession.
Martin Luther (1483-1546)
- 6036 And binding nature fast in fate,
Left free the human will.
Pope (1688-1744)
- 6037 In idle wishes fools supinely stay;
be there a will and wisdom finds the way.
George Crabbe (1754-1832)
- 6038 To sleep I give my powers away;
My will is bondsman to the dark.
Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)
- 6039 The star of the unconquered will,
He rises in my breast,
Serene, and resolute, and still,
And calm, and self-possessed.
Longfellow (1807-1882)