

# WISDOM

## *Enlightenment, Metaphysics, Philosophy and Wonder*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 6040 A philosopher is one who desires to discern the truth.  
Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)
- 6041 Wisdom is the wealth of the wise.  
Ecclesiasticus (B.C. 200?)
- 6042 Philosophy, rightly defined, is simply the love of wisdom.  
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 6043 Philosophy is the art of living.  
Plutarch (46-120 A.D.)
- 6044 Wise it is to comprehend the whole.  
Young (1683-1765)
- 6045 Metaphysics is the anatomy of the soul.  
Boufflers (1738-1815)
- 6046 Wisdom is only found in truth.  
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 6047 Metaphysics is the attempt of the mind to rise above the  
mind.  
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 6048 Philosophy is systematic reflection upon the common  
experience of mankind.  
Robert Maynard Hutchins (1899-1977)

### 2. OPPOSITES

- 6049 The childish go after outward pleasures;  
They walk into the net of widespread death.  
But the wise, knowing immortality,  
Seek not the stable among things which are unstable here.  
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 6050 The sage is as pointed as a square but does not pierce.  
He is as acute as a knife but does not cut.  
He is as straight as an unbent line but does not extend.  
He is as bright as light but does not dazzle.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

- 6051 In seeking wisdom thou art wise;  
in imagining that thou hast attained it - thou art a fool.  
The Talmud (B.C. 500?-400? A.D.)
- 6052 He is wise that is wise to himself.  
Euripides (B.C. 480-406)
- 6053 Wise men learn more from fools than fools from the wise.  
Cato the Elder (B.C. 234-149)
- 6054 All philosophy lies in two words, sustain and abstain.  
Epictetus (50-138 A.D.)
- 6055 The career of a sage is of two kinds:  
He is either honored by all in the world,  
Like a flower waving its head,  
Or else he disappears into the silent forest.  
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)
- 6056 A foolish man proclaimeth his qualifications;  
A wise man keepeth them secret within himself;  
A straw floateth on the surface of water,  
But a precious gem placed upon it sinketh.  
Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)
- 6057 We can be knowledgeable with other men's knowledge,  
but we cannot be wise with other men's wisdom.  
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 6058 Philosophy, when superficially studied, excites doubt;  
when thoroughly explored, it dispels it.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 6059 It is easier to be wise for others than for ourselves.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 6060 To ridicule philosophy is truly philosophical.  
Pascal (1623-1662)
- 6061 A man's wisdom is his best friend;  
folly, his worst enemy.  
William Temple (1628-1699)
- 6062 Revere thyself, and yet thyself despise.  
Young (1683-1765)
- 6063 Wisdom is ofttimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar.  
Wordsworth (1770-1850)

- 6064 The wise only possess ideas;  
the greater part of mankind are possessed by them.  
Samuel Coleridge (1772-1834)
- 6065 By wisdom wealth is won;  
but riches purchased wisdom yet for none.  
Bayard Taylor (1825-1878)
- 6066 The doorstep to the temple of wisdom  
is a knowledge of our own ignorance.  
Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)
- 6067 One fool can ask more questions in a minute  
than twelve wise men can answer in an hour.  
Nikolai Lenin (1870-1924)

### 3. INSIGHT

- 6068 When all desires that surge in the heart are  
Renounced, the mortal becomes immortal.  
When all the knots that strangle the heart are  
Loosened, the mortal becomes immortal.  
This sums up the teaching of the Scriptures.  
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 6069 The sky holds no trace of bird or smoke or storm;  
an evil teaching carries no Enlightenment;  
nothing in this world is stable;  
but an Enlightened mind is undisturbed.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 6070 By three methods we may learn wisdom:  
First, by reflection which is noblest;  
second, by imitation, which is the easiest;  
and third, by experience, which is the bitterest.  
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)
- 6071 A short saying oft contains much wisdom.  
Sophocles (B.C. 495-406)
- 6072 He was a wise man who originated the idea of God.  
Euripides (B.C. 480-406)
- 6073 Wonder is the feeling of a philosopher,  
and philosophy begins in wonder.  
Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)
- 6074 True wisdom consists not in seeing what is immediately  
before our eyes, but in foreseeing what is to come.  
Terence (B.C. 185-159)

- 6075 The Beginning of Philosophy...is a Consciousness of your own Weakness and inability in necessary things.  
Epictetus (50-138 A.D.) 4 of 11
- 6076 He who looks on another's wife as a mother, on another's goods as a clod of earth, and on all creatures as himself, is a wise man.  
The Hitopadesa (600?-1100? A.D.)
- 6077 Though by wicked acts one may reach one's aim,  
A wise man never resorts to such means.  
The wise are not ashamed if they do not reach their goal,  
Provided they have righteously endeavored for it.  
Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)
- 6078 The most evident token and apparent sign of true wisdom is a constant and unconstrained rejoicing.  
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 6079 A prudent question is one-half of wisdom.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 6080 The strongest symptom of wisdom in man is his being sensible of his own follies.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 6081 The wisest man is generally he who thinks himself the least so.  
Nicholas Boileau (1636-1711)
- 6082 The discovery of what is true, and the practice of that which is good, are the two most important objects of philosophy.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 6083 Clearness marks the sincerity of philosophers.  
Vauvenargues(1715-1747)
- 6084 Wisdom and goodness are twin-born, one heart must hold both sisters, never seen apart.  
Cowper (1731-1800)
- 6085 Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom.  
Samuel Coleridge (1772-1834)
- 6086 Philosophy is a kind of journey, ever learning yet never arriving at the ideal perfection of truth.  
Albert Pike (1809-1891)

- 6087 The philosophy of one century is the common sense of the next.  
Beecher (1813-1878)
- 6088 The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.  
William James (1842-1910)
- 6089 When fruit becomes big, the flower falls down of its own accord. Even so, human nature, disappears when divine nature sets in.  
Sivananda (born 1887)

#### 4. POSITIVE

- 6090 The lips of the wise are as the doors of a cabinet; no sooner are they opened, but treasures are poured out before thee. Like unto trees of gold arranged in beds of silver, are wise sentences uttered in due season.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 6091 That which is bright rises twice:  
The image of FIRE.  
Thus the great man, by perpetuating this brightness,  
Illumines the four quarters of the world.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 6092 Happy is the man who finds wisdom,  
and the man who gets understanding,  
for the gain from it is better than gain from silver  
and its profit better than gold.  
She is more precious than jewels,  
and nothing you desire can compare with her.  
Long life is in her right hand;  
in her left hand are riches and honor.  
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,  
and all her paths are peace.  
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;  
those who hold her fast are called happy.  
Proverbs (B.C. 1000?-200?)
- 6093 When the wise realize the omnipresent Spirit, who rests invisible in the visible and permanent in the impermanent, then they go beyond sorrow.  
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 6094 The sage does not hoard.  
The more he helps others, the more he benefits himself,  
The more he gives to others, the more he gets himself.  
The Way of Heaven does one good but never does one harm.  
The Way of the sage is to act but not to compete.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

- 6095 A wise man, recognizing that the world is but an illusion,  
does not act as if it is real, so he escapes the suffering.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 6096 Perfect wisdom has four parts: Wisdom, the principle  
of doing things aright. Justice, the principle of doing  
things equally in public and private. Fortitude, the  
principle of not fleeing danger, but meeting it.  
Temperance, the principle of subduing desires and living  
moderately.  
Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)
- 6097 Philosophy is the cultivation of the mental faculties;  
it roots out vices and prepares the mind to receive  
proper seed.  
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 6098 Philosophy is the art and law of life, and it teaches us  
what to do in all cases, and, like good marksmen, to hit  
the white at any distance.  
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 6099 Wisdom is the conqueror of fortune.  
Juvenal (40-125 A.D.)
- 6100 Wisdom is to the mind what health is to the body.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 6101 The weak have remedies, the wise have joys;  
superior wisdom is superior bliss.  
Young (1683-1765)
- 6102 They whom truth and wisdom lead  
Can gather honey from a weed.  
Cowper (1731-1800)
- 6103 His high endeavors are an inward light  
That makes the path before him always bright.  
Wordsworth (1770-1850)
- 6104 The adept may reach one of those rare moments that spell  
illumination - aware of the light of the consciousness  
that illumines our consciousness as the sun dawns on the  
sleeping earth and bathes it in effulgence.  
Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan (born 1916)
- 6105 The pine stays green in winter...  
Wisdom in hardship.  
Chinese Proverb

**5. NEGATIVE**

- 6106 In youth and beauty wisdom is but rare!  
Homer (c. B.C. 700)
- 6107 Enlightenment has no definite form or nature by which it  
can manifest itself, so in Enlightenment itself, there  
is nothing to be enlightened.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 6108 We become wiser by adversity;  
prosperity destroys our appreciation of the right.  
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)
- 6109 Philosophy triumphs easily over past and future evils;  
but present evils triumph over it.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 6110 When he to whom one speaks does not understand, and he who  
speaks himself does not understand, this is metaphysics.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)
- 6111 Where ignorance is bliss - Tis folly to be wise.  
Thomas Gray (1716-1771)
- 6112 Metaphysics is a dark ocean without shores or lighthouse,  
strewn with many a philosophic wreck.  
Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)
- 6113 It is easy for men to write and talk like philosophers,  
but to act with wisdom, there is the rub!  
Antoine de Rivaroli (1753-1801)
- 6114 The philosophers have only interpreted the world;  
the thing, however, is to change it.  
Karl Marx (1818-1883)
- 6115 Philosophy: A route of many roads leading from nowhere  
to nothing.  
Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?)
- 6116 Metaphysics is almost always an attempt to prove the  
incredible by an appeal to the unintelligible.  
H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)

**6. ADVICE**

- 6117 O people of the earth, men born and made of the elements, but with the spirit of the Divine Man within you, rise from your sleep of ignorance! Be sober and thoughtful. Realize that your home is not on the earth but in the Light. Why have you delivered yourselves over unto death, having power to partake of immortality? Repent, and change your minds. Depart from the dark light and forsake corruption forever. Prepare to blend your souls with the Eternal Light.  
The Divine Pymander (BC 2500?-200 AD?)
- 6118 Presume not in prosperity, neither despair in adversity: court not dangers, nor meanly fly from before them: dare to despise whatever will not remain with thee.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 6119 Those who know do not talk.  
Those who talk do not know.  
Keep your mouth closed.  
Guard your senses.  
Temper your sharpness.  
Simplify your problems.  
Mask your brightness.  
Be at one with the dust of the earth.  
This is primal union.  
He who has achieved this state  
Is unconcerned with friends and enemies.  
With good and harm, with honor and disgrace.  
This therefore is the highest state of man.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 6120 Those who seek the true path to Enlightenment must not expect an easy task or one made pleasant by offers of respect and honor and devotion. And further, they must not aim with a slight effort, at a trifling advance in calmness or knowledge or insight.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 6121 Make thy study of the word of The Eternal a fixed practice; say little and do much; and receive all men with a cheerful countenance.  
The Talmud (B.C. 500?-400? A.D.)
- 6122 Those who are wise lament neither for the living nor the dead.  
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)

- 6123 To make no mistakes is not in the power of man; but from their errors and mistakes the wise and good learn wisdom for the future.  
Plutarch (46-120 A.D.)
- 6124 In seeking Wisdom, the first stage is silence, the second listening, the third remembrance, the fourth practicing, the fifth teaching.  
Solomon Ibn Gabirol (1021?-1053)
- 6125 The sublimity of wisdom is to do those things living, which are to be desired when dying.  
Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)
- 6126 The clouds may drop down titles and estates, wealth may seek us; but wisdom must be sought.  
Young (1683-1765)
- 6127 To act with common sense, according to the moment, is the best wisdom; and the best philosophy is to do one's duties, to take the world as it comes, submit respectfully to one's lot, bless the goodness that has given us so much happiness with it, whatever it is.  
Horace Walpole (1717-1797)
- 6128 Knowledge dwells in heads replete with thoughts of other men; wisdom in minds attentive to their own.  
Cowper (1731-1800)
- 6129 Call him wise whose actions, words, and steps are all a clear because to a clear why.  
Lavater (1741-1801)
- 6130 Inspect the neighborhood of thy life; every shelf, every nook of thine abode.  
Richter (1763-1825)
- 6131 The sum of wisdom is that time is never lost that is devoted to work.  
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 6132 To be a philosopher is not merely to have subtle thoughts; but so to love wisdom as to live according to its dictates.  
Thoreau (1817-1862)
- 6133 If thou would'st have that stream of hard-earn'd knowledge, of Wisdom heaven-born, remain sweet running waters, thou should'st not leave it to become a stagnant pond.  
H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)

- 6134 Nine-tenths of wisdom consists in being wise in time. 10 of 11  
Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919)
- 6135 To admit ignorance is to exhibit wisdom.  
Ashley Montagu (born 1905)

## 7. POTPOURRI

- 6136 The kind man discovers it and calls it kind.  
The wise man discovers it and calls it wise.  
The people use it day by day and are not aware of it,  
for the way of the superior man is rare.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 6137 This Self is not realizable by study nor even by intelligence and learning. The Self reveals its essence only to him who applies himself to the Self. He who has not given up the ways of vice, who cannot control himself, who is not at peace within, whose mind is distracted, can never realize the Self, though full of all the learning in the world.  
Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
- 6138 Attain complete vacuity,  
Maintain steadfast quietude.  
All things come into being,  
And I see thereby their return.  
All things flourish,  
But each one returns to its root.  
This return to its root means tranquility.  
It is called returning to its destiny.  
To return to destiny is called The Eternal.  
To know The Eternal is called enlightenment.  
Not to know The Eternal is to act blindly  
which results in disaster.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 6139 Who, knowing the all in all its parts,  
For all its phases hath no lust,  
By comprehension of the all  
He truly hath escaped all-ill.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 6140 The way of a superior man is threefold:  
Virtuous, he is free from anxieties;  
Wise, he is free from perplexities;  
Bold, he is free from fear.  
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)

- 6141 He whose fear of sin takes precedence over his wisdom, his wisdom will endure; but he whose wisdom takes precedence over his fear of sin, his wisdom will not endure...He whose works exceed his wisdom, his wisdom will endure; but he whose wisdom exceeds his works, his wisdom will not endure.  
The Talmud (B.C. 500?-400? A.D.)
- 6142 The Ancient oracle said I was the wisest of all the Greeks.  
It is because I alone, of all the Greeks,  
know that I know nothing.  
Socrates (B.C. 469-399)
- 6143 There are two sentences inscribed upon the Ancient oracle...  
"Know thyself" and "Nothing too much"; and upon these all  
other precepts depend.  
Plutarch (46-120 A.D.)
- 6144 When you strive to gain quiescence by stopping motion,  
The quiescence thus gained is ever in motion;  
As long as you tarry in the dualism,  
How can you realize oneness?  
Seng-T'San (540?-606 A.D.)
- 6145 Old pond:  
frog jump in  
water-sound.  
Basho (1644-1694)
- 6146 The wisdom of the wise and the experience of ages  
may be preserved by quotation.  
Disraeli (1804-1881)
- 6147 The philosopher is Nature's pilot. And there you have our  
difference: to be in hell is to drift: to be in heaven  
is to steer.  
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)
- 6148 Wisdom alone is true ambition's aim  
Wisdom the source of virtue, and of fame,  
Obtained with labour, for mankind employed,  
And then, when most you share it, best enjoyed.  
Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947)