VIRTUE

Innocence and Purity

1. ESSENCE

5478  Virtue is a kind of health, beauty and good habit of the soul.

5479  Virtue is the golden mean between two vices, the one of excess and the other of deficiency.

5480  Virtue is a habit of the mind, consistent with nature and moderation and reason.

5481  Virtue consists in avoiding vice, and is the highest wisdom.

5482  Virtue is beauty.

5483  Virtue, like health, is the harmony of the whole man.

5484  Virtue is but heroic bravery, to do the thing thought to be true, in spite of all enemies of flesh or spirit, in despite of all temptations or menaces.

2. OPPOSITES

5485  The man of superior virtue is not conscious of his virtue, and in this way he really possesses virtue.

5486  The superior man thinks always of virtue; the common man thinks of comfort.

5487  Virtue is the beauty, and vice the deformity, of the soul.

5488  Holiness is what is loved by all the gods. It is loved because it is holy, and not holy because it is loved.

Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)

Aristotle (B.C. 384-322)

Cicero (B.C. 106-43)

Horace (B.C. 65-8)

Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Carlyle (1795-1881)

Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

Confucius (B.C. 551-479)

Socrates (B.C. 469-399)

Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)
5489  He who dies for virtue, does not perish.  
      Plautus (B.C. 254-184)

5490  The high-spirited man may indeed die, but he will not stoop to meanness. Fire, though it may be quenched, will not become cool.  
      The Hitopadesa (600?-1100? A.D.)

5491  Virtue is health, vice is sickness.  
      Francesco Petrarch (1304-1374)

5492  Virtue is persecuted more by the wicked than it is loved by the good.  
      Cervantes (1547-1616)

5493  Certainly, virtue is like precious odors, most fragrant when they are incensed or crushed, for prosperity doth best discover vice, but adversity doth best discover virtue.  
      Bacon (1561-1626)

5494  Some rise by sin, and some by virtue fall.  
      Shakespeare (1564-1616)

5495  Some people with great virtues are disagreeable, while others with great vices are delightful.  
      La Rocheefoucauld (1613-1680)

5496  He's armed without that's innocent within.  
      Pope (1688-1744)

5497  Our virtues and vices spring from one root.  
      Goethe (1749-1832)

5498  Virtue by calculation is the virtue of vice.  
      Joubert (1754-1824)

5499  Virtue: Climbing a hill  
      Vice: Running down.  
      Chinese Proverb

3. INSIGHT

5500  To produce things and to rear them,  
      To produce, but not to take possession of them,  
      To act, but not to rely on one's own ability.  
      To lead them, but not to master them -  
      This is called profound and secret virtue.  
      Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
This is the law of God, that virtue only is firm, and cannot be shaken by a tempest.

Pythagoras (B.C. 582-507)

Just as treasures are uncovered from the earth, so virtue appears from good deeds, and wisdom appears from a pure and peaceful mind. To walk safely through the maze of human life, one needs the light of wisdom and the guidance of virtue.

Buddha (B.C. 568-488)

Virtue is more to man than either water or fire. I have seen men die from treading on water and fire, but I have never seen a man die from treading the course of virtue.

Confucius (B.C. 551-479)

Purity engenders Wisdom, Passion avarice, and Ignorance folly, infatuation and darkness.

Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)

Virtue consisteth of three parts, - temperance, fortitude, and justice.

Epicurus (B.C. 341-270)

Although a man may wear fine clothing, if he lives peacefully; and is good, self-possessed, has faith and is pure; and if he does not hurt any living being, he is a holy man...

The Dhammapada (c. B.C. 300)

Fewer possess virtue, than those who wish us to believe that they possess it.

Cicero (B.C. 106-43)

God looks with favor at pure, not full, hands.

Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)

Nature does not bestow virtue; to be good is an art.

Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

The holy man, though he be distressed, does not eat food mixed with wickedness. The lion, though hungry, will not eat what is unclean.

Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)

I find that the best virtue I have has in it some tincture of vice.

Montaigne (1533-1592)
Virtue is like a rich stone, best plain set.

Bacon (1561-1626)

Virtue and genuine graces in themselves speak what no words can utter.

Shakespeare (1564-1616)

We need greater virtues to sustain good fortune than bad.

La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)

To be innocent is to be not guilty; but to be virtuous is to overcome our evil inclinations.

William Penn (1614-1718)

There is nothing that is meritorious but virtue and friendship; and indeed friendship itself is only a part of virtue.

Pope (1688-1744)

Virtue is everywhere the same, because it comes from God, while everything else is of men.

Voltaire (1694-1778)

Virtue is the state of war, and to live in it we have always to combat with ourselves.

Rousseau (1712-1778)

The virtues, like the Muses, are always seen in groups. A good principle was never found solitary in any breast.

Jane Porter (1776-1850)

Innocence is always unsuspicious.

Haliburton (1796-1865)

The only reward of virtue is virtue.

Emerson (1803-1882)

It has ever been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues.

Lincoln (1809-1865)

The truly innocent are those who not only are guiltless themselves, but who think others are.

Josh Billings (1815-1885)

They who disbelieve in virtue because man has never been found perfect, might as reasonably deny the sun because it is not always noon.

Hare & Charles (c. 1830)
With virtue you cannot be entirely poor... Without it you cannot be really rich.

**Chinese Proverb**

**4. POSITIVE**

Virtue cannot live in solitude: neighbors are sure to grow up around it.

**Confucius (B.C. 551-479)**

The fragrance of the flower is never borne against the breeze; but the fragrance of human virtue diffuses itself everywhere.

**The Ramayana (B.C. 500?-50?)**

The most virtuous of all men is he that contents himself with being virtuous without seeking to appear so.

**Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)**

Honor is the reward of virtue.

**Cicero (B.C. 106-43)**

The glory of riches and of beauty is frail and transitory; virtue remains bright and eternal.

**Sallust (B.C. 86-34)**

Virtue knowing no base repulse, shines with untarnished honour; nor does she assume or resign her emblems of honour by the will of some popular breeze.

**Horace (B.C. 65-8)**

Virtue is that perfect good which is the complement of a happy life; the only immortal thing that belongs to mortality.

**Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)**

Nature has placed nothing so high that virtue can not reach it.

**Curtius-Rufus (fl. 100 A.D.)**

Virtue is sufficient of herself for happiness.

**Diogenes Laertius (c. 250 A.D.)**

For virtue only finds eternal Fame.

**Francesco Petrarch (1304-1374)**

Of all the benefits that virtue confers upon us, the contempt of death is one of the greatest.

**Montaigne (1533-1592)**
Our life is short, but to expand that span to vast eternity is virtue's work.

Shakespeare (1564-1616)

A heart unspotted is not easily daunted.

Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Virtue may be assailed, but never hurt, Surprised by unjust force, but not enthralled; Yea, even that which mischief meant most harm Shall in the happy trial prove most glory.

Milton (1608-1674)

Innocence is like polished armor; it adorns and defends.

Robert South (1634-1716)

Virtue alone is the unerring sign of a noble soul.

Nicholas Boileau (1636-1711)

Sweet are the slumbers of the virtuous man!

Addison (1672-1719)

Virtue alone outbuilds the pyramids: Her monuments shall last, when Egypt's fall.

Young (1683-1765)

Innocence is its own Defence.

Franklin (1706-1790)

Virtue, the strength and beauty of the soul, Is the best gift of Heaven: a happiness That even above the smiles and frowns of fate Exalts great Nature's favourites: a wealth That never encumbers, nor can be transferred.

John Armstrong (1709-1779)

Riches adorn the dwelling; virtue adorns the person.

Chinese Proverb

5. NEGATIVE

Those who have virtue always in their mouths, and neglect it in practice, are like a harp, which emits a sound pleasing to others, while itself is insensible of the music.

Diogenes (B.C. 412-323)

There are some jobs in which it is impossible for a man to be virtuous.

Aristotle (B.C. 384-322)
The man who is not virtuous can never be happy.
Epicurus (B.C. 341-270)

That which leads us to the performance of duty by offering pleasure as its reward, is not virtue, but a deceptive copy and imitation of virtue.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)

Although a cloth be washed a hundred times,
How can it be rendered clean and pure
If it be washed in water which is dirty?
Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)

To purify the heart is like the person ordered to uproot a tree. However much he reflects and struggles to do so, he is unable. So he says to himself, "I'll wait until I'm more powerful and then uproot it." But the longer he waits and leaves the tree to grow, the larger and stronger it becomes while he only becomes weaker.
Abu 'Uthman Al-Maghribi (fl. c. 975 A.D.)

Our virtues are most frequently but vices disguised.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)

The smallest speck is seen on snow.
Gay (1688-1732)

Virtue has need of limits.
Montesquieu (1689-1755)

Few men have virtue to withstand the highest bidder.
George Washington (1732-1799)

Virtue is not hereditary.
Paine (1737-1809)

The absence of temptation is the absence of virtue.
Goethe (1749-1832)

Innocence is but a poor substitute for experience.
Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)

Most people are so constituted that they can only be virtuous in a certain routine; an irregular course of life demoralizes them.
Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864)

Virtue often trips and falls on the sharp-edged rock of poverty.
Marie Sue (1804-1857)
VIRTUE

5562 Virtue is insufficient temptation.
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)

5563 The door to virtue...
Heavy and hard to push.
Chinese Proverb

6. ADVICE

5564 A noble spirit disdaineth the malice of fortune;
his greatness of Soul is not to be cast down.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)

5565 INNOCENCE. Supreme success.
Perseverance furthers.
If someone is not as he should be,
He has misfortune,
And it does not further him
To undertake anything.
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)

5566 Turn yourself not away from three best things:
Good Thought, Good Word, and Good Deed.
Zoroaster (B.C. 628?-551?)

5567 If he applies The Eternal to himself his virtue will be
genuine;
If he applies it to his family his virtue will be abundant;
If he applies it to his village his virtue will be lasting;
If he applies it to his country his virtue will be full;
If he applies it to the world his virtue will be universal.
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

5568 To practice five things under all circumstances constitutes
perfect virtue; these five are gravity, generosity of soul,
sincerity, earnestness, and kindness.
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)

5569 The shortest and surest way to live with honor in the world,
is to be in reality what we would appear to be; all human
virtues increase and strengthen themselves by the practice
and experience of them.
Socrates (B.C. 469-399)

5570 One should seek virtue for its own sake and not from hope
or fear, or any external motive. It is in virtue that
happiness consists, for virtue is the state of mind which
tends to make the whole of life harmonious.
Zeno (B.C. 335?-264)
5571  A thankful heart is the parent of all virtues.  

      Cicero (B.C. 106-43)

5572  Every man has his appointed day; life is brief and irrecoverable; but it is the work of virtue to extend our fame by our deeds.  

      Vergil (B.C. 70-19)

5573  The only path to a tranquil life is through virtue.  

      Juvenal (40-125 A.D.)

5574  Virtues are acquired through endeavor, Which rests wholly upon yourself.  
So, to praise others for their virtues  
Can but encourage one's own efforts.  

      Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)

5575  Recommend to your children virtue; that alone can make happy, not gold.  

      Beethoven (1770-1827)

5576  No man can purchase his virtue too dear, for it is the only thing whose value must ever increase with the price it has cost us. Our integrity is never worth so much as when we have parted with our all to keep it.  

      Colton (1780-1832)

5577  He that has energy enough to root out a vice, should go further, and try to plant a virtue in its place; otherwise he will have his labor to renew. A strong soil that has produced weeds may be made to produce wheat.  

      Colton (1780-1832)

5578  The Lamp burns bright when wick and oil are clean.  

      H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)

5579  Better keep yourself clean and bright; you are the window through which you must see the world.  

      G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)

7. POTPOURRI

5580  One who is to enjoy the purity of both body and mind walks the path to enlightenment, breaking the net of selfish, impure thoughts and evil desires. He who is calm in mind acquires peacefulness and thus is able to cultivate his mind day and night with more diligence.  

      Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
VIRTUE

Virtue, dear friend, needs no defence,
The surest guard is innocence:
None knew, till guilt created fear,
What darts or poison'd arrows were.

Horace (B.C. 65-8)

It is the edge and temper of the blade that make a good sword, not the richness of the scabbard; and so it is not money or possessions that make man considerable, but his virtue.

Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

There is no ornament like virtue,
There is no misery like worry,
There is no protection like patience,
There is no friend equal to generosity.

Nagarjuna (c. 100-200 A.D.)

Food, sleep, fear, propagation; each is the common property of men with brutes. Virtue is really their additional distinction; devoid of virtue, they are equal with brutes.

The Hitopadesa (600?-1100? A.D.)

They fulfill their vows and fear the day whose calamity shall be far-reaching; and in spite of their own want, they give food to the poor, and the orphan and the prisoner.

Koran (c. 651 A.D.)

True merit, like a river, the deeper it is, the less noise it makes.

Halifax (1633-1695)

Shall ignorance of good and ill Dare to direct the eternal will? Seek virtue, and of that possest, To Providence resign the rest.

Gay (1688-1732)

Against the head which innocence secures, Insidious malice aims her dart in vain; Turned backwards by the powerful breath of heaven.

Johnson (1709-1784)

And he by no uncommon lot Was famed for virtues he had not.

Cowper (1731-1800)

One whose heart the holy forms Of young imagination have kept pure.

Wordsworth (1770-1850)
Blessed is the memory of those who have kept themselves unspotted from the world! Yet more blessed and more dear the memory of those who have kept themselves unspotted in the world.

Anna Jameson (1794-1860)

There is virtue in country houses, in gardens and orchards, in fields, streams and groves, in rustic recreations and plain manners, that neither cities nor universities enjoy.

Amos B. Alcott (1799-1888)

Of all the virtues necessary to the completion of the perfect man, there is none to be more delicately implied and less ostentatiously vaunted than that of exquisite feeling or universal benevolence.

Bulwer-Lytton (1803-1873)

Ascetic: one who makes a necessity of virtue.

Nietzsche (1844-1900)

The Saints are the Sinners who keep on trying.

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1895)