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Quotes about Wisdom

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We cannot advance without new experiments in living, but no wise man tries every day what he has proved wrong the day before.

- Adams, James Truslow

Wise people, even though all laws were abolished, would still lead the same life.

- Aristophanes

Suppose that we are wise enough to learn and know -- and yet not wise enough to control our learning and knowledge, so that we use it to destroy ourselves? Even if that is so, knowledge remains better than ignorance. It is better to know -- even if the knowledge endures only for the moment that comes before destruction -- than to gain eternal life at the price of a dull and swinish lack of comprehension of a universe that swirls unseen before us in all its wonder. That was the choice of Achilles, and it is mine, too.

- Asimov, Isaac

The wise man sees in the misfortune of others what he should avoid.

- Aurelius, Marcus

In seeking wisdom thou art wise; in imagining that thou hast attained it, thou art a fool.

- Azai, Rabbi Ben

There is a difference between happiness and wisdom: he that thinks himself the happiest man is really so; but he that thinks himself the wisest is generally the greatest fool.

- Bacon, Francis

Silence is the sleep that nourishes wisdom.

- Bacon, Francis

For it is not possible to join serpentine wisdom with columbine innocence, except men know exactly all the conditions of the serpent: his baseness and going upon his belly, his volubility and lubricity, his envy and sting, and the rest; that is, all forms and natures of evil: for without this, virtue lieth open and unfenced.

- Bacon, Francis

Do not seek to follow in the footsteps of the wise. Seek what they sought.

- Basho, Matsuo

Wise men still seek Him today.

- Bell, Dan

Action should culminate in wisdom.

- Bhagavad Gita

When you move amidst the world of sense, free from attachment and aversion alike, there comes the peace in which all sorrows end, and you live in the wisdom of the Self.

- Bhagavad Gita

The live in wisdom who see themselves in all and all in them, who have renounced every selfish desire and sense craving tormenting the heart.

- Bhagavad Gita

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. [1 Corinthians 3:18-19]

- Bible

Blessed is the man who finds wisdom, the man who gains understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. [Proverbs 3:13-15]

- Bible

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise.

- Bible

The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. [Proverbs 15:31]

- Bible

In much wisdom is much grief; and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.

- Bible

Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of your times.

- Bible

Through wisdom is a house built; and by understanding it is established; and by knowledge shall every room be filled with precious and pleasant riches.

- Bible

Wisdom is better than weapons of war. [9:18b, Ecclesiastes]

- Bible

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

- Bible

The testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple. [Psalms 19:7]

- Bible

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom; and with all your getting get understanding.

- Bible

Better to get wisdom than gold.

- Bible

The wisdom of a learned man cometh by opportunity of leisure: and he that hath little business shall become wise. [Ecclesiasticus 38:25]

- Bible

Some folks are wise and some otherwise.

- Billings, Josh

The price of wisdom is eternal thought.

- Birch, Frank

What is the price of experience? Do men buy it for a song? Or wisdom for a dance in the street? No, it is bought with the price of all the man hath, his house, his wife, his children.

- Blake, William

The tigers of wrath are wiser than the horses of instruction.

- Blake, William

The fool who persists in his folly will become wise.

- Blake, William

The wisest man is he who does not fancy that he is so at all.

- Boileau, Nicholas

The only one who is wiser than anyone is everyone.

- Bonaparte, Napoleon

The ultimate wisdom which deals with beginnings, remains locked in a seed. There it lies, the simplest fact of the universe and at the same time the one which calls faith rather than reason.

- Borland, Hal

True wisdom lies in gathering the precious things out of each day as it goes by.

- Bouton, E. S.

Mixing one's wines may be a mistake, but old and new wisdom mix admirably.

- Brecht, Bertolt

Follow then the shining ones, the wise, the awakened, the loving, for they know how to work and forbear.

- Buddha

As irrigators lead water where they want, as archers make their arrows straight, as

carpenters carve wood, the wise shape their minds.

- Buddha

Nine times out of ten it is over the Bridge of Sighs that we pass the narrow gulf from youth to manhood. That interval is usually marked by an ill placed or disappointed affection. We recover and we find ourselves a new being. The intellect has become hardened by the fire through which it has passed. The mind profits by the wrecks of every passion, and we may measure our road to wisdom by the sorrows we have undergone.

- Bulwer-Lytton, Edward G.

If I don't have wisdom, I can teach you only ignorance.

- Buscaglia, Leo

Though wisdom cannot be gotten for gold, still less can be gotten without it.

- Butler, Samuel

Great men are the commissioned guides of mankind, who rule their fellows because they are wiser.

- Carlyle, Thomas

The greatest event for the world is the arrival of a new and wise person.

- Carlyle, Thomas

Wise men learn more from fools than fools from the wise.

- Cato The Elder

Time ripens all things; no man is born wise.

- Cervantes, Miguel De

The greatest scholars are not usually the wisest people.

- Chaucer, Geoffrey

Wisdom we know is the knowledge of good and evil -- not the strength to choose between the two.

- Cheever, John

Everything I know I learned after I was thirty.

- Clemenceau, Georges

The extreme limit of wisdom --that's what the public calls madness.

- Cocteau, Jean

A wise man thinks what is easy is difficult.

- Collins, John Churton

The mistakes of the fool are known to the world, but not to himself. The mistakes of the

wise man are known to himself, but not to the world.

- Colton, Charles Caleb

By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.

- Confucius

There are three methods to gaining wisdom. The first is reflection, which is the highest. The second is limitation, which is the easiest. The third is experience, which is the bitterest.

- Confucius

Wisdom, compassion, and courage are the three universally recognized moral qualities of men.

- Confucius

No one over thirty-five is worth meeting who has not something to teach us, --something more than we could learn for ourselves, from a book.

- Connolly, Cyril

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers. It may not be difficult to store up in the mind a vast quantity of facts within a comparatively short time, but the ability to form judgments requires the severe discipline of hard work and the tempering heat of experience and maturity.

- Coolidge, Calvin

Wisdom is your perspective on life, your sense of balance, your understanding of how the various parts and principles apply and relate to each other. It embraces judgment, discernment, comprehension. It is a gestalt or oneness, and integrated wholeness.

- Covey, Stephen R.

Now all the knowledge and wisdom that is in creatures, whether angels or men, is nothing else but a participation of that one eternal, immutable and increased wisdom of God, or several signatures of that one archetypal seal, or like so many multiplied reflections of one and the same face, made in several glasses, whereof some are clearer, some obscurer, some standing nearer, some further off.

- Cudworth, Ralph J.

All human wisdom is summed up in two words; wait and hope.

- Dumas, Alexandre

History teaches us that men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives.

- Eban, Abba

Let us not take ourselves too seriously. None of us has a monopoly on wisdom.

- Elizabeth, Queen

Raphael paints wisdom; Handel sings it, Phidias carves it, Shakespeare writes it, Wren builds it, Columbus sails it, Luther preaches it, Washington arms it, Watt mechanizes it.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Wisdom is like electricity. There is no permanently wise man, but men capable of wisdom, who, being put into certain company, or other favorable conditions, become wise for a short time, as glasses rubbed acquire electric power for a while.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Let us be poised, and wise, and our own, today.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Life is a festival only to the wise.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

There is a time when a man distinguishes the idea of felicity from the idea of wealth; it is the beginning of wisdom.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

A wise man is he who does not grieve for the thing which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.

- Epictetus

He who exercises wisdom exercises the knowledge which is about God.

- Epictetus

Among mortals second thoughts are wisest.

- Euripides

Wisdom is knowing when to speak your mind and when to mind your speech.

- Evangel

Wisdom is meaningless until our own experience has given it meaning.

- Evans, Bergen

Timing, degree and conviction are the three wise men in this life.

- Fitzhenry, R. I.

Where there is charity and wisdom, there is neither fear nor ignorance. Where there is patience and humility, there is neither anger nor vexation. Where there is poverty and joy, there is neither greed nor avarice. Where there is peace and meditation, there is neither anxiety nor doubt.

- Francis of Assisi, St.

Wisdom too often never comes, and so one ought not to reject it merely because it comes

late.

- Frankfurter, Felix

Where sense is wanting, everything is wanting.

- Franklin, Benjamin

The doors of wisdom are never shut.

- Franklin, Benjamin

Just as a cautious businessman avoids investing all his capital in one concern, so wisdom would probably admonish us also not to anticipate all our happiness from one quarter alone.

- Freud, Sigmund

The beginning of wisdom is to desire it.

- Gabirol, Ibn

Kings may be judges of the earth, but wise men are the judges of kings.

- Gabirol, Ibn

One of the greatest pieces of economic wisdom is to know what you do not know.

- Galbraith, John Kenneth

It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err.

- Gandhi, Mahatma

The man who questions opinions is wise. The man who quarrels with facts is a fool.

- Garbutt, Frank

Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh, and the greatness which does not bow before children.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Who is the wisest man? He who neither knows or wishes for anything else than what happens.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

This is the highest wisdom that I own; freedom and life are earned by those alone who conquer them each day anew.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

Wisdom is found only in truth.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

Wisdom makes a slow defense against trouble, though a sure one in the end.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

Truth from his lips prevailed with double sway, and fools, who came to scoff, remained to pray.

- Goldsmith, Oliver

The wise man can pick up a grain of sand and envision a whole universe. But the stupid man will just lay down on some seaweed and roll around in it until he's completely draped in it. Then he'll stand up and go hey, I'm Vine Man.

- Handey, Jack

Knowledge can be communicated, but wisdom cannot. A man can find it, he can live it, he can be filled and sustained by it, but he cannot utter or teach it.

- Hesse, Hermann

I have known it for a long time but I have only just experienced it. Now I know it not only with my intellect, but with my eyes, with my heart, with my stomach.

- Hesse, Hermann

There often seems to be a playfulness to wise people, as if either their equanimity has as its source this playfulness or the playfulness flows from the equanimity; and they can persuade other people who are in a state of agitation to calm down and manage a smile.

- Hoagland, Edward

Such is the nature of men, that howsoever they may acknowledge many others to be more witty, or more eloquent, or more learned; yet they will hardly believe there be many so wise as themselves.

- Hobbes, Thomas

The wisdom of others remains dull till it is writ over with our own blood. We are essentially apart from the world; it bursts into our consciousness only when it sinks its teeth and nails into us.

- Hoffer, Eric

It is the province of knowledge to speak, and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.

- Holmes, Oliver Wendell

Wisdom oft times consists of knowing what to do next.

- Hoover, Herbert Clark

Wisdom is not wisdom when it is derived from books alone.

- Horace

The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.

- James, William

Wisdom is learning what to overlook.

- James, William

He is no wise man who will quit a certainty for an uncertainty.

- Johnson, Samuel

Wisdom overcomes fortune.

- Juvenal, (Decimus Junius Juvenalis)

Experiences are savings which a miser puts aside. Wisdom is an inheritance which a wastrel cannot exhaust.

- Kraus, Karl

It is more easy to be wise for others than for ourselves.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It is great folly to wish to be wise all alone.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

As it is the characteristic of great wits to say much in few words, so small wits seem to have the gift of speaking much and saying nothing.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

It's the height of folly to want to be the only wise one.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you'd preferred to talk.

- Larson, Doug

Wisdom is nothing more than healed pain.

- Lee, Robert E.

It may serve as a comfort to us, in all our calamities and afflictions, that he that loses anything and gets wisdom by it is a gainer by the loss.

- L'Estrange, Sir Roger

It's so simple to be wise. Just think of something stupid to say and say the opposite.

- Levenson, Samuel

We have no words for speaking of wisdom to the stupid. He who understands the wise is wise already.

- Lichtenberg, Georg C.

He swallowed a lot of wisdom, but all of it seems to have gone down the wrong way.

- Lichtenberg, Georg C.

There is no wisdom save in truth. Truth is everlasting, but our ideas about truth are changeable. Only a little of the first fruits of wisdom, only a few fragments of the boundless heights, breadths and depths of truth, have I been able to gather.

- Luther, Martin

A wise man will see to it that his acts always seem voluntary and not done by compulsion, however much he may be compelled by necessity.

- Machiavelli, Niccolo

It is not from reason that justice springs, but goodness is born of wisdom.

- Maeterlinck, Maurice

The Universe is one great kindergarten for man. Everything that exists has brought with it its own peculiar lesson. The mountain teaches stability and grandeur; the ocean immensity and change. Forests, lakes, and rivers, clouds and winds, stars and flowers, stupendous glaciers and crystal snowflakes, -- every form of animate or inanimate existence, leaves its impress upon the soul of man. Even the bee and ant have brought their little lessons of industry and economy.

- Marden, Orison Swett

Wisdom is knowledge which has become a part of one's being.

- Marden, Orison Swett

By the time your life is finished, you will have learned just enough to begin it well.

- Marx, Eleanor

No matter how long he lives, no man ever becomes as wise as the average woman of forty-eight.

- Mencken, H. L.

That which seems the height of absurdity in one generation often becomes the height of wisdom in the next.

- Mill, John Stuart

Wise people are foolish if they cannot adapt to foolish people.

- Montaigne, Michel Eyquem De

We can be knowledgeable with other men's knowledge, but we cannot be wise with other men's wisdom.

- Montaigne, Michel Eyquem De

Wisdom hath her excesses, and no less need of moderation than folly.

- Montaigne, Michel Eyquem De

There is more wisdom in your body than in your deepest philosophy.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

Does wisdom perhaps appear on the earth as a raven which is inspired by the smell of carrion?

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

The growth of wisdom may be gauged exactly by the diminution of ill temper.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

A life of frustration is inevitable for any coach whose main enjoyment is winning.

- Noll, Chuck

Behold, my son, with what little wisdom the world is ruled.

- Oxenstierna, Count Axel Gustafsson

Pain makes man think. Thought makes man wise. Wisdom makes life endurable.

- Patrick, John

Wisdom is always an overmatch for strength.

- Phaedrus

The days that are still to come are the wisest witnesses.

- Pindar

Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say

something.

- Plato

The wisest have the most authority.

- Plato

Wisdom alone is the science of others sciences.

- Plato

Wisdom is not attained by years, but by ability.

- Plautus, Titus Maccius

No man is wise enough by himself.

- Plautus, Titus Maccius

By others faults the wise correct their own.

- Proverb

A wise man never knows all, only fools know everything

- Proverb, African

The heart of the wise man lies quiet like limpid water.

- Proverb, Camerounian

A single conversation across the table with a wise man is worth a month's study of books.

- Proverb, Chinese

Beauty is the wisdom of women. Wisdom is the beauty of men.

- Proverb, Chinese

Deep doubts, deep wisdom; small doubts, little wisdom.

- Proverb, Chinese

Wise care keeps what it has gained.

- Proverb, Danish

The wise person has long ears and a short tongue.

- Proverb, German

Everyone is wise until he speaks.

- Proverb, Irish

He alone is wise who can accommodate himself to all contingencies of life; but the fool contends, and struggling, like a swimmer, against the stream.

- Proverb, Latin

The foolish sayings of a rich man pass for wise ones.

- Proverb, Spanish

Even though you know a thousand things, ask the man who knows one.

- Proverb, Turkish

A nation's treasure is its scholars.

- Proverb, Yiddish

Wisdom not only gets, but once got, retains.

- Quarles, Francis

It is not wise to be wiser than necessary.

- Quinault, Philippe

Nine-tenths of wisdom consists in being wise in time.

- Roosevelt, Theodore

What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?

- Rousseau, Jean Jacques

A wise woman puts a grain of sugar into everything she says to a man, and takes a grain of salt with everything he says to her.

- Rowland, Helen

To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom.

- Russell, Bertrand

More wisdom is latent in things as they are than in all the words men use.

- Saint-Exupery, Antoine De

Wisdom comes by disillusionment.

- Santayana, George

Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure. We get very little wisdom from success, you know.

- Saroyan, William

They would need to be already wise, in order to love wisdom.

- Schiller, Johann Friedrich Von

The wise have always said the same things, and fools, who are the majority have always done just the opposite.

- Schopenhauer, Arthur

Wisdom does not show itself so much in precept as in life -- in firmness of mind and a mastery of appetite. It teaches us to do as well as to talk; and to make our words and actions all of a color.

- Seneca

To be wise and love exceeds man's might.

- Shakespeare, William

So wise so young, they say, do never live long.

- Shakespeare, William

The only man I know who behaves sensibly is my tailor; he takes my measurements anew each time he sees me. The rest go on with their old measurements and expect me to fit them.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Wisdom and understanding can only become the possession of individual men by travelling the old road of observation, attention, perseverance, and industry.

- Smiles, Samuel

The experience gathered from books, though often valuable, is but the nature of learning; whereas the experience gained from actual life is one of the nature of wisdom.

- Smiles, Samuel

Practical wisdom is only to be learned in the school of experience. Precepts and instruction are useful so far as they go, but, without the discipline of real life, they remain of the nature of theory only.

- Smiles, Samuel

Some men are wise, and some are otherwise.

- Smollett, Tobias G.

The beginning of wisdom is a definition of terms.

- Socrates

True wisdom comes to each of us when we realize how little we understand about life, ourselves, and the world around us.

- Socrates

Well I am certainly wiser than this man. It is only too likely that neither of us has any knowledge to boast of; but he thinks that he knows something which he does not know, whereas I am quite conscious of my ignorance. At any rate it seems that I am wiser than he is to this small extent, that I do not think that I know what I do not know.

- Socrates

Wisdom is the supreme part of happiness.

- Sophocles

Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal, and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.

- Spurgeon, Charles Haddon

The greatest wisdom is to realize one's lack of it

- Stanislavsky, Konstantin

The wise man avoids evil by anticipating it.

- Syrus, Publilius

Who is a wise man? He who learns of all men.

- Talmud, The

Who is wise? One who learns from all.

- Talmud, The

The end result of wisdom is... good deeds.

- Talmud, The

Wisdom is perishable. Unlike information or knowledge, it cannot be stored in a computer or recorded in a book. It expires with each passing generation.

- Taylor, Sid

It is characteristic of wisdom not to do desperate things.

- Thoreau, Henry David

A word to the wise is not sufficient if it doesn't make sense.

- Thurber, James

The only thing that we know is that we know nothing and that is the highest flight of human wisdom.

- Tolstoy, Count Leo

A man never reaches that dizzy height of wisdom that he can no longer be lead by the nose.

- Twain, Mark

Wisdom is knowledge, rightly applied.

- Unknown, Source

If wisdom were on sale in the open market, the stupid would not even ask the price.

- Unknown, Source

Many people might have attained wisdom had they not assumed they already had it.

- Unknown, Source

The best mind might be the wisest mind if it were a mind alone that produces wisdom.

- Unknown, Source

The wise man says it cannot be done, but the fool goes and does it.

- Unknown, Source

What a wonderful world this would be if there were as many wise people as there are clever people.

- Unknown, Source

Wise are they who have learned these truths: Trouble is temporary. Time is a tonic.

Tribulation is a test tube.

- Unknown, Source

Wise men are not always silent, but they know when to be.

- Unknown, Source

Without wisdom, knowledge is more stupid than ignorance.

- Unknown, Source

You can buy education, but wisdom is a gift from God.

- Unknown, Source

Understanding the limitations of human beings as well as understanding your own is the beginning of true wisdom.

- Unknown, Source

He is a hard man who is only just, and a sad one who is only wise.

- Voltaire

Committing a great truth to memory is admirable; committing it to life is wisdom.

- Ward, William A.

Wisdom is the power to put our time and our knowledge to the proper use.

- Watson, Thomas J.

Wisdom begins at the end.

- Webster, Daniel

Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes age just shows up all by itself.

- Ziggy

It seems to me that, in every culture, I come across a chapter headed Wisdom. And then I know exactly what is going to follow: Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.

- Wittgenstein, Ludwig

Look at those they call unfortunate and at a closer view, you'll find many of them are unwise.

- Young, Andrew

If you wish to know the road up the mountain, ask the man who goes back and forth on it.

- Zenrin

Sharing great wisdom in the company of fools may lead them to take you as one of their own.

- Wakcher, Michael

And Wisdom be the Daughter of Experience

- Da Vinci, Leonardo



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