Verses of Proverbs ("箴言”诗)

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“Verses of Proverbs”, a group of forty couplets and quatrains written from Proverbs in the Bible. The following thirteen couplets and quatrains written from Proverbs 1-6.

1. Prologue: The Value of Proverbs

They’ll help you know wisdom and good teaching,
To discern the sayings o’ understanding;
To receive instruction i’ wise behavior,
And doing what is right and just and fair;
To the naive for giving circumspection,
To th’ youth giving knowledge and discretion;
Let th’ wise hear and gain scholarly ’ttainments,
And the discerning acquire handicrafts;
For understanding proverbs and par’bles,
And the words of the wise and their riddles.
The fear o’ the Lord is th’ beginning of learning;
But fools disapprove o’ wisdom and training.

1. 序言: 箴言的价值

智慧训诲使人晓，
通达言语要明了；
行为正直受智慧，
仁义公平有训诲；
愚人灵巧也明理，
少得智谋有知识；
智者闻之学有成，
聪明之人长技能；
明白箴言和譬喻，
知晓慧言与谜语。

2. Warning Against Enticement

My son, hear th’ teaching o’ your father,
And forsake not th’ law o’ your mother.
They’ll be wreath your head to dign’fy
And a chain your neck to beaut’fy.
Agree not if you sinners ’ntice,
If they say, “Come along with us;
For someone’s blood let’s lie in wait,
Like th’ grave, them alive let’s swallow,
’nd whole, like those who go down t’ hollow;
We’ll find all kinds o’ things valuable,
And wi’ booty our houses we’ll fill;

2. 警告勿被引诱

要听父训谕，
勿违母教育。
此乃汝华冠，
也是汝项链。
勿从恶人诱：
“随吾去荡游；
埋伏流人血，
无罪人遭劫；
做活人墓坑，
囫囵将他吞；
必得珍宝物，
所掳装满屋；
Ah, do throw in your lot with us,
And we shall share a common purse"        有福同相待，
My son, don’t go along with them,
And hold back your foot their paths from;
Rush into evil for their feet,
To shed others’ blood they are swift,
For in vain the net is baited
In the full view of all the bird.
Yet they lie i’ wait to kill themselves;
And set an ’mbush for their own lives.
Such is th’ end o’ all who are greedy;
The life o’ its owners it takes ’way.

3. The Call of wisdom

In th’ avenue wisdom ’loud calls,
She raises her voice i’ th’ public squares;
She cries out at th’ head o’ streets noisy,
She makes her speech i’ the town’s gateways:
“How long will fools love be’ng easy?
And mockers delight i’ mockery?
To you I’ll pour out my heart, b’hold,
Known to you I will make thoughts my.
Because I’ve called and you refused,
Stretched out my hand ’nd no one heeded,
Since you ignored all my advice
And my rebuke wouldn’t be ’ccepted,
I’ll also laugh at your mischance;
I’ll mimic when you terror strikes,
And your disast’r comes like twister,
Come ’pon you when ’nguish and distress.
Then they’ll call me, but I won’t ’nswer;
They’ll look for me but won’t ’ncounter.
Since they hated erudition
To fear the Lord they didn’t prefer,
4. Moral Benefits of Wisdom

My Child, if you receive my words
And wi` you treasure up my commands,
Let your ears listen to learning
And apply your heart to good minds;
Yes, if you call out for learning
And cry aloud for und`rstanding,
If you look for it as silver
And as hidd`n treasure you`re searching,
Then o` the Lord you`ll discern the fear
And th` knowledge of God discover.
It`s th` Lord who gives erudition,
From him come wisdom and culture.
For th` pious He stores up good fortune,
For th` righteous He provides prot`ction,
He guards the course of the upright
And preserves th` way o` His Godly one.
Then you`ll discern what`s fair and just,
You will grasp way to live the right.
For wisdom will ent`r your psyche,
To your soul lore will be pleasant.
Discretion will watch over thee,
Understanding will you o`ersee.
It`ll save you from th` way o` wickedness,
And from those who speak perversely,
Who quit the routes of uprightness
To live in the sinful darkness,
Who rejoice in doing abbd’rrant
And delight i’ evil perverseness,

They are persons whose paths are bent
And they’re men whose ways are not straight.
It’ll save you from any loose woman
Who tries to tempt you wi’ her words flat,

Who is faithl’ss to her husband own,
Her sacred cov’nant forgotten.
Down to death her dwelling declines,
To death she is travelling th’ lane.

No one who visits her back comes,
And to th’ road of life none returns.
Therefore walk i’ the way of the good,
Who do right, follow th’ paths of those.

In th’ land the upright will abide,
And stay i’ it those without repr’mand;
But th’ wicked will be snatched from th’ land
And like plants sinn’rs will be ’prooted.

5. Further Benefits of Wisdom

My Child, don’t forget my precept,
But keep my commands in your heart,
For your life they will longer make
And they’l
give you welfare ’bundant.

Let love and truth never forsake;
And do bind them around your neck,
Write them upon your heart table.
Both God and man will be eup’ric.

Trust in the Lord with your heart all,
And on your own insight don’t loll.
Acknowledge him in all your ways,
And make your footway straight he will.
Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
Fear the Lord, and depart from wrongs.  
Health to your body it'll induce  
And bring nourishment to your bones.

Honor the Lord with your substance  
With th’ first fruits of all your produce;  
Your barns will be filled wi’ plenty then,  
And will be bursting wi’ wine your casks.

Child, don’t despise the Lord regul’tion  
Nor be weary o’ his correction,  
As a father corrects a son,  
For those God loves He’d discipline.

6. Blessed Are Those Who Find Wisdom

Blessed are those who insight acquire,  
Blessed are those who obtain wisdom.  
For she is more gainf’l than silver  
And yields bett’r returns than aurum.

She is more precious than jewels,  
Noth’ng you want can compare her with.  
Long life to you wisdom offers,  
As well as honor and good health.

The ways of wisdom are pleasant,  
And all her paths lead t’ harmony.  
She’s a life tree who hold her fast,  
Those who clasp her are called happy.

7. God’s Wisdom in Creation

The Lord by wisdom th’ earth founded,  
He set th’ sky i’ place und’rstanding through;  
By his knowledge th’ seas were ’parted,  
And to th’ earth th’ clouds drop down the dew.
8. Wisdom Has The True Security

My Child, keep sound wisdom and caution,
Don’t let those ‘cape from your vision.
And they will be life for your soul
To grace your neck a decoration.

Then walk i’ your way safely you will,
Your foot will not trip and stumble.
You won’t be ‘fraid when you go to bed,
When lie down, be sweet your sleep shall.

Of sudden fear don’t be afraid
Or o’ the storm that strikes the wicked;
The Lord is th’ one you will in trust.
He'll keep your foot from being snares.

Hide not good from those who need it
When it’s in your power to act.
If now you can help your neighbor,
Never tell him to wait th’ day next.

To your neighb’r nothing sinister,
Who lives calm’ and trustf’llly you near.
Strike not with a man without cause
When he hasn’t done you any harm e’er.

Don’t envy a man who hurts ’thers
And do not choose any of his ways,
The Lord hates men i’ depravity
But wi’ the righteous his secret is.

God puts curses on th’ house o’ th’ guilty,
But blesses th’ homes of the saintly.
He scorns th’ scorn’rs, gives grace to th’ lowly.
Th’ wise inh’rit fame, th’ fools shame display.

8. 智慧拥有真安全

吾儿谨守智与谋，
勿使它离尔明眸。
它必作尔生与命，
也为美饰尔颈秀。

尔会坦然道路行，
不会失脚无战兢。
上床睡觉勿惧怕，
躺卧睡眠也温馨。

惊恐忽临勿被吓，
恶人遭毁勿惊诧；
主是依靠应信赖，
不陷网罗无跌差。

若可行善勿懈怠，
应得之人须善待。
若有现成能施舍，
勿让邻舍明天来。

邻舍安居附近尔，
勿做何事有邪恶。
他人未曾加害汝，
伤害他人不可作。

强暴之人勿嫉妒，
也勿择选他行路。
吾主憎恶乖僻人，
义人与主如亲故。

主咒诅恶人之宸，
赐福义人于家门。
讥诮遭讽谦卑恩，
智者受荣愚羞困。
9. Wisdom Is Supreme
Hear, sons, a father’s instruction, 
You may gain insight, pay attention. 
And do not forsake my lecture, 
For I give you precious doctrine.

When I was a son wi’ my father, 
Tender, th’ only one i’ th’ sight o’ my mother, 
O, he taught me and to me said: 
“Lay hold o’ my words with all heart your, 
Keep my commands and you’ll abide. 
Acquire wisdom, acquire clever mind; 
Don’t forget or my words omit. 
Don’t quit wisdom, and she’ll you regard; 
Love her, and she will you protect. 
Wisdom is supreme, wisdom get. 
Esteem her, and she’ll you exalt; 
She’ll honor you if her embrace. 
On your head fair garland she’ll place 
And present you wi’ a crown o’ brilliance.”

Wisdom is supreme, She’s God’s grace.

9. 智慧的高超
众子听父训, 
聪明留心存。 
吾训勿离弃, 
训诫多贵珍。

父前为孝子, 
娘亲独娇儿, 
且听父训诲： 
“父言须谨记, 
存活遵父规。 
聪明得智慧, 
父言勿离偏, 
智慧勿离背。 
爱她保安全。 
得智慧首选, 
万事选明聪。 
尊她受升迁, 
怀抱获尊荣。 
华冠她给供, 
荣冕尔手送。” 
智慧主恩宠。

10. Admonition to keep to the Right Path
Listen my child, accept what I say, 
And th’ years o’ your life will be many. 
I guide you in th’ way of reason 
And lead you along upright way.

When you walk, noth’ng will slow you down. 
And you won’t stumble when you run. 
Don’t let go, of instruction keep hold; 
Guard her, for she’s your animation.

10. 劝告行正直的路
儿听吾之言, 
必益寿年延。 
指尔智慧道, 
领尔路平坦。 
行走步逍遥, 
奔跑不跌跤。 
持训勿放松, 
谨守生命好。
Don’t enter the path of th’ wicked
And i’ the way o’ th’ evil don’t proceed.
Avoid it, don’t on it travel;
Refuse it and go on your road.

For they can’t sleep till they do e’il;
They can’t rest till make someone fall.
For they eat the bread o’ wickedness
And th’ wine of violence they guzzle.

Like th’ light of dawn th’ path o’ the righteous,
Brighter, bright’ til full day which shines.
The way o’ the wicked is gloomy;
They don’t know what them stumble makes.

Child, pay att’nction to what I say;
Listen to my sayings closely,
Do not let them out of your sight,
Keep them within your heart deeply;

For they’re life to those who them spot,
And health to a man’s body fit.
Watch o’er your heart wi’ all diligence,
For flow the springs of life from it.

Put ’way from you crooked ut’rance,
And keep e’il talk far from your lips.
Hang your head shamefully do not;
Look straight ahead wi’ honest conf’dence.

Do make level paths for your feet
And all your ways will be establ’shed.
Don’t swerve to the right or to th’ left;
Away from evil turn your foot.
11. Warning Against Impurity and Infidelity

My child, to my wis’d’m pay att’n’tion,
Listen well to my appreh’ sion,
So that you will maintain prudence
And your lips may guard erud’ tion.
For drip honey th’ lips o’ adult’ress,
And smooth’r than oil is her ut’t’rance;
But i’ th’ end she’s like bitt’r toxicant,
Sharp as a sword has two keeness.
Will take you down to death her feet;
To the grave her steps lead you straight.
She does not ponder the life way;
Her ways wander, but she knows not.

O sons, listen to me caref’lly;
Don’t turn aside from what I say.
Stay on a path far ‘way from her,
And don’t go near her house gateway;
Lest to oth’rs you’ll give your honor,
And to the merciless your year,
Lest o’ your wealth strangers take plen’tude,
And your toil enr’ch th’ house o’ a stranger.
And of your life you’ll groan at th’ end,
When your flesh and b’dy are consumed.
You’ll say, “How I hated disciplines,
How my heart ref’ sed to be corr’ cted!
I would not obey my teachers,
Or listen to my instructors.
I am at the brink of utter ruin
In th’ assembled congregations.”

Drink water from your own cistern,
Flowing water from your well own.
Should your springs overflow i’ th’ street,
Streams of water th’ public squares in?

11. 当远离淫行

留心智慧言，
听余聪明讌，
吾儿谋略守，
知识留唇间。

淫妇嘴蜜流，
她口滑胜油，
至终菌陈苦，
两刃锋造就。

脚带汝死土，
步引尔坟墓。不识生之道，
蜿蜒无坦途。

吾言要听好，
众子勿违拗。
行路远淫妓，
勿近她门道。

恐尔尊荣弃，
岁留残忍司，
恐财外人占，
归入他家室。

终留空悲叹，
身肉皆消残。
汝言“曾恨训，
心中藐责劝！

不从师导引，
不听教咐吩。
身在圣会所，
几近危危濒。”

饮水自池喔，
自家井水活。
汝泉岂外流，
岂可流街过。
Let them be for yourself apart,  
And for sharing with strangers not.  
So with your own wife be happy,  
And in th’ wife of your youth delight,  
As a deer graceful and pretty.  
May her charming breasts you satisfy;  
‘Tways i’ her love be intox’cated.  
Why bewitched an adult’ress by?  
Why th’ bosom o’ others wife enfold?  
For a man’s ways are i’ full view o’ th’ Lord,  
Where’er you go, he is watching.  
By his own sins a sinn’r is snared.  
He’s held fast by th’ ropes o’ wrongdoing.  
He will die for lack of training,  
His great folly is misleading.  
For your precious life guard warning.

Child, if you’re surety for neighbor,  
Have given your pledge for a stranger,  
If you’ve been trapped by what you said,  
Ensnared by the words of mouth your,  
Do someth’ng to free yourself, instead,  
Don’t fall into your neighbor’s hand.  
No pride, go and yourself abase,  
Hurry and with your neighbor plead.  
Don’t go to slumber let your eyes,  
Don’t let your eyelids tightly close.  
Free yourself as deer from huntsman,  
From snare as a bird itself frees.  
Go to th’ ants, you lazy person  
From th’ ways ants live learn a lesson.  
The ants have no a commander,  
And they have no a leading man.
1725

They prepare their food in summer,  食物夏天备采，
And their sust’ance i’ harvest gather.  斡粮收割时节。
Sluggard, how long will you there sleep?  懒人梦睡何长？
When will you ’rise from your slumber?  睡眼何时睁开？

A little sleep, a little nap,  片时睡打盹养，
A while folding of th’ hands to sleep,  抱手片时卧躺，
Your pov’rty will come i’ like bandit  汝贫必如遇盗，
And like an armed man your hardship.  苦难似武匪撞。

A scoundrel, villain wi’ misconduct  无赖恶徒种孬，
Who goes around wi’ a mouth corrupt,  行走恶口招摇，
Winks wi’ his eyes, motions wi’ his fingers,  眼传神指点划，
And he makes signals with his feet.  以脚示传信号。

Wi’ pervert’d heart evil devises,  邪心恶计谋发，
He stirs up dissension always.  常把纷争播撒。 
Calam’ty will sudd’nly descend.  灾难必临他身，
I’ a moment,b’yond repair damages.  立毁救治无法。

There are six things hate does the Lord,  六样事主憎恨，
And can’t tolerate senv’n things God:  七事神难容忍：
A lying tongue, pair eyes haughty,  高傲眼撒谎舌，
And hands that shed innocent blood.  血流无辜之人。

A heart that dev’ses consp’racy,  心底恶谋图设，
Feet that run to evil rap’dly,  飞跑脚向行恶，
A sham witness attests falsely,  假见证借谎扯，
And one who sows discord i’ fam’ly.  布散分争家舍。

13. Warning Against Adultery  13. 勿犯奸淫

My Child, keep th’ commands o’ your father;  蹁守父诫命，
Forsake not th’ teaching o’ your mother.  勿弃母律令。 
Always fasten them round your neck;  挂儿脖颈上；
And bound them ’pon your heart fore’er.  心头常怀萦。

They’ll often lead you when you walk,  汝行它导向，
They’ll talk with you when you awake;  尔醒它言讲；
They’ll watch o’er you when you lie down.  藹视它保守。 
As light th’ commands and teaching blink,  调诫是灯光，
Teach you how to live th’ discipline,  
Keep you from an evil woman,  
From the smooth tongue of th’ adult’ress.  
Crave not her beauty your heart in,  
Nor let her capture you wi’ her eyes.  
A whore is ’nly loaf o’ bread for th’ price,  
But th’ whore stalks a man’s v’ry being.  
Be carried in th’ bosom can blaze  
And without the man’s clothes burning?  
Or can one walk on coals flaming  
Without his own feet being scorched?  
So is he wi’ his neighb’r’s wife sleeping;  
None who touch’s her won’t go pun’shed.  
If a thief steals be scorned he shouldn’t,  
Cont’nt his desire for his hungry,  
He’ll pay seven-fold if he’s caught.  
Lacks sense who commits adult’ry;  
He who does it himself destroy.  
Wounds and dishonor he will get,  
And his shame won’t be wiped away.  
Husband’s wrath jealousy stim’late,  
When he takes revenge no restraint.  
No compensation he’ll accept,  
He’ll refuse th’ bribe, however great.

References

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