



# THIRUKURAL

Tamil Classic on virtual living

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\* **Introduction** - This introductory text will serve well the purpose of providing some background information to both the original writing of the Tirukural some two millenia or more ago, and to this recent Tirukural translation.

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**Part III - On Love**

\* **Kama or Pleasure (Love)**

- \* Chapters 109 to 133 - At present un-translated by the Himalayan Academy.

## In Praise of God

Verse 1

"A" is the first and source of all the letters. Even so is  
God Primordial the first and source of all the world.

Verse 2

What has learning profited a man, if it has not led him  
To worship the Good Feet of Him who is pure knowledge itself?

Verse 3

The Supreme dwells within the lotus of the heart. Those who reach  
His Splendid Feet dwell endearingly within unearthly realms.

Verse 4

Draw near the Feet of Him who is free of desire and aversion.  
And live forever free of suffering.

Verse 5

Good and bad, delusion's dual deeds, do not cannot cling  
Those who delight in praising the immutable, worshipful One.

Verse 6

A long and joyous life rewards those who remain firmly  
On the faultless path of Him who controls the five senses.

Verse 7

They alone dispel the mind's distress  
Who take refuge at the Feet of the Incomparable One.

Verse 8

They alone can cross life's other oceans who take refuge  
At the Feet of the Gracious One, Himself an ocean of virtue.

Verse 9

The head which cannot bow before the Feet of the Possessor  
Of eight infinite powers is like the senses lacking the power to perceive.

Verse 10

The boundless ocean of births can be crossed,  
But not without intimate union with Infinity's Holy Feet.

## **The Importance of Rain**

It is the unfailing fall of rain that sustains the world.  
Therefore, look upon rain as the nectar of life.

Rain produces man's wholesome food;  
And rain itself forms part of his food besides.

Though oceanic waters surround it, the world will be deluged  
By hunger's hardships if the billowing clouds betray us.

When clouds withhold their watery wealth,  
Farmers cease to pull their ploughs.

It is rain that ruins, and it is rain again  
That raises up those it has ruined.

Unless raindrops fall from the sky,  
Not a blade of green grass will rise from the earth.

Verse 11

Verse 12

Verse 13

Verse 14

Verse 15

Verse 16

The very nature of oceans, though vast, would diminish,  
If clouds ceased to take up water and give back rain's gifts.

Should the heavens dry up, worship here of the heavenly ones  
In festivals and daily rites would wither.

Unless the heavens grant their gifts, neither the giver's generosity  
Nor the ascetic's aloofness will grace this wide world.

No life on earth can exist without water,  
And the ceaseless flow of that water cannot exist without rain.

Verse 17

Verse 18

Verse 19

Verse 20

## Greatness of Renunciates

The scriptures exalt above every other good  
The greatness of virtuous renunciates.

Verse 21

Attempting to speak of the renunciate's magnitude  
Is akin to measuring the human multitudes who have ever died.

Verse 22

Verse 23

Behold those who have weighed the dual nature of things and followed  
The renunciate's way. Their greatness illumines the world.

Verse 24

He whose firm will, wisdom's goading hook, controls his five senses  
Is a seed that will flourish in the fields of heaven.

Verse 25

Such is the power of those who subdue the five senses that even Indra,  
Sovereign of spacious heaven's celestials, suffered their curse.

Verse 26

The magnificent ones are they who can dispatch the most  
Difficult tasks; the insignificant ones are they who cannot.

Verse 27

Touch, taste, sight, smell and hearing -

He who controls these five magically controls the world.

Verse 28

Their own secret sayings reveal to the world  
The greatness of men whose words prove prophetic.

Verse 29

It is impossible to endure even a moment's wrath of those  
Who have scaled and stand upon the mountain called virtue.

Verse 30

Renunciates are called the priestly ones  
For they are clothed in robes of compassion for all life.

## Asserting Virtue's Power

Verse 31

Virtue yields heaven's honor and earth's wealth.  
What is there then that is more fruitful for a man?

Verse 32

There is nothing more rewarding than virtue,  
Nor anything more ruinous than its neglect.

Verse 33

Be unremitting in the doing of good deeds.  
Do them with all your might and by every possible means.

Verse 34

Keep the mind free of impurity. That alone is the practice of virtue.  
All else is nothing but empty display.

Verse 35

Virtue is living in such a way that one does not fall into these four -  
Envy, anger, greed and unsavory speech.

Verse 36

Don't tell yourself tomorrow you'll be wise enough to practice virtue.  
Do it now, for it will be your deathless companion when you die.

Verse 37

It is decidedly unnecessary to inquire about virtue's benefits,  
So evident in the difference between the palanquin's rider and bearer.

Verse 38

Allowing not a day to pass without doing some good  
Is a boulder that will block your passage on the path to rebirth.

Verse 39

Only virtuous deeds abound in true joy.  
All other deeds are empty and devoid of distinction.

Verse 40

Virtue is merely that which should be done,  
And vice is merely that which men avoid in life.

## Family Life

Verse 41

He alone may be called a householder who supports  
Students, elders and renunciates pursuing well their good paths.

Verse 42

The virtuous householder supports the needs  
Of renunciates, ancestors and the poor.

Verse 43

The foremost duty of family life is to duly serve these five:  
God, guests, kindred, ancestors and one's self.

Verse 44

Gathering wealth without misdeeds and sharing meals without  
miserliness, The householder's posterity will never perish.

Verse 45

When family life possesses love and virtue,  
That is both its essence and fruition.

Verse 46

If a man masters the duties of married life,  
What further merits could monkhood offer him?

Verse 47

Among those who strive for liberation, the foremost are they  
Who live the blessed state of family life as it should be lived.

Verse 48

The householder dedicated to duty and to aiding  
Ascetics on their path of penance endures more than they do.

Verse 49

Domestic life is rightly called virtue. The monastic path,  
Rightly lived beyond blame, is likewise good.

Verse 50

He who pursues the householder's life well here on earth  
Will be placed among the Gods there in heaven.

## **The Good Wife**

Verse 51

She is the helpful wife who possesses the fullness of  
Household culture and spends within her husband's means.

Verse 52

The fullest family life remains empty  
If the wife lacks the lofty culture of the home.

Verse 53

What does a man lack if his wife is worthy?  
And what does he possess if she is lacking worth?

Verse 54

What is more majestic than a woman  
Who preserves the prodigious strength of chastity?

Verse 55

Even the rains will fall at her command  
Who upon rising worships not God, but her husband.

Verse 56

A woman is one who vigilantly guards herself,  
Cares for her husband and protects their unblemished reputation.

Verse 57

Why do guardians protect women by confinement?  
Her own resolute chastity is a woman's paramount protection.

Verse 58

A woman deeply devoted to the man who wed her  
Will be worthy of great rewards in the world where God's delight

Verse 59

Unless the wife pursues praiseworthy purity,  
The husband cannot prance like a proud lion before his critics.

Verse 60

A worthy wife is the blessing of a home,  
And good children are its precious ornament.

## **The Blessing of Children**

Of all a man's blessings we know of none greater than  
The begetting of children endowed with intelligence.

Verse 61

Verse 62

Those who bear children of blameless character  
Will themselves be born seven times, untouched by evil.

Verse 63

It is said that children are a man's real wealth,  
And that this wealth is determined by his deeds.

Verse 64

Far sweeter than divine nectar is simple boiled rice  
Stirred by the small hands of one's own child.

Verse 65

Being touched by one's children is a delight to the body,  
And listening to them chatter is a joy to the ear.

Verse 66

"Sweet are the sounds of the flute and the lute," say those

Who have not heard the prattle of their own children.

Verse 67

A father can best benefit his son by preparing him  
To sit in the vanguard of erudite councils.

Verse 68

What pleasure it is to human beings everywhere  
When their children possess knowledge surpassing their own!

Verse 69

When a mother hears her son heralded a good and learned man,  
Her joy exceeds that of his joyous birth.

Verse 70

The son's duty to his father is to make the world ask,  
"By what great austerities did he merit such a son?"

## **Possessing Love**

Verse 71

Can any lock keep love confined within,  
When the loving heart's tiny tears escape and confess it?

Verse 72

The unloving belong only to themselves,  
But the loving belong to others to their very bones.

Verse 73

They say it is to know union with love  
That the soul takes union with the body.

Verse 74

Love makes a man affectionate toward all,  
And affection affords the priceless treasure of friendship.

Verse 75

They say love's greatness is this: it yields to good families  
Worldly happiness here and heavenly bliss there.

Verse 76

The uninformed say love stands by virtuous souls,  
Unaware that love is also friend to all immersed in vice.

Verse 77

As the blazing sun dries up a boneless worm,  
So does virtue scorch a loveless being.

Verse 78

Without love in the heart,  
Life is like a sapless tree in a barren desert.

Verse 79

What good is a body perfect in outer ways,  
If inwardly it is impaired by lack of love?

Verse 80

With love enshrined in the heart, one lives.  
Without it, the body is but bone encased in skin.

## **Hospitality**

The whole purpose of maintaining a home  
And earning wealth is to provide hospitality to guests.

Verse 81

To hoard one's meal when a guest is in the home is improper,  
Even if it happens to be the nectar of immortality.

Verse 82

The life of the man who daily cares for those who  
Come to him will never suffer poverty's painful ruin.

Verse 83

Wealth's goddess dwells in the hospitable home  
Of those who host guests with a smiling face.

Verse 84

If a man eats only after attending to guests' needs,  
What further sowing will his fertile fields require?

Verse 85

The host who, caring for guests, watches hopefully for more,  
Will himself be a welcomed guest of those whose home is heaven.

Verse 86

Charity's merit cannot be measured by gifts given.  
It is measured by measuring the receiver's merits.

Verse 87

Verse 88

Those who never sacrifice to care for guests will later lament,  
"We hoarded wealth, estranged ourselves, now none will care for us."

Verse 89

The poorest penury is having plenty yet shunning guests.  
Such senselessness is only found in senseless fools.

Verse 90

The delicate anicham flower withers when merely smelled,  
But an unwelcome look is enough to wither the heart of a guest

## Speaking Pleasant Words

Verse 91

Pleasant words fall from the lips of virtuous men,  
Full of tenderness and free from deceit.

Verse 92

Better than a gift given with a joyous heart  
Are sweet words spoken with a cheerful smile.

Verse 93

A kindly countenance and sweet words  
Spoken from the heart are virtue's way.

Verse 94

Poverty-provoking sorrow will not pursue  
Those who speak joy-producing words to all they meet.

Verse 95

Humility and pleasant words are the jewels  
That adorn a man; there are none other.

Verse 96

If a man seeks good works while speaking sweet words,  
His virtues will wax and his vices wane.

Verse 97

Words yield spiritual rewards and moral excellence  
When they do not wander far from usefulness and agreeableness.

Verse 98

Sweet speech which is stranger to pettiness  
Imparts pleasure not only in this life, but in the next.

Verse 99

Why would anyone speak cruel words,  
Having observed the happiness that kind words confer?

Verse 100

To utter harsh words when sweet ones would serve  
Is like eating unripe fruits when ripe ones are at hand.

## Gratitude

Verse 101

Heaven and earth are scant repayment  
For help rendered where none was received.

Verse 102

A kindness done in the hour of need may itself be small,  
But in worth it exceeds the whole world.

Verse 103

When help is rendered by weighing the receiver's need  
And not the donor's reward, its goodness grows greater than the sea.

Verse 104

While aid may outwardly seem as puny as a mustard seed,  
The knowing will deem it as imposing as a towering palm.

Verse 105

Help rendered another cannot be measured by the extent  
Of assistance imparted. Its real measure is the recipient's worthiness.

Verse 106

Never forget fellowship with unsullied souls,  
Nor forsake friendship with those who aided in adversity.

Verse 107

For seven lives in seven bodies the grateful will remember  
Friends who nullified their anguish and affliction.

Verse 108

It is improper to ever forget a kindness,  
But good to forget at once an injury received.

Verse 109

The deadliest injury is effaced the moment  
The mind recalls a single kindness received from the injurer.

Verse 110

Having massacred every breed of goodness, one may yet escape,  
But there is no escape for those who let gratitude die.

## **Impartiality**

Justice may be called good when it acts impartially  
Toward enemies, strangers and friends.

Verse 111

The wealth of those who possess justice will not perish;  
Rather it will be posterity's soothing security.

Verse 112

However prosperous it may seem, all wealth gained  
By loss of rightness must be relinquished that very day.

Verse 113

In their offspring one may doubtlessly discern  
Who are the just and who the unjust.

Verse 114

Adversity and prosperity never cease to exist. The adornment  
Of great men's minds is to remain unswervingly just under both.

Verse 115

When his heart forsakes fairness and his deeds turn depraved,  
A man realizes deep within himself, "I am ruined."

Verse 116

Verse 117

Though a man is profoundly impoverished,  
If he remains just, the world will not regard him as poor.

Verse 118

To incline to neither side like a balance scale's level beam  
And thus weigh impartially is the wise one's ornament.

Verse 119

Speech uttered without bias is integrity,  
Provided no unspoken bias hides in the heart.

Verse 120

Those businessmen will prosper whose business  
Protects as their own the interests of others.

## Possession of Self-Control

Verse 121

Self-control will place a man among the Gods,  
While lack of it will lead him into deepest darkness.

Verse 122

Guard your self-control as a precious treasure,  
For there is no greater wealth in life than this.

Verse 123

Comprehending and acquiring self-control  
Confers upon one the esteem of wise men.

Verse 124

More imposing than a mountain is the greatness of a man who,  
Steadfast in domestic life, has attained self-control.

Verse 125

Humility is a precious quality in all people,  
But it has a rare richness in the rich.

Verse 126

Like a tortoise withdrawing five limbs into its shell, those who  
Restrain the five senses in one life, will find safe shelter for seven.

Verse 127

Whatever you may fail to guard, guard well your tongue,  
For flawed speech unfailingly invokes anguish and affliction.

Verse 128

By a single word of injury  
Do all a man's virtues lose their goodness.

Verse 129

The wound caused by fire heals in its time;  
The burn inflicted by an inflamed tongue never heals.

Verse 130

Virtue will wait in the streets to meet a man  
Possessed of learning and self-disciplined, his anger subdued.

## Possession of Virtuous Conduct

Verse 131

Virtuous conduct leads a man to eminent greatness,  
Therefore, it should be guarded as more precious than life itself.

Verse 132

In your striving, be mindful to preserve good conduct.  
In your deliberations, discover it is your staunchest ally.

Verse 133

Morality is the birthright of high families,  
While immoral conduct's legacy is lowly birth.

Verse 134

If a brahmin forgets the Vedas, he can relearn them.  
But if he falls from virtue, his high birth is forever effaced.

Verse 135

Prosperity is not for the envious,  
Nor is greatness for men of impure conduct.

Verse 136

The firm-minded never slacken in upholding virtuous conduct,  
For they know the miseries brought on by such neglect.

Verse 137

By honest conduct one achieves honorable eminence,  
While corrupt conduct brings one nothing but blame.

Verse 138

Good conduct is the seed in virtue's field;  
Wicked conduct's harvest is never-ending sorrow.

Verse 139

Men who conduct themselves virtuously  
Are incapable of voicing harmful words, even forgetfully.

Verse 140

Those who cannot live in harmony with the world,  
Though they have learned many things, are still ignorant.

## **Not Coveting Another's Wife**

Verse 141

Those who know virtue's laws and property's rights  
Never indulge in the folly of desiring another man's wife.

Verse 142

Among those who stand outside virtue, there is no greater fool  
Than he who stands with a lustful heart outside another's gate.

Verse 143

No different from the dead are those who  
Wickedly desire the wife of a friend.

Verse 144

Though a man's measure is mountainous, what good is it  
If, without the minutest concern, he takes another's wife?

Verse 145

A man who seduces another man's wife, knowing she is easy,  
Suffers a shame which neither dies nor diminishes.

Verse 146

Hatred, sin, fear and disgrace-these four  
Never forsake the man who commits adultery.

Verse 147

He is decreed a worthy householder  
Who holds no desire for the womanliness of another's wife.

Verse 148

The chivalry that does not look upon another's wife  
Is not mere virtue - it is saintly conduct.

Verse 149

In a world imperiled by the fearsome sea, to whom do good things belong?  
To men never impassioned to caress a married woman.

Verse 150

Though a man deserts virtue and indulges in vice,  
He keeps some decency by not wanting another's wife's womanliness.

## **Possession of Forbearance**

Verse 151

Just as the Earth bears those who dig into her,  
It is best to bear with those who despise us.

Verse 152

It is always good to endure injuries done to you,  
But to forget them is even better.

Verse 153

It is impoverished poverty to be inhospitable to guests.  
It is stalwart strength to be patient with fools.

Verse 154

Desiring that his greatness should never cease,  
Let a man's conduct foster forbearance.

Verse 155

Worthless are those who injure others vengefully,  
While those who stoically endure are like stored gold.

Verse 156

The gratification of the vengeful lasts only for a day,  
But the glory of the forbearing lasts until the end of time.

Verse 157

Though unjustly aggrieved, it is best to suffer the suffering  
And refrain from unrighteous retaliation.

Verse 158

Let a man conquer by forbearance  
Those who in their arrogance have wronged him.

Verse 159

Those who patiently endure the rude remarks of the insolent  
Possess the ascetic's rare purity.

Verse 160

Great are those who suffer fasting's hardships;  
Yet they are surpassed by those who suffer hard words spoken.

## **Avoidance of Envy**

Verse 161

The unenvious heart is to be valued  
No less than virtuous conduct itself.

Verse 162

Among the profuse precious things a man may acquire,  
None surpasses a nature free from envy toward all.

Verse 163

He who is jealous instead of joyous of another's wealth  
Does not desire, they say, wealth and virtue of his own.

Verse 164

Envy will never cause one to commit wrongful deeds  
Who rightly fathoms the disgrace which follows.

Verse 165

A man's own envy is foe enough to forge his ruin,  
Even though he has no other enemies.

Verse 166

He who begrudges another's bounty  
Will behold the death of his naked and starving kindred.

Verse 167

Fortune's Goddess, intolerant of men who cannot tolerate other's success,  
Introduces them to her sister Misfortune and goes away.

Verse 168

The wicked one called envy consumes this world's wealth  
Then consigns men to those worlds of hellish fire.

Verse 169

It is worth pondering that good men may be poor  
While the envious in heart prosper.

Verse 170

There are no envious men who have risen to prosperity.  
There are no men free from envy who have fallen from it.

## **Avoidance of Covetousness**

Verse 171

In the very attempt to wrongly gain another's wealth,  
A man loses his family's future and his own faultlessness.

Verse 172

Those who deem injustice shameful never commit  
Guilt-yielding deeds driven by money-yielding desires.

Verse 173

Those who seek immortal bliss will not succumb  
To immoral deeds which follow desire for fleeting delights.

Verse 174

With senses conquered and sight unclouded by depravity,  
One will not covet others' wealth, even in destitution.

Verse 175

What avails a man's subtle and comprehensive learning,  
If, in a covetous delirium, he still exploits others?

Verse 176

Desiring grace and doing his duty, a man who desires wealth  
And contrives to acquire it wrongly is destroyed nevertheless.

Verse 177

Do not seek the fortune that greed gathers,  
For its fruit is bitter in the day of enjoyment.

Verse 178

To protect his own prosperity from decline  
One must not crave the property held by others.

Verse 179

Just as wise men know the goodness of non-coveting,  
So Fortune herself knows their goodness and draws near.

Verse 180

There is a desire for another's possessions which is thoughtlessly destructive.  
There is a pride which, refusing to covet, is mindfully triumphant.

## **Avoidance of Backbiting**

Verse 181

Silent about virtue and swift to act wrongly,  
A man who does not slander others may still be called good.

Verse 182

More vile than violating virtue and committing crime  
Is slanderously sabotaging a man, then smiling to his face.

Verse 183

Virtue declares that dying, not living, will bring better rewards  
To defamers who dissemble and deceive.

Verse 184

Though you speak unkind words to a man's face,  
Do not speak words behind his back heedless of consequent harm.

Verse 185

Though every word is full of kindly virtue,  
A man's mean back-biting will betray his empty heart.

Verse 186

If a man spreads tales of others' faults,  
His own worst faults will be exposed and spread.

Verse 187

Not knowing the companionable art of cheerful conversation,  
Men estrange even friends by their divisive discourse.

Verse 188

If men are disposed to spread the faults of friends,  
What deadly harm might they do to strangers?

Verse 189

Only because she weighs duty well does Earth bear the weight  
Of those who wait for a man's departure to defame him.

Verse 190

If men perceived their own faults as they do the faults of others,  
Could misfortune ever come to them?

## **Avoidance of Pointless Speech**

Verse 191

Everyone is disgusted by a man  
Who offends one and all with meaningless chatter.

Verse 192

Uttering useless words to crowds is worse  
Than committing unkindnesses toward companions.

Verse 193

A long and pointless discourse itself declares  
To all the speaker's lack of worth.

Verse 194

Worthless words are doubly unprofitable: the listeners'  
Enjoyment is lost, and the speaker's own virtues vanish.

Verse 195

Prestige and popularity flee the best of men  
The moment they speak inane and useless words.

Verse 196

Do not call him a man who enjoys displaying  
His own empty words. Call him rather the chaff of men.

Verse 197

Let the wise, if they deem it necessary, speak even unpleasant words,  
But it is good if they always refrain from pointless speech.

Verse 198

In search of extraordinary gains, the wise  
Will never speak trivial or ungainful words.

Verse 199

The wise, faultless and free from ignorance,  
Never utter pointless words, even forgetfully.

Verse 200

In your speaking, say only that which is purposeful.  
Never utter words which lack purpose.

## **Dread of Sinful Deeds**

Verse 201

Wicked men do not fear, but worthy men dread,  
The arrogance of sinful deeds.

Verse 202

From evil springs forth more evil.  
Therefore, evil is to be feared even more than fire.

Verse 203

To commit no wrong, even against one's enemies,  
Is said to be supreme wisdom.

Verse 204

Only the forgetful plot another's ruin; others remember  
That virtue itself devises a plotter's downfall.

Verse 205

Do not commit wrongful deeds, claiming to be poor.  
For such deeds only cause one to be poorer still.

Verse 206

Let him who wishes to be free from afflictions' pain

Avoid inflicting harm on others.

Verse 207

One can escape from hate-filled enemies,  
But one's own hateful acts will relentlessly pursue and destroy him.

Verse 208

As a man's shadow follows his footsteps wherever he goes,  
Even so will destruction pursue those who commit sinful deeds.

Verse 209

If a man feels fond affection for himself,  
Let him not indulge in immoral deeds, however insignificant.

Verse 210

Know that a man will be defended against destruction  
If he does not deviate from Right and act iniquitously.

## Understanding One's Duty to Society

The benevolent expect no return for their dutiful giving.  
How can the world ever repay the rain cloud?

Verse 211

Verse 217

It is to meet the needs of the deserving  
That the worthy labor arduously to acquire wealth.

Verse 212

Verse 218

Of all duties, benevolence is unequaled in this world,  
And even in celestial realms.

Verse 213

Verse 219

He who understands his duty to society truly lives.  
All others shall be counted among the dead.

Verse 214

Verse 220

The wealth of the world-loving wise man  
May be likened to a well-stocked village water tank.

Verse 215

Resemble a fruit tree ripening in the heart of a village.

In the hands of a benevolent man,  
Wealth is like a medicinal tree whose healing gifts help all.

Those who deeply know duty do not neglect giving,  
Even in their own unprosperous season.

The benevolent man considers himself poor only  
When he is unable to render his accustomed service to humanity.

Were it said that loss of wealth is the price of benevolence,  
Such loss is worth selling one's self to procure.

Verse 216

Riches retained by generous men

## Charity

Verse 221

Giving to the poor is true charity.  
All other giving expects a recompense.

Verse 222

Though men may declare it a good path, gathering gifts is bad.  
Though they decree it denies one heaven, giving gifts is good.

Verse 223

Men of good birth graciously give,  
Never uttering the wretched excuse, "I have nothing."

Verse 224

How unpleasant a beggar's pleading can become,  
Until one sees his face, so sweetly pleased.

Verse 225

Great indeed is the power acquired through austerity to endure hunger.  
But greater still is the power of those who relieve the hunger of others.

Verse 226

Relieving the ravaging hunger of the poor  
Is the most secure use of a rich man's wealth.

Verse 227

The fiery scourge called hunger never touches  
The man who shares his daily meal with others.

Verse 228

Is it because they are unaware of the joys of giving  
That hard-hearted men waste their wealth by hoarding it?

Verse 229

More bitter than even a beggar's bread is the  
Meal of the miser who hoards wealth and eats alone.

Verse 230

There is nothing more bitter than death;  
Yet even death is sweet when charitable giving is impossible.

## Glory

Verse 231

Give to the poor, and life will be richly graced.  
There is no greater profit for a man than this.

Verse 232

All who speak will proclaim abiding praise  
For those who give alms to the poor.

Verse 233

Except for exalted glory which endures forever,  
Everything on earth perishes.

Verse 234

So great is glory gained by men in this world  
That celestials cease praising ascended sages.

Verse 235

The loss that is gain and the death that is life of immortal glory  
Are attained only by the wise.

Verse 236

If you are born, be born for glory,  
For those born without it would be better off without birth.

Verse 237

Why do those whose life is devoid of renown  
Blame despising rivals, when they have themselves to blame?

Verse 238

Just as it is disgraceful to bear no children,  
All men on earth deem it disgraceful to not beget fame.

Verse 239

When forced to bear the body of a man without eminence,  
Even faultless, fruitful lands will lessen their yields.

Verse 240

Those who live without blame truly live.  
Those who live without glory live not.

## **Possession of Compassion**

Verse 241

Among the wealthy, compassionate men claim the richest wealth,  
For material wealth is possessed by even contemptible men.

Verse 242

Find and follow the good path and be ruled by compassion. For if the  
Various ways are examined, compassion will prove the means to liberation.

Verse 243

Those whose hearts are drawn toward compassion  
Will never be drawn into the dark and woeful world.

Verse 244

Evil deeds dreaded by the soul will not afflict  
The compassionate who foster and protect all life.

Verse 245

This wide and wind-swept fertile earth is witness to the truth  
That misery is not for men who keep compassion.

Verse 246

They say those who act cruelly by forsaking compassion  
Must have forgotten what it means to forsake morality.

Verse 247

As this world is not for the penniless,

So is that world not for the pitiless!

Verse 248

Those without wealth may one day prosper, but those without  
Kindness are utterly destitute, and their fortunes never change.

Verse 249

Practicing charity without compassion is as inconceivable  
As realizing Truth without clarity of mind.

Verse 250

Before advancing against men weaker than yourself,  
Ponder when you stood before those more powerful.

## **Abstaining from Eating Meat**

Verse 251

How can he practice true compassion  
Who eats the flesh of an animal to fatten his own flesh?

Verse 252

Riches cannot be found in the hands of the thriftless,  
Nor can compassion be found in the hearts of those who eat meat.

Verse 253

Goodness is never one with the minds of these two:  
One who wields a weapon and one who feasts on a creatures' flesh.

Verse 254

If you ask, "What is kindness and what is unkind?"  
It is not killing and killing. Thus, eating flesh is never virtuous.

Verse 255

Life is perpetuated by not eating meat.  
The clenched jaws of hell hold those who do.

Verse 256

If the world did not purchase and consume meat,  
There would be none to slaughter and offer meat for sale.

Verse 257

When a man realizes that meat is the butchered flesh  
Of another creature, he must abstain from eating it.

Verse 258

Perceptive souls who have abandoned passion  
Will not feed on flesh abandoned by life.

Verse 259

Greater than a thousand ghee offerings consumed in sacrificial fires  
Do not do sacrifice and consume any living creature.

Verse 260

All that lives will press palms together in prayerful adoration  
Of those who refuse to slaughter and savor meat.

## **Austerity**

It is the nature of asceticism to patiently endure  
Hardship and not to harm living creatures.

Verse 261

Austerity belongs to the naturally austere.  
Others may attempt it, but to no avail.

Verse 262

Is it because they must provide for renunciates  
That others forget to do penance?

Verse 263

Should he but wish it, an ascetics' austerities  
Will ruin his foes and reward his friends.

Verse 264

In this world men do austerities assiduously,  
Assured of the fulfillment of desired desires.

Verse 265

Those who perform austerities are fulfilling their destiny. All others  
Are ensnared by desire and unknowingly work their own destruction.

Verse 266

Verse 267

As the intense fire of the furnace refines gold to brilliancy, so does  
The burning suffering of austerity purify the soul to resplendence.

Verse 268

He who has realized by himself his souls' Self  
Will be worshiped by all other souls.

Verse 269

So potent is the power acquired through austerity  
That those who attain it may even stay the moment of death.

Verse 270

Few people perform penance, while the majority do not.  
For this reason the needy multitudes suffer deprivation.

## **Ascetic Pretense**

Undeceived by a deceiver's duplicity,  
His own five elements silently mock him.

Verse 271

Of what avail is an outer appearance of saintliness,  
If the mind suffers inwardly from knowledge of its iniquity?

Verse 272

He who has not attained the power yet wears the garb of saints  
Is like a cow that grazes about wearing a tiger's skin.

Verse 273

Verse 274

He who conceals himself beneath saintly robes and commits sins  
Is like the hunter who hides in the bushes to snare unwary birds.

Verse 275

When those who claim dispassion act deceitfully,  
The day will come when they exclaim, "Alas! Alas! What have I done?"

Verse 276

None is so heartless as he who, without renunciation in his heart,  
Poses as a renunciate and lives fraudulently.

Verse 277

Like the poisonous jequirity seed, with its bright and black sides,  
There are outwardly dazzling men whose insides are dark.

Verse 278

Many are the men who piously bath in purifying waters,  
While in their dark hearts impure conduct lies concealed.

Verse 279

The arrow is straight but cruel; the lute is crooked but sweet.  
Therefore, judge men by their acts, not their appearance.

Verse 280

Neither shaven head nor long locks are required,  
Provided one refrains from conduct condemned by the world.

## **Avoidance of Fraud**

Verse 281

If a man wishes not to be scorned by others,  
He will secure his own mind against the merest thought of fraud.

Verse 282

The mere thought of sin is sin. Therefore,  
Avoid even the thought of stealing from another.

Verse 283

The fortune that is amassed by fraud may appear to prosper  
But it will soon perish altogether.

Verse 284

Finding delight in defrauding others yields the fruit  
Of undying suffering when those delights ripen.

Verse 285

Benevolent thoughts and affectionate feelings flee from those  
Who watch for another's' unwatchfulness to swindle his property.

Verse 286

They who follow deceit's desirous path  
Cannot hope to work wisdom's measured way.

Verse 287

The dark deceits of fraud cannot be found  
In the hearts of those who desire the greatness called virtue.

Verse 288

As righteousness resides in the hearts of the virtuous,  
So does deceit dwell in the hearts of thieves.

Verse 289

Knowing nothing but deviousness,  
Men die each time they contrive their corrupt deeds.

Verse 290

Even the life in his body will abandon him who defrauds others,  
But heaven itself never forsakes those who are honest.

## Truthfulness

What is truthfulness? It is the speaking of words  
Which are entirely free from harmful effects.

Verse 291

Verse 297

Even falsehood is of the nature of truth,  
If it gives good results free from fault.

Verse 292

Verse 298

Let a man not speak as truth what he knows to be false,  
For his conscience will scorch him when he has lied.

Verse 293

Verse 299

He who lives truly in his own heart,  
Truly lives in the hearts of all people.

Verse 294

Verse 300

Those who speak only truth from the heart  
Surpass even penitents and philanthropists.

Verse 295

No prestige surpasses the absence of falsehood;

Verse 296

All other virtues flow from it effortlessly.

Not lying, and merely not lying, is beneficial  
For those who can't practice and won't practice other virtues.

Water is sufficient to cleanse the body,  
But only truthfulness will purify the mind.

Not all lamps are effective lamps.  
The lamp of nonlying is the wise man's lamp.

Among all great truths which we have ever beheld,  
Not one can equal the goodness of veracity.

## **Avoidance of Anger**

Verse 301

It is restraint that restrains anger when it can injure.  
If it cannot harm, what does restraint really matter?

Verse 302

Anger is wrong even when it cannot cause injury,  
But when it can, there is nothing more iniquitous.

Verse 303

Forget anger toward all who have offended you,  
For from anger springs a multitude of wrongs.

Verse 304

The face's smile and the heart's joy are slain by anger.  
Does there exist a greater enemy than one's own anger?

Verse 305

If a man would be his own guard, let him guard against anger.  
Left unguarded, his own wrath will slay him.

Verse 306

Drawing near it, men are engulfed in fury's fire,  
Which burns even rescuing friends and family.

Verse 307

As a man trying to touch the ground with his hand cannot fail,  
So one who treasures his temper will doubtlessly be destroyed.

Verse 308

Even when others inflict wrongs as painful as the touch of blazing  
Torches, it is good if a man can refrain from anger.

Verse 309

If angry thoughts never invoke his mind,  
A man's other thoughts may instantly manifest.

Verse 310

As men who have died resemble the dead,  
So men who have renounced anger resemble renunciates.

## **Avoidance of Injuring Others**

Verse 311

If hurting others would bring princely riches,  
The pure in heart would still refuse.

Verse 312

It is the principle of the pure in heart never to injure others,  
Even when they themselves have been hatefully injured.

Verse 313

Hating others, even enemies who harmed you unprovoked,  
Assures incessant sorrow.

Verse 314

If you return kindness for injuries received and forget both,  
Those who harmed you will be punished by their own shame.

Verse 315

What good is a man's knowledge unless it prompts him to  
Prevent the pain of others as if it were his own pain?

Verse 316

Any actions which a man knows would harm himself  
He should not inflict on others.

Verse 317

The supreme principle is this: Never knowingly  
Harm anyone at any time in any way

Verse 318

Why does he who knows what injury to his own life is like  
Inflict injury on other living human beings?

Verse 319

If a man inflicts sorrow on another in the morning,  
Sorrow will come to him unbidden in the afternoon.

Verse 320

All suffering recoils on the wrongdoer himself. Therefore, those who  
Desire not to suffer refrain from causing others pain.

## **Avoidance of Killing**

Verse 321

What is virtuous conduct? It is never destroying life,  
For killing leads to every other sin.

Verse 322

Of all the virtues summed by ancient sages the foremost are these:  
To partake of food one has shared and to protect all living creatures.

Verse 323

Not killing is the first and foremost good.  
The virtue of not lying comes next.

Verse 324

What is the good way? It is the path that reflects on  
How it may avoid killing any living creature.

Verse 325

Among all who disown the world out of dismay, the foremost are  
They who, dismayed with death-dealing, embrace non-killing.

Verse 326

Life-devouring death will not assail the living days  
Of one whose code of conduct is to never kill.

Verse 327

Refrain from taking precious life from any living being,  
Even to save your own life.

Verse 328

By sacrifice of life some gain great wealth and good,  
But sagacious men scorn such gains.

Verse 329

Those whose trade is killing creatures are deemed defiled  
By men who know the defiling nature of being mean.

Verse 330

They say the beggar who suffers a sore ridden body and deprived life  
Once deprived another's body of life

## **Impermanence of All Things**

Verse 331

There is no baser folly than the infatuation  
That looks upon the transient as if it were everlasting.

Verse 332

Amassing great wealth is gradual, like the gathering of a theater  
Crowd. Its dispersal is sudden, like that same crowd departing.

Verse 333

Wealth's nature is to be unenduring.  
Upon acquiring it, do that which is enduring right away.

Verse 334

Though it seems a harmless gauge of time, a day,  
To those who fathom its form, is a saw steadily cutting the tree of life.

Verse 335

Do good deeds with urgency,  
Before death's approaching rattle strangles the tongue.

Verse 336

What wondrous greatness this world possesses -  
That yesterday a man was, and today he is not.

Verse 337

Man does not know if he will live another moment,  
Yet his thoughts are ten million and more.

Verse 338

The soul's attachment to the body resembles a fledgling  
Which forsakes its empty shell and flies away.

Verse 339

Death is like falling asleep,  
And birth is like waking from that sleep.

Verse 340

Not yet having a permanent home,  
The soul takes temporary shelter in the body.

## Renunciation

Verse 341

Whatsoever a man has renounced,  
From the sorrow born of that he has freed himself.

Verse 342

After a man has renounced, he enjoys the many true things in this  
World. Let men desiring that renounce in time.

Verse 343

The five senses must be subdued  
And every desire simultaneously surrendered.

Verse 344

The mendicant's poverty permits not a single possession,  
For possessions draws him back into delusion.

Verse 345

What are life's petty attachments to the man who seeks severance  
From future births, when even his body is a burden?

Verse 346

He who slays the conceit which clamors "I" and "mine"  
Will enter a realm above the celestials' world.

Verse 347

If one clings to his attachments, refusing to let go,  
Sorrows will not let go their grip on him.

Verse 348

Those who renounce totally reach the highest peak;  
The rest remain ensnared in delusions net.

Verse 349

Birth ceases when all attachments are severed;  
Otherwise, one beholds unceasingly the transitoriness of life.

Verse 350

Attach yourself to Him who is free from all attachments.  
Bind yourself to that bond in order that all other bonds may be broken.

## **Knowledge of Truth**

Verse 351

The delusion which mistakes the unreal for the Real  
Is the genesis of woeful births.

Verse 352

For those of undimmed perception, free from delusion,  
Darkness departs and rapture rushes in.

Verse 353

To those who have dispelled all doubt and perceive Truth,  
Heaven is nearer than earth.

Verse 354

All knowledge acquired through the five senses is worthless  
To those without knowledge of truth.

Verse 355

In everything of every kind whatsoever,  
Wisdom perceives Truth in that thing.

Verse 356

Those who find Divine Truth in this world  
Follow a path which never comes back to this world.

Verse 357

Those who think with certitude and ponder well that which is,  
Need never think of being born again.

Verse 358

Banishing the folly of rebirth and thus beholding  
Perfections True Being - that is wisdom.

Verse 359

The ruinous griefs that he is yet to suffer will not cleave to him who,  
Renouncing other supports, realizes life's true Support.

Verse 360

Desire, detesting and delusion - the annihilation of these three names  
Is the annihilation of suffering endured.

## **Eradication of Desire**

Verse 361

At all times and to all creatures  
The seed of ceaseless births is desire.

Verse 362

If you must desire, desire freedom from birth.  
That will only come by desiring desirelessness.

Verse 363

Here no fortune is as dear as desirelessness;  
And even there nothing like it can be found.

Verse 364

Purity is but freedom from desire,  
And that is achieved by desiring to know Truth.

Verse 365

They say only those who have renounced desire are renunciates.  
Others do not share the same attainment

Verse 366

As it is desire, above all else, which deceives a man,  
Ascetics dread it judiciously.

Verse 367

When a renunciate ceases the deeds of desire,  
Deliverance from life and death will come when he desires.

Verse 368

He who has no desires has no sorrow, but where there is desire  
There will be ever-increasing sorrows.

Verse 369

When desire, sorrow's sorrow, dies away,  
Undying bliss prevails even here on earth.

Verse 370

It is the nature of desire never to be fulfilled, but he who utterly  
Gives it up realizes eternal fulfillment at that very moment.

## Destiny

Industriousness comes to men whom Fortune favors,  
But laziness approaches those whom Misfortune has chosen.

Verse 371

That destiny which decreases prosperity, increases ignorance.  
That destiny which diminishes loss, expands knowledge.

Verse 372

However subtle the texts studied,  
The native knowing destined one prevails.

Verse 373

Two natural ways are ordained in this world.  
Acquiring wealth is one. Attaining wisdom is quite another.

Verse 374

When fate is against a man, his assured success in gathering wealth will  
Fail; and when fate is with him, even certain failure will succeed.

Verse 375

Though you guard it well, what destiny does not decree disappears.  
Though you cast it aside, what fate calls yours will not depart.

Verse 376

A man may amass millions, but its enjoyment,  
Will never exceed the allotment allotted by him.

Verse 377

The destitute are almost ascetics and would renounce if only  
Approaching fate, carrying experiences yet to be, would pass them by.

Verse 378

Why should those who rejoice when Destiny brings good  
Moan when that same Destiny decrees misfortune?

Verse 379

What is there that is mightier than Destiny?  
For it is there ahead of us even in the plans we devise to overcome it.

Verse 380

## **The Merits of the King**

Verse 381

He is lion among kings who is well-endowed with these six possessions:  
Army, citizens, wealth, ministers, allies and fortresses.

Verse 382

Four are the characteristics which a king cannot lack:  
Fearlessness, generosity, wisdom and industriousness.

Verse 383

In those who rule the land these three must never lapse:  
Vigilance, valiance and virtuous learning.

Verse 384

He is a true king who, unswerving in virtue,  
Restrains wrongdoing, and, steadfast in courage, maintains his honor.

Verse 385

A king is he who can amass a treasury of wealth,  
Store it, guard it and expend it wisely.

Verse 386

All peoples praise that nation whose sovereign  
Is always accessible and never speaks severely.

Verse 387

Behold the King who speaks sweetly, gives generously and  
Protects powerfully - the world, esteems his word its command.

Verse 388

Ruling righteously himself and safeguarding subjects from others,  
A monarch may be deemed divine by his people.

Verse 389

The world abides protected beneath the umbrella  
Of a virtuous king who can abide words bitter to the ear.

Verse 390

He is a light ruler who is endowed with the four merits  
Of generosity, graciousness, justice and care for the people.

## Learning

Verse 391

Learn perfectly all that you learn, and  
Thereafter keep your conduct worthy of that learning.

Verse 392

Two are the eyes of those who truly live-  
One is called numbers and the other letters.

Verse 393

The learned have eyes that see, they say.  
The unlearned have but two sores on their face.

Verse 394

It is the learned mans prowess that meetings  
Bring delight and departures leave pleasant thoughts.

Verse 395

Amidst the learned be humble, as those possessing nothing are before  
The prosperous. Those who fail thus to learn are the lowest of men.

Verse 396

The deeper a sand-well is dug the freer is its flow of water.  
Even so, the deeper a man's learning the greater is his wisdom.

Verse 397

When every country our village could be his own,  
How can a man dwell unlearned to his death?

Verse 398

Learning a man secures in one birth  
Will secure his well-being in seven.

Verse 399

When the learned see that the learning that delights them  
Delights the world as well, they love learning even more.

Verse 400

A man's learning is an imperishable and precious wealth.  
All other possessions are less golden.

## **The Neglect of Learning**

Verse 401

Speaking to a learned gathering without full knowledge,  
Is like playing a dice game without the board.

Verse 402

An unlearned man desiring to be eloquent,  
Is like a breastless woman longing to be feminine.

Verse 403

Even the ignorant will be deemed wise  
If they refrain from speaking in the presence of the learned.

Verse 404

However excellent an unlearned man's knowledge may be,  
Knowledgeable men will never take it.

Verse 405

An unlearned man's self-conceit will shrivel  
The moment he speaks to an assembly.

Verse 406

Like unproductive barren land is the man who has neglected learning.  
All that can be said about him is that he exists.

Verse 407

The goodness and beauty of him whose knowledge  
Is neither subtle nor penetrating are like that of a painted clay doll.

Verse 408

Even more wretched than a learned man's poverty  
Is the unlearned man's wealth.

Verse 409

Though humbly born, a learned man's nobility  
Transcends that of the unlearned noble man.

Verse 410

As men are to feral beasts, so are the luminaries  
Of knowledge compared to unlearned men.

## **Listening to the Learned**

Verse 411

The most precious wealth is the wealth acquired by the ear  
Indeed, of all wealth that wealth is the crown.

Verse 412

Only when no nourishment exists for the ear  
Is it time to offer the stomach a morsel.

Verse 413

There are men who find listening a feast for their ears.  
On earth they resemble deities who feast from sacrificial fires.

Verse 414

Even though he has no learning, if a man but listens to the learned  
That will be his staff of strength in adversity.

Verse 415

Words from the lips of upright men  
Are like a steadying staff in a slippery place.

Verse 416

However little, let a man do good things  
Even that little will enhance his greatness.

Verse 417

Those who have studied deeply and listened diligently will never speak  
Foolish words, even when they have wrongly understood a matter.

Verse 418

Ears may hear and yet remain deaf  
If not pierced by sharp listening.

Verse 419

For a man to speak with humility is indeed rare,  
Unless he has listened to learning's subtlety.

Verse 420

There are men whose tongues can taste but whose ears never savor.  
What does it matter that they live or die.

## Possession of Wisdom

Verse 421

Wisdom is a weapon with which a man may ward off destruction;  
It is an inner fortress which no enemy can assail.

Verse 422

Wisdom will harness the mind, diverting it  
From wrong and directing it toward right.

Verse 423

In whatever matter and from whomever heard,  
Wisdom will witness its true meaning.

Verse 424

Wisdom speaks well, conveying each meaning clearly,  
And listens for the subtlest sense in others' speech.

Verse 425

Men of wisdom befriend the wise and keep that friendship constant,  
Not opening and closing like the petaled lotus.

Verse 426

It is wisdom to live in the world  
As the world lives.

Verse 427

Those who know, know what it is to be.  
The unknowing know this not.

Verse 428

It is folly not to fear what ought to be feared.  
Therefore, the wise dread what ought to be dreaded.

Verse 429

Fearsome sufferings shall never happen  
To the wise who guard against future happenings.

Verse 430

Those who possess wisdom possess everything.  
Whatever others possess, without wisdom they have nothing.

## Guarding Against Faults

Verse 431

Those who are free from arrogance, anger, and lust  
Will prosper in great dignity.

Verse 432

Avarice, arrogance and crude amusements are flaws  
In the characters of an unfit king.

Verse 433

Though their fault is as small as a millet seed,  
To those who dread disgrace it will appear as large as a palm tree.

Verse 434

His own faults are a man's mortal enemies.  
Therefore, to guard against them is life's gravest concern.

Verse 435

The fortune of a man who does not guard against failings before they  
Manifest will perish like a stack of straw before a flaming fire.

Verse 436

What fault exists in a king who eradicates his own faults  
Before examining the faults in others?

Verse 437

The wealth of one who, out of avarice, fails to do what should be done  
Will vanish without the slightest vestige.

Verse 438

When faults are reckoned, one remains apart -  
The greedy grasping known as avariciousness.

Verse 439

Never indulge in admiring yourself.  
Never desire deeds that do not benefit others.

Verse 440

Delighting in life's pleasures privately  
Nullifies the conspiring schemes of foes.

## Gaining Support from the Great

Verse 441

Those who ponder the value of friends whose wisdom and goodness  
Are mature, will plan the means, then acquire such friendships.

Verse 442

There are men who allay today's trials and avert tomorrow's troubles.  
Befriend and look after them.

Verse 443

To cherish and befriend men of greatness  
Is the rarest of all rare things.

Verse 444

To live among advising friends who are greater than himself  
Is foremost among a man's strength.

Verse 445

Knowing that ministers function as a monarch's eyes,  
A king looks at ministers meticulously before engaging them.

Verse 446

A man's foes are rendered ineffective  
If he can live in fellowship among the worthy.

Verse 447

Who can destroy the man who has the friendship  
Of helpful advisors who will not hesitate to admonish him?

Verse 448

With no one to reprove and thus protect him,  
A king will be destroyed, though no one seeks his destruction.

Verse 449

Profit is not for those who have no capital, nor is stability  
For those who lack the support of faithful friends.

Verse 450

It is harmful to make a multitude of foes, but it is ten times worse  
To give up the friendship of the worthy.

## **Avoidance of Base Company**

Verse 451

Men of greatness dread base company,  
But the low-minded consider them kinsmen.

Verse 452

As water changes according to the soil through which it flows,  
So does a man assimilate the character of his associates.

Verse 453

By knowing his thoughts, a man's mind is discovered.  
By knowing his associates, his character is revealed.

Verse 454

Wisdom, appearing to originate in a man's mind,  
Has its source in his companions.

Verse 455

Purity of mind and purity of conduct - these two  
Depend upon the purity of a man's companions.

Verse 456

Good progeny comes to a pure-minded men.  
Their pure companions keep pure deeds away.

Verse 457

Wealth will be given to good-minded men,  
And all glory granted by good company.

Verse 458

Even perfect men, possessing the mind's full goodness,  
Are fortified by good fellowship.

Verse 459

Goodness of mind leads to bliss in the next world,  
And even this is secured by the company of good men.

Verse 460

There exists no greater aid than good fellowship,  
And no greater affliction than evil fraternity.

## **Deliberation Before Action**

Verse 461

Before undertaking a project, ponder what will be gained,  
Lost and ultimately achieved.

Verse 462

There is nothing too difficult for a man who, before he acts,  
Deliberates with chosen friends and reflects privately.

Verse 463

The wise never undertake an enterprise  
Which rashly risks existing capital to reach for potential profits.

Verse 464

Those who dread derision and disgrace  
Will not commence a task that is unclear.

Verse 465

To strike out without a well-pondered plan  
Is one way to cultivate an enemies' strength.

Verse 466

To do that which ought not to be done will bring ruin,  
And not to do that which ought to be done will also bring ruin.

Verse 467

Embark upon an action after careful thought. It is folly to say,  
"Let us begin the task now and think about it later."

Verse 468

Unless painstakingly performed, a task will not succeed  
Even if men in multitudes support it.

Verse 469

Even in the performance of good deeds a man may error,  
If he does not consider the recipient's unique nature.

Verse 470

Having reflected, let a man's actions lie above blame.  
The world will never approve of acts which lie beneath him.

## Understanding Strength

Verse 471

The prudent act after weighing the strength a deed demands,  
One's own strength and the strengths of allies and opposition.

Verse 472

Nothing is impossible for those who perceive the nature and the means  
Of their task and proceed with determination.

Verse 473

Ignorant of their strengths, many plunge zealously  
Into projects, only to miscarry midway.

Verse 474

How swiftly men perish who praise themselves, unappraised of  
Their real measure and unable to live peacefully with others.

Verse 475

Load too many of them and even peacock feathers  
Would break the cart's axle.

Verse 476

He who has climbed out to the tip of a tree branch  
And attempts to climb further will forfeit his life.

Verse 477

Know the measure of your capacity to give, then give accordingly -  
Such clarity is the way wealth is preserved.

Verse 478

A small income is no cause for failure,  
Provided expenditures do not exceed it.

Verse 479

The wealth of a man who lives unaware of his own measure,  
Appears to exist, then disappears without a trace.

Verse 480

Unless weighed with prudence, a philanthropist's wealth  
Will promptly perish, measure by measure.

## Understanding Timeliness

Verse 481

A crow can overcome a powerful owl in the daytime.  
A king desiring to defeat his enemy must pick the proper time.

Verse 482

A man may firmly bind himself to prosperity  
By the cord called timely action.

Verse 483

Is there any task too difficult for the man who acts  
At the right time and employs the proper means?

Verse 484

One may aim to acquire the whole world and succeed,  
If actions are aimed at the right time and place.

Verse 485

Those who aim to own the world  
Must wait, unruffled, for the fitting hour.

Verse 486

The patient restraint of the powerful man is like the drawing back  
Of the fighting ram before it smites the stunning blow.

Verse 487

When angered, men of understanding never show it outwardly then and  
There. Holding it inside, they watch for an opportune moment.

Verse 488

Bow humbly when greeting an enemy.  
His own head will bow humiliated when in time he greets defeat.

Verse 489

When a rare opportunity comes, do not hesitate,  
But swiftly accomplish tasks that are otherwise impossible.

Verse 490

There are times to stay still as a stalking heron.  
There are times to move swiftly as a heron's strike.

## Understanding the Right Place

Verse 491

Neither deride the opposition nor initiate a campaign  
Until you possess the strategic place from which to strike.

Verse 492

In battle a fortified place yields numerous advantages,  
Even to those possessing power and prowess.

Verse 493

Even the weak may powerfully prevail if they choose the right  
Field of action, establish good defenses and then fight well.

Verse 494

When an attacker attacks from a strategic location  
His enemies' thoughts of conquest become unthinkable.

Verse 495

In the river's depths the crocodile is unconquerable,  
But others may defeat it if it departs those waters.

Verse 496

The massive chariot with mighty wheels cannot sail the sea,  
Nor can the ocean-going ship travel the land.

Verse 497

Fearlessness is the only friend one needs,  
If ceaselessly he ponders from which place to pounce.

Verse 498

If a large army assails a well-entrenched small army,  
Its power will be repelled and it will retreat.

Verse 499

Even if they have neither potent resources nor strong fortresses,  
It is difficult to conquer a people on their own soil.

Verse 500

The fearless elephant may slaughter a multitude of warriors  
Yet be slain by a single jackal if his legs sink in muddy marsh.

## Testing and Trusting Men

A man should be chosen after passing the four-fold test  
Of virtue, wealth, pleasure and fear of death.

Verse 501

Place trust in a man of good family, free from faults  
Of a modest nature that dreads reproach.

Verse 502

Even faultless and deeply learned men, when closely examined,  
Are rarely found to be entirely free from ignorance.

Verse 503

Weigh a man's merits and weigh his faults  
Then judge him according to the greater.

Verse 504

The touchstone which discloses a man's greatness  
Or smallness is simply this - his deeds.

Verse 505

Beware of trusting men who have no kin,

Verse 506

Being attached to people, they are unashamed of peccancy.

Verse 507

When one employs a know-nothing out of affection,  
He engages all kinds of foolishness.

Verse 508

To trust a stranger without investigation  
Invite troubles so endless even descendants must endure.

Verse 509

Lacking investigation, lend your trust to no one. Having investigated  
Entrust a man with matters for which he has proven trustworthy.

Verse 510

To trust a man who has not been tested and to suspect a man  
Who has proven trustworthy lead to endless ills.

## Testing and Employing Men

Verse 511

Employ those men who discern the good and the bad effects  
In every undertaking and choose the good.

Verse 512

Let him do the work who can supplement revenues,  
Spread prosperity and search out problems.

Verse 513

Let him alone be trusted who fully possesses these four:  
Kindness, intelligence, assurance and freedom from greed.

Verse 514

Though tested fully under simulated conditions,  
Many men function differently under working conditions.

Verse 515

Work should be entrusted to men on the basis of their knowledge  
And diligence and not merely on the bonds of affection.

Verse 516

Consider the work, choose the workman,  
Conceive the timing with care, then commence.

Verse 517

Having decided, "This man is qualified to do this work in this way,"  
Entrust him to his task.

Verse 518

After ascertaining what work befits a man,  
Assign him to a fitting task.

Verse 519

Wealth withdraws from the man who won't understand  
The natural friendliness his workers wish to share with him.

Verse 520

Let the king scrutinize his staff's conduct daily.  
If they do not go astray, the world will not go astray.

## **Fellowship of Kindred**

When a man's wealth has disappeared, his kinsmen alone  
Will maintain their customary kindness.

Verse 521

If a man's kindred cleave to him with unfailing love,  
His fortunes will never fail to flourish.

Verse 522

Pursuing a happy life without mixing with kinsmen  
Is like pouring water into a barrel which has no staves.

Verse 523

The real profit gained by giving riches  
Is as one may then live surrounded by kindred.

Verse 524

Multitudes of kinsmen will gather around the man  
Who gives generously and speaks sweetly.

Verse 525

Verse 526

In this wide world none enjoys a more faithful family  
Than he who hands out large gifts and holds back anger.

Verse 527

The crow does not conceal its food but calls its kind to share it;  
Prosperity will abide with men of such a nature.

Verse 528

The multitudes thrive when they perceive their monarch  
Perceiving each one's merits, not seeing mere sameness in all.

Verse 529

Close kinsmen who have become estranged  
Will come back when the cause of disagreement goes away.

Verse 530

When one who left him returns with good reason,  
The king may, after careful reflection, receive him back.

## **Avoidance of Unmindfulness**

Verse 531

Excessive anger is a great harm, but greater still is  
The unmindfulness born of excessive pleasure.

Verse 532

Just as perpetual poverty slowly slays one's knowledge,  
So does frequent forgetfulness destroy one's prestige.

Verse 533

Unmindful men will never know renown.  
This is the verdict of every virtuous text in the world.

Verse 534

There is nothing that will provide defense for the cowardly,  
And there is nothing that will produce good for the incautious.

Verse 535

The unmindful man who fails to guard beforehand  
Against impending threats will afterwards regret his negligence.

Verse 536

Nothing can compare to unforgetfulness.  
Extended unfailingly to all people at all times.

Verse 537

There is nothing too difficult for the man who  
Consciously conceives and carefully executes his work.

Verse 538

One should do that which men extol as praiseworthy. Forgetting  
This and failing to perform brings deprivation lasting seven births.

Verse 539

Whenever the mind is engrossed in pleasant infatuations,  
One may remember men ruined by forgetfulness.

Verse 540

It is easy to get what you think of,  
If you can get yourself to think of it.

## Just Reign

Verse 541

Investigate well, show favor to none, maintain impartiality,  
Consult the law, then give judgment - that is the way of justice.

Verse 542

All the world looks to the rain cloud for sustenance.  
All the people look to the king's scepter for protection.

Verse 543

Even the priest's scriptures and all virtues therein  
Rely on the king's scepter for sustenance.

Verse 544

The world will enduringly embrace the feet of a great kingdom's monarch  
Who lovingly embraces subjects under his justice-wielding scepter.

Verse 545

Rain and rich harvests arise together.  
In a country whose sovereign swing his scepter lawfully.

Verse 546

Victory is not won by the lance,  
But by the king's scepter, provided it is not unjust.

Verse 547

A potentate protests all earthly realms.  
Will undoubtedly fall from power and perish.

Verse 548

A ruler who remains inaccessible, neither listening nor judging  
Attentively will undoubtedly fall from power and perish.

Verse 549

No fault befalls the king, who, in guarding and caring for his  
Subjects, punishes wrongdoers - for that is his duty.

Verse 550

A king punishing cruel criminals by execution  
Is like a farmer removing weeds from cultivated fields.

## Unjust Reign

Verse 551

More malicious than a professional murderer is the king  
Who rules his people with injustice and oppressiveness.

Verse 552

The scepter-wielding king who requests a gift is like  
The lance-bearing robber who demands, "Give me all you have."

Verse 553

Unless the king day-to-day seeks out and punishes unlawful acts,  
His country will day-by-day fall to ruin.

Verse 554

The unthinking king who rules crookedly  
Forfeits both his subjects' fealty and his own fortune.

Verse 555

Are not the tears of a people who cannot endure an oppressive reign  
The instrument that wears away their king's prosperity?

Verse 556

Ruling rightly, a monarch may long endure.  
Without that, his majesty is rightly unending.

Verse 557

As the earth fares under a rainless sky,  
So do a people languish under an unkind king.

Verse 558

Possessions are less pleasant than poverty  
To the oppressed living under an unjust king.

Verse 559

If the king acts contrary to justice, contrary seasons will befall  
And rain-laden will not come forth.

Verse 560

If the people's protector fails to protect,  
Priests will forget the Vedas and cows' milk will dry up.

## **Avoidance of Tyranny**

He is a true king who impartially investigates  
And then duly punishes so that the offense will not reoccur.

Verse 561

Verse 567

He who wishes his prosperity to long remain  
Will raise the rod severely, but let it fall softly.

Verse 562

Verse 568

The tyrant who causes terror to his people  
Will perish quickly and certainly.

Verse 563

Verse 569

"The king is cruel." Should these bitter words be spoken,  
The monarch's life is shortened and he soon dies.

Verse 564

Verse 570

If his countenance is harsh and access to him is hard,  
A man's wealth, however vast, might as well belong to a demon.

Verse 565

If he is unkind and speaks cruelly,

Verse 566

A man's lofty wealth cannot last long - it ends right there.

Virulent language and overly severe punishment,  
Like a keen file, grind down a king's conquering powers.

The king's wealth will waste away if, without thoughtful involvement, he lets  
Ministers work, then works himself into anger, raging at their performance.

The sovereign who does not secure defenses will be seized by fear  
When war time comes and promptly perish.

The earth bears no greater burden than the unlearned counselors  
Whom the cruel-sceptered king binds to himself.

## The Kindly Look

Verse 571

The world thrives when that great beauty  
Called the kindly look flourishes.

Verse 572

The world's existence is sustained by kindness.  
The very existence of those bereft of it burdens the earth.

Verse 573

What use is a melody in an unmusical song?  
What use are eyes which express no kindness?

Verse 574

Other than a facial appearance, what do eyes  
With no quality of kindness really do?

Verse 575

A kindly look is the ornament of the eyes.  
Without kindness the eyes are two unsightly sores.

Verse 576

Eyes may be fixed in their face, but those without  
A kindly look might as well be tree stumps fixed in dirt.

Verse 577

Those who lack a kindly look are indeed without eyes,  
And those who truly have eyes never lack a gracious look.

Verse 578

The world belongs to men who can behold others benevolently,  
Without being distracted from their duty.

Verse 579

To grant forbearing kindness even to those  
Who grieve us is the foremost of virtues.

Verse 580

Those desiring gracious goodness above all else could accept with  
Friendliness poison they watched their host prepare and serve.

## Espionage

Verse 581

Competent spies and the esteemed codes of law -  
Consider these two as the eyes of a king.

Verse 582

It is the duty of the monarch to acquire at once  
Knowledge of all that happens each day among all men.

Verse 583

Without assessing the intelligence reports of spies  
A king cannot enjoy conquests.

Verse 584

The working staff, close kindred and known enemies -  
All such men are the investigation of spies.

Verse 585

An able spy is he who can assume an unsuspecting disguise,  
Is fearless when caught and never betrays his secrets.

Verse 586

Disguised as a monk or a mendicant, the worthy spy moves about  
Investigating all, never growing careless, whatever may be done.

Verse 587

A spy must ferret out hidden facts,  
Assuring himself that knowledge found is beyond doubt.

Verse 588

Before believing a spy's espionage,  
Have another spy espy the information.

Verse 589

See that spies do not know each other, and accept their findings

Only when three reports agree.

Verse 590

One must not openly honor spies.  
To do so is to divulge one's own secrets.

## Possession of Industriousness

Verse 591

Possessing belongs only to the industrious. Do those  
Who lack such energy really possess their possessions?

Verse 592

Those who own an inner ardor possess a thing of worth.  
Material Wealth is an unenduring possession that takes leave and departs.

Verse 593

Those who possess persevering industry  
Will never say in despair, "We have lost our wealth."

Verse 594

Good Fortune of its own accord ferrets out and  
Finds the man of unfailing industry.

Verse 595

The length of the lotus stalk depends on the water's depth.  
Even so, a man's greatness is proportionate to his mind's energy.

Verse 596

Let all thoughts be thoughts of noble progress,  
For then even failing cannot be called a failure.

Verse 597

The elephant stands firm even when wounded by a barrage of arrows.  
The strong-willed are not discouraged when they encounter disaster.

Verse 598

Without a zealous spirit, one will never enjoy  
The proud exhilaration of earthly generosity.

Verse 599

The enormous elephant with his tapered tusks  
Still shrinks in fear when the tiger attacks.

Verse 600

A strong-willed mind is a man's true estate.  
Those who lack it are mere vegetables in the form of men.

## **Avoidance of Laziness**

Verse 601

The eternal flame of a family vanishes  
When eclipsed by that dark cloud called laziness.

Verse 602

Let those who wish their family to be a noble family  
Call laziness "laziness" and live without it.

Verse 603

A man whose actions are ruled by ruinous indolence  
Will see his family fall before his own destruction.

Verse 604

Their family will perish and their vices will thrive when men,  
Ensnared in sloth, do not put forth earnest exertion.

Verse 605

Procrastination, forgetfulness, laziness and sleep - these four  
form the coveted ship which bears men to their destined ruin.

Verse 606

Seldom do men possessed by sloth achieve anything special,  
Even when supported by the earth's wealthy proprietors.

Verse 607

The lazy ones, inept in noble exertion,  
Invite sharp scoldings and must endure the shame of scornful words.

Verse 608

If lassitude is allowed to live in aristocrats,  
They will be forced into servitude under foes.

Verse 609

Disgrace that has come upon a man and his family  
Will disappear the moment he casts out laziness.

Verse 610

A king who is devoid of indolence will procure thereby,  
All that cosmic province measured by God's immeasurable strides.

## Perseverance

Verse 611

Never say in weakness, "This task is too difficult,"  
For perseverance will give the ability to accomplish it.

Verse 612

Beware of leaving any work undone, for the world  
Will abandon those who abandon their work unfinished.

Verse 613

The pride of profuse giving dwells only  
With the dignity of diligent effort.

Verse 614

Like the swordsmanship of an effeminate man,  
The philanthropy of those who avoid hard work will end in failure.

Verse 615

He who prefers work to pleasure supports his family  
Like a pillar, sweeping away their every sad sorrow.

Verse 616

Perseverance creates prosperity,  
And the lack of it produces poverty.

Verse 617

They say the black ogress called Misfortune lurks in laziness,  
While goddess Fortune lingers in the laboring toils of active men.

Verse 618

To be devoid of good fortune is no one's disgrace.  
But shame belongs to those destitute of knowledge and tenacity.

Verse 619

Though destiny decrees one's deeds will fail,  
The wages for determined work are always paid.

Verse 620

Those who strive with tireless exertion and remain undaunted  
Will see the backside of retreating Fate.

## Being Undaunted by Troubles

Verse 621

Laugh when troubles come your way.  
There is nothing better to conquer calamity.

Verse 622

A flood of troubles will vanish the moment  
The mind of a wise man collects itself to face them.

Verse 623

Trouble itself they send away troubled  
Who do not trouble themselves at the sight of it.

Verse 624

Troubles will be troubled before the man who faces them  
Like the determined bullock that wades through every difficulty.

Verse 625

Though massed upon him like a mountain,  
A man's afflictions will be afflicted by his undaunted will.

Verse 626

Those who do not guard wealth gathered and boast, "I earned it,"  
Will not, in poorer times, bemoan, "I have become destitute."

Verse 627

Knowing this body to be the prey of misery,  
High souls, expecting troubles, do not accept them troubled.

Verse 628

Declaring difficulties to be quite natural,  
Those who do not pursue life's pleasures will not suffer its sorrows.

Verse 629

He who does not long for joy in joy  
Will not suffer sorrow in sorrow.

Verse 630

He who does not distinguish pain from pleasure  
Becomes so distinguished even enemies hope to pay homage.

## EssentialsOf the State Ministers

Verse 631

A minister is he who can conceive a great enterprise, rightly choose the ways, The means and the time, then successfully accomplish it.

Verse 632

A minister is he who, in addition to the above five, is well-endowed With steadfastness, protection of the people, learning and perseverance.

Verse 633

He who can divide the enemy, bind friends more firmly And reunite estranged allies is indeed a minister.

Verse 634

Call him a minister who comprehends things, Executes them effectively and directs others firmly.

Verse 635

The helpful minister is he who understands virtue, is learned and Deliberate in speech and discerns what is fit in every situation.

Verse 636

When subtle intelligence combines with scholastic study, Who can stand before such peerless subtlety?

Verse 637

Though you have learned theoretical methods,  
Act only after you know the world's practices.

Verse 638

Though his leader lacks knowledge and repels advice,  
The loyal minister's obligation is to cry out his counsel.

Verse 639

Better for the king to face 700 million distant foes  
Than befriend a single counselor who conspires at his side.

Verse 640

Though they may devise the perfect plan,  
Those without executive abilities never finish their work.

## Eloquence

Among a man's many good possessions,  
A good command of speech has no equal.

Verse 641

Prosperity and ruin issue from the power of the tongue.  
Therefore, guard yourself against thoughtless speech.

Verse 642

The content of worthy speech binds friends more closely,  
And its eloquence draws even enemies to listen.

Verse 643

Judge the nature of your listeners and speak accordingly.  
There is nothing more virtuous or valuable than this.

Verse 644

Speak out your speech. Once it is known,  
No speech can be spoken to refute that speech.

Verse 645

Verse 646

To speak so listeners long to hear more and to listen  
So others' meaning is grasped are the ideals of the impeccably great.

Verse 647

In a war of words none can defeat an eloquent man  
Who never succumbs to fear or confusion.

Verse 648

Upon finding men whose forceful speech is couched  
In cogent and enchanting ways, the world swiftly gathers around.

Verse 649

Unaware of the artful use of a few flawless words,  
Men become enamored with excessive syllables.

Verse 650

Men who cannot communicate their knowledge to others  
Resemble a bouquet of unfragrant flowers in full bloom.

## **Purity of Action**

Verse 651

Good friendships bring wealth to a man,  
But goodness of action fulfills his every desire.

Verse 652

Actions which bring fame but no real benefit  
Are to be avoided always.

Verse 653

Declaring that their future will be brighter,  
Men desist from deeds that darken glory's light.

Verse 654

However troubled the times, men of unperturbable perception  
Never commit shameful or sordid deeds.

Verse 655

Do nothing that would make you regret, "What have I done!"  
However, do not remain regretful if regrettable deeds do occur.

Verse 656

Though he must behold his own mother's hunger,  
Let a man refrain from deeds that wise men condemn.

Verse 657

The worst poverty of worthy men is far better  
Than wealth amassed by improper means.

Verse 658

Even when accomplished, forbidden deeds afflict sorrow  
On those who seek after, rather than shun, them.

Verse 659

What is gained by tears will go by tears. In the end, goodness  
Reaps many good things, though it begins with loss.

Verse 660

Protecting the country by wrongly garnered wealth  
Is like preserving water in an unbaked pot of clay.

## **Resoluteness of Action**

Verse 661

What is called resoluteness of action is, in truth,  
Resoluteness of mind. All other qualities are not that.

Verse 662

To avoid all action that is bound to fail and not to be discouraged by  
Failures are said to be the two guiding principles of reflective men.

Verse 663

To reveal an action only after completion is resoluteness.  
To disclose that action earlier causes countless difficulties.

Verse 664

It is easy for anyone to speak of a plan,  
But it is difficult indeed to execute what has been spoken.

Verse 665

The strong-willed actions of eminent men  
Earn the crown's respect and the crowd's renown.

Verse 666

Those who think will have their thoughts fulfilled,  
Just as they thought, provided they possess the strength of will.

Verse 667

Do not disparage men who appear small, for there are those,  
Seemingly insignificant, who are like the linchpin of a mighty chariot.

Verse 668

Visualize actions with unclouded clarity,  
Then forcefully undertake them without delay or indecision.

Verse 669

Despite dire hardships, hold to strength of mind  
And do those deeds which yield joy of heart.

Verse 670

Whatever other strengths they may possess, the world neither needs  
Nor likes those who have no need for action's strength.

**Modes of Action**

Verse 671

When a decision is reached, deliberation ends.  
To delay that decision's execution is detrimental.

Verse 672

Slumber when sleepy work awaits,  
But never rest when actions demand sleepless vigilance.

Verse 673

Direct action is good whenever feasible,  
but when it is not, seek other means of success.

Verse 674

Reflect on this: Both efforts and enemies, if left unfinished,  
Can destroy like an unextinguished fire.

Verse 675

Before acting resolve all doubts through consideration of these five:  
Cost, means, time, place and the action itself.

Verse 676

Discern a deed's outcome, obstacles and opulent earnings  
Successful effort affirms - then act.

Verse 677

The way to accomplish any task is to ascertain  
The inmost thoughts of an expert in that task.

Verse 678

Just as one elephant may be used to tether another,  
So one task may be the means of accomplishing another.

Verse 679

Rather than bestow kind favors on friends,  
Hasten to befriend your unkind enemies.

Verse 680

Fearing their people's inner apprehensions,  
Men of minor realms bow before mightier rulers, accepting terms.

## Ambassadors

Kindliness, high birth, and a nature pleasing to kings -  
These are the qualities of an ambassador.

Verse 681

Kindliness, knowingness and deliberateness of speech  
Are three necessities for an ambassador.

Verse 682

The ambassador who presents to lance-bearing monarchs plans  
That portend victory to his own king must be a scholar among scholars.

Verse 684

Send him on mission who possesses these three:  
Well-winnowed wisdom, ample learning and an imperturbable presence.

Verse 685

The good which an ambassador procures derives from succinct speech  
Cheerful conversation and avoidance of argument.

Verse 686

An envoy is learned, eloquently persuasive, unfeared of the fiercest  
Stare and understanding of what fits the moment.

Verse 687

He is superior who knows duty and place,  
Judges the appropriate time and thinks before he speaks.

Verse 688

Integrity, influence and intrepidity - these three along with truthfulness  
Are the qualities of a man who faithfully delivers his monarch's message.

Verse 689

Commission him to deliver the monarch's mandates  
Who, firm of vision, never blurts out flawed words.

Verse 690

An ambassador is he who fearlessly extends his king's glory,  
Though he may expend his own life.

## **Associating with Monarchs**

Verse 691

Those who associate with irascible kings should be like men who  
Warm themselves at a fire, moving neither too near nor too far away.

Verse 692

Do not desire what the king desires  
And the king himself will confer enduring wealth.

Verse 693

One wishing to be wary must beware of his grave faults.  
Once suspicions are aroused, they are rarely removed.

Verse 694

In the presence of the great ones never speak  
In whispers or exchange smiles with others.

Verse 695

The emissary neither eavesdrops nor inquires into matters.  
Rather he listens raptly when secrets are revealed.

Verse 696

Sensing unspoken thoughts and ascertaining the ripe moment,  
Speak of vital matters pleasantly, without offending others.

Verse 697

Speak useful ideas of interest to the king,  
But always leave useless thoughts unspoken - even if he inquires.

Verse 698

Never criticize the king because he's young or your own kin.  
Rather respect the luminous dignity kingship commands.

Verse 699

Men whose wisdom is unwavering  
Do not use the high esteem to excuse lowly behavior.

Verse 700

Those who do unworthy deeds, expecting indulgence for their  
Long-standing friendship with the monarch, ensure their own ruin.

## Discerning Unspoken Thoughts

Verse 701

He who can discern through looking the unspoken thoughts of another  
Is an ornament to this earth, encircled by ever unchanging seas.

Verse 702

He who can divine without any doubt what is in the king's  
Mind should be held equal to a god.

Verse 703

Give whatever is required to gain an advisor  
Who, knowing his own mind, can read another's thoughts.

Verse 704

Those who grasp the unspoken thoughts of others possess the same  
physical features as those who do not - yet they are different.

Verse 705

Of what use are the body's eyes, if they cannot discern  
Another's intentions by beholding their own?

Verse 706

As a crystal reflects objects that are nearby,  
So does the face reflect what is foremost in the heart.

Verse 707

What is more perceptive than the face? For whether the heart  
Is angry or glad, it is the face that expresses it first.

Verse 708

If you find a man who knows the truth of things by looking into the  
Mind, it is enough to stand silently looking into his face.

Verse 709

If you find a man who knows the eye's language,  
The eyes will speak of hidden hate and love.

Verse 710

Observe those who claim subtle discernment -  
Their only measuring rod is their eyes.

## Judging the Audience

Verse 711

Let pure men of studied eloquence study the audience  
Before speaking deliberate words.

Verse 712

Let those good men who have the gift of eloquence await  
The right moment and then speak with clear knowledge.

Verse 713

Those who do not assess an audience before venturing to speak  
Are unaware of the way of words and remain ineffective.

Verse 714

Be brilliant before brilliant men; but assume  
The dullness of white mortar before the unlearned.

Verse 715

Among all good things the best is that diffidence  
Which refrains from speaking first with elders.

Verse 716

To blunder before perceptive, erudite men  
Is to slip and fall from a high place.

Verse 717

A learned man's learning shines brightest  
Among luminaries who can capably critique his language.

Verse 718

Speaking to an audience of understanding men  
Is like watering a bed of growing plants.

Verse 719

Those who speak good things to good and learned gatherings  
Should never say them to ignorant groups, even forgetfully.

Verse 720

Speaking before men of alien mind  
Is like pouring sweet nectar down a drain.

## Not Dreading the Audience

Verse 721

Pure men of skillful discourse may speak unfalteringly  
Before the powerful, provided they understand the audience.

Verse 722

Those who can convincingly express what they have learned  
Before a learned assembly are the learned among learned men.

Verse 723

Those who can brave death on the battlefield are common.  
But rare are they who can face an audience without fear.

Verse 724

Speak confidently before the learned what you have mastered;  
And learn from those more learned still what you do not know.

Verse 725

Study the science of logic so that  
You may fearlessly reply in any assembly.

Verse 726

What does a coward do with a sword?

What does a man who fears a subtle council do with books?

Verse 727

The learning of those who fearfully face an audience  
Is like the shining sword of womanly men amid foes.

Verse 728

Having learned many things, men remain useless  
If they cannot expound effectively in chambers of excellence.

Verse 729

The learned who are intimidated by gatherings of good men  
Are alluded to as less than the illiterate.

Verse 730

Men whose fear of assemblies forbids them to share  
Their knowledge may be alive, yet may as well be dead.

## The Country

Verse 731

Where unfailing fertile fields, worthy men  
And wealthy merchants gather - that is a country.

Verse 732

A land coveted for its vast wealth, free from calamities  
And yielding in abundance is indeed a country.

Verse 733

Call that a land which bears every burden that befalls,  
Yet pays in full all tariffs owed the king.

Verse 734

Free of famine, endless epidemics and ravaging foes -  
Now that is a flourishing nation.

Verse 735

Profuse factions, ruinous civil subservitives and murderous gangs  
That harass the king - a real land is without these.

Verse 736

An incomparable country is one never devastated,  
Yet, if devastated, would prosper undiminished.

Verse 737

Rain waters, underground waters, well-situated water shedding mountains  
And strong fortresses are the features of a good country.

Verse 738

Five are the ornaments of a country: good health, abundant harvests,  
Wealth, happiness and safety from invasions.

Verse 739

A place where prosperity comes effortlessly deserves the name land,  
Not one where wealth entails laborious toils.

Verse 740

Even if a country has all these blessings, it is worth nothing  
If it lacks harmony between the ruler and the ruled.

## Fortresses

Verse 741

To aggressors and to those in fear who seek defense  
A fortress is an important asset.

Verse 742

A good fort has crystal clear water, arable lands,  
A hill and lovely shaded woods.

Verse 743

The texts prescribe four features of a fort's ramparts -  
High, thick, solid and virtually impregnable.

Verse 744

The ideal fortress is spacious but vulnerable in very few places  
And is capable of depleting the foe's determined will to storm it.

Verse 745

A good garrison is hard to assail sieze, amply provisioned  
And well-suited to accommodate well those within.

Verse 746

A worthy fortress, stocked with all needed goods,  
Needs good men to fend off all attack.

Verse 747

It is impossible to capture a strong fort, whether by employing  
Launching artillery, tunneling beneath or encircling siege.

Verse 748

However forcefully the offensive may press,  
The fort offers allies defense and foes defeat.

Verse 749

A fortress earns greatness by enabling courageous defenders  
To gloriously defeat the enemy at the battle's very outset.

Verse 750

Whatever excellent qualities a fortress may possess,  
It will be of no avail to men who lack action's excellence.

## The Ways of Acquiring Wealth

Verse 751

There is nothing like wealth for lending consequence  
To an inconsequential man.

Verse 752

Wealth is a dependable lamp whose light,  
Reaching every imaginable land, dispels darkness.

Verse 753

Wealth is a dependable lamp whose light,  
Reaching every imaginable land, dispels darkness.

Verse 754

Wealth that is acquired by proper means in a manner  
That harms none will yield both virtue and happiness.

Verse 755

Do not embrace but rather eschew wealth  
That is acquired without compassion and love.

Verse 756

Wealth with no owner, wealth of defeated foes,  
Wealth from tax and customs - these are the royal revenues.

Verse 757

Compassion, which is the child of Love,  
requires for its care the bountiful nurse called Wealth.

Verse 758

To undertake an enterprise with sufficient wealth in hand  
Is like watching an elephants fight from the top of a hill.

Verse 759

Make money-that is the sharpest blade scalpel  
For paring down an enemy's pride.

Verse 760

Having acquired well abundant wealth, acquisition of two  
Other treasurers - duty and delight - is effortless.

## **Merits of the Army**

An army which is complete and conquers fearlessly  
Is foremost among all a king's possessions.

Verse 761

Verse 767

Only seasoned soldiers can confront the desperate adversity  
Of decimating attacks with intrepid tenacity.

Verse 762

Verse 768

So what if an army of rats roars like the raging sea?  
The mere hiss of a cobra will deaden their din.

Verse 763

Verse 769

A true army is one which has a long tradition of valor  
And knows neither defeat nor desertion.

Verse 764

Verse 770

That is unquestionably truly an army which stands together,  
Even when faced with death's fury.

Verse 765

Valor, honor, trustworthiness, and a tradition nobly upheld -

Verse 766

These four are an army's protective armor.

The well-trained army will withstand every onslaught,  
Then outflank and storm the foe.

Even without a winning offense and defense,  
A well-appointed army may win renown acclaim.

An army will prevail as long as there is  
No attrition, no animosity and no afflictions.

Even with an abundance though it enlists legions of troops,  
An army cannot endure without commanders.

## **Military Pride**

Verse 771

O enemies, stand not against my monarch!  
Many who did now stand as stone monuments.

Verse 772

There is greater fulfillment in carrying a lance which missed an  
Elephant than an arrow which pierced a forest-dwelling rabbit.

Verse 773

Fierce courage is what they call valor,  
And chivalry to the fallen forms its sharp edge.

Verse 774

Having hurled his spear at a huge bull elephant,  
The hero finds another piercing his body and grabs it with glee.

Verse 775

Is it not a disgraceful defeat to the courageous warrior  
If his glaring eyes so much as blink when the lance is hurled at him?

Verse 776

When recounting his days, the hero considers all days  
On which no battle wounds scars were sustained as squandered.

Verse 777

To fasten the warrior's anklet to one who wants glory  
More than life is adorning to adorn greatness with beauty.

Verse 778

Men of courage who do not fear their lives in battle do not  
forfeit their ardor even if the king prohibits their fighting.

Verse 779

Who dares deride as defeated  
Men who die fulfilling valor's vow?

Verse 780

Heroic death which fills with tears the emperor's eyes  
Is death worth begging and then dying for.

## Friendship

What is as difficult to secure as friendship?  
And what greater security is there against foes?

Verse 781

To divert a man from wrong, direct him toward the right  
And share his sorrow in misfortune is friendship.

Verse 787

Among wise men, friendship waxes like the crescent moon;  
Among fools it wanes as surely as the full moon must.

Verse 782

As swiftly as the hand moves to seize a slipping garment,  
Friendship acts to assuage a friend's distress.

Verse 788

The bonds that good men share, like good bound books,  
Reveal new enjoyments at each new encounter.

Verse 783

Where does Friendship hold her court? It is where friends  
May find constant support in every possible circumstance.

Verse 789

The object of friendship is not merrymaking  
But a stern rebuking when friends go astray.

Verse 784

To boast, "He means so much to me and I to him,"  
Merely belittles a friendship.

Verse 790

It is not constant meeting and companionship  
But mutual sensibilities that confer the alliance of friendship.

Verse 785

Friendship is not seen on a friendly face,  
But felt deep within a friendly heart.

Verse 786

## Testing Fitness for Friendship

Verse 791

There is no greater harm than forming a friendship without first  
Testing, for once formed, it cannot be abandoned by the faithful.

Verse 792

Unless it begins with testing and proving,  
Friendship may end in mortal sorrow.

Verse 793

Consider a man's character, family background, faults  
And loyal associates and then befriend him.

Verse 794

Pay any price to possess the friendship  
Of well-born men who cannot bear rebuke and blame.

Verse 795

Seek out and befriend those who speak and move you to repent,  
Reprove your wrong-doing and teach you the right ways.

Verse 796

There is a benefit even in misfortune, for it is the rod  
With which a man can measure the loyalty of friends.

Verse 797

To give up friendship with fools and quit their company -  
Such loss is said to be the greatest gain.

Verse 798

Don't dwell on thoughts that dim your spirit,  
Don't befriend those who flee you in affliction.

Verse 799

Even in the hour of death, the thoughts of friends  
Who left you in your hour of need will hurt the heart.

Verse 800

Hold tight to friendship with pure men;  
Let go of those who lack propriety, even by paying them off.

## Old Friendship

What is old friendship? It is when neither friend objects  
To the liberties taken by the other.

Verse 801

Verse 807

Liberties taken by a friend are friendship's rightful  
Possession, and to accept them is the duty of wise men.

Verse 802

Verse 808

Of what purpose is longstanding fellowship  
If friends' familiar actions are not accepted as one's own?

Verse 803

Verse 809

Familiar with familiarity, the wise are not annoyed  
When friends do things without asking.

Verse 804

Verse 810

When friends do things that hurt you, attribute it either  
To unawareness or to the privileges of friendship.

Verse 805

Verse 806

Bound by friendship, true friends never break the bond

With an old comrade, even if he brings them loss.

Old friends do not abandon loving friendships,  
Even when those they cherish happen to do them harm.

A strong, close friend will not listen to a friends' faults,  
And on the day a friend offends, he celebrates his silence.

The world will cherish those faithful men  
Who never forsake old, unbroken friendships.

Even ill-wishers will wish them well  
Who never abandon affection for old friends.

## **Harmful Friendship**

Verse 811

Though unscrupulous men will seem to consume you in friendship,  
Their companionship grows more delightful as it declines.

Verse 812

What does it matter if one gains or loses the friendship  
Of manipulators who gainfully befriend and otherwise forsake?

Verse 813

Prostitutes, thieves and those who make friends  
To make money are all alike.

Verse 814

Loneliness is far better than friendship with men who are like  
The untrained horse which throws its rider on the battlefield.

Verse 815

Far better to forfeit than to obtain the friendship  
Of inferior men who stay away when they should stay and help.

Verse 816

The enmity of the wise is ten million times  
Better than the intimate friendship of fools.

Verse 817

An enemy's enmity is 100 million times more worthwhile  
Than the company of companions who always clown around.

Verse 818

If friends feign inability to perform possible tasks,  
Remain silent and gradually give up their friendship.

Verse 819

The fellowship of men whose acts  
Belie their spoken words is bitter, even in dreams.

Verse 820

There are men who will cherish you at home but censure you  
In public - avoid their every befriending approach

## **False Friendship**

Verse 821

The friendship of those who feign affection is an anvil  
On which to hammer you when the opportunity arises.

Verse 822

The friendship of those who act like friends but are not,  
Will fluctuate like the mind of a fickle woman.

Verse 823

Though their scholarship is good and abundant,  
Ignoble men rarely learn goodness of heart.

Verse 824

Fear the cunning friend who smiles sweetly to your face  
But conceals wickedness in his heart.

Verse 825

Distrust whatever words may come from  
Men whose hearts are not in harmony with your own.

Verse 826

While sounding like a good friend's words,  
A rival's words are readily revealed.

Verse 827

Do not trust an enemy though he bends low in his speech,  
For the bending of the bow forebodes nothing but harm.

Verse 828

Folded in respect, a foe's hands may hide a dagger.  
So too, his tears dare not be trusted.

Verse 829

Men may amply aid you, yet hate you in their heart;  
Make them laugh, but let feigned friendship die.

Verse 830

When the time comes that foes pose as friends,  
Keep a friendly face but banish their brotherhood from your heart.

## **Folly**

What is folly? It is holding on to that which is harmful  
And throwing away that which is beneficial.

Verse 831

The folly of all follies is to enjoy doing  
What one is forbidden to do.

Verse 832

To be shameless, uninquisitive, loveless and uncaring  
Are the fool's four failings.

Verse 833

No fool is more foolish than one who eagerly expounds  
His learning to others while failing to follow it himself.

Verse 834

Verse 835

In a single birth a fool may earn by his efforts  
A mire of hellish suffering in the subsequent seven.

Verse 836

If a fool who knows not how to act undertakes an enterprise  
He will not only fail, he will shackle himself in chains.

Verse 837

When a fool falls upon a great fortune,  
Strangers will feast while his family starves.

Verse 838

If a fool happens to acquire something of value,  
He will act like a madman who is intoxicated.

Verse 839

Friendship among fools is profoundly sweet,  
For at their parting there is not the slightest pain.

Verse 840

A fool stepping into a saintly council  
Is like entering a clean bed with filthy feet.

## **Ignorance**

Verse 841

Dearth of wisdom is dire destitution.  
Other forms of poverty the world deems less impoverishing.

Verse 842

All merit for a gift given gladly by an ignoramus  
Is nothing but the goodness gained by the recipient's past penance.

Verse 843

The suffering that ignorant men inflict upon themselves  
Can hardly be caused even by their enemies.

Verse 844

What is stupidity? It is that vanity  
Which dares to declare, "I am wise."

Verse 845

He who pretends to knowledge that he does not possess  
Raises doubts as to those things that he really knows.

Verse 846

Fools follow a wayward path, clothing a well-formed, naked body  
But failing to conceal their deformed mind.

Verse 847

The ignorant man who neglects valuable advice  
Will cause himself himself his own great misery.

Verse 848

Neither following another's orders nor fathoming himself what to do -  
Such a creature causes only pain until he leaves this life.

Verse 849

He who tries to open the eyes of those who will not see is himself  
Blind, for the unseeing man sees only the ways of his own mind.

Verse 850

He is deemed an earthly demon who denies as false  
What that which the world declares to be true.

## **Hatred**

It is said that hatred is the disease that spreads  
The plague of discord among all living creatures.

Verse 851

Though men plot disunity and deliberately harm you,  
The highest path is not to plan hateful retribution.

Verse 852

Removing the incurable cancer called hatred  
Reveals one's undying, undiminishing radiance.

Verse 853

The destruction of hatred, that sorrow of sorrows,  
Yields to man the joy of joys.

Verse 854

Who is there who could conquer those  
Who keep themselves free of all hostilities?

Verse 855

To those who claim they take delight in hatred,  
Failure and life's ruin are quite near.

Verse 856

Verse 857

Men immersed in animosities, knowingly causing harm,  
Can never see that triumph comes from noble truths.

Verse 858

Wealth waxes when a man walks away from confrontation  
And wanes whenever he encourages it.

Verse 859

Seeing a prosperous season approach, men neglect hatred.  
In times of ruin, they nurture it to profusion.

Verse 860

From hatred springs all suffering,  
But cheerful friendship yields good fortune's joys.

## **Merits of Enmity**

Verse 861

Rein in antagonism against the strong,  
But unleash animosity against weak adversaries.

Verse 862

How can the man who is unloving and who has neither powerful allies  
Nor the strength to stand alone overcome his mighty enemies?

Verse 863

He who is fearful, ignorant, unfriendly and uncharitable  
Is an easy prey to his enemies.

Verse 864

Letting go of his secrets but not his anger,  
A man becomes easy prey to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

Verse 865

Even one who is lacking character, conscience  
Piety and propriety can be delightful - to his enemies!

Verse 866

Hatred is a desirable thing when it comes from  
Scoundrels seized by blinding rage and addictive lust.

Verse 867

Some men undertake a task then undermine it unawares.  
Acquire their hatred - indeed, pay money for it.

Verse 868

If a man has no virtues and many vices, he will have no allies,  
And this will be an advantage to his enemies.

Verse 869

If the foe is ignorant and afraid to fight,  
The victor's joy cannot be far away.

Verse 870

Fame will escape the grasp of those who fail to grasp  
The wealth of fools who failed to learn.

## Understanding the Nature of Enmity

Verse 871

One should never wish for the accursed thing  
Called enmity - even in jest.

Verse 872

Though you may incur the enmity of those who reap a livelihood by their  
Bow do not provoke the hatred of those who sow and reap with their words.

Verse 873

A solitary man who provokes hatred from many  
Is more of an idiot than lunatics are.

Verse 874

The world abides beneath the greatness  
Of noble natured rulers who befriend their enemies.

Verse 875

Finding he faces two foes with no allies,  
A lone man lures one to side with him.

Verse 876

When distress dawns, neither draw near nor depart from  
New friends and foes - rather, leave them alone.

Verse 877

Never reveal your troubles to those who cannot comprehend them,  
Nor expose your weaknesses to your enemies.

Verse 878

Engineer a plan, execute that plan well and ensure your security -  
Thus is the vanity of foes forever vanquished.

Verse 879

Chop down a thorny tree while it is young.  
Left to grow mature, it will cut the cutter's hand.

Verse 880

Those who fail to quell an acrimonious rival's conceits  
Will be blown away by the mere fact he still breathes.

## **Internal Enmity**

Verse 881

Even shade and water are unpleasant if they breed disease.  
So too may relatives be unpleasant if they cause harm.

Verse 882

Do not fear the foe who is like the drawn sword,  
But fear the friendship of the enemy who poses as kinsman.

Verse 883

Dread hatred from within and defend against it.  
In calamitous times it will cut deeper than a potter's knife.

Verse 884

Hidden hatreds may lurk only in the mind,  
Yet they can manifest myriad miseries among kin.

Verse 885

Hate hidden in a kinsman's heart will cause  
More than many miseries - it will kill a man.

Verse 886

When hatred arises, dissention destroys unity,  
And men fall inescapably toward every-ready death.

Verse 887

A house that harbors hatred will never form a united whole though,  
Like a vessel and its lid, it may appear to be united.

Verse 888

As iron is worn away by frequent filing,  
A family's strength is eroded by inner frictions.

Verse 889

Internal dissention may be minute as a divided sesame seed,  
Yet it maintains the sufficient power to destroy.

Verse 890

Living with those who cannot dwell in harmony  
Is like living in a hut with a cobra.

## **Not Offending the Great**

The greatest way to guard oneself is to not belittle  
The powers of men of prowess.

Verse 891

Verse 897

Of what avail is a man's many gloried life and splendid wealth  
If he incurs the wrath of great and righteous men?

If a man by his conduct offends the great ones,  
Through them he will bring on himself immeasurable miseries.

Verse 892

Verse 898

When men of mountainous stature are meagerly esteemed,  
Men who seemed enduring as the earth will die, as will their kin.

If you desire destruction, don't heed the rules -  
Simply provoke those who, if they desire, can destroy.

Verse 893

Verse 899

The most kingly king will tumble from his throne midway  
And die, should he arouse an avowed sage's righteous wrath.

For the powerless to wreak harm upon the powerful  
Is to summon Death with the hand.

Verse 894

Verse 900

Though a king commands peerless powers of protection,  
He cannot survive the anger of sages with powers of spirit.

Having incurred a stalwart king's withering wrath,  
One is doomed, wherever he wanders, whatever he does.

Verse 895

Though burned by a fire one may survive;  
But there is no survival for those who offend the great.

Verse 896

## **Being Led by Women**

Verse 901

Those who dote upon their wives will not achieve great success,  
And those of great ambition avoid that very thing.

Verse 902

The riches of a man who rashly follows a woman's ways  
Will buy him only shameful shame.

Verse 903

An abnormal submissiveness to his spouse  
Will earn a man endless disgrace among decent men.

Verse 904

Though he has mastered the doing of deeds,  
The henpecked husband merits little in this life or the next.

Verse 905

A man's fears of his own wife will make him  
Constantly fearful of offering good to good folks.

Verse 906

Though providence has filled his life,  
A man who fears his graceful spouse is empty of simple dignity.

Verse 907

A woman's shy ways show great dignity,  
Unlike a man who lives to work a woman's bidding.

Verse 908

Those who live obeying their wife's wishes  
Can neither satisfy the needs of friends nor benefit others.

Verse 909

Neither virtuous deeds nor vast wealth nor other accomplishments  
Will be found with men who carry out their wife's commands.

Verse 910

Prosperous men whose thoughts dwell in the mind  
Never indulge in the folly of doting on their wives.

## **Wanton Women**

Verse 911

The sweet words of beautifully bangled women who desire  
A man's wealth and not his love cause his fall into disgrace.

Verse 912

Weigh the worth and abandon the company of unvirtuous women  
Who weigh the profit and talk of their virtues.

Verse 913

A mercenary woman pretends intimate embrace,  
But in the darkened room she holds a stranger's corpse.

Verse 914

Men seeking spiritual treasures are too richly wise  
To touch tawdry women who treasure only material riches.

Verse 915

Men of innate good sense and acquired sagacity  
Never touch tramps who share their shameful beauty with all.

Verse 916

Men who desire to extend their own goodness  
Will not embrace desirable women who extend lewd charms to all.

Verse 917

Only men devoid of a chaste mind will lie in the arms of women  
Whose hearts covet other things as they embrace.

Verse 918

It is said that men devoid of discerning wisdom  
Succumb to a deceiving damsel's embrace as to a siren's song.

Verse 919

The soft arms of the elegantly jewelled harlot  
Are an infernal pit wherein base, ignorant men are engulfed.

Verse 920

Two-faced females, besotting brew and addictive dice  
Befriend the men whom fortune has forsaken.

## **The Avoidance of Drunkenness**

Those who crave intoxicating drink each day  
Will neither be feared nor famed.

Verse 921

Do not drink liquor. If some wish to, let it be those  
Who have no wish for the esteem of exemplary men.

Verse 922

The sight of the drunken man's revelry is unbearable  
Even to his own mother. How must it then appear to the wise?

Verse 923

Verse 924

The virtuous damsel called decency will turn her back  
On men who indulge in the grievously vile vice called drunkenness.

Verse 925

To spend one's wealth to purchase self-oblivion  
Is the result of being oblivious to what constitutes proper conduct.

Verse 926

Those who always sleep are akin to the dead.  
And those who constantly drink are like men who have taken poison.

Verse 927

The drooping eyes of those who drink secretly reveal that secret,  
Drawing forth their neighbor's endless ridicule.

Verse 928

Stop denying, "I never drink." For next time you drink  
The mind's hidden secret will be told, then and there.

Verse 929

One may as well carry a candle underwater to search  
For a drowned man as use reason to sober one drowned in drink.

Verse 930

Cannot the drunkard who sees while he is sober the drunken state of  
Another realize the shameful degradation of his own drunkenness?

## **Gambling**

Do not take to gambling even if you can win,  
Or your wins will be like the baited hook that the fish swallows.

Verse 931

To win once, a gambler loses a hundred times.  
Is that the way to win either happiness or prosperity?

Verse 932

Gambling brings on many woes and erodes a man's good name.  
There is nothing which ends in more wretched poverty.

Verse 934

Those enamored of the dice, the gambling hall  
And their lucky hand lose everything in their desire to win.

Verse 935

Gambling is misfortune's other name, and fools ensnared  
By her will suffer an empty stomach and a surfeit of sorrow.

Verse 936

Spending time in the gambling hall wastes  
Ancestral wealth and diminishes an individual's worth.

Verse 937

Verse 938

Gambling will consume a man's wealth and corrupt his honesty.  
It will end his benevolence and bring on him misery.

Verse 939

Those who take to gambling's fickle gain forfeit these five:  
Raiments, riches, rations, renown and urudition.

Verse 940

The gambler's passion increases with the losses incurred.  
Even so does the soul's craving for life grow with the griefs suffered.

## Medicine

Verse 941

Disease is but deficiency or excess of three life forces  
Defined in learned texts as air, fire and water.

Verse 942

The body requires no medicine if you eat  
Only after the food you have already eaten is digested.

Verse 943

If digestion is complete, let a man eat with moderation,  
For that is the way to prolong the life of the body.

Verse 944

Certain the last meal has digested and sensing appetite's keen edge,  
Savor only foods which are fully agreeable.

Verse 945

Life remains unharmed when one eats with restraint,  
Refraining from foods proven disagreeable.

Verse 946

The joy of health abides in the man who eats moderately.  
Even so, the pain of illness dwells with him who eats excessively.

Verse 947

The thoughtless glutton who gorges himself beyond  
His digestive fire's limits will be consumed by limitless ills.

Verse 948

Diagnose the illness, trace its cause,  
Seek the proper remedy and apply it with skill.

Verse 949

An erudite doctor offers healing remedy after heeding  
The patient's nature, the disease's nature and the time of year.

Verse 950

Medicine consists of a patient, physician, prescription  
And nursemaid - each commanding four parts.

## **Nobility**

An innate sense of rights and shying away from wrong  
Are found together only in the nobly born.

Verse 951

Men of noble birth will never fall from three:  
Virtuous conduct, truthfulness, and modesty.

Verse 952

Four are the attributes of the true gentleman: a smiling face,  
A generous hand, a courteous disposition and kindly words.

Verse 953

Men of good birth will not do demeaning deeds  
Even though millions and millions may be gained thereby.

Verse 954

Time-honored families may be parted from prosperity's charitableness,  
But will never sever themselves from proper conduct.

Verse 955

Those committed to their family's flawless fame  
Dare not commit deceitful, dishonorable deeds.

Verse 956

Verse 957

In high-born men blemishes are clearly seen,  
Just as the moon's elevation makes it more visible.

Verse 958

When a man with good background lacks loving affection,  
Doubts arise whether he arose from that family.

Verse 959

The nature of a soil is known by the seedlings that sprout.  
Even so, the nature of a man's family is known by the words he speaks.

Verse 960

Those desiring greatness must desire modesty. And those seeking  
their family's honor must seek to be respectful to all.

## Honor

Verse 961

Refrain from those actions that would degrade honor  
Even though they should be indispensable for the preservation of life.

Verse 962

Those who pursue glory honorably never act ingloriously,  
Even if fame is assured.

Verse 963

Cultivate modesty in the midst of good fortune,  
But in times of adversity preserve your dignity.

Verse 964

Honorable men fallen from high position  
May be likened to odious hari fallen from the head.

Verse 965

Even men grand as a mountain will become small  
If they commit an unworthy act though as small as a mustard seed.

Verse 966

It offers neither earth's renown nor heaven's refuge,  
So why would one run after or even stand before a man who reviles him?

Verse 967

Better to die right where you stand, the saying goes,  
Than to live running after those who despise you.

Verse 968

Will any medicine save the body of the high-born man  
When his honor has perished?

Verse 969

Shorn of its hair, the yak will refuse to live;  
Such men exist, who prefer death to the loss of honor.

Verse 970

The world will extoll and exalt honorable men  
Who exult in death rather than dishonor.

## Greatness

Life's light is the aspiration for glorious achievement.  
And disgrace is the dark thought that says, "I shall live without it."

Verse 971

Birth decrees to all men who live a common circumstance.  
Diverse actions define their unique specialness.

Verse 972

Lowly men are never high, even when elevated.  
High souls are never low, even when downtrodden.

Verse 973

Even as chastity in a woman, greatness must be guarded  
By being true to one's own self.

Verse 974

A man possessing greatness possesses the power  
To perform uncommon deeds.

Verse 975

"We will befriend great men and become like them,"  
Such thoughts rarely intrude upon small minds.

Verse 976

Verse 977

When small-minded men do achieve some distinction,  
It only serves to augment their arrogance.

Verse 978

Greatness is always humble. But pettiness  
is self-adorned with words of praise.

Verse 979

Greatness abides in the absence of arrogance.  
Smallness proudly parades its haughtiness.

Verse 980

Greatness conceals through silence the weaknesses of others.  
But pettiness proclaims such things to all.

## **Perfect Goodness**

Verse 981

It is said that all good things are natural to those  
Who know their duty and walk the path of perfect goodness.

Verse 982

Perfect men hold as good their own good character.  
No other goodness is so perfectly good.

Verse 983

Love, modesty, propriety, kindly look, and truthfulness -  
These are the five pillars on which perfect goodness rests.

Verse 984

Penance is that goodness which refrains from killing.  
Perfection is that goodness which refuses to tell others' faults.

Verse 985

Humility is the strength of the strong and the weapon  
With which the wise conquer their foes.

Verse 986

The touchstone of one's unalloyed character  
Is accepting defeat from inferiors unabashedly.

Verse 987

Of what avail is perfect goodness if it does not do good  
Even to those who have caused pain?

Verse 988

Deprived of all else, one remains undisgraced  
If endowed with strength of character.

Verse 989

Destiny's last days may surge with oceanic change,  
Yet men deemed perfectly good remain, like the shore, unchanged.

Verse 990

Should the perfect virtue of perfect men diminish,  
The robust earth would bear our burdensomeness no more.

## **Possession of Courtesy**

Verse 991

If a man is easy of access to all, then the virtue of courtesy  
Will be easily accessible to him.

Verse 992

Loving kindness and birth to lofty kindred -  
These two confer on one a gracious manner.

Verse 993

That their limbs look alike does not render likeness among human.  
Real similarities derive from similarly civil features.

Verse 994

The world commends the civil character of those  
Who combine usefulness with impartial benevolence.

Verse 995

Disparaging words pain a man even when uttered in jest. Therefore,  
those who know human nature are courteous even to their enemies.

Verse 996

The world goes on because civilized men exist.  
Without them it would collapse into mere dust.

Verse 997

Though their minds are as sharp as a rasp,

Men without human decency are as wooden as a tree.

Verse 998

It is disgraceful to be discourteous,  
Even toward the unfriendly who treat you unjustly.

Verse 999

To those who cannot smile in joy the wide world  
Lies engulfed in darkness even in broad daylight.

Verse 1000

Great wealth amassed by men devoid of that virtue called courtesy  
Is like good milk that has soured in an unclean vessel.

## Wealth That Benefits None

Verse 1001

Whoever hoards wealth, neither enjoying nor expending it,  
Is as lifeless as his unused heap.

Verse 1002

Believing wealth is everything, yet giving nothing,  
The miser will himself be possessed in a miserable birth.

Verse 1003

The mere sight of men who crave wealth's accumulation,  
And care nothing of renown is a burden to the earth.

Verse 1004

Unloved by even a single soul,  
What could such a man imagine he might leave behind.

Verse 1005

Amid accumulated millions a man remains poor  
If he neither gives nor enjoys his wealth.

Verse 1006

Vast wealth can be a wretched curse to one who neither  
Gladdens himself in its worth nor gives to the worthy.

Verse 1007

The wealth of a man who gives nothing to the needy  
Is like a beautiful maiden growing old unwed.

Verse 1008

The wealth of the man whom no one loves is like a poisonous tree  
That bears fruit in the heart of a village.

Verse 1009

Strangers will one day seize his wealth, who,  
To pile it high, preferred self-denial, forsaking love and dharma.

Verse 1010

The short-lived poverty of the benevolent wealthy man  
Is like the temporary dryness of the rain cloud.

## Possession of Modesty

Verse 1011

For fair-faced maidens virtue's modesty brings bashfulness,  
But the deeper modesty shies away from wrongful deeds.

Verse 1012

Food, clothing and such are not much different among people,  
It is modesty that distinguishes good men from others.

Verse 1013

All life clings to a body,  
Perfect goodness clings to all that is modest.

Verse 1014

Is not modesty the jewel of the great? Without it,  
Is not their strut an affliction for the eye to behold?

Verse 1015

Those men who for others' disgrace and their own feel equally ashamed  
Are regarded by the world as the abode of modesty.

Verse 1016

The great would rather defend themselves with modesty's barricade  
Than breach it to acquire the vast world itself.

Verse 1017

Those who prize unpretentiousness will forsake life to preserve it.  
But they would never forsake modesty for the sake of life.

Verse 1018

If a man does not feel ashamed of that which others feel ashamed,  
Virtue itself will be ashamed of him.

Verse 1019

One's family will be consumed in the fire of failure to act well;  
But everything good will be incinerated by dwelling in shamelessness.

Verse 1020

The movements of men devoid of innate modesty  
May be likened to wooden puppets suspended on a string.

## **Advancing the Family**

Verse 1021

There is no greater dignity than that of the man who declares,  
"I will never cease in laboring to advance my family."

Verse 1022

Perseverance and sound understanding -  
These two are what exalt a man's family.

Verse 1023

When a man declares he will advance his family,  
God Himself will wrap His robes and lead the way.

Verse 1024

When a man's effort to raise high his family is unremitting,  
His work will prosper of itself even if he makes no plans.

Verse 1025

The world will surround and wish to befriend the man  
Who, without wrongdoing, prospers in life to uplift loved ones.

Verse 1026

It is said that true manliness consists  
In becoming the head and provider for one's family.

Verse 1027

On a battlefield the burden falls upon the brave; In the  
family, a comparable weight is carried by the most competent.

Verse 1028

Those seeking to improve their family await no reason,  
For delays and undue regard for dignity will destroy it.

Verse 1029

Behold the man who shields his family from all suffering.  
Has not his body become a willing vessel for affliction.

Verse 1030

Without good men to hold it up,  
The family house will fall when misfortune descends.

## **Farming**

Verse 1031

Wherever it may wander, the world must follow the farmer.  
Thus despite all its hardships, farming is the most esteemed work.

Verse 1032

Farmers are the linchpin of the world, for they support all those  
Who take to other work, not having the strength to plow.

Verse 1033

Those who cultivate their food live in self-sufficiency.  
All others follow them and subsist in self-made dependence.

Verse 1034

Those in the shade of abundant sheaves of grain  
Will see many nations overshadowed by their own.

Verse 1035

Those who eat food harvested with their own hands will  
Never beg and never refuse a beggar's outstretched palm.

Verse 1036

When those who plough the fields stand idly with folded arms,  
Even completely desireless ascetics will not subsist.

Verse 1037

If soil is dried so one ounce become one-quarter ounce,  
Abundant yields will not require a single handful of fertilizer.

Verse 1038

It's better to fertilize than to furrow a field.  
Having weeded, it's better to watch a field than to water it.

Verse 1039

If the lord of the land fails to visit his fields,  
They will sulk (I think) as surely as a neglected wife.

Verse 1040

Mother Earth laughs to herself when she sees the slothful  
Pleading poverty and crying, "Alas, I have nothing to eat."

## Poverty

Verse 1041

Ask what is more miserable than being poor  
And the answer comes - only poverty pains like poverty.

Verse 1042

Poverty, the cruelest of demons, deprives a man  
Of every joy in this life as well as the next.

Verse 1043

That poison called poverty will destroy obliterate at once  
The honor of ancient descent and the refinement of speech.

Verse 1044

Privation produces unmindfulness which gives birth  
To improper words, even in men of proper birth.

Verse 1045

This one affliction called poverty  
Brings in its train a multitude of miseries.

Verse 1046

The poor may perceive profoundly and speak skillfully,  
Yet their meaningful words are always forgotten.

Verse 1047

Poverty, destitute of all virtue, estranges a man  
Even from the mother who bore him.

Verse 1048

Will wretched poverty which is killing me so (I think)  
Come again today as of yesterday?

Verse 1049

Men may slumber even in the midst of fire,  
But none can find repose in poverty's presence.

Verse 1050

Having become fatilly impoverished, let a man fully renounce,  
Lest he fatally exhaust his neighbor's vinegar and salt.

## **Begging**

Verse 1051

If you meet a man of means, you may beg his help.  
If he refuses, the fault is his, not yours.

Verse 1052

Even begging can prove pleasurable  
When what is begged for comes without a sense of burden.

Verse 1053

Begging has its own beauty if one supplicates  
Before dutiful men whose hearts never say no.

Verse 1054

There are men who never deny a request even in a dream.  
Begging from such men is as good as giving.

Verse 1055

Because men do exist on earth who never begrudge giving,  
Others dare to plead before men's gaze.

Verse 1056

The evils of begging will flee at the mere sight  
Of those who are free from the evil of refusal.

Verse 1057

There is rejoicing in a jubilant heart  
Upon seeing those who give without scoffing or scorning.

Verse 1058

Deprived of its beggars, this vast and verdant (I think) earth  
Would be reduced to a sphere for the wooden play of puppets.

Verse 1059

What glory would generous men have  
If there were none to beg and receive their gifts?

Verse 1060

One who begs and is refused should not be angry  
For his own poverty is sufficient proof.

## **Dread of Begging**

Verse 1061

It is ten millions better not to beg, even from those  
Precious few who find joy in generosity and thus never refuse.

Verse 1062

Were it the world's Creator who wished men to live by begging,  
Men might well wish that He Himself also die a wanderer.

Verse 1063

There is no greater foolhardiness than saying to oneself,  
"I shall end the pains of poverty by begging."

Verse 1064

The entire world is too small to contain the dignity of men  
Who stoop not to beg even in the midst of destitution.

Verse 1065

Though it is only gruel thin as water, nothing is more savory  
Than the food that is earned by the labor of one's hands.

Verse 1066

The tongue finds nothing more distasteful than begging  
Even to simply plead for the cow's drinking water.

Verse 1067

This I beg of all beggars,  
"If beg you must, beg not from (of) misers."

Verse 1068

The unsturdy ship called begging will break apart  
The moment it crashes against the rock of refusal.

Verse 1069

Thoughts of the beggar's plight must melt one's heart,  
But thoughts of refusals he receives crushes it completely.

Verse 1070

Is there any place a miser can safely hide  
When inside him resounds the word "no" which slays beggars?

## Baseness

Verse 1071

Outwardly, vile men resemble human beings.  
Never have we witnessed such a remarkable likeness.

Verse 1072

The low-minded are happier than men who know the good,  
For they are never troubled by the pains of conscience.

Verse 1073

Wicked rogues resemble the gods,  
For they, too, live doing whatever they want.

Verse 1074

When the vile meets the wicked he will outdo him  
In his vices and pride himself on the achievement.

Verse 1075

Fear is the primary motive force of base men.  
Apart from that, the desire for gain may motivate them, but only a little.

Verse 1076

Base men are like a bass drum,  
For they sound off to others every secret they happen to hear.

Verse 1077

The wretched are too inhospitable to even shake the moisture from their  
Just-washed hands, unless the visitor can shatter their jaw with clenched fist.

Verse 1078

The worthy yield their gifts when told of the need,  
But, like the sugar cane, the low will yield theirs only by a deathly crushing.

Verse 1079

Let a low man see others well clothed and fed  
And instantly their faults assail his sight.

Verse 1080

Is there anything for which ignoble men are suited?  
Well, whenever crisis comes no one sells themselves more swiftly!