

A Moments Wisdom 2011

For the first half of your life, people tell you what you should do; for the second half, they tell you what you should have done.

As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do.

Age mellows some people; others it makes rotten.

The spiritual eyesight improves as the physical eyesight declines.

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

We are so obsessed with doing that we have no time and no imagination left for being.

As a result, men are valued not for what they are but for what they do or what they have—for their usefulness.

It's not true that nice guys finish last. Nice guys are winners before the game even starts.

For only as we ourselves, as adults, actually move and have our being in the state of love, can we be appropriate models and guides for our children. What we are teaches the child far more than what we say, so we must be what we want our children to become.

We are apt to forget that children watch examples better than they listen to preaching.

A three year old child is a being who gets almost as much fun out of a fifty-six dollar set of swings as it does out of finding a small green worm.

Every beetle is a gazelle in the eyes of its mother.

Children seldom misquote you. In fact, they usually repeat word for word what you shouldn't have said.

A four-year-old and a six-year-old presented their Mom with a house plant. They had used their own money and she was thrilled. The older of them said with a sad face, "There was a bouquet that we wanted to give you at the flower shop. It was real pretty, but it was too expensive. It had a ribbon on it that said, 'Rest In Peace,' and we thought it would be just perfect since you are always asking for a little peace so that you can rest."

The mother of three notoriously unruly youngsters was asked whether or not she'd have children if she had it to do over again. "Yes," she replied. "But not the same ones."

Any child can tell you that the sole purpose of a middle name is so he can tell when he's really in trouble.

Teenagers are people who act like babies if they're not treated like adults.

Birds sing after a storm. Why shouldn't people feel as free to delight in whatever sunlight remains to them?

Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves.

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark. The real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

He who will not punish evil, commands it to be done."

You don't really understand human nature unless you know why a child on a merry-go-round will wave at his parents every time around -- and why his parents will always wave back.

Often, men are more ready to repay an injury than a benefit, because gratitude seems a burden and revenge appears to be a pleasure.

What really raises one's indignation against suffering is not suffering intrinsically, but the senselessness of suffering.

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your mind off your goals.

God will not look you over for medals, degrees, or diplomas, but for scars.

Courage is just fear holding on a minute longer.

A timid person is frightened before a danger, a coward during the time, and a courageous person afterwards.

Courage is the art of being the only one who knows you're scared to death.

To suffering there is a limit; to fearing suffering, there is none.

Don't tell me that worry doesn't do any good. I know better. The things I worry about don't happen.

Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?

It takes less time to do things right than to explain why you did it wrong.

Bad habits are like chains that are too light to feel until they are too heavy to carry.

A prudent question is one-half of wisdom.

To live in the presence of great truths and eternal laws, to be led by permanent ideals -- that is what keeps a man patient when the world ignores him, and calm and unspoiled when the world praises him.

In the final analysis there is no solution to man's progress but the day's honest work, the day's honest decisions, the day's generous utterances and the day's good deeds.

A lot of people go through life running from something that isn't after them.

Stop worrying about the potholes in the road and celebrate the journey.

Quit worrying about your health. It'll go away.

Worry often gives a small thing a big shadow.

Worry is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained.

I have learned to live each day as it comes, and not to borrow trouble by dreading tomorrow. It is the dark menace of the future that makes cowards of us.

Courage is not the absence of fear, but simply moving on with dignity despite that fear.

Our envy of others devours us most of all.

A person without a sense of humor is like a wagon without springs. It's jolted by every pebble on the road.

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.

What counts in making a happy marriage is not so much how compatible you are, but how you deal with incompatibility.

A good teacher must be able to put himself in the place of those who find learning hard.

Never seem more learned than the people you are with. Wear your learning like a pocket watch and keep it hidden. Do not pull it out to count the hours, but give the time when you are asked.

Too many Christians have approached their lives as though they were stepping onto the beaches of Normandy on D-Day with a lawn chair and a book to read.

If we practice an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, soon the whole world will be blind and toothless.

We must learn that when we have an argument with our spouse, the first one who says, "I'm sorry I hurt your feelings; please forgive me," is the winner.

Get happiness out of your work, or you may never know what happiness is.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances.

Tell a person they are brave and you help them become so.

Pessimist: One who, when he has the choice of two evils, chooses both.

You can overcome anything if you don't bellyache.

Tomorrow is often the busiest day of the week.

Science is organized knowledge. Wisdom is organized life.

We lie the loudest when we lie to ourselves.

Be sincere; be brief; be seated. (Franklin Roosevelt on public speaking)

Nothing is a waste of time if you use the experience wisely.

When you have given nothing, ask for nothing.

The most called-upon prerequisite of a friend is an accessible ear.

A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over.

Truth often suffers more by the heat of its defenders, than from the arguments of its opposers.

Happiness depends chiefly on our cheerful acceptance of routine, on our refusal to assume, as many do, that daily work and daily duty are a kind of slavery.

Blessed is the man who has some congenial work, some occupation in which he can put his heart, and which affords a complete outlet to all the forces there are in him.

To find one's work is to find one's place in the world.

It is better to undertake a large task and get it half done than to undertake nothing and get it all done.

There is no future in any job. The future lies in the man who holds the job.

There are two changeless sources of solid happiness: first, the belief in God, and second, the habit of hard work toward useful ends.

The everyday kindness of the back roads more than makes up for the acts of greed in the headlines.

The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone.

Remember, people will judge you by your actions, not your intentions. You may have a heart of gold — but so does a hard-boiled egg.

If you spend your moments judging people, you will have no time left over to love them. It isn't the mountains ahead that wear you out, it's the pebble in your shoe.

Neutrality in religion means surrender to the Devil.

A father can lift his family no higher than his own faith.

If the Lord is kept outside, something must be wrong inside.

Few men have the virtue to withstand the highest bidder.

Beware of half-truths; you may have hold of the wrong half.

The man who expects to get to heaven should take the trouble to study the route that will take him there.

We judge people by appearances; God judges them by their motives.

Poverty: A state of mind induced by the neighbor's new car.

We all admire the wisdom of people who come to us for advice.

Peace is not made in documents, but in the hearts of men.

Most of the foot prints left in the sands of time have been made by work shoes.

Character is like the foundation of a house; it's below the surface.

Life is measured by its depth, not its duration.

Sometimes the majority only means that all the fools are on the same side.

A family is a place where minds come in contact with one another. If these minds love one another, the home will be as beautiful as a flower garden. But if these minds get out of harmony with one other it is like a storm that plays havoc with the garden.

Remembrance of things past is not necessarily the remembrance of things as they were.

Love feels no burden, thinks nothing of its trouble, attempts what is above its strength, pleads no excuse for impossibility, for it thinks all things are possible.

Tomorrow, you promise yourself, will be different, yet, tomorrow is too often a repetition of today.

To put the world in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must put our own lives in order; and to put our lives in order, we must first set our hearts right with God.

We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.

Both tears and sweat are salty, but they render a different result. Tears will get you sympathy; sweat will get you change.

Don't spur a willing horse.

Instruction does much, but encouragement does more.

A man in love mistakes a pimple for a dimple. You don't love a woman because she is beautiful; she is beautiful because you love her.

Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get, it's what you are expected to give -- which is everything.

Wicked men obey from fear; good men, from love.

If you have time to text, you have time to pray.

A man has only as much knowledge as he puts to work.

Children are innocent, which is why they love justice; adults have sinned, and that is why they love mercy.

If it is to be, it is up to me.

It is better to try to work your way into a better way of feeling, than to wait until you feel your way into a better way of working.

We find the courage to stand when we kneel before God.

It is better in prayer to have a heart without words, than words without a heart.

People seldom notice old clothes if you wear a big smile.

If you smile when no one else is around, you really mean it.

In my day, we didn't have self-esteem, we had self-respect, and no more of it than we had earned.

Self-respect cannot be hunted. It cannot be purchased. It is never for sale. It cannot be fabricated out of public relations. It comes to us when we are alone, in quiet moments, in quiet places, when we suddenly realize that, knowing the good, we have done it; knowing the beautiful, we have served it; knowing the truth we have spoken it.

Hope is faith holding out its hand in the dark.

Hope is the dream of a soul awake.

While we are mourning the loss of our friend, others are rejoicing to meet him behind the veil.

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

A good garden is like a good book, you always enjoy starting it again.

If you're feeling low, don't despair. The sun has a sinking spell every night, but it comes back up every morning.

You may not be responsible for getting knocked down, but you're certainly responsible for getting back up.

The train of brotherly love rides on the twin rails of concern and compassion.

A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else.

To carry a grudge is like being stung to death by one bee.

To err is human, to blame the next guy even more so.

The easiest thing to find is fault.

You don't know what power you have until you make good choices in a hard time.

In my day, we didn't have self-esteem, we had self-respect, and no more of it than we had earned.

The greatest friend of truth is time, her greatest enemy is prejudice, and her constant companion humility.

How you spend your time is more important than how you spend your money. Money mistakes can be corrected, but time is gone forever.

It is difficult to live in the present, ridiculous to live in the future, and impossible to live in the past. Nothing is as far away as one minute ago.

A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within.

He who holds the ladder is as bad as the thief on it.

If you wish your merit to be known, acknowledge the merits of other people.

He who sacrifices his conscience to his ambition, burns a painting to obtain the ashes.

From our ancestors comes our name, but from our virtues comes our honor.

It is easier to swallow angry words before speaking them, than to have to eat them afterwards.

Whoever fears to submit any question to the test of free discussion, loves his own opinion more than the truth

When a dove begins to associate with crows, its feathers remain white, but its heart grows black.

Beauty, unaccompanied by virtue, is a flower without perfume.

A bad workman blames his tools and materials.

He who boasts of his knowledge advertises his ignorance.

A book that is shut is a block.

To a quick question, give a slow answer.

Look before you leap, for snakes among sweet flowers often creep.

There are two things a person should never be angry at, what they can help, and what they cannot.

If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain.

It is under the greatest adversity that there exists the greatest potential for doing good, both for oneself and others.

We can throw stones, complain about them, stumble on them, climb over them, or build with them.

The less you open your heart to others, the more your heart suffers.

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.

It always seems impossible until it's done.

You can't let praise or criticism get to you. It's a weakness to get caught up in either one.

There's a basic human weakness inherent in all people which tempts them to want what they can't have and not want what is readily available to them.

A great weakness of most humans is their hesitancy to tell others how much they love them while they're alive.

One of the weaknesses of our age is our apparent inability to distinguish our needs from our greeds.

A crooked stick will have a crooked shadow.

You can tell what a man is by what he does when he hasn't anything to do.

Charity sees the need, not the cause.

He who would purposely cheat a man would also cheat his God.

Steady cheerfulness is a sign of wisdom.

He who takes a child by the hand, takes a mother by the heart.

To compare is not to prove.

There is a difference between one who does not misdeeds because of his conscience and one who is kept from wrongdoing by the presence of others.

Help thy brother's boat across, and Lo! thine own has reached the shore also.

The pleasure of what we enjoy is lost by coveting more.

He who spares the guilty threatens the innocent.

If you stop every time a dog barks, your journey will never end.

Most knocking is done by people who don't know how to ring the bell.

Find a cruel man and you will see a coward.

Every time you lend money to a friend, you run the risk of damaging his memory.

No one can be caught in places he does not visit.

The most disappointed people in the world are those who get what they deserve.

Do not let sinners freely enter hell, but leaping over our bodies as we grasp at them.

When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?

I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought, and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.

Grace isn't a little prayer you chant before receiving a meal. It's a way to live.

He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.

Not merely what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving.

A man can do what he ought to do; and when he says he cannot, it is because he will not.

There is but one question, and that is the will of God. That settles all other questions.

People do not lack strength; they lack will.

Some people are humble and proud of it.

To belittle is to be little.

Practice makes perfect, so be careful what you practice.

Don't pray for a lighter load; pray for a stronger back.

People rowing the boat seldom have time to rock it.

When you are in deep water, trust the One who walked on it.

Wrinkles are the tracks smiles leave behind.

Be a fountain, not a drain.

The root of discontent is self-love; the more the self is indulged, the more it demands.

Drink injures a man externally, internally, and eternally.

Don't just envy another's good fortune; imitate the hard work that helped him earn it.

A good example is the best sermon.

We reform others unconsciously when we act uprightly.

Sunny days alone soon create a desert.

Half a fact equals a whole lie.

This is the early punishment of the liar: he is not believed, even when he speaks the truth.

A child tells in the street what mother and father say indoors.

Forget others' faults by remembering your own.

Bad men excuse their own sins; good men forsake them.

A sin denied is twice committed.

Who seeks a faultless friend remains friendless.

To worry about tomorrow is to be unhappy today.

One generation plants the trees; the next generation gets the shade.

Fear can carry a man farther than courage, but not in the same direction.

A foolish man is known by six things: 1) anger without cause, 2) speech without profit, 3) change without progress, 4) questions without purpose, 5) placing trust in strangers, and 6) mistaking foes for friends.

Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not.

The ability to focus attention on important things is a defining characteristic of intelligence.

Honor is not diminished for being shared.

You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you.

Rudeness is the weak man's imitation of strength.

Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards.

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

Self-respect is the fruit of discipline; the sense of dignity grows with the ability to say no to oneself.

Fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people are often troubled by doubts.

As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well lived brings a happy death.

Happiness isn't something you experience; it's something you remember.

Waste not fresh tears over old griefs.

Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain - and most fools do.

The more I want to get something done, the less I call it work.

Sow good deeds, and sweet remembrances will grow.

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.

People have been known to achieve more as a result of working with others than against them.

Anxiety springs from the desire that things should happen as we wish rather than as God wills.

The more you worry about other people's well-being, the less you will worry about your own.

If a man could have half his wishes he would double his troubles.