

WISDOM, BEST QUOTES ON

A wise man makes his own decisions; an ignorant man follows the public opinion.
—Grantland Rice

Knowledge is knowing how to construct a bridge from point A to point B. Wisdom is knowing if such a bridge should be built.

--Herbert Kahn

The simple realization that there are other points of view is the beginning of wisdom. Understanding what they are is a great step. The final test is understanding why they are held.

--Charles M. Campbell

These days people seek knowledge, not wisdom. Knowledge is of the past, wisdom is of the future.

—Vernon Cooper

Doubt is often the beginning of wisdom.

—M. Scott Peck

There is a wisdom of the head, and...a wisdom of the heart.

-Charles Dickens

The fool wonders but the wise man asks.

-Benjamin Disraeli

Money can help you to get medicines but not health. Money can help you to get soft pillows, but not sound sleep. Money can help you to get material comforts, but not eternal bliss. Money can help you to get ornaments, but not beauty. Money will help you to get an electric earphone, but not natural hearing. Attain the supreme wealth, wisdom, and you will have everything.

—Benjamin Franklin

Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much; Wisdom is humble that he knows no more.

—William Cowper

There is no knowledge, no light, no wisdom that you are in possession of, but what you have received it from some source.

--Brigham Young

I don't think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday.

--Abraham Lincoln

A wise man knows everything; a shrewd one, everybody.

—Unknown

The foolish sayings of the rich pass for wise saws in society.

--Cervantes

Never seem wiser nor more learned than the people you are with.

--Lord Chesterfield

There are more fools than wise men, and even among the wise there is more stupidity than wisdom.

--S. R. N. Chamfort

A child can ask a thousand questions that the wisest man cannot answer.

--J. Abbott

To question a wise man is the beginning of wisdom.

--German Proverb

Rich men are to bear the infirmities of the poor. Wise men are to bear the mistakes of the ignorant.

--Henry Ward Beecher

A wise man among the ignorant is as a beautiful girl in the company of blind men.

—Saadi

The doorstep to the temple of wisdom is a knowledge of our own ignorance.

--Charles Spurgeon

It requires wisdom to understand wisdom; the music is nothing if the audience is deaf.

--Walter Lippmann

A prudent question is one-half of wisdom.

—Francis Bacon

From the errors of others a wise man corrects his own.

—Publilius Syrus

A man begins cutting his wisdom teeth the first time he bites off more than he can chew.

—Herb Caen

Common sense in an uncommon decree is what the world calls wisdom.

—Samuel Taylor
Coleridge

I do not believe in the collective wisdom of individual ignorance.

—Thomas Carlyle

We give advice: but we cannot give the wisdom to profit by it.

—Duc de La
Rochefoucauld

Wisdom is meaningless until our experience has given it meaning.

—Bergen Evans

Wisdom is always an overmatch for strength.

—Phaedrus

Youth is the time to study wisdom; old age is the time to practice it.

—Rousseau

Wisdom comes alone through suffering.

—Aeschylus

The function of wisdom is to discriminate between good and evil.

--Cicero

Life is a festival only to the wise.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

He is no wise man that cannot play the fool upon occasion.

--Thomas Fuller

Wisdom cometh by suffering.

--Aeschylus

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

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Wisdom denotes pursuing the best ends by the best means.

—Francis Hutcheson
the Elder

Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom.

--Samuel Taylor
Coleridge

Knowledge comes by taking things apart—analysis. But wisdom comes by putting things together.

-John A. Morrison

There is more wisdom in public opinion than is to be found in Napoleon, Voltaire, or all the ministers of state, present or to come.

--Talleyrand

Who is wise? He that learns from everyone.

--Benjamin Franklin

The Arctic expresses the sum of all wisdom: Silence.

--Walter Bauer

Every man is a damn fool for at least five minutes every day; wisdom consists of not exceeding the limit.

--Elbert Hubbard

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

-Michel de Montaigne

The poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard.

--*Ecclesiastes 9:16*

Everyone whose deeds are more than his wisdom, his wisdom endures. And everyone whose wisdom is more than his deeds his wisdom does not endure.

—*The Talmud*

When a man grows old, wisdom will not keep him alive. He will repeat the wisdom previously acquired. He is petrified. But emotion will preserve him. He should be careful to feed passion.

--Mark Rutherford

Everyone is wise until he speaks.

-Irish Proverb

If one is too lazy to think, too vain to do a thing badly, too cowardly to admit it, one will never attain wisdom.

--Cyril Connolly

A man doesn't begin to attain wisdom until he recognizes that he is no longer indispensable

--Admiral Byrd

A wise mad may look ridiculous in the company of fools.

--Unknown

If wise men were hairs, the world would need a wig.

--Unknown

It is the wise man's part to leave in darkness everything that is ugly.

--Euripides

A wise man changes his mind, a fool never will.

--Spanish Proverb

Wisdom at times is found in folly.

--Horace

'Tis wisdom sometimes to seem a fool.

--Thomas Fuller

We pay a high price for being intelligent. Wisdom hurts.

--Euripides

To finish the moment, to find the journey's end in every step of the road, to live the greatest number of good hours, is wisdom.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

'Tis not knowing much, but what is useful, that makes a wise man.

--Thomas Fuller

Not to know at large of things remote
From use obscure and subtle, but to know
That which before us lies in daily life,
Is the prime wisdom.

—John Milton

He has existed only, not lived, who lacks wisdom in old age.

--Publilius Syrus

Whoever has no patience has no wisdom.

--Sa'di

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

--Mohandas K. Gandhi

That man is wisest who realizes that his wisdom is worthless.

--Socrates

Wisdom comes by suffering.

--Greek Proverb

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

--Cato the Censor

In youth and beauty wisdom is but rare!

—Homer

No one is wise at all times.

--Pliny the Elder

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

--Theodore Roosevelt

It is not enough to have books, or to know where to read up for information when we want it. Practical wisdom for the purposes of life must be carried about with us, and be ready for use at call. It is not enough that we have a fund laid up at home, but not a farthing in our pocket: we must carry about with us a store of the current coin of knowledge ready for exchange on all occasions, else we are helpless when the opportunity for action occurs. The experience gathered from books is of the nature of learning; the experience gained from actual life is of the nature of wisdom; and a small store of the latter is worth vastly more than any stock of the former.

—Samuel Smiles

The only medicine for suffering, crime, and all the other woes of mankind, is wisdom.

--Thomas Henry Huxley

Fear is the main source of superstition, and one of the main sources of cruelty. To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom.

--Bertrand Russell

It is rare to see wisdom allied to beauty.

--Petronius

One's first step in wisdom is to question everything—and one's last is to come to terms with everything.

--Georg Christoph
Lichtenberg

This is wisdom: to love wine, beauty, and the heavenly spring. That's sufficient—the rest is worthless.

—Theodore de Banville

Mankind has collected together all the wisdom of his ancestors, and can see what a fool man is!

--Elias Canetti

The world is full of people who are not wise enough.

--Jean de La Fontaine

Wisdom is the most important part of happiness.

--Sophocles

Don't despise the strength of a weak body—wisdom flourishes in him to whom nature has denied strength.

--Catonis Disticha

The proper task of the wise is to bring order into everyday affairs.

--St. Thomas Aquinas

Speak as the many, think as the few.

--Latin Proverb

No man gains wisdom through his father's experience.

--Spanish Proverb

There is no happiness where there is no wisdom.

--Sophocles

Wisdom is learned more from failure than from success.

--Unknown

Knowledge is knowing a fact. Wisdom is knowing what to do with that fact.

--Unknown

Wisdom is the right use of knowledge.

—Charles Spurgeon

An educated man is one who has finally discovered that there are some questions to which nobody has the answer.

--Unknown

In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king.

--Michael Apostolius

A wise man learns by the experience of others. An ordinary man learns by his own experience. A fool learns by nobody's experience.

--Unknown

Wisdom is knowledge in action.

-Unknown

The first step towards madness is to think oneself wise.

--Fernando de Rojas

A human should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

--Alexander Pope

He who thinks himself wise, O heavens! is a great fool.

--Voltaire

Where ignorance is bliss,
'Tis folly to be wise.

--Thomas Gray

Women are wiser than men because they know less and understand more.

-James Stephens

Not even God is wise enough.

--African Proverb

Both in thought and in feeling, even though time be real, to realise the unimportance of time is the gate of wisdom.

--Bertrand Russell

Much of this world's wisdom is still acquired by necromancy,—by consulting the oracular dead.

--Julius Charles Hare
and Augustus
William Hare

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

--Charles Caleb Colton

It is better to have wisdom without learning, than to have learning without wisdom; just as it is better to be rich without being the possessor of a mine, than to be the possessor of a mine without being rich.

-Charles Caleb Colton

Life is a festival only to the wise.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Wise men are not wise at all times.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The sage has one advantage: he is immortal. If this is not his century, many others will be.

--Baltasar Gracian

Knowledge can be communicated, but not wisdom. One can find it, live it, be fortified by it, do wonders through it, but one cannot communicate and teach it.

-Hermann Hesse

Wisdom is an affair of values, and of value judgments. It is intelligent conduct of human affairs.

--Sidney Hook

Wisdom is always an overmatch for strength.

-Phaedrus

A wise man hears one word and understands two.

--Yiddish Proverb

Wisdom is oft times nearer when we stoop
Than when we soar.

--William Wordsworth

It takes a wise man to recognize a wise man.

--Xenophanes

A wise man in the company of those who are ignorant, has been compared to a beautiful girl in the company of blind men.

—Saadi

A wise man is never less alone than when he is alone.

—Jonathan Swift

The lust of fame is the last that a wise man shakes off.

—Tacitus

Men are wise in proportion, not to their experience, but to their capacity for experience.

—George Bernard Shaw

Nothing would more contribute to make a man wise than to have always an enemy in his view.

—Lord Halifax

Modest doubt is called the beacon of the wise.

—William Shakespeare

The first key to wisdom is this—constant and frequent questioning...for by doubting we are led to question and by questioning we arrive at the truth.

--Peter Abelard

Wisdom consists of the anticipation of consequences.

--Norman Cousins

He who lives without folly is not as wise as he thinks.

--La Rochefoucauld

Wisdom is greater than knowledge, for wisdom includes knowledge and the due use of it.

--Joseph Sevello Capponi

The road to wisdom? Well, it's plain and simple to express:

Err
And err
And err again
But less
And less
And less.

--Piet Hein

Preconceived notions are the locks on the door to wisdom.

--Merry Browne

It is wisdom to believe the heart.

--George Santayana

Should it be said that the Greeks discovered philosophy by human wisdom, I reply that I find the Scriptures declare all wisdom to be a divine gift.

--St. Clement

Dare to be wise; begin! He who postpones the hour of living rightly is like the rustic who waits for the river to run out before he crosses.

--Horace

The invariable mark of wisdom is to see the miraculous in the common.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

--William James

The wise carry their knowledge as they do their watches—not for display, but for their own use.

--Unknown

The wise does at once what the fool does at last.

--Baltasar Gracian

True wisdom consists not only in seeing what is before your eyes, but in foreseeing what is to come.

--Terence

He is not wise to me who is wise in words only, but he who is wise in deeds.

--St. Gregory

The wisdom of the wise is an uncommon degree of common sense.

--Dean W. R. Inse

Wisdom is the knowledge of things human and divine and of the causes by which those things are controlled.

-Cicero

Ask, who is wise? You'll find the self-same man
A sage in France, a madman in Japan;
And here some head beneath a mitre swells,
Which there had tinselled to a cap and bells.

--Thomas Moore

They call him the wisest man to whose mind that which is required at once occurs.
--Cicero

In much wisdom is much grief.

--*Old Testament*
Ecclesiastes

A wise man poor
Is like a sacred book that's never read—
To himself he lives, and to all else seems dead.
This age thinks better of a gilded fool
Than of a threadbare saint in wisdom's school.

--Thomas Dekker

Pessimism is only the name that men of weak nerves give to wisdom.
—Bernard De Voto

Who knows useful things, not many things, is wise.

--Aeschylus

No man is wise enough by himself.

--Plautus

Mistakes are the usual bridge between inexperience and wisdom.
—Phyllis Theroux

A wise man sees as much as he ought, not as much as he can.
—Montaigne

Knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification.
—Martin H. Fischer

Wisdom is inseparable from knowledge; it is knowledge plus a quality which is within the human being. Without it knowledge is dry, almost unfit for human consumption, and dangerous in application. The absence of wisdom is clearly noticeable; the learned fool and the educated bore have been with us since the beginning of recorded history. Wisdom adds flavor, order, and measure to knowledge. Wisdom makes itself most manifest in the application of knowledge to human needs.
—Isador I. Rabi

Memory is the mother of all wisdom.

—Aeschylus

Wisdom that exists in a man only theoretically without becoming practical is like a double rose which by its colour and perfume delights others, but drops away without going to seed.

—Arthur Schopenhauer

The door to wisdom swings on hinges of common sense and uncommon thoughts.

—Unknown

An unusual amount of common sense is sometimes called wisdom.

—Unknown

In frank expression of conflicting opinion lies the greatest promise of wisdom.

—Louis D. Brandeis

Wisdom is not wisdom when it derives from books alone.

--Horace

The wisest mind has something yet to learn.

—George Santayana

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

—Thomas J. Watson

Cabbage: A vegetable about as large and wise as a man's head.

—Ambrose Bierce

No man is the wiser for his learning; it may administer matter to work in, or objects to work upon, but wit and wisdom are born with a man.

—John Selden

When our knowledge coalesces with our humanity and our humor, it can add up to wisdom

—Carol Orlock

A man with wisdom is better off than a stupid man with any amount of charm.

--African Proverb

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

—Friedrich Wilhelm
Nietzsche

The wise man doesn't give the right answers, he poses the right questions.

--Claude Lévi-Strauss

The price of wisdom is eternal thought.

—Frank Birch

Shut your mouth and open your eyes—and you'll need nothing to make you wise.

—Watts Mumford

Wisdom lies in knowing how ignorant we are, and keeping the knowledge to ourselves.

--Unknown

No one can become wise without experience, no one can become a scholar without studying.

--Isaac Bashevis Singer

I have learned throughout my life as a composer chiefly through my mistakes and pursuits of false assumptions, not my exposure to founts of wisdom and knowledge.

--Igor Stravinsky

True wisdom is to be always seasonable, and to change with a good grace in changing circumstances.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Better be wise by the misfortunes of others than by your own.

--Aesop

Thinking well is wise;
planning well, wiser;
doing well wisest and best of all.

--Persian Proverb

Counsel woven into the fabric of real life is wisdom.

--Walter Benjamin

Wisdom is the quality that keeps you from getting into situations where you need it.
--Doug Larson

The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts.
--Bertrand Russell

Disappointment is the nurse of wisdom.
--Bayle Roche

The attempt to combine wisdom and power has only rarely been successful and then only for a short while.
--Albert Einstein

We thought, because we had power, we had wisdom
--Stephen Vincent Benet

Listening to podcast, reading a book, listening to an audiobook and watching films isn't waste of time. It's how somebody becomes wise!
—Deyth Banger

Self-reflection is the school of wisdom.
--Baltasar Gracián

Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it.
--David Starr Jordan

A wise man makes more opportunities than he finds.
--Francis Bacon

Wisdom doesn't teach fools for long.
--John Lenza III

To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe.
--Marilyn vos Savant

Genius is nothing more nor less than childhood recovered at will.
--Charles Baudelaire

In those days he was wiser than he is now; he used to frequently take my advice.
--Winston Churchill

I am not young enough to know everything.

--Oscar Wilde

Logic is the beginning of wisdom, not the end.

--Leonard Nimoy

The wise man does not grow old, but ripens.

--Victor Hugo

To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men-that is genius.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Silence and reserve will give anyone a reputation for wisdom.

--Myrtle Reed

Knowledge which is divorced from justice, may be called cunning rather than wisdom.

--Marcus Tullius Cicero

The good and the wise lead quiet lives.

--Euripides

Adversity makes men wise but not rich.

--John Ray

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

--John Stuart Mill

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.

--Thomas Jefferson

A man is getting along on the road to wisdom when he begins to realize that his opinion is just an opinion.

--Unknown

Make wisdom your provision for the journey from youth to old age, for it is a more certain support than all other possessions.

—Bias of Priene

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

—Matsuo Basho

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

—Doug Larson

It's bad taste to be wise all the time, like being at a perpetual funeral.

—David Herbert
Lawrence

Happiness may be affected by age, and the hard part in middle age, whether you call it a midlife crisis or something else, is for many people a transition to something much better—something, there is reason to hope, like wisdom.

—Jonathan Rauch

The traits of wisdom tend to include compassion and empathy, good social reasoning and decision making, equanimity, tolerance of divergent values, comfort with uncertainty and ambiguity. And the whole package is more than the sum of the parts, because these traits work together to improve life not only for the wise but also for their communities. Wisdom is pro-social.

—Jonathan Rauch

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

—Confucius

The truest greatness lies in being kind, the truest wisdom in a happy mind.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Beware of the man who works hard to learn something, learns it, and finds himself no wiser than before. He is full of murderous resentment of people who are ignorant without having come by their ignorance the hard way.

—Kurt Vonnegut

Wise thinkers prevail everywhere.

—Sophocles

The only infallible criterion of wisdom to vulgar minds: success.

—Edmund Burke

Wisdom comes by disillusionment.

—George Santayana

There is no sin except stupidity.

—Oscar Wilde

The wise man learns more from the fool than the fool learns from the wise man.

—Marcus Aurelius

To admit you don't know everything is the first step on the road to wisdom.

—Unknown

A fool sees not the same tree that a wise man sees.

—William Blake

A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.

—William Shakespeare

Kindness is wisdom.

—Philip James Bailey

Age is wisdom, if one has lived one's life properly.

—Miriam Makeba

True wisdom is less presuming than folly. The wise man doubteth often, and changeth his mind; the fool is obstinate, and doubteth not; he knoweth all things but his own ignorance.

—Akhenaton

In the clumsy clutch of fools
Facts are vain and dangerous tools
Fashioning little save uncouth
Snares to trip the feet of Truth,
But in the deft hands of the wise
What deadly traps they build for lies.

—Robert G. Peck

Nobody can give you wiser advice than yourself.

—Cicero

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

—Andrew Young

Data is not information, Information is not knowledge, Knowledge is not understanding, Understanding is not wisdom.

—Clifford Stoll

Solitude is the best nurse of wisdom.

—Laurence Sterne

There are certain joys we only know when we're young. There are others that come with age but seem to be off-limits to the young. Wisdom is precious.

—Dion DiMucci

A wise man can learn more from a foolish question than a fool can learn from a wise answer.

—Bruce Lee

The only true wisdom is knowing that you know nothing.

—Socrates

I'm still waiting patiently for the wisdom that supposedly comes with old age.

—Unknown

For the wise man looks into space and he knows there are no limited dimensions.

—Laozi

Common sense is genius dressed in its working clothes.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.

—Unknown

The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom.

—H. L. Mencken

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

—Tom Wilson

In complete darkness we are all the same, it is only our knowledge and wisdom that separates us, don't let your eyes deceive you.

—Janet Jackson

To be a philosopher is not merely to have subtle thoughts, nor even to found a school, but so to love wisdom as to live according to its dictates, a life of simplicity, independence, magnanimity, and trust.

—Henry David Thoreau

Brain researchers estimate that your unconscious database outweighs the conscious on an order exceeding ten million to one. This database is the source of your hidden, natural genius. In other words, a part of you is much smarter than you are. The wise people regularly consult that smarter part.

—Michael J. Gelb

There are four sorts of men:

He who knows not and knows not he knows not: he is a fool—shun him;

He who knows not and knows he knows not: he is simple—teach him;

He who knows and knows not he knows: he is asleep—wake him.

He who knows and knows he knows: he is wise—follow him.

—Lady Burton

Morality is washed all round with wisdom, and wisdom is washed all round with morality. It is just as if one should wash one hand with the other or one foot with the other; exactly so is morality washed around with wisdom and wisdom with morality.

—Buddha

The only competition worthy a wise man is with himself.

—Anna Jameson

The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of nonessentials.

—Lin Yutang

There is wisdom in the selection of wisdom.

—Bergen Evans

Ignorant men raise questions that wise men answered a thousand years ago.

—Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

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

—Charles Spurgeon

A man only becomes wise when he begins to calculate the approximate depth of his ignorance.

—Gian Carlo Menotti

Sciences may be learned by rote, but wisdom not.

—Laurence Sterne

Wisdom is the knowledge of good and evil, not the strength to choose between the two.

—John Cheever

Life's tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.

—Benjamin Franklin

When I think of the wisest people I know, they share one defining trait: curiosity. They turn away from the minutiae of their lives-and focus on the world around them. They are motivated by the desire to explore the unfamiliar. They are drawn toward what they don't understand.

—Dani Shapiro

Having the courage to say you do not know the answer to a question is perhaps the beginning of wisdom.

--Jon Meacham

Every man wishes to be wise, and they who cannot be wise are almost always cunning.

—Samuel Johnson

What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?

—Jean-Jacques Rousseau

All receive advice. Only the wise profit from it.

—Harper Lee

Knowledge of languages is the gateway to wisdom.

--Roger Bacon

Word-wisdom is not a matter of diction or logic. It is magic in its uncorrupted sense. It confers meaning on our universe.

--Geoffrey Wagner

The sum of human wisdom is not contained in any one language, and no single language is CAPABLE of expressing all forms and degrees of human comprehension.

--Ezra Pound

Proverbs may be said to be the abridgments of wisdom.

—Joubert

Proverbs are the wisdom of peoples.

—Italian Proverb

Young men are apt to think themselves wise enough, as drunken men are apt to think themselves sober enough.

--Lord Chesterfield

It is the nature of the wise to resist pleasures, but the foolish to be a slave to them.

—Epictetus

Wonder is the beginning of wisdom in learning from books as well as from nature.

—Mortimer J. Adler

Only those who are capable of silliness can be called truly intelligent.

--Christopher Isherwood

Once you have the cap and gown all you need do is open your mouth. Whatever nonsense you talk becomes wisdom and all the rubbish good sense.

—Moliere

Education: that which reveals to the wise, and conceals from the stupid, the vast limits of their knowledge.

—Mark Twain

Genius is entitled to respect only when it promotes the peace and improves the happiness of mankind.

--Lord Essex

Wise men never sit and wail their loss, but cheerily seek how to redress their harms.

—William Shakespeare

Tis sometimes the height of wisdom to feign stupidity.

—Cato the Elder

I can't tell you if genius is hereditary, because heaven has granted me no offspring.

--James McNeill
Whistler

The sure way to be cheated is to think one's self more cunning than others.

—Francois de La
Rochefoucauld

Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom.

--Theodore Isaac Rubin

The truest greatness lies in being kind, the truest wisdom in a happy mind.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.

—Albert Einstein

Books give not wisdom where none was before.
But where some is, there reading makes it more.

--John Harington

Books are but waste paper unless we spend in action the wisdom we get from thought.

--Edward G.
Bulwer-Lytton

Let the wise listen and add to their learning.

--*Proverbs* 1:5

The study of history is the beginning of political wisdom.

--John Bodin

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

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Happiness is an island of solitude with books. Not material things—but wisdom.

--Anna May Wong

Solitary reading will enable a man to stuff himself with information, but without conversation his mind will become like a pond without an outlet—a mass of unhealthy stagnature. It is not enough to harvest knowledge by study; the wind of talk must winnow it and blow away the chaff. Then will the clear, bright grains of wisdom be garnered, for our own use or that of others.

--William Matthew

One of the joys of reading is the ability to plug into the shared wisdom of mankind.

--Ishmael Reed

A poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom.

--Robert Frost

The wisdom of the world is most often encapsulated in poetry: nations require poetry if they are to remember their past and comprehend their future. And in those periods when poetic expression launches out into new forms of expression, new ambitions and new types of statement, it is especially important that our poets obtain a hearing.

--James A. Michener

The object of experiencing poetry is to make discoveries—whether about the poet, the art, or the world—in the fervent hope of wisdom.

--Richard Monaco

A gathering of good books is an organization of the wise.

--John Cotton Dana

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

--Chinese Proverb

Consider what you have in the smallest chosen library. A company of the wisest and wittiest men that could be picked out of all civil countries, in a 1000 years, have set in best order the results of their learning and wisdom. The men themselves were hid and inaccessible, solitary, impatient of interruption, fenced by etiquette; but the thought which they did not uncover to their bosom friend is here written out in transparent words to us, the strangers of another age.

—Ralph Waldo
Emerson

In a good bookroom you feel in some mysterious way that you are absorbing the wisdom contained in all the books through your skin, without even opening them.

—Mark Twain

Books won't stay banned. They won't burn. Ideas won't go to jail. In the long run of history, the censor and the inquisitor have always lost. The only sure weapon against bad ideas is better ideas. The source of better ideas is wisdom. The surest path to wisdom is a liberal education.

--Alfred Whitney
Griswold

Talking and eloquence are not the same: to speak, and to speak well, are two things. A fool may talk, but a wise man speaks.

--Ben Jonson

You don't truly know a woman until you understand every word she isn't saying to you.

—Internet Meme

From listening comes wisdom, and from speaking repentance.

--Italian Proverb

The courage to speak must be matched by the wisdom to listen.

--Charles E. McKenzie

Nothing is more like a wise man than a fool who holds his tongue.

--St. Francis de Sales

Think as a wise man but communicate in the language of the people.

--William Butler Yeats

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

The masses are the material of democracy, but its form—that is to say, the laws which express the general reason, justice, and utility—can only be rightly shaped by wisdom, which is by no means a universal property.
--Henri Frederic Amiel

Thou dost not know, my son, with how little wisdom the world is governed.
--Count Axel Oxenstiern

In the frank expression of conflicting opinions lies the greatest promise of wisdom in governmental action.
--Louis D. Brandeis

It is good even for old men to learn wisdom.
—Aeschylus

In our culture we make heroes of the men who sit on top of a heap of money, and we pay attention not only to what they say in their field of competence, but to their wisdom on every other question in the world.
--Max Lerner

With money in your pocket, you are wise, and you are handsome, and you sing well too.
--Jewish Proverb

Philosophy, if rightly defined, is nothing but the love of wisdom.
--Marcus Tullius Cicero

The word philosophy comes from the greek words *philein*, meaning 'to love,' and *sophia*, meaning 'wisdom.' Philosophy is the love of wisdom. It is the pursuit of wisdom about what it means to be a human being, what the fundamental nature of God and reality are, what the sources and limits of our knowledge are, and what is good and right in our lives and in our societies.
—Manuel Velasquez and Vincent Barry

Wisdom is what's left after we've run out of personal opinions.
—Cullen Hightower

Wisdom is knowing the right thing to do and doing it at the right time to get the desired result. It is also the correct application of knowledge.

—Patience Johnson

A man with wisdom will always have a solution no matter how big his challenges may be. Wisdom makes you a problem solver.

—Patience Johnson

I believe that all wisdom consists in caring immensely for a few right things, and not caring a straw about the rest.

—John Buchan

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

--Michel de Montaigne

The smart man solves a problem. The wise man prevents it.

--Albert Einstein

Is there anyone so wise as to learn by the experience of others?

—Voltaire

A skilled listener can help people tap into their own wisdom.

—Richard Rohr

The stupid neither forgive or forget; the naive forgive and forget; the wise forgive but do not forget.

—Thomas Szasz

To profit from good advice requires more wisdom than to give it.

--Churton Collins

The wisest have the most authority.

--Plato

They must often change who would be constant in happiness or wisdom.

--Confucius

Wise people sometimes change their minds—fools, never.

--Proverb

He that never changes his opinions, never corrects his mistakes, and will never be wiser on the morrow than he is today.

--Tryon Edwards

What is sad is that wisdom is wasted on the old. Wisdom should be the tool for the young.

—Ben Nelson

Middle age loves its platitudes, chiefly the ones about hard-won wisdom and the many things that once seemed important but no longer do as you face down impending mortality and irrelevance. And don't forget the ones about small things that are far more important than you'd realized. Among the many indignities of aging is the irresistible temptation to reach for some menu of bromides and convey to the world those invaluable lessons about living.

—Laura Kipnis

When you are dead, you won't even know that you are dead. It's a pain only felt by others—Same thing when you are stupid.

—Unknown

If you could erase all the mistakes of your past, you would also erase all the wisdom of your present.

—Unknown

The man of understanding finds everything laughable.

—Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

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

--William Saroyan

To make no mistakes is not in the power of man; but from their errors and mistakes the wise and good learn wisdom for the future.

—Plutarch

He who knows others is learned;
He who knows himself is wise.

--Lao-tzu

One reason the human race has such a low opinion of itself is that it gets so much of its wisdom from writers.

—Wilfrid Sheed

There is no such thing as inevitable war. If war comes it will be from failure of human wisdom.

--Bonar Law

It is impossible to love and be wise.

--Francis Bacon

Wisdom usually does not fall from high places. The mighty and the splendid have taught me little. I have learned more from my dog than from all the great books I have read. The wisdom of my dog is the product of his inability to conceal his wants. When he yearns to be loved, there is no pouting in the corner. There are no games entitled 'Guess what is the matter with me.' He puts his head on my lap, wags his tail and looks up at me with kind eyes, waiting to be petted. No professor or sage ever told me I might live a more successful life if I simply asked for love when I needed it.

--Gerry Spence

The friend of a fool is a fool. The friend of a wise person is another wise person.

--*The Husia*

A man is sane morally at 30, rich mentally at 40, wise spiritually at 50—or never.

--William Osler

Who knows why we live, and struggle, and die... Wise men write many books, in words too hard to understand. But this, the purpose of our lives, the end of all our struggle, is beyond all human wisdom.

—Alan Stewart Paton

No one ever found wisdom without also being a fool. Writers, alas, have to be fools in public, while the rest of the human race can cover its tracks.

—Erica Jong

The first sigh of love is the last of wisdom.

--Antoine Bret

The wise man is never surprised by death: he is always ready to depart.

--Jean de La Fontaine

Death never takes the wise man by surprise; he is always ready to go.

—Jean de La Fontaine

Sorrow makes us all children again, destroys all differences of intellect. The wisest know nothing.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

It will require a struggle to make America reality-based again. Fight the good fight in your private life. You needn't get into an argument with the stranger at Chipotle who claims that George Soros and Uber are plotting to make his muscle car illegal—but do not give acquaintances and friends and family members free passes. If you have children or grandchildren, teach them to distinguish between true and untrue as fiercely as you do between right and wrong and between wise and foolish.

—Kurt Andersen

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

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

There are two things to aim at in life: first, to get what you want; and, after that, to enjoy it. Only the wisest of mankind achieve the second.

--Logan Pearsall Smith

The world wisely prefers happiness to wisdom.

--Will Durant

Older people are less prone to feel unhappy about things they can't change—an attitude consistent, of course, with ancient traditions that see stoicism and calm as part of wisdom. In fact, it is well established that older people's brains react less strongly to negative stimuli than younger people's brains do.

—Jonathan Rauch

Genius unrefined resembles a flash of lightning, but wisdom is like the sun.

—Franz Grillparzer

There is only one thing age can give you, and that is wisdom.

--S. I. Hayakawa

Elderly men who are popular with young women usually lack wisdom.

—Nachman of Bratslav

Life is a country that the old have seen, and lived in. Those who have to travel through it can only learn from them.

--Joseph Joubert

To know how to grow old is the master work of wisdom, and one of the most difficult chapters in the great art of living.

--Henri Frederic Amiel

Polls showed that the young were more likely to support the Vietnam War than the old were; the young were more likely to support the 2003 invasion of Iraq, too. Research by John Mueller, a political scientist at Ohio State University, suggests that as people age, they become less enthusiastic about war. Perhaps this is because older people tend to be wiser than the young—and couldn't the world use more wisdom?

—Gregg Easterbrook

We do not get to this age to be written off. Older people can act as a support system, which is what happens more in Mediterranean countries. People become much wiser as they get older and we should value that.

—Susan Hampshire

The more sand that has escaped from the hourglass of our life, the clearer we should see through it.

—Jean Paul

You reach the point somewhere around 60 when you decide to just go ahead and weird out. When someone rings the doorbell, you don't check to see how you look. You just open the door. It's their problem, whoever they are....Some people call this going to seed. Others call it the beginning of wisdom.

—Robert Folghum

No wise man ever wished to be younger.

—Jonathan Swift

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

—Miles Kingston

Caution is the oldest child of wisdom.

--Victor Hugo

Colors fade, temples crumble, empires fall but wise words endure.

—Edward Thorndike

Reading is a time machine that allows you to acquire wisdom from the past and to analyze and imagine another person's vision of the future.

--Joshua Rogers

One gets wise by meeting people and meeting people through their literature.

--Girdhar Joshi

The stupidity of people comes from having an answer for everything. The wisdom of the novel comes from having a question for everything.

--Milan Kundera

Second thoughts are ever wiser.

—Euripides

Morality is temporary, wisdom is permanent.

—Hunter S. Thompson

They say instant communication is not communication at all but merely a frantic, trivial, nerve-wracking bombardment of clichés, threats, fads, fashions, gibberish and advertising. However, who has not hung on a scripture, a quote, a statement, only to stumble upon the key phrase that brought all things to a turning point? The greatest sermons and speeches were pieced together by illuminating thoughts that powered men to surpass their own commonness. It is the sparkling magic of letters forming words, and those words colliding with passion, that makes statements into wisdom.

--Shannon L. Alder

A clever person solves a problem. A wise person avoids it.

—Albert Einstein

Just because your voice reaches halfway around the world doesn't mean you are wiser than when it reached only to the end of the bar.

—Edward R. Murrow

Maxims and aphorisms—let us remember that wisdom is the true salt of literature, and the books that are most nourishing are richly stored with it, and that is the main object to seek in reading books.

--John Morley

In one of Clarence Darrow's first recorded court battles, the grizzled veteran who opposed him sought repeatedly to belittle him in the eyes of the jury by referring to him as 'my beardless adversary.' Darrow concluded his summation by remarking, 'My opponent seems to condemn me for not having a beard. Let me reply with an anecdote. The King of Spain once entrusted a youthful liege with an important message to the court of a neighboring monarch. The latter flew into a rage and cried, 'Does the King of Spain lack men, that he sends me a beardless boy?' The young ambassador answered, 'Sire, had my king but known you imputed wisdom to a beard, he would have sent you a goat.'

—Bennett Cerf

He that is rich is wise.

—Daniel Defoe

Wisdom is found only in truth.

—Johann Wolfgang von
Goethe

The Scripture vouches Solomon for the wisest of men; and his proverbs prove him so. The seven wise men of Greece, so famous for their wisdom all the world over, acquired all that fame each of them by a single sentence, consisting of two or three words.

—Dr. Robert South

When I can look at Life with eyes,
Grown calm and very coldly wise;
Life will have given me the Truth,
And taken in exchange—my youth.

—Sara Teasdale

The qualities that get a man into power are not those that lead him, once established, to use power wisely.

—Lyman Bryson

The experience to be gathered from books,
Though often valuable, is but of the nature of learning
Whereas the experience gained from actual life,
Is of the nature of wisdom
And a small store of the latter Is worth vastly more than a stock of the former.

—Samuel Smiles

Wait for the wisest of all counselors, Time.

—Pericles

Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it most never use it.

—Internet Meme

Thurber is a funny man, no doubt of it; he is also one of the most discerningly and disturbingly bitter. He has a peculiar brand of wisdom not untouched with madness. Long may he flourish.

—Stanley Walker

You can never be wise unless you love reading.

--Samuel Johnson

If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales.

—Albert Einstein

The most certain sign of wisdom is cheerfulness.

—Michel de Montaigne

A single conversation with a wise man is better than ten years of study.

—Chinese Proverb

The collective wisdom of humanity [is] enshrined in its poetry.

—Robyn Donald

With age comes some level of wisdom.

—Nina Totenberg

Wisdom oft lurks beneath a tattered coat.

—Caecilius Statius

Words and actions will separate a wise man from the crowd.

—Bamigboye Olurotimi

Those who are skilled in combat do not become angered, those who are skilled at winning do not become afraid. Thus the wise win before they fight, while the ignorant fight to win.

—Kongming (Zhuge
Liang)

Of all the arts in which the wise excel, nature's chief masterpiece is writing well.
--Duke of Buckingham

To be wise is to be eternally curious.
—Frederick Buechner

...education and wisdom....It is a very painful and very important topic for Koreans. It's an important topic for everybody, but for Koreans? They kind of hold it almost like some sort of bizarre idol, like they're really attached to what it means.
—Min Jin Lee

Acquiring wisdom is great but it is not the goal, applying it is.
— idowu koyenikan

Reading is the multiplier of success. Reading instantly gives you access to a treasure trove of wisdom and experience laid out by those who have gone before you, especially those who have already walked the road you're walking on right now.
—Kevin J. Donaldson

I do not expect old heads on young shoulders.
—C. S. Lewis

The aged prospers in wisdom and the young in possibility.
—Jason Versey

How old you are has nothing to do with how wise, smart, or mature you've actually become.
—Maria SwifMess

The young have everything but wisdom.
—Adriana Trigiani

Wanna know the difference between adult wisdom and young adult wisdom? You have the ability to look back at your past and interpret it. I have the ability to look at my present and live it with my whole body.
—Lidia Yuknavitch

Dogs are wise. They crawl away into a quiet corner and lick their wounds and do not rejoin the world until they are whole once more.
—Agatha Christie

The public library is the closest thing we have to a time machine of human wisdom.
—Maria Popova

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers.
—Alfred, Lord Tennyson

All the answers you seek in life. It is hidden in a book.
—Lailah Gifty Akita

I'm not opposed to aging—even though society is kinder on men than women when it comes to getting old. How can I look at aging as the enemy? It happens whether I like it or not and no one is set apart from growing old; it comes to us all. Youth passes from everyone, so why deny it? I'm proud of my age. I'm proud that I've survived this planet for as long as I have, and should I end up withered, wrinkled and with a lifetime of great wisdom, I'll trade the few years of youth for the sophistication of a great mind...for however long it lasts.
—Donna Lynn Hope

A mistake, if understood, is but a step toward wisdom.
—Unknown

Do not correct a fool or he will hate you: Correct a wise man and he will appreciate you.
—*learninginlife.com*

Avoiding certain people to protect your emotional health is not weakness. It's wisdom.
—*tinybuddha.com*

Teaching is the greatest act of wisdom.
—Colleen Wilcox

Some folks are wise and some otherwise.
—Josh Billings

Some of the most generous people have no money. Some of the wisest people have no education. Some of the kindest people were hurt the most.
—Steve Wentworth

The wise does at once what the fool does at last.

—Baltasar Gracian

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise.

—Solomon

The wise man seeks a friend with qualities which he himself lacks.

—Jeremy Taylor

In older people who keep themselves physically, mentally and socially active, we see the growth of what we call the neurobiology of wisdom. You don't get as upset when things go wrong. You focus on the positive and on people and connections. You feel great when you have a senses of purpose.

—Dilip Jeste, M.D.

It is important to draw wisdom from many different places. If you only draw wisdom from one place, it becomes rigid and stale. Understanding others, the other elements and the other nations, will help you become whole.

—Uncle Iroh, *Avatar:
The Last
Airbender*

Yesterday I was clever,
So I wanted to change the world.
Today I am wise,
So I am changing myself.

—Rumi

Our world is not divided by race, color, gender, or religion. Our world is divided into wise people and fools. And fools divide themselves by race, color, gender, or religion.

—Nelson Mandela

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

—Confucius

Wisdom cannot be imparted. Wisdom that a wise man attempts to impart always sounds like foolishness to someone else ... Knowledge can be communicated, but not wisdom. One can find it, live it, do wonders through it, but one cannot communicate and teach it.

—Hermann Hesse

The first step in the acquisition of wisdom is silence, the second listening, the third memory, the fourth practice, the fifth teaching others.

—Solomon Ibn Gabriol

If we encountered a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he read.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Wisdom and knowledge can best be understood together. Knowledge is learning, the power of the mind to understand and describe the universe. Wisdom is knowing how to apply knowledge and how not to apply it. Knowledge is knowing what to say; wisdom is knowing whether or not to say it. Knowledge gives answers; wisdom asks questions. Knowledge can be taught, wisdom grows from experience.

—Starhawk

Wise? No, I simply learned to think.

—Christopher Paolini

Wisdom.... comes not from age, but from education and learning.

—Anton Chekhov

It is in the whole process of meeting and solving problems that life has meaning. Problems are the cutting edge that distinguishes between success and failure. Problems call forth our courage and our wisdom; indeed, they create our courage and our wisdom. It is only because of problems that we grow mentally and spiritually. It is through the pain of confronting and resolving problems that we learn.

—M. Scott Peck

A single conversation with a wise man during the eating of a meal, is better than ten years' mere study of books.

—Chinese Proverb

As I ate she began the first of what we later called 'my lessons in living.' She said that I must always be intolerant of ignorance but understanding of illiteracy. That some people, unable to go to school, were more educated and even more intelligent than college professors. She encouraged me to listen carefully to what country people called mother wit. That in those homely sayings was couched the collective wisdom of generations.

—Maya Angelou

A person can be educated and still be stupid, and a wise man can have no education at all.

—Jennifer A. Nielsen

A wise man once said...Nothing.

—Internet Meme

The wiser a man is, the more he stands ready to be educated.

—Joe Abercrombie

An uneducated thief may steal goods from the train but an educated one may steal the entire train. We need to compete for knowledge and wisdom, not for grades.

—Shiv Khera

Wisdom is not gained by knowing what is right. Wisdom is gained by practicing what is right, and noticing what happens when that practice succeeds and when it fails. Wise people do not have to be certain what they believe before they act. They are free to act, trusting that the practice itself will teach them what they need to know.

—Barbara Brown Taylor

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