

ECCLESIASTES

EVERYTHING IS MEANINGLESS

Every thing is meaningless, utterly meaningless! What do you get from all of your hard work? Generations come and go but everything stays the same and nothing re-



Generations and our lives come and go but everything stays the same.

ally changes. The sun rises only to set and hurries around to rise again for the next day. The wind blows from the south to bring moisture and from the northeast to bring cooler air to cause the moisture to rain. The Mississippi River and all of the other rivers continue to pour into the Gulf, but it is never full because the moist air moves to the north and rains and flows down the rivers again to the Gulf. Everything just makes us tired! No matter how much we see, we desire to see the next awesome thing. No matter how much we hear, we are never content but desire to hear more.

History repeats itself, it has all been done before. Nothing under the sun in new! What can you show me that is truly

new? How do you know that it did not exist long ago? We don't know what happened in those ancient generations and in the future, none of them will remember what we are doing now.

I may be great in the eyes of some and live in the most blessed land in the world and in the best city of the land and I can devote myself to search for understanding and to explore by wisdom, everything being done in the world, only to discover that God has dealt a tragic existence to the human race. Everything on earth is as meaningless as chasing the wind and even if I caught up with it, what would I do next? The things that are wrong cannot be set right even if I were president. The things that are missing cannot be recovered by man!

I say to myself, self, you are wiser than the president of this country and all of its politicians and you have greater wisdom and knowledge than any around you that you know and all politicians put together.

**THE GREATER MY WISDOM,
THE GREATER MY GRIEF.**

**TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE
ONLY INCREASES SORROW.**

I worked hard to distinguish wisdom from foolishness only to realize that even this is like chasing the wind. I realized and learned that the greater my wisdom, the greater my grief. To increase knowledge only increases sorrow.

Inside This Issue

**THE THINGS THAT I HAVE OBSERVED IN THIS WORLD.
THE VANITY OF EVERY GOOD THING.
THE STUPIDITY OF FOOLISHNESS.**



I SAID, " LETS LOOK FOR THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE."

.....IT WAS ALL SO MEANINGLESS!

FUTILITY OF PLEASURE

I decided to give pleasure a try. I looked for the good things in life. But I found this to be meaningless, after all, what good does it do to only seek after pleasure? So I decided to cheer myself with wine while seeking wisdom. I reached for happiness in this way but only caught foolishness, but I had hoped to experience the only happiness most people find during this brief life in this world. I tried to find pleasure by building large homes and planting large vineyards. I made large gardens and parks and filled them with all kinds of fruit trees. I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my flourishing groves. I bought slaves, both men and women and brought them into my household. I owned great herds and flocks, more than anyone else before me. I collected great amounts of silver and gold, the treasure of many nations. I hired singers, men and women, and I had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! I became greater than any other king be-

comprehend, it was all meaningless. It was like chasing the wind. There was nothing truly worthwhile anywhere. My conclusion is that Wisdom is of more value than foolishness just as light is better than darkness. The wise person sees while the fool is blind. I will die just as the fool does. What value is in all my wisdom? I said to myself, this is all so meaningless, the wise and the fool both die and are soon forgotten. The wise and the fool share the same fate!

FUTILITY OF WORK

I hate my life because everything done here under the sun is so irrational. Everything is meaningless just like chasing the wind. I am disgusted that I must leave the fruits of my hard work to others and who can tell if they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will control everything that I have gained by my skill and hard work. How meaningless this life is!

In despair I turned from hard work because it was not the answer that I seek to find satisfaction in life. Though I work with wisdom, knowledge and skill, I must leave everything I have to those who have not worked for it. This is more than foolish, it is unfair! What do you get for hard work? You get days filled with pain and grief and even at night you cannot sleep. How meaningless this life is!

I decided that there is nothing better than to eat, drink, be merry, and find satisfaction in work. But I realize that this pleasure is from the hand of God. Who can eat or drink or enjoy anything apart from Him? God gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy to those who please him. If a sinner becomes rich, God takes it away from him and gives it to the one who pleases Him. Even this is meaningless and like chasing the wind.



THE WISE PERSON AND THE FOOL BOTH DIE AND ARE SOON FORGOTTEN!

fore me and with all, I remained clear headed so that I could evaluate all these things. Anything that I wanted, I took. I did not restrain myself from any joy or pleasure. I even found pleasure in hard work. But as I looked at all of the things that I had worked so hard to ac-



TIMING IS EVERYTHING



here is a time for everything.
A season for every activity
under heaven:

A time to be born and a time to die.

A time to plant and a time to harvest.

A time to kill and a time to heal.

A time to tear down and a time to re-
build.

A time to cry and time to laugh.

A time to grieve and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones and a time to
gather stones.

A time to embrace and a time to turn
away.

A time to search and a time to lose.

A time to keep and a time to throw
away.

A time to tear and a time to mend.

A time to be quiet and a time to speak
up.

A time to love and a time to hate.

A time for war and a time for peace.

What do people truly get for their hard work? I have given great consideration of this as it relates to the kind of work that God has given people to do. God has made everything beautiful in its own time! Even though man cannot see the whole scope of what God is doing, God planted eternity in the human heart. I came to the conclusion that there is nothing better for people to do than to be happy and enjoy life as long as they can. People should eat, drink, and enjoy the fruits of their labor for these are the gifts of God!

Whatever God does is final. Nothing can be taken away and nothing can be added to His work. God's purpose is that people should fear (and have reverence for) Him. Whatever exists today and whatever will exist in the future has already existed

in the past. God calls each event back in its turn and in its own time.

INJUSTICES IN LIFE



also noticed that there is evil throughout the world in the courtrooms. The land is corrupt, the people are corrupt, even the law is corrupt! I said to myself, "Self, in due season, God will judge everyone, both good and evil for all of their deeds. Yes, this is the time of His long-suffering with an evil people but there is a time of judgment when the Holy God of all creation shall judge people according to their deeds."

I came to realize that God allows people to continue in their evil ways so that He can test them. People can then see that they are no better than the animals for they breathe the same air that humans do and they both die. How meaningless this is. Both go to the same place, dust from which they came, they must return. Who can prove that the human spirit, when it dies, goes upward and the spirit of the animals goes downward into the earth? So I came to understand that there is nothing better than for people to be happy in their work for there is nothing better in all of the world for them to do that to be happy in their work. That is why they are here. No one will bring them back from death to enjoy life in the future.

***God has made
everything beautiful
in its own time.***

***God is sovereign and
whatever he does is
final.***


***This is the time of
God's long-suffering
toward man. The
time of judgment of
man for all of his
actions will come.***

Animals have spirits.

Enjoy life!



Advantages of Companions & Friends



 observed another example of the meaninglessness of life in this world. I have seen men working hard to gain every dollar that they can and to become as wealthy as they can and they are alone with no child and no brother to share it with or to leave it to. Who is it that he works so hard for? What is it that he works so very hard for? Why does he give up pleasure now to work so hard and so long? It is all so meaningless and so depressing.

Two can accomplish more than twice as much as one. Their labor is more efficient and they get a better return for their work. If one falls, then the other can reach out and help him up. But when one alone falls, he is in trouble. On a cold night, how can one be warm alone? When two share a blanket, they are warmed by the blanket and they gain warmth from each other. A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated. But two can stand back to back and conquer the enemy. If two are good, three are better! A triple braided cord is not easily broken as there is strength in numbers.

observed that It is better to be a poor but



Victims at the mercy of Oppressors


 observed all the oppression that takes place in all of the world. The oppressed shed tears with no one to help and comfort them. The oppressors have such great power and the victims are so helpless. The only logical conclusion that I can come to is that the dead are better off than the living. Those who are better off than any other are those who were never born, for they have never seen the evil nor felt the injustice that that is done in our world.

Most of the people who strive for success are motivated to success by their envy of their neighbors. Success achieved by the motivation of envy is like chasing the wind, it is meaningless!

The foolish people refuse to work and nearly starve. They feel that it is better to be lazy and barely survive than to spend their life working hard, especially when in the end, everything is so futile.



Why give up pleasure to work so hard and long?


It is better to be a poor, wise, youth than an old foolish king....

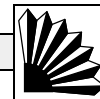
The dead are better off than the living.

Success is motivated by envy.

The lazy are foolish.

Political Power is Futile


 wise youth than to be an old and foolish king who refuses everyone's advice. Such a youth could come out of prison and succeed. He might even become a king even though he was born into poverty. Everyone is eager to help such a youth and even help him come to power and the throne. But even if he became the ruler of millions and was the most popular person in the kingdom, the next generation would grow up and reject him! So again, it is all meaningless like chasing the wind. What profit is it to have great political power on one day and have it leave by morning. If I catch the wind, what shall I do with it?



THERE IS NEVER ENOUGH MONEY

Don't be surprised if you see the poor and innocent person being oppressed by the powerful and justice being miscarried throughout the land. Every official is under orders from higher up and matters of justice just get caught up in bureaucratic red tape and paper shuffling. Even the president milks the land for his own benefit and profit. Those who have money never have enough! One can never be happy with their wealth because there is never a last dollar to be made. Money does not bring true happiness! The more you have, the more people you have come to help you spend it. What advantage does the rich have over the poor? Is there true happiness in watching money run through their fingers?

People who work hard sleep well whether they eat much or little. But the rich always worry about losing wealth and seldom get a good night's sleep.

Another problem is that riches are



hoarded and in doing so come to harm the one who thinks of himself as thrifty. Others put money into risky investments with the hope of great gain only to see things go bad and lose everything. In the end, there is nothing to pass on to the children. People who live for wealth reach the end of their lives just as they came into this world, naked and with empty hands. As you came into this world, so it is that you will exit this world. All the hard work is for nothing! It is like working for the wind and everything is blown away! Through all their lives, they live under a dark cloud, angry, frustrated and depressed.

But even with this in mind, I have noticed that it is good for people to eat well and to drink a glass of good wine and enjoy their work, no matter what kind of work they do, for as long as God gives them to live on this earth. It is a good thing to receive wealth from God and good health to enjoy it. To enjoy your lot in life is indeed a gift from God. People who can do this, will not look back on their life with sorrow but will find reasons that God has given them to have joy and peace.

HOW TO ENTER THE HOUSE OF GOD

REVERANTLY! Keep your mind and ears open and your mouth shut. Do not be a fool who thinks that the evil mindless offerings to God will fool or please him. Do not make promises that you can not or will not keep. You are limited in this world but God who is in heaven is not. Let your words be few and honest. Just as being too busy gives you nightmares, being a fool makes you a blabber-mouth.

When you make a promise to God, run, do not delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools. Keep each and every one of the promises that you make to him. It is better to say nothing than to promise something that you do not follow through with. In that kind of case, your mouth is making you sin. Don't defend yourself by telling others that the promise that you made was a mistake, or that it was in the emotion of the moment or that you intend to do it later... That would make God angry and he might wipe out everything that you have achieved! In summary, let me say that daydreaming all the time instead of work is foolish. There is ruin in a flood of empty words. Fear and reverence God instead of angering Him!

STOCK MARKET CRASHES



Money does not bring true happiness.

To enjoy your lot in life is a gift from God.

It is better to say nothing than to promise something that you don't follow through on.

God takes no pleasure in fools.

Is your mouth making you sin?

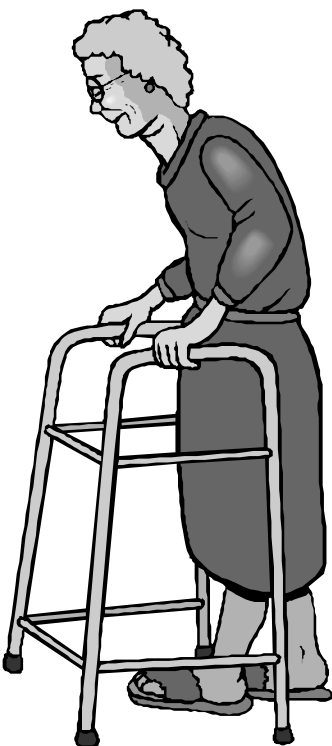


WHAT IS ANYTHING WITHOUT HEALTH?



he tragedy, most frightening, that I have seen in the world is that God gives great wealth and honor to some people and gives them everything they that their heart could ever desire but does not give them the good health to enjoy the other blessing that they have. They die unable to enjoy the things of this world, only to leave it to others to get it all. Is this not a meaningless, sad, sickening tragedy.

Even if a man had a hundred children and lived to be very, very old, but finds no satisfaction and fulfillment in life, so that in the end he doesn't even have a good funeral with people weeping over his death, I think that that person would have been better off to have



been born dead. His birth would have been meaningless and ended in darkness. He would have been buried without even a name. he would never have seen the sun rise in the east nor set in the west or even know that there was one. Even so, he would have had more peace than he has ever had in growing up to be an unhappy, unfulfilled man. Even if one lived three thousand years, and did not find peace, happiness and contentment, what advantage is there in life that is better than death? Since he would die like everyone else, what the use, what is the point in life? One spends all of his life scratching for food, but there is never enough. All of life is spent making a living but it is never made. Considering this fact, do wise people really have an advantage over fools who are ignorant and unable to understand the meaning or effects

of their actions? Does it gain anything that the poor people know how to act before others or the church-goer knows religious words to use for the to impress church people?

Enjoy what you have rather than desiring what you don't have. There is no meaning or victory in daydreaming about all the things that you do not have. Be content with what God has given you, to chase dreams that are not ment for you is meaningless and frustrating, it is like chasing the wind.

DO WE HAVE ANY CHOICES IN LIFE?



he future, who can know what it is and who can make a difference in how it will be? Has it not been already determined and is not everything already decided. Did not God know long ago before the foundation of the earth what each person would be? How can you argue with God about your destiny? What can you do to change the mind and the predetermined destiny of His will? The more words that you speak, the less they mean. Why do you forever babble more words? You speak, yet your words have no meaning. You speak, yet your words have no power. You speak, without authority and is there no end to your constant speaking?

Our days are so few, our lives are so empty, our existence is so meaningless, who is there that can tell us the best way live our lives, the best decisions to make, the best direction to go in, the best way to use the number of days that God has given us? And who can tell what will happen in the future after we are dead?



What is the gain if you have no health?

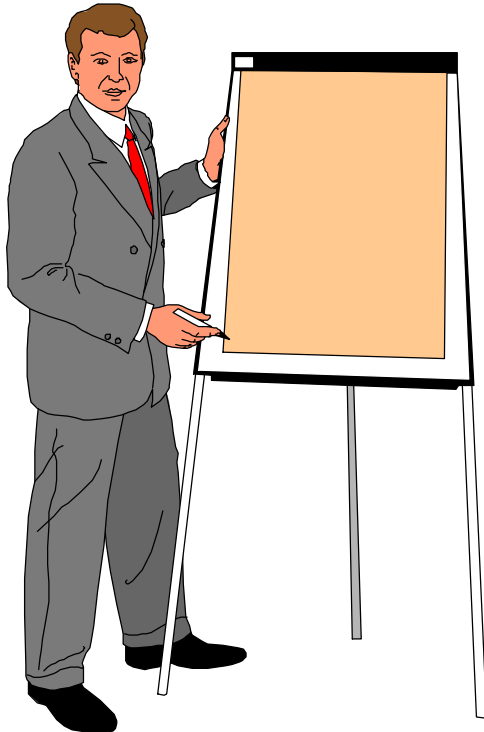
Enjoy what you have.



Wise Thoughts for your Life



A good reputation is more valuable than the most expensive perfume. Being good is better than smelling good. In the same way, the day you die is better than the day you are born. It is better to spend your time at funerals than at festivals. For you are going to die, and you should think about it before you do while there is still time.



Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. What have we gained in laughter but in sorrow, we have been eager to listen to the Lord. The wise person thinks much about death while the fool thinks only of having a good time here and now.

It is better to be criticized by a wise person than to be praised by a fool. Indeed, a fool's laughter is quickly gone, like thorns crackling in a fire. The praise or the laughter of a fool is meaningless.

Extortion turns the wise into fools, and bribes corrupt the heart. Finishing is better than starting. Patience is better than pride. Don't be quick-tempered because anger is the companion of fools. Don't long for the good old days for you don't even know whether they were any better than today.

Being wise is as good as being rich; in face, it is better. Wisdom or money can get

you almost anything, but it's important to know that only wisdom can save your life.

Notice the way God does things, then fall into line. Don't fight the ways of God, for who can straighten out what he has made crooked? How can you prevail against the creator of all of the universe?

Enjoy prosperity while you can. But when hard times strike, realize that both come from God. That way you will realize that nothing is certain in this life.

Limits of Human Wisdom



I have seen everything that there is to see in this meaningless life, including the fact that some good people die young while some bad and wicked people live very long lives. So don't be too good or too wise! Why destroy yourself? But on the other hand, don't be too wicked either and don't be a fool! Why should you die before your time? In all that I have seen, it is better to take the middle course but those who fear God will succeed either way. A wise person is stronger than the ten leading citizens of a town.

There is not a single person who is always good and never sins. Don't eavesdrop on others, you may hear your servant or friend laughing at you. For you know how often you yourself have laughed at others.

All of my life I have tried my best to let wisdom guide my thoughts and actions. I said to myself, "Self, I am determined to be wise." But it didn't really work. Wisdom is always distant and very difficult to find. I searched everywhere, determined to find wisdom and to understand the reason for things. I was determined to prove that wisdom is good, wickedness is stupid, and that foolishness is madness. What I discovered was that a seductive woman is more bitter than death. Her passion is a trap, and her soft hands will bind you. Those who please God will escape from her.

THIS IS MY CONCLUSION WHICH I CAME TO AS A RESULT OF LOOKING INTO THIS MATTER FROM EVERY POSSIBLE ANGLE...

ONLY 1 IN A 1000 MEN I INTERVIEWED CAN BE SAID TO BE UPRIGHT, BUT NOT ONE WOMAN.

I DISCOVERED THAT GOD CREATED PEOPLE TO BE UPRIGHT, BUT THEY HAVE EACH ONE TURNED TO FOLLOW THEIR OWN LOW-DOWN DOWNWARD PATH.



WICKEDNESS VERSES RIGHTEOUSNESS

How wonderful to be wise, to be able to analyze and interpret things. Wisdom lights up a person's face and softens its hardness. I have thought deeply about all that

than to eat, drink and be merry. That way, they will experience some joy along with all of the hard work that God gives them.

In my search for wisdom, I tried to observe everything that goes on all across the earth. I discovered that there is ceaseless activity, day and night. No one can discover everything God has created in our world, no matter how hard they work at it. No person will ever know everything, not even the wisest person will know all things. If they say that they do, they are not honest.

Evil people live long lives and are buried with honor while those who fear God live short lives and are buried without recognition for the good that they have done.



goes on here in the world where people have the power to love and show kindness or to hate and hurt each other. I have seen wicked people buried with honor. It is strange to me that these were the very people who frequented the Temple and are praised in the very same city in which they committed their crimes! When the crime is not punished, people feel safe in their wrong doings. Believe me, even though a person sins a thousand times and still lives a long life in wealth, I know that those who fear God are better off. The wicked will never live long, good lives for they do not fear God. Their days will never grow long like the evening shadows.

This is not all that is meaningless in our world. In this life, good people are often treated as if they were wicked, even though they are good. This is so meaningless.

I recommend having fun, for there is nothing better in this world for people to do

OBEY THE KING

Obey the king because you have vowed before God to do this. God expects you to obey the authority that he places you under. Don't try to avoid doing your duty and don't take part with those who plot evil and rebellion. The king will punish those who are in rebellion against him and the commander of his army is backed with great power. There are none that can resist or question the power of the king. If you obey him, then there is no reason for him to punish you. **If you are wise, you will find a time and a way to do what is right.** There is a time and a way for everything even as peoples troubles lie heavily upon them.

How can people avoid what they don't know is going to happen? None of us can hold back our spirit from departing. No one can decide to live and not die and hold on to his spirit when God calls us home. There is none that can prevent the day of our death. There is no escaping that obligation, that dark battle in which our spirit leaves our body. Know that in the face of death, wickedness will not rescue those who practice it.

What hope shall the wicked have in the day of the Lord?

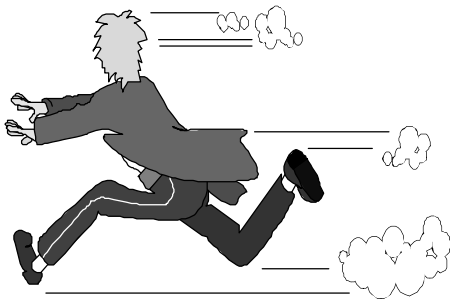


DEATH COMES TO EVERY PERSON!

I also explored the idea of death very carefully. Even though the actions of good, godly and wise people are in the hands of God, no one can tell whether or not God will show them any favor in this life. It does not matter if one is good or bad, righteous or evil, ceremonially clean or unclean, religious or irreligious, walking with God or walking against God. Good people receive the same treatment as sinners and those who take oaths are treated like those who don't.

It seems so tragic that one fate comes to all. That is why more people are not motivated to be more careful to be good. Instead, they look around them and decide that they have nothing to fear and choose their own mad course for they have no hope. They say that there is nothing ahead but death anyway. There is hope only for the living. Remember the old saying, "It is better to be a live dog than a dead Lion." The living know at least one thing, they they will die! The dead know nothing because they are dead. They have no future reward, nor are they remembered. Whatever they did in their lifetime, love, hate, envy, all of it is gone, never to be seen again. They no longer have a part in anything here on earth. Go ahead, eat, drink, and be happy for God approves of this. Wear fine clothes with a dash of cologne! Live happily with the woman that you love all the meaningless days of the life that God has given you on this earth. The wife that God gives you is your reward for all of your earthly toil. Whatever you do, do well now for when you die and are in your grave, there will be no work or planning or knowledge or wisdom.

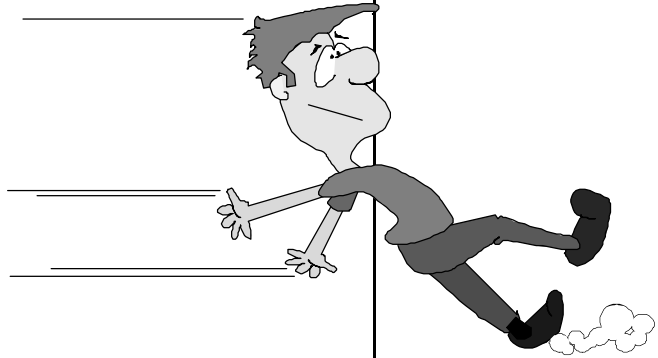
One more thing that I have observed in this world is that the fastest runner does not always win the race and the strongest warrior



doesn't always win the battle. The wise are often poor, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. Those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by

chance, by being at the right place at the right time.

People can never predict when hard times might come. Like fish in a net or birds in a snare, people are often caught by sudden tragedy.



QUIET WORDS OF A WISE PERSON ARE BETTER THAN SHOUTS OF A FOOLISH KING.

WISDOM AND FOOLISHNESS



Here is another bit of wisdom that has impressed me as I have observed the way the the world operates. In a small town with only a few people living in it, there lived a poor wise man. A great king came and besieged it with his army to take the city. Now the poor wise man knew how to save the city so that with his leadership, the great king was unable to take it. Having done this for his city, one would think the wise man would live in honor but they forgot him and thought no more about him and no one remembered his name any more. This caused me to realize that even though wisdom is better than strength, those who are wise will be despised if they are poor. Even though the words of the poor are very wise, they will not be appreciated very long. But even knowing this, the quiet words of wisdom of the poor are better than the shouts of a foolish king. A wise person can overcome weapons of war but one sinner can destroy much that is good with foolish and evil words.



DEAD FLIES, A DULL AX, & A LITTLE BIRD

Dead flies will cause even a bottle of perfume to stink. An ounce of foolishness can outweigh a point of wisdom and honor. The wise are lead to do right by their hearts. The foolish are lead to do evil by their hearts. One can identify a fool just by the way he walks down the street!

Do you work for someone? Is your boss angry with you? Don't quit! A quiet spirit can overcome even great mistakes.

There is another evil I have seen as I have watched the world go by. Kings and rulers, and presidents make a grave mistake if they give foolish and evil people great authority and if they fail to give people of proven worth their rightful place of dignity. I have even seen servants riding like princes and princes walking like servants.

When you dig a well, you could stumble and fall in it and kill yourself. When you demolish an old wall, you could be bitten by a snake and die. When you work in a quarry, stones might fall and crush you to death. When you chop wood there is danger with each stroke of your ax that you could cut your leg and bleed to death. Things such as these are the risks of life. Since a dull ax requires great strength, sharpen the blade. That is the value of wisdom, it helps you succeed. The fool tries to chop wood with a dull ax. It does no good to charm a snake after it has bitten you. The wise would do so before being bitten.

It is pleasant to listen to wise words but the speech of fools brings them to ruin and shows them for what they are.

Since fools have their thoughts on foolish premises, their conclusions will be wicked madness.

Fools claim to know all about the future and tell everyone the details. But who other than God can know what is really going to happen? The foolish are exhausted by such little work that they have no strength for even the smallest of tasks.

Destruction is certain for the land whose king is a child and whose leaders feast in the morning. But happy is the land whose king is a nobleman and whose leaders feast only to gain strength for their work, not to get drunk.

Laziness lets the roof leak, and soon the rafters begin to rot.

A part gives laughter, wine gives happiness, and money gives everything.

Never make light of a king or a rich man even in your thoughts. A little bird may tell them what you have said. How can you protect yourself from the rich and powerful having made fun of them!

GIVE AND PLANT YOUR SEEDS

Give generously for your gifts will return to you later. Divide your gifts among many for you do not know what risks might lie ahead. When the clouds are heavy, the rain comes down. When a tree falls whether south or north, there it lies. **If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.** God's ways are as hard to discern as the pathways of the wind and mysterious as a tiny baby being formed in a



mother's womb. Be sure to stay busy and plant a variety of crops for you never know which will grow-perhaps they all will.

Light is sweet, it is wonderful to see the sun. When people live to be very old, let them rejoice in every day of life. But let

them remember that the dark days will be many. Everything still to come is meaningless.

Young person, it is wonderful to be young, enjoy every minute of it. Do everything that you want to do and take it all in. But remember that you must give account to God for everything that you do. Do not allow pain and grief to enter but remember your youth with you whole life ahead of you. You still face the threat of meaninglessness.

***When you did a well,
you could fall in...***

***When a tree falls,
there it lies...***

***If you wait for perfect
conditions, you will
never get anything
done...***

***Plant a lot of seed,
you never know
which ones will come
up and grow...***



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

HERE IS MY FINAL CONCLUSION, FOR THIS IS THE DUTY OF EVERY PERSON. GOD WILL JUDGE US FOR EVERYTHING WE DO, INCLUDING EVERY SECRET THING, WHETHER GOOD OR BAD.

Don't let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Remember the one who created you while you are still young and honor him in your youth while you still enjoy living before age causes you to grow old and lose the joy of living. Then when the light of the sun and moon are dim in your eyes, it will be too late for you to remember him for there is no silver lining in the clouds. Your arms will tremble with weakness and your legs will no longer support you. Your teeth will be too few to eat your food and you see dimly and hear very little and long for the sound of the birds. You can no longer sing because your voice breaks and you are afraid of heights and falling. Your hair has turned white and you drag along to walk and have lost all sexual desire. You will stand so close to death's door that you see the mourners coming down the street.

Remember your creator in the days of your youth while you are still young and the silver cord is unbroken,(the silver cord

attaches the spirit to the body), and the golden bowl is unbroken,(the golden bowl holds the water of life that pours out from the throne of God.) Don't wait until the water jar is smashed at the spring and the pulley is broken at the well. For then, dust will return to dust and the spirit will return to God who gave it. All is meaningless, utterly meaningless.

The collected sayings of the wise are like guidance from a shepherd. But my child, there is no end of options ready to be expressed. Studying them can go on forever and become very exhausting.

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