

# OLD ARABIC SAYINGS SIMILES & METAPHORS

ج

جَزَّا

الْعَرَبُ

أَوْبِيَّرْيَا تَمَّا

أَنْجَلِيَّ

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OLD ARABIC SAYINGS,  
SIMILES, AND METAPHORS

من أقوال العرب وتشبيهاتهم الأدبية

Translated from the Arabic by

SAAD ELKHADEM



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## PREFACE

Translating literary texts is not only an exacting task, but also a risky and thankless one. No matter how faithful a rendition a translator tries to create, he, or she, may be forced to make certain concessions in matters of phraseology, syntax, rhythm, or poetic diction, which, if not meticulously checked, may change the inherent meaning of the text significantly. Of all the literary genres, lyrical poetry (on account of its intricate rhythmical patterns and innumerable connotative implications) and epigrammatic statements (often due to their cryptic brevity and conflicting cultural associations) are undoubtedly the most demanding ones to translate. I have, therefore, paid particular attention to the different intrinsic and extrinsic features of these short texts, for they combine several lyrical qualities as well as many aphoristic elements.

However, in dealing with some ambiguous sayings and abstruse proverbs, I have permitted myself to make changes which seemed unavoidable in order to clarify the meaning of the text, or to increase its readability. Of course I am aware that during this purely subjective process I ran the risk of doing too much or too little. However, I also know that no reader who is in good command of both languages would be totally satisfied with this or with any other translation, and that he, or she, would always feel capable of producing another translation that would correspond more closely to his or her own understanding of the original text. Some, I am sure, would be encouraged--when they see how the two texts, the Arabic and the English, face one another on the same page, and even on the same line--to compare, to criticize, and to modify what is in front of them. All of this is welcome, of course, because I have made this effort in the sincere hope that English-speaking readers (Arabs and non-Arabs) may be able to enjoy and to reflect upon some of the sagacious statements, profound thoughts, and witty observations made by the Arabs over the years and passed down from generation to generation.<sup>1</sup>

S.E.

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to several encyclopedias and anthologies; I am particularly grateful to *al-Munjid* (Beirut: Catholic Press, 1956), for its rich and accurate collection of Arabic proverbs.

## A

1. Abandon evil and evil will abandon you.
  ١. أَتْرُكُ الشَّرَّ يَتَرُكُكَ.
2. Actions are judged by their results.
  ٢. الْأَعْمَالُ بِخَوَاتِمِهَا.
3. After the sword has been thrust, any blame becomes futile.
  ٣. سَبَقَ السَّيْفُ الْعَدْلَ.  
(الْعَدْلُ: الْلَّوْمُ)
4. After utter silence, he uttered nonsense.
  ٤. سَكَّتَ الْفَأْ وَنَطَقَ خَلْفًا.
5. The aged are revered.
  ٥. لَكُلَّ قَدِيمٍ حُرْمَة.
6. All foreigners are related to one another.
  ٦. وَكُلَّ غَرِيبٍ لِلْغَرِيبِ نَسِيبٌ.
7. All the things that belong to us, are the things that trouble us.
  ٧. مَنْ كَانَ لَكَ كُلَّهُ كَانَ عَلَيْكَ كُلَّهُ.  
(الْكُلَّ: التَّعْبُ)
8. All good intentions are forgotten, if one doesn't keep one's promise.
  ٨. أَفْهُ الْمَرْوِةَ خَلَفُ الْوَعْدِ.
9. All precautions are in vain when man faces his destiny.
  ٩. لَا يَنْفَعُ حَذَرٌ مِنْ قَدَرٍ.  
إِنَّ الْحَذَرَ لَا يَدْفَعُ الْمَقْدُورَ.
10. All transgressors must one day suffer adversities.
  ١٠. عَلَى الْبَاغِيِّ تَدُورُ الدَّوَائِرُ.
11. Although they had the best forefathers, they left behind the worst offspring.
  ١١. نَعَمُ الْجَدُودُ وَلَكِنْ بَثَسْ مَا خَلَقُوا.
12. Anger is the first sign of helplessness.
  ١٢. أَوْلُ الْعَيْ الْاحْتِلَاطِ.  
(الْعَيْ: الْعَجَزُ؛ الْاحْتِلَاطُ:  
الْغُضْبُ)

13. Annihilation or Domination!  
إِمَّا هُلِكَ وَإِمَّا مُلِكَ.

14. [His anger was as ineffective] as a horse's anger towards its bridle.  
غَضَبَ الْخَيْلُ عَلَى اللُّجْمِ.

15. [They scattered in all directions] as if a skunk had sprayed them with its offensive odor.  
فَسَّا بَيْنَهُمُ الظَّرِيْبَانُ.

16. [They sat so still] as if birds had nested upon their heads.  
كَانُوا عَلَى رُؤُوسِهِمُ الطِّيرُ.

17. Averting evil is better than any worldly gain.  
دَرَءُ الْمَفَاسِدُ أَوْلَى مِنْ جَلْبِ النِّعَمِ.

18. Avoiding evil is a good deed in itself.  
مِنْ ابْتِغَاءِ الْخَيْرِ اتِّقَاءُ الشَّرِّ.

## B

1. Barer than the palm of your hand.  
أَنْقَى مِنِ الرَّاحِةِ.

2. Be hard as bones, and dogs will chew you.  
مَنْ جَعَلَ نَفْسَهُ عَظِيْمًا أَكَلَتْهُ الْكِلَابُ.

3. Because life is just like this, it has to be endured without a complaint.  
مَا الدَّهْرُ إِلَّا هَكَذَا فَاصْبِرْ لَهُ.

4. Because the dates are so tasty, one doesn't want to spit the stones.  
مِنْ شَهْوَةِ التَّمْرِ يُمْسِيُ النَّوَى.

5. Before proposing to the prettiest girl, make sure you can afford her dowry.  
مِنْ خَطْبَ الْحَسَنَاءِ يُعْطِي مَهْرَهَا.

6. Befriend the good and flatter the bad.

7. A bereaved mother loves the company of bereaved mothers.

8. The best admonition is the one that deters.

9. The best course is the middle course.

10. The best knowledge is the kind that comes to your aid.

11. [Don't squeeze yourself] between a tree and its own bark.

12. Beware of those whom you once had helped.

13. Birds of a feather will flock together.

14. [It'll be too late, when] the blade hits the bone.

15. Blessed by luck, but doomed by stupidity.

16. Blind is the man who is in dire need.

17. Bolder than a lion.

18. A brief talk is the best talk.

19. Buffoonery eradicates dignity.

٦. أخ الأ��اء وداهن الأعداء.

٧. الشكلى تحب الشكلى.

٨. خير الوعظ ما ردع.

٩. خير الأمور أو ساطها.

١٠. خير العلم ما حضرك.

١١. بين العصا ولحانها.

١٢. اتق شر من أحسنت اليه.

١٣. إن الطيور على أشكالها تقع.

١٤. بلغ السكين العزم.

١٥. حظ في السحاب وعقل في التراب.

١٦. صاحب الحاجة أعمى.

١٧. أجرأ من أسامة.  
أجرأ من ذي لبدة.  
(أسامة: الأسد؛ ذو اللبدة: الأسد)

١٨. خير الكلام ما قل ودل.

١٩. المزاحة تذهب المهابة.

20. [Like someone who] builds a house and destroys a city.

٢٠. يَبْنِي قَصْرًا وَيَهْدِمُ مِصْرًا.

21. A bull uses his horns to protect his nose.

٢١. الشَّوْرُ يَحْمِي أَنفَهُ بِرَوْقِهِ.  
(الروق: القرن)

## C

1. Can a falcon ever fly without wings?

١. هَلْ يَنْهَضُ الْبَازِي بِلَا جَنَاحًا؟  
(الباز، البازي: الصقر)

2. Can a wolf ever turn into a ewe?

٢. ذَبَبٌ أَسْتَنْعِجُ.

3. Can the moon be overlooked?

٣. وَهُلْ يُخْفَى عَلَى النَّاسِ الْقَمَرُ؟

4. Can the shadow be straight when the rod is crooked?

٤. هَلْ يَسْتَقِيمُ الظُّلُمُ وَالْعُودُ  
أَعْوَجُ.

5. Cheaper than the dates of Basra.

٥. أَرْخَصُ مِنَ التَّمْرِ بِالْبَصَرَةِ.

6. Choose a wise man to be your emissary, and don't give him any instructions.

٦. أَرْسِلْ حَكِيمًا وَلَا تُوْصِيهِ.

7. Clearer than a rooster's eye.

٧. أَصْفَى مِنْ عَيْنِ الدِّيكِ.

8. Clearer than honey.

٨. أَصْفَى مِنْ جَنَّى النَّحْلِ.

9. Clearer than a teardrop.

٩. أَصْفَى مِنْ الدَّمْعَةِ.  
أَنْقَى مِنْ الدَّمْعَةِ.

10. Closer to a man than his own shadow.

١٠. أَلَزَمَ لِلْمَرْءِ مِنْ ظَلَّهُ.

11. Complaining is a weak man's only weapon. ١١. سِلاحُ الْمُسْفَعَاءِ الشَّكَاةَ.

12. Contentment is better than all the riches of the world. ١٢. خَيْرُ الْفِنِيِّ الْقُنُوْعُ.

13. [Someone is] covered with more clothes than an onion. ١٣. أَكْسَى مِنْ بَصْلَةٍ.

14. [Someone is like] a cow that is butting its kindest milker. ١٤. خَيْرٌ حَالِبِيكَ تَنْطَحِبِنَا.

15. Cowardice begets neither gain nor loss. ١٥. شَرَّةُ الْجُنُبِ لَا رِبْحٌ وَلَا خُسْرٌ.

## D

١. أَغْنَى الصَّبَاحُ عَنِ الْمَصَبَاحِ.

٢. يُطَيِّنُ عَيْنَ الشَّمْسِ.

٣. شَهَادَاتُ الْفَعَالِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ شَهَادَاتِ الرِّجَالِ.

٤. بَلَغَ السَّيْلُ الزُّبْيِّ.  
(الْزُّبْيِّ جَمْعُ زُبْيَةٍ: مَكَانٌ عَالٌ لَا يَصْلُحُ لِيَهُ الْمَاءُ)

٥. كَالْفَرْقُ بَيْنَ التَّمَرَّةِ وَالْجَمَرَةِ.

1. Daylight makes all candles superfluous.

2. [Like someone who is trying to] daub the sun with mud.

3. Deeds testify better than any witness.

4. The deluge is about to cover all mountaintops.

5. [The difference between the two of them is like] the difference between a date and a lump of burning coal.

٦. يَدْهُنُ مِنْ قَارُورَةٍ فَارِغَةٍ .

٧. أَحْزَمُ مِنْ الْحِرَبَاءِ .

٨. خَالِفْ نَفْسِكَ تَسْتَرِحْ .  
خَالِفْ هَوَاهُ تَرْشِدْ .

٩. الْحَزْمُ سُوءُ الْظَّنِّ بِالنَّاسِ .

١٠. الْكَلْبُ كَلْبٌ وَلَوْ طَوَّقْتُهُ  
ذَهَبًا .

١١. نَبْعُ الْكَلَابِ لَا يَضُرُّ  
بِالسَّحَابِ .

١٢. لَا تَكُنْ رَطْبًا فَتُعْصَرَ وَلَا  
يَابِسًا فَتُكْسَرَ .

١٢. لَا تَكُنْ حُلْوًا فَتُسْتَرَطَ وَلَا  
مُرْمًا فَتُعْقَبِي .  
(يُسْتَرَطُ: يَبْتَلِعُ؛ يَعْقَبِي  
الشَّيْءَ: يَلْفَظُهُ)

١٤. لَا تَنْهَى عَنْ خَلْقٍ وَتَأْتِي مِثْلَهُ .

١٥. لَا تَقْعُنَ الْبَحْرَ إِلَّا سَابِحًا .

١٦. لَا تُحْيِي الْبَيْضَ وَتُقْتَلُ  
الْفِرَاجَ .

١٧. لَا تَدْخُلْ بَيْنَ الْبَصْلَةِ  
وَقَشْرِهَا .

٦. [Like someone who keeps] dipping his brush in an empty can of paint.

7. Discreeter than a chameleon.

8. Disobey your own self, and you will be doing the right thing.

9. Distrusting people is sheer prudence.

10. A dog remains a dog even if it wears a golden collar.

11. A dog's barking never reaches the clouds.

12. Don't be soft or you'll be squeezed, and don't be hard or you'll be broken.

13. Don't be too sweet or you'll be swallowed, and don't be too bitter or you'll be tossed off.

14. Don't censure a certain behavior, only to embrace it afterwards.

15. Don't dive if you can't swim.

16. Don't lose the hens to save the eggs.

17. Don't squeeze yourself between the layers of an onion.

18. Don't take a poison only because you have its antidote.

١٨. لا تشرب السم اتكالاً على الترياق.

19. [Someone] drifts with every wind.

١٩. يهُبُّ مع كلّ ريح.

## E

1. Each head has its own ache.

١. كل رأس به صداع.

2. [Someone] eats more than a whale.

٢. أكلُّ من حوت.

3. [Someone] eats more than a wood worm.

٣. أكلُّ من السوس.

4. Enmity, hatred, and sickness never arrive in small shares.

٤. لا قليل في العداوة والاحن والمرض.  
(الاحنة: الحقد)

5. An envious man will be smitten for his grudge.

٥. ويلٌ للحسود من حسده.

6. [Like someone who] escapes the heat by jumping into the fire.

٦. كالمستجير من الرمضاء بالنار.  
(الرمضاء: شدة الحر)

7. Even a little evil is too much evil.

٧. الشرُّ قليلٌ كثير.

8. Even an unskilled archer may sometimes hit the target.

٨. ربَّ رميةٍ من غير رام.

٩. لا يُعدم الحُوارُ من أمه حنة.  
(الحوار : رضيع الناقة)

١٠. لو ألمته عسلاً لعضَّ  
أصبعي.

١١. الضَّجُور تحلُّب العُلبة.

١٢. كلّ قائب من قُوبَة.  
(القائبة: الفرخ أو البيضة؛  
القوب: الفرخ أو البيضة)

١٣. كلّ ثوبٍ لابسٍ.

١٤. كلّ كلبٍ ببابِه نبَّاحٍ.

١٥. لكلّ دهرٍ رجال.  
لكلّ زمانٍ رجال.

١٦. كلّ فتاةٍ بأبيها مُعجبة.

١٧. كلّ همٍ إلى فرج.  
إنَّ بعد العُسر يسراً.

١٨. كلُّ إِنْسَانٍ وَهُنَّ.

١٩. الإنسانُ ابنُ يومه.

٢٠. المرأةُ مرأةُ أخيه.

9. Even a she-camel is sometimes kind to her suckling.

10. Even if I tried to feed him honey, he'd always try to bite my fingers.

11. Even the cow that doesn't like to be milked, will have to fill its pail.

12. Every chick was once an egg.

13. Every dress fits someone.

14. Every dog barks loudly, when it stands beside its home.

15. Every era has its men.

16. Every girl admires her father.

17. Every distress ends in relief.

18. Every man has his share of grief.

19. Every man is formed by his days.

20. Every man reflects his clan.

٢١. لَكُلَّ غَدِير طَعَامٌ . ٢١  
21. Every new day brings along its own sustenance.

٢٢. لَكُلَّ عَالَم هَفْوَةٌ . ٢٢  
22. Every learned man will once err.

٢٣. بَكُلَّ عُشَبٍ آثَارُ رَعَىٰ . ٢٣  
23. Every pasture was grazed once.

٢٤. لَكُلَّ عُودٍ عُصَارَةٌ . ٢٤  
24. Every plant has its sap.

٢٥. وَكُلَّ اِنَاءٍ بِالذِّي فِيهِ يَنْضَحُ . ٢٥  
25. Every pot oozes what it has inside.

٢٦. عُودِي إِلَى مَبَارِكَكَ . ٢٦  
26. Every runaway camel will eventually return to its hitching place.

٢٧. لَكُلَّ شَمْسٍ مَغْرِبٌ . ٢٧  
27. Every sun will have to set.

٢٨. لَكُلَّ طَيْرٍ نَشَرٌ . ٢٨  
28. Everything folded will one day be unfolded.

٢٩. لَكُلَّ جَوَادٍ كَبْوَةٌ وَلَكُلَّ عَالَم هَفْوَةٌ . ٢٩  
29. Every thoroughbred may once trip, and every learned man may once err.

٣٠. أَوَّلُ الْفَيْثَ قَطْرٌ ثُمَّ يَنْهَرُ . ٣٠  
30. Every torrential rain starts with a trickle.

٣١. أَوَّلُ الشَّجَرَةِ النَّوَافِذُ . ٣١  
31. Every tree was once a pit.

٣٢. الْحَرْبُ سِجَالٌ . (سِجَالٌ: مَسَاجِلَةٌ) ٣٢  
32. Every war has its ups and downs.

٣٣. لَا خَيْرٌ فِي السَّرَّافِ وَلَا سَرَّافٌ فِي الْخَيْرِ . ٣٣  
33. Excessiveness is never good; even good deeds shouldn't be excessive.

34. Excuses and lies are one and the same.

٢٤. المعاذرُ مَكاذِبُ.

35. Excuses will be accepted by noble-minded people.

٢٥. والعذرُ عند كرام الناس  
مقبول.

36. Eyes reveal the truth better than words.

٢٦. اللحظُ أصدقُ إِنْبَاءً من  
اللَّفْظِ.

## F

1. Fairer than a weight scale.

١. أَعْدَلُ مِنْ مِيزَانٍ.

2. Falsehood has a short life-time, but truth will endure until the end of time.

٢. جَوَّةُ الْبَاطِلِ سَاعَةٌ وَجَوَّةُ  
الْحَقِّ إِلَى قِيَامِ السَّاعَةِ.

3. Farther back than yesterday.

٣. أَفَوْتُ مِنْ أَمْسِ.

4. Feather your arrow before you shoot it.

٤. قَبْلَ الرَّمْيِ يُرَاشِ السَّهْمِ.

5. First attacks are usually awkward.

٥. أَوْلَى الْغَزْوِ أَخْرَقِ.

6. First the companion, then the road.

٦. الرَّفِيقُ قَبْلُ الْطَّرِيقِ.

7. First the neighbor, then the home.

٧. الْجَارُ ثُمَّ الدَّارُ.

8. First you scold, then you punish.

٨. الْعَتَابُ قَبْلُ الْعَقَابِ.

٩. حَسْنٌ فِي كُلِّ عَيْنٍ مَا تَوَدَّ.

١٠. الشَّاةُ الْذَّبُوحةُ لَا يَؤْلِمُهَا السَّلْخُ.

١١. الْذِبَّانُ يَعْرِفُ وَجْهَ الْلَّبَانَ.

١٢. أَتَبَعُ مِنَ الظِّلِّ.

١٣. إِسْتِرَاحَةٌ مِنْ لَا عَقْلَ لَهُ.

١٤. أَحَبُّ شَيْءٍ إِلَى الْإِنْسَانِ مَا مُنْعِاً.

١٥. لِكُلِّ حَسَنٍ عَائِبٌ.

١٦. لَا تُعَدُّ الْحَسَنَاءَ ذَاماً.

١٧. لِكُلِّ زَعْمٍ خَصْمٌ.

١٨. لِكُلِّ مَقَامٍ مَقَالٌ.

١٩. أَفْفُ الْعِلْمُ النَّسِيَانُ.

٢٠. خَيْرُ الْعَفْوِ مَا كَانَ عِنْدَ الْمُقْدَرَةِ.

٢١. لِأَمْرٍ مَا يَسُودُ مِنْ يَسُودِ.

٩. Flawless are the things we desire.

10. Flaying doesn't hurt the slaughtered lamb.

11. Flies recognize the milkman.

12. [Someone, or something,] follows him closer than his own shadow.

13. Fools have it easy in every respect.

14. Forbidden things are what we covet.

15. For every beautiful thing there is a faultfinder.

16. For every beautiful woman there is a detractor.

17. For every claimant there is a contestant.

18. For every occasion there is a fitting word.

19. Forgetfulness is a disease that afflicts knowledgeable people.

20. Forgiveness is at its best, when one is mighty.

21. For one reason or another, masters become masters.

٢٢. العِيَانُ لَا يَحْتَاجُ إِلَى الْبَيَانِ . ٢٢. العَسَىْ غَدًّا لِغَيْرِكَ .

٢٤. خَلَقَ اللَّهُ لِلْحَرْبِ رِجَالًا . ٢٤. أَوْهَنُ مِنْ بَيْتِ الْعَنْكَبُوتِ .

٢٥. أَنْجَزَ حَرًّا مَا وَعَدَ . ٢٥. صُدُورُ الْأَحْرَارِ قُبُورُ الْأَسْرَارِ .

٢٧. يَخْبِطُ خَبْطُ عَشَوَاءَ . ٢٧. صُدُورُ الْأَحْرَارِ قُبُورُ الْأَسْرَارِ .

٢٨. (الْعَشَوَاءُ [مَؤْنَثُ الْأَعْشَىٰ] : الْنَّاقَةُ الَّتِي لَا تَبْصُرُ جَيْدًا)

## G

١. أَفَةُ الْجُودِ الْإِسْرَافُ .

٢. وَمَا مِنْ يَدِ إِلَّا يَدُ اللَّهُ فَوْقَهَا .

٣. النَّاسُ عَبِيدُ الْإِحْسَانِ .

٤. الْإِحْسَانُ يَقْطَعُ الْلِّسَانَ .

١. جُودُ الْجُودِ الْإِسْرَافُ .

٢. وَمَا مِنْ يَدِ إِلَّا يَدُ اللَّهُ فَوْقَهَا .

٣. النَّاسُ عَبِيدُ الْإِحْسَانِ .

٤. الْإِحْسَانُ يَقْطَعُ الْلِّسَانَ .

٥. الخير أبقى وإن طال الزمان به .

٦. المؤمن بشره في وجهه وحزنه في قلبه .

٧. لين الكلام قيد القلوب .

٨. دع العوراء تخطأك .  
(يقال أن هذا هو أحكم مثل ضربته العرب !)

٩. الصريح تحت الرغوة .

١٠. أعط أخاك تمرة فلن أبي فجمرة .

١١. خير الأمور ما أسعده في داريك .

١٢. شيبك ناعيك .

١٣. الحِرصُ قائدُ الْحِرْمانِ .

١٤. أحِرصُ من نملة .

١٥. ليس الحريصُ بزائدٍ في رزقه .

١٦. إنَّ الْمَقْدِرَةَ تُذَهِّبُ الْحَفِيْظَةَ .

5. Good deeds will prevail, even after a long time.

6. A good man's joy is written on his face, but his grief is hidden deep in his heart.

7. Gentle words capture hearts.

8. Give bad things a chance to miss you.

9. The truth lies under the bubbles.

10. Give him first your best dates, then if needed, what he hates.

11. Good deeds make a man happy in both worlds.

12. The graying of a man's hair is the first announcement of his impending death.

13. Greed leads to privation.

14. Greedier than an ant.

15. A greedy man doesn't get more than his allotted share.

16. A grudge is not needed when you have power.

## H

1. A habitual liar should have a good memory.
2. Happy are those who share the happiness of others.
3. Hardships will never dishearten a man of courage.
4. Hard work may exhaust a man, but idleness for sure will ruin him.
5. Harder than a rock.
6. A harmless chat can sometimes lead to serious topics.
7. Harsher than fate.
8. Hearing is never the same as seeing.
9. Haughtier than a crow.
10. Haughtier than a lion's nose.
11. Haughtier than a mountain goat.
12. Haughtier than an eagle in the sky.

١. إن كنت كذوباً فكن ذكوراً.  
كن ذكوراً اذا كنت كذوباً.
٢. خير الناس من فرح للناس  
بالخير.
٣. الحر حُر وان مَسَهُ الضُّرُ.
٤. إن يُكُن الشغل مَجْهُودة فلن  
الفراغ مفسدة.
٥. أقسى من صخر.
٦. الحديث ذو شُجُون.
٧. أَجْفَى مِنَ الدَّهْرِ.
٨. ليس الخبر كالمعاينة.
٩. أَزَهَى مِنْ غَرَابِ.
١٠. أَعْزَى مِنْ أَنْفِ الْأَسَدِ.
١١. أَزَهَى مِنْ وَعْلِ.
١٢. أَعْزَى مِنْ عَقَابِ الْجَوَّ.

13. Haughtier than a peacock.

١٢. أَزَهِيْ مِنْ طَاؤُوسٍ.

14. Have mercy on those below you, and you'll have mercy from those above you.

١٤. إِرْحَمْ مِنْ دُونَكَ يَرْحِمُ مِنْ فَوْقَكَ.

15. [Someone is so helpless that] he can neither pull nor let go.

١٥. مَا أَمْلَكَ شَدَّاً وَلَا إِرْخَاءً.

16. [Someone is so poor that] he doesn't even have a date pit to his name.

١٦. لَا يَمْلِكُ شَرْوَى نَقِيرٍ.  
(الشَّرْوَى: الْمِثْل؛ النَّقِيرُ:  
شَقٌّ فِي النَّوَافِذِ تَبَثُّ مِنْهُ  
(النَّخْلَةُ))

17. [Someone is so poor that] he has neither wine nor vinegar.

١٧. مَا عَنْدَهُ خَلٌّ وَلَا خَمْرٌ.

18. [Someone is so poor that] he owns neither a sheep nor a camel.

١٨. مَا لَهُ ثَاغِيَةٌ وَلَا رَاغِيَةٌ.  
(الثَّاغِيَةُ: النَّعْجَةُ؛ الرَّاغِيَةُ:  
النَّاقَةُ)

19. [A shameless liar may even claim that] he had once captured a donkey that had a pair of horns.

١٩. جَاءَ بِقَرْتَنِيْ حِمَارٌ.

20. He who asks for a faultless friend, is doomed to stay without a friend.

٢٠. مِنْ طَلَبَ أَخًا بِلَا عِيْبٍ بَقَى  
بِلَا أَخًا.

21. He who aspires higher than others, has more worries to contend with.

٢١. مِنْ عَلَتْ هَمَّتْهُ طَالَ هُمُّهُ.

22. He who becomes a lamb, will be devoured by wolves.

٢٢. مِنْ صَارَ نَعْجَةً أَكَلَ الذَّئْبَ.

٢٢. من أَمِنَ الزَّمَانَ خَانَهُ.

٢٣. He who blindly trusts the days, will always be betrayed.

٢٤. من غالب الأيام غالب من سابق الدهر عشر.

٢٥. من سلك الجَدَدَ أَمِنَ العثار.

(الجَدَدَ: الأرض المستوية)

٢٦. سبَّكَ من بَلْفَكَ السَّبَّ.

٢٧. من أَهَانَ مَالَهُ أَكْرَمَ نَفْسَهُ.

٢٨. من لا يخاف أحداً لا يخاف أحداً.

٢٩. من أطاع هواه باع دينه بدنياه.

٣٠. من أكثر أهجر.

(الهجرات، المُهجرات: الفضائح، الفحش)

٣١. من عَزَّ بَزَّ.

(عَزَّ: قوي، اشتد؛ بَزَّ: غالب، سلب)

٣٢. من أَعْانَكَ عَلَى الشَّرِّ ظَلَمَكَ.

33. He who informs you about them, will soon inform them about you.

34. He who is not a real wolf, will be devoured by other wolves.

35. He who looks hard within himself, will undoubtedly find God.

36. He who magnifies his own misfortunes, will be afflicted with greater ones.

37. He who moves cautiously, will surely reach his goal.

38. He who ponders all results, will avert all disasters.

39. He who repents all his sins, is like a man without sins.

40. He who says something nice, will always hear something nice.

41. He who serves others, others will always serve him.

42. He who slighted himself, will be slighted by everyone.

43. He who tries hard, will ultimately find the right path.

٢٢. من نقل اليك فقد نقل عنك.

٢٤. من لم يكن ذئبًا أكلته الذئب.

٢٥. من عرف نفسه عرف ربها.

٢٦. من عَظَمَ صِغار المصائب ابتلاء الله بكبارها.

٢٧. من تَائَى ادرك ما تمنى.

٢٨. من نظر في العواقب سِلِّمَ من النوائب.

٢٩. التائب من الذَّنْبِ كمن لا ذَنْبَ له.

٤٠. من أَجَمَّ قِيلَّاً سمع جميلاً.

٤١. من خَدَمَ الرجالَ خُدِّمَ.

٤٢. من هانت عليه نفسه فهو على غيره أهون.

٤٣. من جَدَّ وَجَدَ.

٤٤. من تعدى الحق ضاع مذهبه.

٤٥. من حَسْنَ ظنَّه طَابَ عِيشَه.

٤٦. من نهشتَ الحَيَّةَ حَذَرَ الرَّسْنَ.  
(الرسن: الجبل)

٤٧. من هابَ خَابَ.

٤٨. من صارَعَ الْحَقَّ صَرَعَه.

٤٩. من أطاعَ غَضْبَه أَضَاعَ أَدْبَه.

٥٠. يسرق الْكُحْلَ من العين.

٥١. لا يعرف الْكُوْعَ من الْبُوعَ.  
(البوع: عظم في مشط القدم)

٥٢. كلامه ريح في قفص.

٥٣. وعد الكرييم دين.

٥٤. لا تخرج النفس من الأمل حتى تدخل في الأجل.

44. He who transgresses the truth, will find himself on a sinister path.

45. He who trusts his fellowmen, will always have a peaceful life.

46. He who was once bitten by a snake, becomes cautious of every length of rope.

47. He who wavers, will always fail.

48. He who wrestles with the truth, will ultimately be brought to the ground.

49. He who yields to his anger, is a man of bad manners.

50. [Someone is so deft that] he would easily lift the kohl from a woman's eyelids.

51. [Someone is so stupid that] he wouldn't know the difference between his elbow and his foot.

52. His words are air in a cage.

53. An honorable man's word is a debt he must repay.

54. Hope ends when life ends.

٥٥. الخيلُ أعلمُ بفرسانها.

٥٦. عَرَفَتِ الْخَيْلُ فُرْسَانَهَا.

٥٧. أَحْرُّ مِنْ نَارِ الْغَضَّى.

(الغضى: نوع من الخشب يبقى جمره زمناً طويلاً لا ينطفئ)

٥٨. وَجْعٌ سَاعَةٌ وَلَا كُلُّ سَاعَةٍ.

٥٩. مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَبْلُغَ عَضُّ الْنَّمَلِ.

٦٠. أَجَوْعٌ مِنْ ذَئْبٍ.

٦١. مَالٌ تَجْلِبُهُ الرِّيَاحُ تَأْخِذُهُ الْزَّوَابُ.

I

١. أنا تَنِقُّ وَأَنْتَ مَتِقٌ فَكِيفَ تَنَقُّ.

(التنق: الملتئ غضباً؛ المتقد: من يكاد يبكي من شدة الغيظ)

٢. لَسْتُ بَاوَّلٌ مِنْ غَرَّةِ السَّرَابِ.

55. Horses are the best judges of their riders.

56. Horses recognize their own riders.

57. Hotter than live coal.

58. An hour's pain is better than hours of pain.

59. How painful can an ant's bite be!

60. Hungrier than a wolf.

61. Hurricanes sweep away all kinds of windfall.

٢. لو اتّجرت بالاكفان ما مات أحد.

٤. يأكلني سبع ولا يأكلني كلب.

٥. أكل لحمي ولا أدعه لاكل.

٦. مثل هذا كنت أحسيك الحسا.

٧. إن سلمت من الأسد فلا تطمع في صيده.

٨. رزق الله لا كدك.

٩. إذا رزقك الله معرفة فلا تحرق يدك.

١٠. لو ذات سوار لطمتنى.

١١. عندك وهي فارقعيه.  
(الوهي: العيب، الشق)

١٢. لولا الوئام لهلك الأنام.

١٣. الكذب داء والصدق شفاء.

١٤. حتى يرجع الدَّرُّ في الضرع.  
(الدر: اللبن)

3. I bet if I traded in coffins, no one would ever die.

4. I'd rather be devoured by a lion than eaten by a dog.

5. I'd rather eat my own flesh before anyone else does.

6. I fed you my best broth, in anticipation of a day like this.

7. If a lion spares you, don't be tempted to hunt it down.

8. If God doesn't provide, all hard work remains useless.

9. If God has given you a ladle, then there is no need to burn your fingers.

10. [It wouldn't have been such a disgrace,] if I had been slapped by a real lady.

11. If it is your rip, patch it up.

12. If it weren't for concessions, there wouldn't be a human race.

13. If lying is a sickness, telling the truth is the only remedy.

14. [This will be possible only] if milk could be pushed back into the udder.

15. If owls were good for something, hunters wouldn't have left them alone.

16. If people were fair, judges would have nothing to do.

17. If the bow maker and the arrow maker get entangled, no hunt will ever take place.

18. If you become an anvil, be patient; if you become a hammer, be painful.

19. If you don't push and shove, you'll end up holding an empty bag.

20. If you haven't woven it yourself, then drag it and shove it as you please.

21. If you hit, make it painful, and if you scold, make it loud.

22. If you scratch a wound, it will certainly bleed.

23. If your brother pulls hard, then it is your turn to release.

24. Ignorance is a man's worst companion.

١٥. لو كان في البومة خير ما تركها الصياد.

١٦. لو أنصف الناس استراح القاضي.

١٧. اختلط الحابل بالنابل.  
(الحابل: من ينصب الجبال، الصائد، أو من يشد جبال القوس؛  
النابل: صاحب النبال أو السهام، أو صانعها أو الرامي بها)

١٨. اذا كنت سندانا فاصبر  
و اذا كنت مطرقة فاوْجع.

١٩. ان لم تُزاحم لم يقع في الخُرج شيء.

٢٠. ليس عليك نسجه فاسحب وجّه.

٢١. إذا ضربت فأوْجع وإذا زجرت فأسمع.

٢٢. إذا حككتْ قرحةً أدميتها.

٢٢. إذا عَزَّ أخوك فَهُن.

٢٤. الجهل شرُّ الأصحاب.

٢٥. [أسمع] جَعْجَعَةً ولا أرى طحنا.

٢٦. يَاحَبَّذَا الإِمَارَةُ وَلَوْ عَلَى الْحَجَارَةِ.

٢٧. أَخُوكَ أُمَّ الذَّئْبِ.

٢٨. مَنْ اسْتَرْعَى الذَّئْبَ ظَلَمَ.

٢٩. بَئْسَ الْعِوْضُ مِنْ جَمْلٍ قَيْدَه.

## J

١. حَسِّبَكَ مِنْ شَرِّ سَمَاعَهُ.

٢. تَطَاطَّأْ لَهَا تُخْطِئَكَ.

٣. لَوْ قُلْتُ تَمَرَّةً لَقَالَ جَمَرَةً

## K

1. Knowledge is afflicted by forgetfulness.
2. Keep your dog hungry, and it will follow you everywhere.
3. Kindness enslaves all free men.

١. آفة العلم النسيان.

٢. أفع كلبك يتبعك.

٣. بالبر يُستعبد الحر.

## L

1. A large spoon reaches the bottom of every pot.
2. Learned men are God's custodians of humanity.
3. Less defined than a "thing."
4. Less food means less illness.
5. Less reachable than an eagle in the sky.
6. Less reachable than a vulture's egg.

١. تُخرج المِقدحة ما في قعر البرمة.

(المِقدحة: المِفرقة؛ البرمة: قدر مصنوع من حجر)

٢. العلماء أمناء الله على خلقه.

٣. أنكر من شيء.

٤. خَفَّ طعامك تأمين سقامتك.

٥. أمنع من عُقاب الجو.

٦. أبعد من بيض الأنوق.  
أعُزُّ من بيض الأنوق.  
(الأنوق: العُقاب، الرخمة)

٧. أغدرُ من غدير.

٨. أضيعُ من سراجٍ في شمسٍ.

٩. أضيعُ من غمٍ بلا نصلٍ.

١٠. أمرعتَ فانزلَ.

١١. آفةُ الحديثِ الكذبُ.

١٢. أكذبُ من الأخذ.

(الأخذ : الأسير)

١٣. كالحادي وليس له بعير.

(الحادي : سائق الإبل)

١٤. إنما هو كبرقِ الخُلُبِ.

(الخلب : سحاب لا مطر فيه)

١٥. طبيبٌ يداوي الناس وهو مريضٌ.

١٦. تحككت العقربُ بالأفعى.

١٧. كالحلقة المفرغة لا يُدرى أين طرفاها.

١٨. تصدأُ القلوبُ كما يصدأُ الحديدُ.

7. Less reliable than the water of a creek.

8. Less useful than a lamp placed in the sunlight.

9. Less useful than a sheath that has no blade.

10. Let us dismount, for we have reached greener pastures!

11. Lies undermine all communications.

12. [Someone] lies more than a captive.

13. Like a camel driver who has just lost his caravan.

14. Like a thunderbolt that brings no rain.

15. Like a physician who is trying to heal others, while he himself is sick.

16. Like a scorpion who challenges a snake to a fight.

17. Like a vicious circle that has no beginning and has no end.

18. Like iron, a human heart also rusts.

19. Like sheep on a green pasture that aren't allowed to graze.

١٩. كالمربوط والمرعى خصيب.

20. Like someone running from the heat into the fire.

٢٠. كالمستغيث من الرمضاء بالنار.

(الرمضاء: شدة الحر)

21. Like someone who roasted his meat, then dropped it into the fire.

٢١. أنسج أخوك ثم رمَّد.

22. Like swarms of locust that strip the land of all seeds and plants.

٢٢. كالجراد لا يُبقي ولا يذَر.

23. Like the Kaaba, people come to it, but it goes to no one.

٢٢. كالكعبة تُزار ولا تزور.

24. Like the ostrich, it is neither a bird nor a camel.

٢٤. مثل النعامة لا طير ولا جمل.

25. Like writing on water.

٢٥. كالرقيم على الماء.

26. A listless person has no friends.

٢٦. ليس للولي صديق.

27. Longer lasting than a message engraved in stone.

٢٧. أبقى من وحى فى حجر.  
(الوحى: الرسالة، المكتوب)

28. Longer lasting than eternity.

٢٨. أبقى من الدهر.

29. Longer than the month of Ramadan.

٢٩. أطول من شهر الصوم.

30. Longer than the shadow of a lance.

٣٠. أطول من ظلّ الرمح.

٢١. مَهْمَا تَعْشُ تَرَهُ . ٣١. The longer you live, the more you see.

٢٢. حَفِظْ عَلَى الصَّدِيقِ وَلُوْفِيْرِيْكَ . ٣٢. Look after your friend even if you were engulfed by fire.

٢٣. أَضْلَلَ مِنْ ضَبٍّ . ٣٣. [Someone] loses his way easier than a lizard does.

٢٤. قَدْ ضَلَّ مِنْ كَانَتْ الْعُمَيْانُ تَهْدِيْهِ . ٣٤. Lost are those who are guided by blind people.

٢٥. عَيْنُ الْهُوَيِّ لَا تَصْدِقُ . ٣٥. A lover's eye never sees the truth.

٢٦. الْأَرْضُ الْوَاطِنَةُ تَشْرِبُ مَاءَهَا وَمَاءَ غَيْرِهَا . ٣٦. A low land sucks its water and the water destined for other lands.

٢٧. أَلْقَ فِي الدَّلَاءِ دَلُوكَ . (دَلَّيَ الدَّلَوْ) ارْسَلَ الدَّلَوَ فِي الْبَئْرِ (٣٧)

## M

١. الْجُنُونُ فُنُونٌ . ١. Madness takes many shapes and forms.

٢. دَمْثٌ لِجَنْبِكَ قَبْلَ النَّوْمِ مُضْطَجَعًا . (دَمْثٌ: لَيْنٌ) ٢. Make sure your bed is snug and soft before you lie down.

٣. الْمَرْءُ تَوَاقِّيْ إِلَى مَا لَمْ يَنْلَى . ٣. Man always covets what he doesn't possess.

4. A man always senses who is on his side.
5. The man in charge is the most tormented man around.
6. Man is enslaved by good deeds.
7. A man is known by the friends he keeps.
8. A man is sometimes blamed for what takes place in his neighbor's house.
9. Mankind is the prey of fate.
10. A man shouldn't be blamed for evading his own destruction.
11. A man stands where he puts himself.
12. A man's choice is an indication of his wisdom.
13. A man's companion is a reflected image of himself.
14. A man's appearance may be more telling than his words.
15. A man's erudition is in his heart, and not within the pages of his books.

٤. النفس تعلم من اخوها النافع.
٥. سيد القوم أشقاهم.
٦. الإنسان عبد الإحسان.
٧. المرء بخليله.
٨. قد يؤخذ الجار بذنب الجار.
٩. الأنام فرائس الأيام.
١٠. ليس يلام هارب من حتفه.
١١. المرء حيث يضع نفسه.
١٢. دل على عاقل اختياره.
١٣. جليس المرء مثله.
١٤. رب حال أفعى من لسان.
١٥. العلم في الصدور لا في السطور.

١٦. أدب المرأة خير من ذهب.

١٧. ظلم المرأة يصرعه.

١٨. غنى النفس أفضل من غنى المال.

١٩. التدبير نصف المعيشة.

٢٠. عز الرجل استفناوه عن الناس.

٢١. مقتل الرجل بين فكين.

٢٢. الطبع أغلب.

٢٣. دليل عقل المرأة فعله ودليل علمه قوله.

٢٤. مع الخواطئ سهم صائب.

٢٥. غلطة خير من سعيك.

٢٦. احْلَبْ حَلَبًا لَكَ شَطَرَةً.

٢٧. يوم السرور قصير.

١٦. A man's good manners are better than all his riches.

١٧. A man's injustice is what causes his downfall.

١٨. A man's inner wealth is better than any other wealth.

١٩. A man's livelihood depends on good planning.

٢٠. A man's might is measured by the degree of his independence.

٢١. A man is most vulnerable between his jaws.

٢٢. A man's true nature will always prevail.

٢٣. A man's wisdom is reflected in what he does, and his knowledge, in what he says.

٢٤. Many arrows may miss, but eventually one will hit the mark.

٢٥. Meager but yours, is better than plump but theirs.

٢٦. Milk the cow only if you'll get your share.

٢٧. Merry days are short days.

٢٨. مصائب قوم عند قوم فوائد.

٢٩. تاجُّ المُرُوَّةَ التواضع.

٢٠. لا رسول كالدرهم.

٢١. الدراهم مراهم.

٢٢. أجمعٌ من نملة.

٢٢. أثيبة من قوم موسى.

٢٤. أعدى من العقرب.

٢٥. أخيلٌ من غراب.

٢٦. أخيلٌ من ديك.

٢٧. أجردٌ من صخرة.

٢٨. أغشمُ من السيل.

٢٩. أحذَّرُ من غراب.

٤٠. أحذَّرُ من ذئب.

٤١. أحيرٌ من ضَبَّ.

(الضَّبَّ: حيوان من الزحافات، "السحلية")

28. Misfortunes of some, are blessings for others.

29. Modesty is the crown of all knightly virtues.

30. Money is the most effective emissary.

31. Money salves every wound.

32. More acquisitive than an ant.

33. More adrift than the people of Moses.

34. More aggressive than a scorpion.

35. More arrogant than a crow.

36. More arrogant than a rooster.

37. More barren than solid rock.

38. More brutish than torrential rain.

39. More cautious than a crow.

40. More cautious than a wolf.

41. More confused than a lizard.

٤٢. أعدى من الجرب . ٤٢. أشجع من ليث .

٤٣. More courageous than a lion .

٤٤. أجيـنـ من نـعـامـةـ . ٤٤. أـجـيـنـ من نـعـامـةـ .

٤٥. أروـغـ من شـلـبـ . ٤٥. أـرـوـغـ من شـلـبـ .

٤٦. أـجـرـاـ من ذـبـابـ . ٤٦. أـجـرـاـ من ذـبـابـ .

٤٧. أـغـرـ من سـرـابـ . ٤٧. أـغـرـ من سـرـابـ .

٤٨. أـخـتـلـ من الذـئـبـ . ٤٨. أـخـتـلـ من الذـئـبـ .

٤٩. أـغـرـ من الـأـمـانـيـ . ٤٩. أـغـرـ من الـأـمـانـيـ .

٥٠. أـيـاسـ من غـرـيقـ . ٥٠. أـيـاسـ من غـرـيقـ .

٥١. أـكـسـبـ من نـمـلـ . ٥١. أـكـسـبـ من نـمـلـ .

٥٢. أـثـبـ من الـوـشـمـ . ٥٢. أـثـبـ من الـوـشـمـ .

٥٣. أـجـهـلـ من فـرـاشـةـ . ٥٣. أـجـهـلـ من فـرـاشـةـ .

٥٤. أـحـمـقـ من مـاضـخـ المـاءـ . ٥٤. أـحـمـقـ من مـاضـخـ المـاءـ .

٥٥. أـحـمـقـ من نـعـامـةـ . ٥٥. أـحـمـقـ من نـعـامـةـ .

٥٦. أـجـهـلـ من عـرـقـبـ . ٥٦. أـجـهـلـ من عـرـقـبـ .

٥٧. أـفـسـدـ من السـوـسـ . ٥٧. أـفـسـدـ من السـوـسـ .

٥٨. أـفـسـدـ من عـرـقـبـ .

٥٨. أفسدُ من الجرادِ. ٥٨. More harmful than locusts.

٥٩. أذلُّ من وَدَّ. ٥٩. More humble than a peg.

٦٠. أذلُّ من البساطِ. ٦٠. More humble than a rug.

٦١. أذلُّ من النعلِ. ٦١. More humble than a sole.

٦٢. أحكى من قردٍ. ٦٢. More imitative than a monkey.

٦٣. أمضى من السيفِ. ٦٣. More cutting than a sword.

٦٤. أمضى من الأجلِ. ٦٤. More piercing than death.

٦٥. أصنعُ من النحلِ. ٦٥. More industrious than a honeybee.

٦٦. أصنعُ من دود القزِّ. ٦٦. More industrious than a silk-worm.

٦٧. أعقدُ من ذَنْبِ الضبِّ.  
(الضبُّ: نوع من  
الزحافات، "السلحية") ٦٧. More intricate than a lizard's tail.

٦٨. أشأمُ من حفارِ. ٦٨. More jinxed than a grave digger.

٦٩. أشهرُ من نارٍ على عَلَمِ. ٦٩. More noticeable than a fire on a mountaintop.

٧٠. أشهرُ من الشمسِ. ٧٠. More noticeable than the sun.

٧١. أمضى من الريحِ. ٧١. More penetrating than the wind.

٧٢. أتفذُ من السهمِ. ٧٢. More piercing than an arrow.

73. More reckless than a butterfly. ٧٢. أطيشُ من فراشة.

74. More revealing than daylight. ٧٣. أنمُ من الصبح.

75. More secretive than the earth. ٧٤. أكتُمُ من الأرض.

76. More sharp-sighted than a bat in the dark. ٧٥. أبصرُ من الوطواط في الليل.

77. More sharp-sighted than an eagle. ٧٦. أبصرُ من عقاب.

78. The more the wisdom, the less the words. ٧٧. أبصرُ من نسر.

79. More thirsty than a funnel. ٧٨. إذا تم العقلُ نقص الكلام.

80. More thirsty than the sand. ٧٩. أشربُ من القمع.

81. More tumultuous than a torrential stream. ٨٠. أطما من رمل.

82. More useful than a much-needed rain. ٨١. أشربُ من الرمل.

83. More vengeful than a camel. ٨٢. أطشُ من رمل.

84. More wakeful than a star. ٨٣. أحقدُ من جمل.

85. More wicked than a snake. ٨٤. أسرُ من النجم.

86. More wicked than a hyena. ٨٥. أظلمُ من حيَّة.

86. The most evil people are those who don't try to hide their evil from other people.

٨٦. شُرُّ النَّاسِ مِنْ لَا يَبَالِي أَنْ يَرَاهُ النَّاسُ مُسِيْنَا.

87. A mute's mother knows how to talk to the mutes.

٨٧. أُمُّ الْأَخْرَسْ تَعْرِفُ بِلُغَاتِ الْخَرْسَانِ.

88. My bow may be crooked, but my arrows never miss.

٨٨. إِنْ حَالَتِ الْقَوْسُ فَسَهَمَيْتُ صَائِبٌ.

## N

1. Necessities acknowledge no restrictions.

١. الْفُرُورَاتُ تُبَيِّحُ الْمُحَظَّوْرَاتِ.

2. Necessity is the mother of invention.

٢. الْحَاجَةُ تُفْتَقِدُ الْحِيلَةَ.

3. Need drives a man to theft.

٢. الْخَلْلَةُ تَدْعُو إِلَى السُّلَّةِ.  
(الخللة: الحاجة، الفقر؛  
السللة: السرقة)

4. [Someone, or something,] needs less water than a lizard.

٤. أَرْوَى مِنْ ضَبَّ.  
(الضب: نوع من  
الزحافات، "السلحفاة")

5. [Someone, or something,] needs less water than a snake.

٥. أَرْوَى مِنْ حَيَّةَ.

6. [Someone] needs this less than a baldhead needs a comb.

٦. أَغْنَى عَنِ الشَّيْءِ مِنَ الْأَقْرَعِ  
عَنِ الْمُشَطِّ.

7. Never lie to your God or to your friend.

٧. رَبُّكَ وَصَاحِبُكَ لَا تَكْذِبُ  
عَلَيْهِمَا.

٨. ما أقصر الليل على الرائد .

٩. أذدر من أذدر .

١٠. لا تجارة كالعمل الصالح .

١١. وهل يصلح العطار ما أفسد الدهر !

١٢. لا جرم بعد الندامة .

١٣. شوف النحاس يظهر النحاس .  
(شاف الشيء : صقله وجلاه)

١٤. لا خير في أرب القاك في لهب .  
(الأرب : المأرب ، الغاية)

١٥. لا يضيع حق وراءه طالب .

١٦. لا عتاب بعد الموت .

١٧. ما كل ما يعلم يُقال .

١٨. ترك الجواب على الجاهل جواب .

١٩. ما كل رامي غرض يُصيّب .

٨. The night is short for those who are sound asleep .

٩. No action can ever be blamed, if it was preceded by a proper warning .

١٠. No deal is as profitable as a good deed .

١١. No drug can ever erase the mark of time .

١٢. No guilt after repentance .

١٣. No matter how hard you polish it, copper will always remain copper .

١٤. No need or desire is worth the pain of fire .

١٥. No property will ever be lost, if its rightful owner doesn't give up .

١٦. No reproach after death .

١٧. Not all we know can be divulged .

١٨. Not answering a foolish man is an answer in itself .

١٩. Not every archer hits the mark .

٢٠. ما كل سوداء تمرة .  
20. Not every black thing is a date.

٢١. ما كل بارقة تجود بمائها .  
(البارقة: سحابة ذات برق)

٢٢. ما كل قول له جواب .  
22. Not every question has a reply.

٢٢. ما كل عورة تصاب .  
22. Not every week spot is vulnerable.

٢٤. لا في العير ولا في النفير .  
(العيرو: قافلة الحمير؛  
النفير: مجموعة من الناس)

٢٥. يأكل التمر وأرجم بالنوى .  
25. Not only did they eat my dates, but they also threw the pits at me.

## O

١. لا ناقه لي في هذا ولا جمل .  
1. Of all the herds you see around, not a single camel belongs to me.

٢. الزيت في العجين لا يضيع .  
2. Oil kneaded in dough is never lost.

٣. أعمـر من نـسر .  
3. Older than an eagle.

٤. أحـيـا من ضـبـ .  
(الضـبـ: "الـسـحلـيـة")

5. Older than a serpent. ٥. أَعْمَرْ مِنْ حَيَّةً.

6. On the day of examination, one faces praise or humiliation. ٦. عِنْدَ الْامْتِحَانِ يُكْرَمُ الْمُرِئُ أَوْ يُهَانُ.

7. Once he was an anvil, now he became a hammer. ٧. كَانَ سَنْدَانًا فَصَارَ مَطْرِقًا.

8. [Nothing can be done] once the saddle straps slip down the horse's belly. ٨. بَلَغَ الْحِزَامُ الطِّبِيَّيْنَ.  
جاوزَ الْحِزَامُ الطِّبِيَّيْنَ.  
(الطِّبِيُّ: حلمة ضرع الناقة، وهي بعيدة تماماً عن مربط حزام السرج)

9. One catches the fish, but another eats it. ٩. هَذَا يَصِيدُ وَهَذَا يَأْكُلُ السُّمْكَةَ.

10. One disaster is still better than two. ١٠. وَيْلٌ أَهُونُ مِنْ وَيْلَيْنِ.

11. One never tires of talking about the things one loves. ١١. مِنْ أَحَبَّ شَيْئًا أَكْثَرَ مِنْ ذِكْرِهِ.

12. One is always dazzled by the things that happen fast. ١٢. النَّفْسُ مُولَعَةٌ بِحُبِّ الْعَاجِلِ.

13. One water wheel wouldn't roil a sea. ١٢. سَاقِيَّةٌ لَا تَعْكُرُ بَحْرًا.

14. Only a fool would knock his head against a rock. ١٤. أَحْمَقُ مِنْ نَاطِحِ الصَّخْرِ.

15. Only after you have galloped with it will you know whether you had mounted a thoroughbred or a hee-haw. ١٥. سُوفَ تَرَى إِذَا انْجَلَ الْغَبَارُ، أَفْرَسَ تَحْتَكَ أَمْ حِمَارًا.

١٦. الشّمّاتة لُؤمٌ.

16. Only an evil person would take pleasure in the mishaps of others.

١٧. الشّرُّ للشّرِّ خُلُقٌ.

17. Only evil repels evil.

١٨. الحَلِيم مطيةُ الجهول.

18. Only foolish people take advantage of gentle and obliging people.

١٩. إنَّ الْحَدِيدَ بِالْحَدِيدِ يُفْلَحُ.

19. Only iron can split iron.

٢٠. لَا يُفْلِحُ الْحَدِيدُ إِلَّا الْحَدِيدُ.

20. Only iron defeats iron.

٢١. العَجْلَةُ فُرْصَةُ الْعَجْزَةِ.

21. Only unskilled people do things in haste.

٢٢. مَا حَكَّ جَلْدُكَ مِثْلُ ظِفْرِكَ.

22. Oppose and you'll be noticed.

٢٢. خَالِفْ تُذَكَّرُ.  
خَالِفْ تُعْرَفُ.

23. Oysters may give other things beside pearls.

٢٤. قَدْ يَخْرُجُ مِنَ الصَّدْفِ غَيْرُ الدُّرِّ.

1. Patience is a hopeless man's last hope.

١. الصَّبْرُ حِيلَةٌ مِّنْ لَا حِيلَةٍ لَّهُ.

2. Patience is the best medicine against the changes of fate.

٢. دُوَاءُ الدُّهْرِ الصَّبْرُ عَلَيْهِ.

P

٣. Patience is the key to relief.      ٣. الصبرُ مفتاح الفرج.

٤. Paying attention to obscenity is an obscene act in itself.      ٤. تأمل العيب عيب.

٥. People always follow a winner.      ٥. الناسُ أتباعُ منْ غالبٍ.

٦. People always stumble into the pitfalls they dig for others.      ٦. منْ حفر حفرةً وقع فيها.

٧. People are enemies of the things they don't know.      ٧. الناسُ أعداءُ ما جهلو.

٨. People don't lack strength when they work together.      ٨. لا يعجز القوم اذاً تعاونوا.

٩. Persistence sometimes helps, but it also sometimes harms.      ٩. ومن اللجاجة ما يضرُّ وينفع.

١٠. A pig's skin cannot be tanned.      ١٠. جلدُ الخنزير لا يندبغ.

١١. Pleasing everybody is an unreachable aim.      ١١. رضا الناسُ غايةٌ لا تدرك.

١٢. Pour water on your embers when they become too hot.      ١٢. هرّقْ على جمركَ.  
(هرق الماء، أو هرق الماء : صب الماء)

١٣. Prettier than a peacock.      ١٣. أحسنُ من الطاووس.

# R

1. A race is decided at the finish line.  
١. عند الغاية يُعرف السبق.
2. A rage begins with frenzy and ends with remorse.  
٢. أول الغضب جنون وأخره ندم.
3. Rain heals what hail ruins.  
٣. أصلح غيث ما أفسد البرد.
4. Rarer than a rooster's egg.  
٤. كبيضة الديك.  
كانت بيضة الديك.
5. Rarer than a white-footed crow.  
٥. أغزر من الغراب الأعجم.  
(أعجم: به بياض وسودا)
6. The rays of the sun cannot be hidden, and the light of truth cannot be obscured.  
٦. شعاع الشمس لا يُخفى ونور الحق لا يُطفى.
7. Read the signs of coming events!  
٧. خذ الأمر بقوابله.  
(قوابل الأمر: اوائل الأمر)
8. A real healer must be able to heal himself.  
٨. يا طبيب طب نفسك.
9. Reason is man's best adviser.  
٩. العقل وزير ناصح.
10. Rebuking your friends is much better than giving up on them.  
١٠. مُعاتبة الإخوان خير من فقد هم.
11. Refusing everybody pleases everybody.  
١١. منع الجميع أرضي الجميع.

١٢. الندم على السكوت خير من الندم على القول.

١٢. أناي من الكوكب.

١٤. الجزاء من جنس العمل.

١٥. أبكر من غراب.

١٦. ركب جناحي النعامة.

١٧. من الشوك تخرج الوردة.

١٨. العديم من احتاج إلى لثيم.

١٩. الندم على السكوت خير من الندم على القول.

٢٠. أناي من الكوكب.

٢١. الجزاء من جنس العمل.

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٢٤. من الشوك تخرج الوردة.

٢٥. العديم من احتاج إلى لثيم.

## S

١. ظن العاقل خير من يقين الجاهل.

٢. وهل يُغنى من الحدثان لبيت!

٣. تلدغ العقرب وتصيء.

(يصيء، يصوّي؛  
يصوّص، يزقّزق،  
يصرّص)

٤. ظن العاقل خير من يقين الجاهل.

٥. وهل يُغنى من الحدثان لبيت!

٦. تلدغ العقرب وتصيء.

(يصيء، يصوّي؛  
يصوّص، يزقّزق،  
يصرّص)

٤. الرائد لا يكذب أهله.

٥. هل يُرجى مطر بغير سحاب!

٦. أنفر من نعامة.

٧. من غربل الناس نخلوه.

٨. ربما كان السكتُ جواباً.

٩. عَيْ صامتٌ خيرٌ من عَيْ ناطق.  
(العي: العجز)

١٠. السكتُ أخو الرضا.

١١. إنه لأشبَّهُ به من التمرة بالتمرة.

١٢. ويحدث من بعض الأمور.

١٣. ربُّ طلبٍ جرَّ إلى حرب.

١٤. جيَّفَ لا تُعَكِّر بحراً.

١٥. ربُّ طرفٍ أفحص من لسان.

١٦. أحَرُّ من الجمر.  
على أحَرٍ من الجمر.

4. A scout doesn't lie to his own people.

5. Should one hope for rain when there are no clouds in the sky?

6. Shyer than an ostrich.

7. Sift people and people will sieve you.

8. Silence may sometimes be the proper answer.

9. Silence is always better when you can't find the right words.

10. Silence is the brother of consent.

11. Similar to each other as if they were two dates.

12. Simple events sometimes lead to serious events.

13. A simple demand may sometimes lead to war.

14. A single cadaver cannot befoul the whole sea.

15. A single glance is sometimes more eloquent than many words.

16. [Someone was so restless, as if he were] sitting on smoldering coal.

١٧. العَبْدُ مَنْ لَا عَبْدٌ لَهُ . ١٧  
 17. A slave is the man who has no slaves.

١٨. العَبْدُ يُقْرَعُ بِالْعَصَمِ وَالْحُرُّ  
 تَكْفِيهِ الإِشَارَةُ . ١٨  
 18. A slave must be beaten to get his attention, but a freeman needs nothing more than a hint.

١٩. عَثَرَةُ الْقَدْمِ أَسْلَمُ مِنْ عَثَرَةِ  
 الْلِسَانِ . ١٩  
 19. A slip of the foot is less harmful than a slip of the tongue.

٢٠. الْحَصَّةُ مِنَ الْجَبَلِ . ٢٠  
 20. Small pebbles are parts of big mountains.

٢١. الْحَاوِيُّ لَا يَنْجُو مِنَ الْحَيَّاتِ . ٢١  
 21. A snake charmer is never safe from bites.

٢٢. تَعَاشُرُوا كَالْإِخْوَانِ وَتَعَامِلُوا  
 كَالْأَجْنَاسِ . ٢٢  
 22. Socialize like brothers, but do business like foreigners.

٢٣. كَلَامٌ لَيْنٌ وَظُلْمٌ بَيْنِ . ٢٣  
 23. Soft words but harsh deeds.

٢٤. الْوَحْدَةُ خَيْرٌ مِنْ جَلِيسٍ  
 السُّوَءِ . ٢٤  
 24. Solitude is better than an evil companion.

٢٥. هَذَا الْمَيْتُ لَا يَسَاوِي هَذَا  
 الْبَكَاءَ . ٢٥  
 25. Some dead people are not worth the tears we shed on them.

٢٦. وَرُبُّمَا صَحَّتِ الْأَجْسَامُ  
 بِالْعَلَلِ . ٢٦  
 26. Some diseases may make the body stronger.

٢٧. إِنَّ مِنَ الْبَيَانِ لِسْحَراً . ٢٧  
 27. Some eloquent words work like magic.

٢٨. بَعْضُ الشَّرِّ أَهْوَنُ مِنْ بَعْضٍ . ٢٨  
 28. Some evil is less evil than others.

٢٩. رَبُّ عَيْنٍ أَنْثَمُ مِنْ لِسَانٍ . ٢٩  
 29. Some eyes say more than tongues.

٢٠. رُبَّ أخَ لم تلدهُ والدَةٌ . ٣٠. Some friends are closer than real brothers.

٢١. رُبَّ أمنيَّة جلبت مَنِيَّةً . ٣١. Some fulfilled wishes cause a person's downfall.

٢٢. رُبَّ فَرَحةٍ تعود تَرَحَّةً .  
(الترح: الحزن) ٣٢. Some gladness easily turns into sadness.

٢٣. في بعض القلوب عيون . ٣٣. Some hearts have eyes.

٢٤. رُبَّ عِتقٍ شَرٌّ من رِقٍ . ٣٤. Some kinds of liberation are much worse than slavery.

٢٥. لِكُلِّ دَرَّ حَالَّبٌ . ٣٥. Someone must have drawn all this milk.

٢٦. رُبَّ سُكُوتٍ أَبْلَغُ من كلامٍ . ٣٦. Some silence is more eloquent than words.

٢٧. قد يُتَوَقَّى السيف وهو مغمد . ٣٧. Some swords inspire fear, even when they remain in their sheaths.

٢٨. رُبَّ قَوْلٍ أَشَدُّ من صَوْلٍ .  
(الصَّوْل: الهجوم) ٣٨. Some words are mightier than hard blows.

٢٩. وبعض القول يذهب في الرياح . ٣٩. Some words vanish in thin air.

٤٠. ليس لسلطان العلم ذوال . ٤٠. The sovereignty of knowledge will always prevail.

٤١. أَعْلَقَ من قُرَادٍ . ٤١. [It] sticks harder than ticks.

٤٢. أَعِنْ أخاك ولو بالصوت . ٤٢. Support your brother, even if only with words.

٤٣. أَمْرَقُ من سهمٍ . ٤٣. Swifter than an arrow.

T

1. Take part or depart. ١. إن لم يكن وِفَاقٌ فِراقٌ.
2. [A confusion like the one that happens, when] tamed and untamed camels get together. ٢. اخْتَلَطَ الْمَرْعَىٰ بِالْهَمَلِ.  
(المرعى: الإبل التي لها راع؛ الهمل: الإبل التي لا راع لها)
3. Tamer than a dog. ٣. الْأَلْفُ مِنْ كَلْبٍ.
4. Tamer than the doves of Mekka. ٤. الْأَلْفُ مِنْ حَمَامِ مَكَّةَ.
5. There are four kinds of men: A man who knows and knows that he knows; he is a learned man, follow him. A man who knows, but doesn't know that he knows; he is asleep, awake him. A man who doesn't know and knows that he doesn't know; he needs guidance, teach him. And a man who doesn't know and doesn't know that he doesn't know; he is a fool, renounce him. ٥. الرِّجَالُ أَرْبَعَةٌ: رَجُلٌ يَدْرِي وَيَدْرِي أَنَّهُ يَدْرِي فَذَلِكَ عَالَمٌ فَاتَّبَعُوهُ. وَرَجُلٌ يَدْرِي وَلَا يَدْرِي أَنَّهُ يَدْرِي فَذَلِكَ نَائِمٌ فَأَيْقَظُوهُ. وَرَجُلٌ لَا يَدْرِي وَيَدْرِي أَنَّهُ لَا يَدْرِي فَذَلِكَ مُسْتَرْشِدٌ فَعَلَمُوهُ. وَرَجُلٌ لَا يَدْرِي وَلَا يَدْرِي أَنَّهُ لَا يَدْرِي فَذَلِكَ جَاهِلٌ فَأَرْفَضُوهُ.
6. There are two kinds of days: days you win, and days you lose. ٦. الْدَّهْرُ يَوْمَانِ، يَوْمٌ لَكَ وَيَوْمٌ عَلَيْكَ.
7. There is always enough room on this earth for free, honorable people. ٧. وَفِي الْأَرْضِ لِلْحَرَّ الْكَرِيمِ مَنَادِحٌ.  
(المندوحة، المندوح: السعة، الفسحة)

٨. وراءك أوسط لك.

٩. لكل ساقطة لاقطة.

١٠. لكل عمل ثواب ولكل كلام جواب.

١١. لكل خطاب جواب.

١٢. صدراك أوسط لسررك.

١٣. أفضل المعروف إغاثة الملهوف.

١٤. يغلبن الكرام ويغلبهم اللئام.

١٥. عاد الأمر إلى نصابه.

١٦. سوف ترى إذا انجلى الغبار.

١٧. يفني ما في القدور ويبقى ما في الصدور.

١٨. أضيق من ظل الرمح.

١٩. هذا الكعك من ذاك العجين.

٨. There is always more room behind you.

٩. There is an eavesdropper for every word uttered loosely.

١٠. There is a proper reward for every deed, and a fitting reply to every question.

١١. There is a reply for every speech.

١٢. There is enough room in your chest for all your secrets.

١٣. There is no good deed like helping a man in need.

١٤. They defeated the high-minded, but the base-minded defeated them.

١٥. Things always go back to where they came from.

١٦. Things always become clearer, after the dust settles down.

١٧. Things you store in pots will be consumed, but things you keep in your heart will stay forever.

١٨. Thinner than the shadow of a lance.

١٩. This cake is made from that dough.

٢٠. لا يكون ذلك حتى يشيب  
الغраб.

٢١. لا يُشعر الشوكُ العَنْبَ.

٢٢. حُسْنُ الظُّنْ وَرَبْطَةٌ.

٢٣. لا رأيٌ لِمَنْ لَا يُطَاعُ.

٢٤. رُدُّ الْحَجَرِ مِنْ حِيْثُ جَاءَكَ.

٢٥. نِعَمَ الْمُؤَدِّبُ الدَّهْرُ.

٢٦. أَعْزَّ مِنْ مُخَّ الْبَعُوضِ.

٢٧. هَذِهِ بِتْلُكُ وَالْبَادِيَ أَظْلَمُ.

٢٨. بِيَضْهُ الْيَوْمُ خَيْرٌ مِنْ دِجَاجَةِ الْغَدِ.

٢٩. لَا تُؤَخِّرْ عَمَلَ الْيَوْمِ لِغَدٍ.

٣٠. اكْدَحْ لِي أَكْدَحْ لَكَ.

٣١. الْخَطَا زَادَ الْعَجُولَ.

32. [Because this day is almost over,] tomorrow, for the hopeful, is close at hand.

33. Too many helmsmen wrecked the ship.

34. Too much jesting breeds ill will.

35. To their mothers people run, whenever they are hurting.

36. To panic in face of a calamity, always makes it twice as bad.

37. To save myself, I lost my nose.

38. To scare away a vicious dog, another vicious dog is needed.

39. Truth is always covered by bubbles.

40. Truth gets on people's nerves.

41. Truth glitters and falsehood falters.

42. Truth is the best than can be said.

43. A truth that displeases is better than a lie that pleases.

44. Turning back is always safer.

45. Two blades will never fit in a single sheath.

٢٢. [فَلَنْ يَكُ صَدْرُ هَذَا الْيَوْمَ وَلَىٰ] فَلَنْ غَدَّ لِنَاظِرِهِ قَرِيبٌ.

٢٢. مِنْ كَثْرَةِ الْمَلَّاهِينَ غَرَقَتِ السَّفِينَةُ.

٢٤. الْمَزَاحُ لِتَقَاحِ الْضَّفَانِ.

٢٥. إِلَى أُمَّهٖ يَلْهُفُ الْتَّهَفَانُ.

٢٦. الْجَزَعُ عِنْدَ الْمُصِيبَةِ مُصِيبَةٌ أُخْرَىٰ.

٢٧. شَفِيتُ نَفْسِي وَجَدْعُتُ أَنْفِي.

٢٨. يُعَدُّ لِكُلِّبِ السَّوْءِ كُلُّبٌ يَعَادِلُهُ.

٢٩. تَحْتَ الرَّغْوَةِ الْصَّرِيحُ.

٤٠. الْحَقُّ مَغْضَبَةٌ.

٤١. الْحَقُّ ابْلُجُ وَالْبَاطِلُ لَجْلَجُ.

٤٢. الْحَقُّ خَيْرٌ مَا يُقَالُ.

٤٢. حَقٌّ يَضِرُّ خَيْرَ مَنْ بَاطَلَ يُسِرُّ.

٤٤. الْعَوْدُ أَحْمَدٌ.

٤٥. لَا يُجْمِعُ سِيفَانٌ فِي غِمْدٍ.

## U

1. Upholding the truth is a noble deed.

١. نُصرةُ الحقُّ شرف.

2. Useful possessions are the best possessions.

٢. خير المال ما نفع.  
خير مالك ما نفعك.

## W

1. War is a monster.

١. الحربُ غَشُومٌ.

2. War is deception.

٢. الحربُ خُدْعةٌ.

3. War seems harmless to the onlookers.

٢. ما أهونَ الحربُ على النَّظَارَةِ.

4. A watchful dog is better than a sleepy lion.

٤. كلبٌ عَرِّيٌّ خيرٌ من أسدٍ ربضٍ.

(عَرِّيٌّ: طاف بالليل بغرض الحراسة)

5. We become blind and deaf, when it comes to what we love.

٥. حُبُك الشيءُ يُعمي ويُصمّ.

6. We can only give what we have received.

٦. وإنما نُعطيُّ الذي أُعطيَنا.

7. We drink tonight, and tomorrow we fight.

٧. اليومَ خمرٌ وغداً أمرٌ.

٨. The well lasts longer than the bucket and the rope.

٩. What good are swords, if we don't have men!

١٠. What is good for the liver, is bad for the spleen.

١١. What can a marksman do, when his bow suddenly ruptures.

١٢. What will happen, will happen on time.

١٣. When a camel is about to die, it goes in circles around the well.

١٤. When a jackass went to get itself a pair of horns, it came back without its ears.

١٥. When a learned man errs, many men will follow and err.

١٦. When a man's predestined time arrives, his eyesight will be restricted.

١٧. When an inquisitive man was thrown into Hell, he asked why the firewood was not dry enough.

١٨. When a rip becomes too wide, it is too late to patch it up.

٨. البئر أبقى من الرشاء .  
(الرشاء : جبل الدلو)

٩. وما أَنْفَعُ السَّيُوفِ بِلَا رَجَالٍ.

١٠. ما ينفع الكبد يضرُ الطحال.

١١. ما حيلة الرامي إذا انقطع الوتر.

١٢. كلّ أتٍ قريب.

١٣. إذا جاء أَجَلُ البعير حام حول البئر.

١٤. ذهب الحمارُ يطلب قرنين فعاد مصلومَ الأذنين.  
(صلم الشيء : قطعه من أصله)

١٥. إذا زَلَّ الْعَالَمُ ذَلَّ بِزَلَّتِه عَالَمٌ.

١٦. إذا جاءَ القدرُ غَشِيَ البصر.

١٧. دخل فُضُولِيَّ النَّارِ فَقَالَ الحطبُ رطب.

١٨. اَتَسْعَ الْخَرْقُ عَلَى الرَّاتِقِ.

١٩. When facing a common disaster, people forget their hate and anger.

٢٠. When God wants to destroy an ant, He gives it wings and lets it fly.

٢١. When he is straight, he is like a knife, and when he bends, he becomes a sickle.

٢٢. [I taught him how to hold the bow, and] when his hands became steady, he made me his first mark.

٢٣. When in love, advice has no effect.

٢٤. When it faces an isolated man, a wolf suddenly becomes a lion.

٢٥. When it is time for us to go, the cosmic space will close on us.

٢٦. [This will happen] when the lizard and the whale become friends.

٢٧. [This will happen] when the lizard goes to drink.

٢٨. 29. When the wind blows, it favors no ship.

٢٩. عند الشدائـد تذهب الأحقاد.

٣٠. إذا أراد الله هلاك نملة انبـت لها جناحين.

٣١. إن استوى فسـكـين وإن اعوج فـمنـجلـ.

٣٢. [أعلـمـ الرـمـاـيـةـ كـلـ يـوـمـ] فـلـمـاـ اـسـتـدـ سـاعـدـ رـمـانـيـ . (استـدـ: استـقـامـ)

٣٣. ليس في الحب مشورة.

٣٤. الذئـبـ خـالـيـاـ أـسـدـ.

٣٥. إذا حـانـ القـضـاءـ ضـاقـ الفـضـاءـ .

٣٦. حتى يـؤـلـفـ بـيـنـ الضـبـ وـالـنـوـنـ . (الـضـبـ: "الـسـحلـيـةـ") (الـنـوـنـ: "الـحـوتـ")

٣٧. حتى يـرـدـ الضـبـ . (ورـدـ المـاءـ: صـارـ إـلـيـهـ) (الـضـبـ: "الـسـحلـيـةـ")

٣٨. تـجـريـ الـرـيـاحـ بـمـاـ لـاـ تـشـتـهـيـ السـفـنـ .

٢٩. آخر الداء الكي.  
29. When there is no other cure, searing must be done.

٣٠. عند النطاح يُغلب الكبش  
الأجم.  
(الأجم: ليس له قرون)  
30. When they bump against one another, the hornless ram will always lose.

٣١. من خان هان.  
31. When you betray, you become a prey.

٣٢. أسام سمعاً فأسام إجابة.  
32. When you hear poorly, you answer poorly.

٣٣. من يزرع الشوك لا يحصد العنب.  
33. When you plant a thornbush, don't ever expect grapes.

٣٤. من ترك الشهوات عاش حراً.  
34. When you renounce all your desires, you'll gain your total freedom.

٣٥. من يمشي يرض بما ركب.  
35. When on foot, all rides are welcome.

٣٦. أفرط فاستط.  
36. When you talk much, you err much.

٣٧. إذا تمنيت فاستكثر.  
37. When you wish, wish a lot.

٣٨. فم يُسبح ويد تُذبح.  
38. While his tongue was praying, his hand was slaying.

٣٩. الإنسان بالتفكير والله بالتدبر.  
39. While man is contemplating the universe, God is conducting its course.

٤٠. إذا لم تغلب فاخذ.  
40. Whom you can't conquer, try to cajole.

41. Why do you keep blowing,  
when there is no fire!

٤١. نَفَخْتَ فِي غَيْرِ ضَرَمْ.

42. Why would I want a sun that  
doesn't make me warm!

٤٢. مَا لِي بِشَمْسٍ لَا تَدْفِينِي.

43. Wisdom is the purpose of  
every believer.

٤٢. الْحِكْمَةُ ضَالَّةُ الْمُؤْمِنِ.

44. A wise man will never win, if  
he does battle with a fool.

٤٤. لَا يُنْتَصِفُ حَلِيمٌ مِّنْ جَهْوَلِ.

45. The wisest of men appreciate  
the failings of other men.

٤٥. أَعْقَلُ النَّاسُ أَعْذَرُهُمْ  
لِلنَّاسِ.

46. Within the walls of his  
home, every grown-up  
becomes a child.

٤٦. كُلَّ آمِرِيَّ فِي بَيْتِهِ صَبِيٌّ.

47. A wolf in sheep's clothing.

٤٧. تَحْتَ جَلْدِ الظَّانِ قَلْبُ  
الْأَذُوبِ.

(أَذُوبٌ: جَمْعُ ذَئْبٍ)

48. A woman's wisdom is her  
beauty, and a man's beauty is  
his wisdom.

٤٨. عَقْلُ الْمَرْأَةِ فِي جَمَالِهَا  
وَجَمَالُ الرَّجُلِ فِي عَقْلِهِ.

49. Women are snares designed by  
the Devil.

٤٩. إِنَّ النِّسَاءَ حَبَائِلُ الشَّيْطَانِ.

50. [His] words are like honey,  
but [his] deeds are like dag-  
gers.

٥٠. كَلَامٌ كَالْعِسلِ وَفَعْلٌ كَالْأَسْلِ.  
(الْأَسْلُ: الرَّمَاحُ، السِّيُوفُ)

51. The worst disasters are the  
ones that make us laugh.

٥١. شَرُّ الشَّدَائِدِ مَا يُضْحِكُ.

# Y

١. النشيد مع المسرأة.
٢. تحفظ أخاك الأَ من نفسه.
٣. إنك تضرب في حديدي بارد.
٤. إنك لا تجني من الشوك العنب.
٥. ما استتر من قاد الجمل.
٦. قبل الرِّماء ثُمَّا الكنائن.  
(كنائن جمع كنأة، وهي الجعبة التي تحفظ فيها السهام)
٧. ما لا يصلح تركه أصلح.
٨. خذ ما طفَ لك.  
(طفَ منه: دنا منه)
٩. لا تعلم اليتيم البكاء.
١٠. إِيَّاكِ أعني واسمعي يا جارة.
١١. تُكثِّرُ الحزَّ وتخطئُ المفصل.  
(الحزَّ: القطع)

١. You can only sing when you're merry.
٢. You can protect your brother from everything but himself.
٣. You can't forge cold iron.
٤. You can't harvest grapes from a thorny bush.
٥. You can't hide if you are sitting on a camel.
٦. You'd better fill your quiver, long before you start to shoot.
٧. You'd better quit, if it doesn't fit.
٨. You'd better start with the things nearest to you.
٩. You don't need to teach an orphan how to cry.
١٠. You I mean, but also your neighbor will get the message!
١١. You keep cutting, but you keep missing the joint.

١٢. رب حام لأنفه وهو جادعه.

١٢. لا ينفك عليك مثل الذي  
لله عليه.

١٤. أغثشت فانزل.

١٥. كما تزرع تحصد.

١٦. يدك منك وإن كانت شلأء.

١٧. الرواية أحد الشاتمين.

١٨. منك أنفك وإن كان أجدع.

١٩. أخوك من صدقك.

٢٠. أعلم بها من غص بها.  
(غض بالطعام: توقف  
الطعام في حلقه ومنعه من  
التنفس)

- 12. You may cut your own nose, while you're trying to protect it.
- 13. You owe your brother, exactly what he does owe you.
- 14. You reached greener pastures, now you should dismount!
- 15. You reap what you sow.
- 16. Your hand is a part of you, even if it is lame.
- 17. Your informer and your enemy are one and the same.
- 18. Your nose is a part of you, even if it has been disfigured.
- 19. Your true brother is the one who tells you the truth.
- 20. You would really know how it tastes, only if you would choke on it.

من أقوال العرب وتشبيهاتهم الأدبية

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A compilation of some of the wisest proverbs and wittiest metaphors used by the Arabs over the years, and passed down from generation to generation.

Saad Elkhadem (Sa'd al-Khâdim) teaches German and comparative literature at the University of New Brunswick; he is the editor of *The International Fiction Review* and the general editor of *Authoritative Studies in World Literature*. Dr. Elkhadem has written a considerable number of novels, plays, and short stories, edited numerous scholarly books, and translated several works of literature.