

## Verses of *Proverbs* (“箴言”诗)

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“Verses of *Proverbs*”, a group of forty couplets and quatrains written from *Proverbs* in the *Bible*. The following thirteen couplets and quatrains written from *Proverbs* 1-6.

### 1. Prologue: The Value of Proverbs

They'll help you know wisdom and good teaching,  
To discern the sayings o' understanding;  
To receive instruction i' wise behavior,  
And doing what is right and just and fair;  
To the naive for giving circumspection,  
To th' youth giving knowledge and discretion;  
Let th' wise hear and gain scholarly 'ttainments,  
And the discerning acquire handicrafts;  
For understanding proverbs and par'bles,  
And the words of the wise and their riddles.  
The fear o' the Lord is th' beginning of learning;  
But fools disapprove o' wisdom and training.

### 2. Warning Against Enticement

My son, hear th' teaching o' your father,  
And forsake not th' law o' your mother.  
They'll be wreath your head to dign'fy  
And a chain your neck to beaut'fy.  
Agree not if you sinners 'ntice,  
If they say, “Come along with us;  
For someone's blood let's lie in wait,  
Let's ambush th' inn'cent reason w'thout;  
Like th' grave, them alive let's swallow,  
'nd whole, like those who go down t' hollow;  
We'll find all kinds o' things valuable,  
And wi' booty our houses we'll fill;

### 1. 序言：箴言的价值

智慧训诲使人晓，  
通达言语要明了；  
行为正直受智慧，  
仁义公平有训诲；  
愚人灵巧也明理，  
少得智谋有知识；  
智者闻之学有成，  
聪明之人长技能；  
明白箴言和譬喻，  
知晓慧言与谜语。  
敬畏我主智开端，  
藐视训诲真愚顽。

### 2. 警告勿被引诱

要听父训谕，  
勿违母教育。  
此乃汝华冠，  
也是汝项链。  
勿从恶人诱：  
“随吾去荡游；  
埋伏流人血，  
无罪人遭劫；  
做活人墓坑，  
囹圄将他吞；  
必得珍宝物，  
所携装满屋；

Ah, do throw in your lot with us,  
 And we shall share a common purse”  
 My son, don't go along with them,  
 And hold back your foot their paths from;  
 Rush into evil for their feet,  
 To shed others' blood they are swift,  
 For in vain the net is baited  
 In the full view of all the bird.  
 Yet they lie i' wait to kill themselves;  
 And set an 'mbush for their own lives.  
 Such is th' end o' all who are greedy;  
 The life o' its owners it takes 'way.

有福同相待，  
 共用一囊袋。”  
 儿勿步他径，  
 且勿与他行；  
 他脚奔行恶，  
 欲流他血多，  
 众鸟全看到，  
 网罗唯徒劳。  
 伏人血流已；  
 唯害己命兮。  
 贪人皆此行；  
 唯送贪者命。

### 3. The Call of wisdom

In th' avenue wisdom 'loud calls,  
 She raises her voice i' th' public squares;  
 She cries out at th' head o' streets noisy,  
 She makes her speech i' the town's gateways:

“How long will fools love be'ng easy?  
 And mockers delight i' mockery?  
 To you I'll pour out my heart, b'hold,  
 Known to you I will make thoughts my.

Because I've called and you refused,  
 Stretched out my hand 'nd no one heeded,  
 Since you ignored all my advice  
 And my rebuke wouldn't be 'ccepted,

I'll also laugh at your mischance;  
 I'll mimic when you terror strikes,  
 And your disast'r comes like twister,  
 Come 'pon you when 'nguish and distress.

Then they'll call me, but I won't 'nswer;  
 They'll look for me but won't 'ncounter.  
 Since they hated erudition  
 To fear the Lord they didn't prefer,

### 3. 智慧的呼唤

智慧在街市呼喊，  
 发声在宽阔场院；  
 喊叫在闹市街头，  
 在城门讲话发言：

“愚人要愚昧多久？  
 褻慢人何时罢休？  
 我用灵浇灌汝众，  
 我之心语汝领受。

我呼唤汝不听从，  
 我伸手汝不行动；  
 余之劝诫汝轻弃，  
 余之责备难认同，

汝遭灾难吾漠视；  
 恐慌临汝我笑嗤，  
 临汝惊恐如旋风；  
 急难苦痛降汝体。

此辈呼求无应声；  
 真心寻我无踪影。  
 知识此辈皆恨恶；  
 耶和华恩不承蒙，

Since they'd not 'quire my suggestion,  
And despised all my 'dmonition,  
They shall eat the fruit of their style,  
And be sated with their schemes own.

此辈不听余劝阻；  
吾责此辈皆听无，  
故此必食自结果，  
阴谋诡计自受苦。

For waywardness kills the simple,  
And th' complacence o' fools ruin them will;  
But who listens t' me will safe dwell  
And will be at ease from th' dread o' e'il."

背道愚人杀身祸，  
愚顽安逸害己多；  
听我自有安乐窝，  
得享安然无难磨。”

#### 4. Moral Benefits of Wisdom

#### 4. 智慧的道德功效

My Child, if you receive my words  
And wi' you treasure up my commands,  
Let your ears listen to learning  
And apply your heart to good minds;

儿若受吾训，  
诫命藏于心，  
倾心听慧智，  
专心求本真；

Yes, if you call out for learning  
And cry aloud for und'rstanding,  
If you look for it as silver  
And as hidd'n treasure you're searching,

汝若求才智，  
高呼求明理；  
汝寻如银宝，  
寻似宝藏之；

Then o' the Lord you'll discern the fear  
And th' knowledge of God discover.  
It's th' Lord who gives erudition,  
From him come wisdom and culture.

敬主方知晓，  
得以识主道。  
主赐人智慧，  
主话聪慧妙。

For th' pious He stores up good fortune,  
For th' righteous He provides prot'ction,  
He guards the course of the upright  
And preserves th' way o' His Godly one.

忠正存智睿，  
纯正作甲盔，  
保守公平路，  
虔敬道护卫。

Then you'll discern what's fair and just,  
You will grasp way to live the right.  
For wisdom will ent'r your psyche,  
To your soul lore will be pleasant.

使汝明直曲，  
生之行善律。  
智慧入心头，  
灵以知美乎。

Discretion will watch over thee,  
Understanding will you o'ersee.  
It'll save you from th' way o' wickedness,  
And from those who speak perversely,

慎思多护佑，  
聪明必保守。  
救汝脱邪道，  
离他言乖谬。

Who quit the routes of uprightness  
To live in the sinful darkness,  
Who rejoice in doing abhorrent  
And delight in evil perverseness,

他类正道查，  
居于罪黑坳，  
以行恶欢喜，  
以恶乖僻乐。

They are persons whose paths are bent  
And they're men whose ways are not straight.  
It'll save you from any loose woman  
Who tries to tempt you with her words flat,

他辈道弯兮，  
行走路无直。  
救汝离淫妇，  
摆脱言诱妓，

Who is faithful to her husband own,  
Her sacred covenant forgotten.  
Down to death her dwelling declines,  
To death she is travelling through lane.

无贞于君夫，  
忘盟约与主。  
她家死地陷，  
她路向阴府，

No one who visits her back comes,  
And to the road of life none returns.  
Therefore walk in the way of the good,  
Who do right, follow the paths of those.

会她无回转，  
无人生路返。  
汝要行善路，  
义人路途坦。

In the land the upright will abide,  
And stay in it those without reprimand;  
But the wicked will be snatched from the land  
And like plants sinners will be uprooted.

人善世上住，  
完人地久居，  
邪恶被铲除，  
奸诈必拔出。

### 5. Further Benefits of Wisdom

### 5. 复言智慧的功效

My Child, don't forget my precept,  
But keep my commands in your heart,  
For your life they will longer make  
And they'll give you welfare abundant.

勿忘吾法令，  
谨守余诫命。  
必使汝寿昌，  
平安福丰盈。

Let love and truth never forsake;  
And do bind them around your neck,  
Write them upon your heart table.  
Both God and man will be euphoric.

爱诚勿遗忘；  
系在脖颈上，  
汝心扉印拓，  
神人恩宠广。

Trust in the Lord with your heart all,  
And on your own insight don't loll.  
Acknowledge him in all your ways,  
And make your footway straight he will.

仰赖耶和华，  
勿恃聪慧佳。  
所行认定主，  
使汝路通达。

Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
Fear the Lord, and depart from wrongs.  
Health to your body it'll induce  
And bring nourishment to your bones.

勿以有慧悟；  
畏主远恶务，  
康健汝肉体；  
滋润汝百骨。

Honor the Lord with your substance  
With th' first fruits of all your produce;  
Your barns will be filled wi' plenty then,  
And will be bursting wi' wine your casks.

尊主献祭礼，  
果熟第一批。  
仓房多盈满，  
酒醉新酿溢。

Child, don't despise the Lord regul'tion  
Nor be weary o' his correction,  
As a father corrects a son,  
For those God loves He'd discipline.

主教勿轻看，  
祂管勿厌烦，  
爱子父教严。  
主爱多训练。

## 6. Blessed Are Those Who Find Wisdom

## 6. 得智慧者便为有福

Blessed are those who insight acquire,  
Blessed are those who obtain wisdom.  
For she is more gainf'l than silver  
And yields bett'r returns than aurum.

得智慧聪明，  
有福属此人。  
其利胜金精，  
智慧赛白银。

She is more precious than jewels,  
Noth'ng you want can compare her with.  
Long life to you wisdom offers,  
As well as honor and good health.

珍贵越珠宝，  
所爱难与比。  
长寿付汝好，  
富贵同配匹。

The ways of wisdom are pleasant,  
And all her paths lead t' harmony.  
She's a life tree who hold her fast,  
Those who clasp her are called happy.

智慧道坦途，  
她路多平安。  
智慧生命树，  
持守福圆满。

## 7. God's Wisdom in Creation

## 7. 耶和华以智慧创造天地

The Lord by wisdom th' earth founded,  
He set th' sky i' place und'rstanding through;  
By his knowledge th' seas were 'parted,  
And to th' earth th' clouds drop down the dew.

主智立地脉，  
聪明定穹苍；  
知识分大海，  
甘露天空降。

**8. Wisdom Has The True Security**

My Child, keep sound wisdom and caution,  
 Don't let those 'scape from your vision.  
 And they will be life for your soul  
 To grace your neck a decoration.

Then walk i' your way safely you will,  
 Your foot will not trip and stumble.  
 You won't be 'fraid when you go to bed,  
 When lie down, be sweet your sleep shall.

Of sudden fear don't be afraid  
 Or o' the storm that strikes the wicked;  
 The Lord is th' one you will in trust.  
 He'll keep your foot from being snared.

Hide not good from those who need it  
 When it's in your power to act.  
 If now you can help your neighbor,  
 Never tell him to wait th' day next.

To your neighb'r nothing sinister,  
 Who lives calm' and trustf'ly you near.  
 Strike not with a man without cause  
 When he hasn't done you any harm e'er.

Don't envy a man who hurts 'thers  
 And do not choose any of his ways,  
 The Lord hates men i' depravity  
 But wi' the righteous his secret is.

God puts curses on th' house o' th' guilty,  
 But blesses th' homes of the saintly.  
 He scorns th' scorn'rs, gives grace to th' lowly.  
 Th' wise inh'rit fame, th' fools shame display.

**8. 智慧拥有真安全**

吾儿谨守智与谋，  
 勿使它离尔明眸。  
 它必作尔生与命，  
 也为美饰尔颈秀。

尔会坦然道路行，  
 不会失脚无战兢。  
 上床睡觉勿惧怕，  
 躺卧睡眠也温馨。

惊恐忽临勿被吓，  
 恶人遭毁勿惊诧；  
 主是依靠应信赖，  
 不陷网罗无跌差。

若可行善勿懈怠，  
 应得之人须善待。  
 若有现成能施舍，  
 勿让邻舍明天来。

邻舍安居附近尔，  
 勿做什么有邪恶。  
 他人未曾加害汝，  
 伤害他人不可作。

强暴之人勿嫉妒，  
 也勿择选他行路。  
 吾主憎恶乖僻人，  
 义人与主如亲故。

主咒诅恶人之宸，  
 赐福义人于家门。  
 讥诮遭讽谦卑恩，  
 智者受荣愚羞困。

**9. Wisdom Is Supreme**

Hear, sons, a father's instruction,  
You may gain insight, pay att'nion.  
And do not forsake my lecture,  
For I give you precious doctrine.

When I was a son wi' my father,  
Tender, th''nly one i' th' sight o' my mother,  
O, he taught me and to me said:  
“Lay hold o' my words with all heart your,

Keep my commands and you'll abide.  
Acquire wisdom, 'cquire clever mind;  
Don't forget or my words omit.  
Don't quit wisdom, and she'll you regard;

Love her, and she will you protect.  
Wisdom is supreme, wisdom get.  
And whatever you get, get sense.  
Esteem her, and she'll you exalt;

She'll honor you if her embrace.  
On your head fair garland she'll place  
And present you wi' a crown o' brilliance.”  
Wisdom is supreme, She's God's grace.

**10. Admonition to keep to the Right Path**

Listen my child, acc'pt what I say,  
And th' years o' your life will be many.  
I guide you in th' way of reason  
And lead you along upright way.

When you walk, noth'ng will slow you down.  
And you won't stumble when you run.  
Don't let go, of instr'ction keep hold;  
Guard her, for she's your anim'tion.

**9. 智慧的高超**

众子听父训，  
聪明留心存。  
吾训勿离弃，  
训诫多贵珍。

父前为孝子，  
娘亲独娇儿，  
且听父训诲：  
“父言须谨记，

存活遵父规。  
聪明得智慧，  
父言勿离偏，  
智慧勿离背。

爱她保安全。  
得智慧首选，  
万事选明聪。  
尊她受升迁，

怀抱获尊荣。  
华冠她给供，  
荣冕尔手送。”  
智慧主恩宠。

**10. 劝告行正直的路**

儿听吾之言，  
必益寿年延。  
指尔智慧道，  
领尔路平坦。

行走步逍遥，  
奔跑不跌倒。  
持训勿放松，  
谨守生命好。

Don't enter the path of th' wicked  
And i' the way o' th' evil don't proceed.  
Avoid it, don't on it travel;  
Refuse it and go on your road.

恶人行不同，  
坏人道勿从。  
避之不行经，  
转身已路通。

For they can't sleep till they do e'il;  
They can't rest till make someone fall.  
For they eat the bread o' wickedness  
And th' wine of violence they guzzle.

难寐恶不行，  
不陷卧无宁。  
恶人恶果食，  
强暴酒酩酊。

Like th' light of dawn th' path o' the righteous,  
Brighter, bright' til full day which shines.  
The way o' the wicked is gloomy;  
They don't know what them stumble makes.

义路照晨曦，  
亮极日午时。  
恶人道暗昏，  
跌倒因不知。

Child, pay att'ntion to what I say;  
Listen to my sayings closely,  
Do not let them out of your sight,  
Keep them within your heart deeply;

吾言儿留心，  
余语听切真。  
勿当风耳旁，  
心中牢记存。

For they're life to those who them spot,  
And health to a man's body fit.  
Watch o'er your heart wi' all diligence,  
For flow the springs of life from it.

得它生命强，  
医体医药良。  
守心超万务，  
泉源自心房。

Put 'way from you crooked utt'rance,  
And keep e'il talk far from your lips.  
Hang your head shamefully do not;  
Look straight ahead wi' honest conf'dence.

邪僻口去除，  
乖谬言不出。  
无羞不低头，  
诚信瞩前途。

Do make level paths for your feet  
And all your ways will be establ'shed.  
Don't swerve to the right or to th' left;  
Away from evil turn your foot.

脚下路平修，  
众途均造就。  
勿偏左或右，  
邪恶步勿留。

## 11. Warning Against Impurity and Infidelity

## 11. 当远避淫行

My child, to my wisd'm pay att'nion,  
Listen well to my appreh'sion,  
So that you will maintain prudence  
And your lips may guard erud'tion.

留心智慧言，  
听余聪明谏，  
吾儿谋略守，  
知识留唇间。

For drip honey th' lips o' adult'ress,  
And smooth'r than oil is her utt'rance;  
But i' th' end she's like bitt'r toxicant,  
Sharp as a sword has two keenness.

淫妇嘴蜜流，  
她口滑胜油，  
至终茵陈苦，  
两刃锋造就。

Will take you down to death her feet;  
To the grave her steps lead you straight.  
She does not ponder the life way;  
Her ways wander, but she knows not.

脚带汝死土，  
步引尔坟墓。  
不识生之道，  
蜿蜒无坦途。

O sons, listen to me caref'lly;  
Don't turn aside from what I say.  
Stay on a path far 'way from her,  
And don't go near her house gateway;

吾言要听好，  
众子勿违拗。  
行路远淫妓，  
勿近她门道。

Lest to oth'rs you'll give your honor,  
And to the merciless your year,  
Lest o' your wealth strangers take plen'tude,  
And your toil enr'ch th' house o' a stranger.

恐尔尊荣弃，  
岁留残忍司，  
恐财外人占，  
归入他家室。

And of your life you'll groan at th' end,  
When your flesh and b'dy are consumed.  
You'll say, "How I hated disciplines,  
How my heart ref'sed to be corr'cted!

终留空悲叹，  
身肉皆消残。  
汝言“曾恨训，  
心中藐责劝！

I would not obey my teachers,  
Or listen to my instructors.  
I am at the brink of utter ruin  
In th' assembled congregations.”

不从师导引，  
不听教咐吩。  
身在圣会所，  
几近恶危濒。”

Drink water from your own cistern,  
Flowing water from your well own.  
Should your springs overflow i' the street,  
Streams of water th' public squares in?

饮水自池喔，  
自家井水活。  
汝泉岂外流，  
岂可流街过。

Let them be for yourself apart,  
And for sharing with strangers not.  
So with you own wife be happy,  
And in th' wife of your youth delight,

唯独归汝有，  
勿与外人谋。  
与妻同幸福，  
爱妻幼婚媾。

As a deer graceful and pretty.  
May her charm'ng breasts you satisfy;  
'lways i' her love be intox'cated.  
Why bewitched an adult'ress by?

可爱似麇鹿，  
爱妻胸迷汝。  
常恋妻情爱，  
何故慕淫妇？

Why th' bosom o' others wife enfold?  
For a man's ways are i' full view o' th' Lord,  
Where'er you go, he is watching.  
By his own sins a sinn'r is snared.

岂抱他妇怀？  
所行主目睐，  
何去主垂注，  
罪人罪孽拽。

He's held fast by th' ropes o' wrongdoing.  
He will die for lack of training,  
His great folly is misleading.  
For your precious life guard warning.

罪如绳索拘，  
死因拒训谕，  
歧途因过愚，  
重生守戒律。

## 12. Warning Against Folly

## 12. 勿行愚昧

Child, if you're surety for neighbor,  
Have given your pledge for a stranger,  
If you've been trapped by what you said,  
Ensnared by the words of mouth your,

若为邻人保结，  
或为生人誓约，  
尔被话语绕缠，  
汝嘴言词挟拽。

Do someth'ng to free yourself, instead,  
Don't fall into your neighbor's hand.  
No pride, go and yourself abase,  
Hurry and with your neighbor plead.

做事自救脱难，  
勿落朋友掌拳。  
无傲虚己屈卑，  
急求友人苟延。

Don't go to slumber let your eyes,  
Don't let your eyelids tightly close.  
Free yourself as deer from huntsman,  
From snare as a bird itself frees.

勿容双眼睡兮，  
勿使眼皮合睫。  
似鹿脱猎自救，  
如鸟脱网展翼。

Go to th' ants, you lazy person  
From th' ways ants live learn a lesson.  
The ants have no a commander,  
And they have no a leading man.

懒人应观蚁走，  
蚁行得以研修。  
蚂蚁本无元帅，  
也无君王领袖。

They prepare their food in summer,  
And their sustenance in harvest gather.  
Sluggard, how long will you there sleep?  
When will you rise from your slumber?

食物夏天备采，  
敛粮收割时节。  
懒人梦睡何长？  
睡眠何时睁开？

A little sleep, a little nap,  
A while folding of th' hands to sleep,  
Your poverty will come in like a bandit  
And like an armed man your hardship.

片时睡打盹养，  
抱手片时卧躺，  
汝贫必如遇盗，  
苦难似武匪撞。

A scoundrel, villain with misconduct  
Who goes around with a mouth corrupt,  
Winks with his eyes, motions with his fingers,  
And he makes signals with his feet.

无赖恶徒种孬，  
行走恶口招摇，  
眼传神指点划，  
以脚示传信号。

With pervert'd heart evil devises,  
He stirs up dissension always.  
Calamity will suddenly descend.  
In a moment, beyond repair damages.

邪心恶计谋发，  
常把纷争播撒。  
灾难必临他身，  
立毁救治无法。

There are six things hate does the Lord,  
And can't tolerate seven things God:  
A lying tongue, proud eyes haughty,  
And hands that shed innocent blood.

六样事主憎恨，  
七事神难容忍：  
高傲眼撒谎舌，  
血流无辜之人。

A heart that devises conspiracy,  
Feet that run to evil rapidly,  
A sham witness attests falsely,  
And one who sows discord in family.

心底恶谋图设，  
飞跑脚向行恶，  
假见证借谎扯，  
布散纷争家舍。

### 13. Warning Against Adultery

### 13. 勿犯奸淫

My Child, keep th' commands of your father,  
Forsake not th' teaching of your mother.  
Always fasten them round your neck;  
And bound them upon your heart forever.

谨守父诫命，  
勿弃母律令。  
挂儿脖颈上；  
心头常怀萦。

They'll often lead you when you walk,  
They'll talk with you when you awake;  
They'll watch over you when you lie down.  
As light th' commands and teaching blink,

汝行它导向，  
尔醒它言讲；  
躺卧它保守。  
训诫是灯光，

Teach you how to live th' discipline, Keep you from an evil woman, From the smooth tongue of th' adult'ress. Crave not her beauty your heart in,	生路训诫修, 远离恶妇手, 不沾淫妇舌。 不为美色诱,
Nor let her capture you wi' her eyes. A whore is 'nly loaf o' bread for th' price, But th' whore stalks a man's v'ry being. Be carried in th' bosom can blaze	不被淫眼惑。 妓使汝饼折, 猎命有淫妇。 人若怀揣火,
And without the man's clothes burning? Or can one walk on coals flaming Without his own feet being scorched? So is he wi' his neighb'r's wife sleeping;	岂不烧衣服? 脚从炭火渡, 岂能不烫脚? 睡与邻人妇,
None who touch's her won't go pun'shed. If a thief steals be scorned he shouldn't, Cont'nt his desire for his hungry, He'll pay seven-fold if he's caught.	惩处无人少。 贼饥窃勿藐, 足满他欲食, 被捉七倍缴。
Lacks sense who commits adult'ry; He who does it himself destroy. Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his shame won't be wiped away.	行淫实无知, 如此命丧兮。 凌辱受伤损, 羞耻难尽洗。
Husband's wrath jealousy stim'late, When he takes revenge no restraint. No compensation he'll accept, He'll refuse th' bribe, however great.	嫉恨成怒愤, 复仇无止禁。 赎价他不认, 贿重休不肯。

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