

## Ballads of *Ecclesiastes* (《传道书》歌谣)

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“Ballads of *Ecclesiastes*”, a group of 25 couplets and tercets written from *Ecclesiastes* in the Bible

### 1. Everything Is Meaningless

The words of the Preacher, song of David,  
King in Jerusalem:  
Meaningless, everything is meaningless,  
What does a man gain from his work on th' earth?  
A man toils und'r th' sun, but gains nothingness.

Generations come, generation goeth,  
But th' earth abides forever, one knows,  
Th' sun rises, sets, to where it rose hasteth.

To the south, then to the north the wind goes,  
It whirls 'bout continually, and you see,  
Returns again to the place where it blows.

It ne'er gets full, all streams flow to the sea,  
The streams return to th' place where they flowing,  
They go back to where they came from, know we.

Our eyes never have enough of seeing,  
Things are wear'some too great for etymon,  
Our ears never hear enough of anything.

Oh, what has been done is what will be done,  
And what has been is what will be anew,  
So there is nothing new under the sun.

Nothing 'bout which one can say “Something new”,  
What has happened had already happened,  
And it was here already long ago.

What has happened in th' past is not recalled,

### 1. 万事皆虚空

在耶路撒冷作王， 大卫的儿子，  
传道者的言语：  
虚空虚空万事空，  
人生劳碌有何得？  
日下辛劳无功用。

人世代代亦过客，  
地老天荒地永存，  
日出日落急归窠。

风往南刮又北奔，  
旋来转去转不止，  
返回原路重跃进。

江河入海水不溢，  
河自何来归何处，  
流水回源人皆知。

吾侪有目看不足，  
万事恼人说不完，  
众耳聆听听亦绌。

待生之事有前缘，  
已有之事必再生，  
日下万事无新鲜。

无物可言新现呈，  
现有之事史有迹，  
久远前世曾历经。

已过之事无人忆，

And what happens now won't be remembered.

现今之事无人记。

## 2. Wisdom Is Meaningless (Sonnet)

## 2. 智慧属虚空 (商籁体)

Th' preacher, king o'er Israel i' Jerusalem,  
Devoted himself to explore and learn  
All that is done und'r heaven by wisdom.

道者曾王以色列，  
专心智慧求探查，  
天下万事无遗缺。

What a heavy burd'n God has laid on men,  
All the things that are done he's examined,  
Like chasing th' wind, all o' them under heaven.

神叫世人劳苦加，  
所行之事王均见，  
虚空捕风亦抓瞎。

Lo, what is twisted cannot be straightened;  
Everything done i' this world is nothingness,  
And what is lacking cannot be counted.

弯曲之物何直变？  
万事所行皆虚罔，  
欠缺之物难盈满。

As great man, he'd found knowledge is useless.  
He found out what he did was vanity,  
He tried to learn wisdom, folly, madness.

知识渊博徒为王，  
一切努力化乌有，  
何谈智慧愚昧狂。

For with much wisdom comes much misery,  
Those who increase knowledge increase worry.

多有智慧多有愁，  
加增知识加增忧。

## 3. Pleasures are Meaningless

## 3. 享乐是空虚

Enjoy myself and make a test o' happ'ness,  
But laughter is mad, and it's o' gaiety.  
Cheer my body wi' wine, guiding wi' cleverness,

尝试幸福乐享受，  
嬉笑为狂乐亦妄，  
假以智慧欲纵酒，

See what good for men, lay hold on folly.  
Great works I made, hous's built, vineyards planted,  
And self-indulgence is perplexity.

把控愚昧明嘉良，  
大兴土木建琳隈，  
自我沉溺实迷惘。

Fruit trees plant'd i' gardens and orchards I made,  
Pools I made to water th' forest o' grow'ng trees,  
Also more herds and flocks than any'ne I owned.

果树满园亲栽培，  
修塘储水勤灌溉，  
牛羊成群无比对。

Servants and maidens I got, and had slaves  
Born i' my house; I amassed gold and silver,  
And th' treasure of kings and o' the provinces.

仆婢众多钱买来，  
财宝金银广积蓄，  
君王省辖珍宝采。

I got me both male and female singer,  
And delights o' the flesh, as well a harem,

男女歌者多集聚，  
尽情乐享后宫春，

By far than anyone I became greater.

无与伦比耶京域。

Oh, in all this stayed with me my wisdom,  
Withheld not my heart from enjoy anything,  
What my eyes desired I kept not from them.

余有智慧仍留存，  
尽情享乐随心逐，  
纵放目力无欲禁。

My heart delighted i' all from my working,  
And b'hold , all was van'ty, and gained nothing.

满心快乐喜劳碌，  
尽见徒劳化虚无。

#### 4. Wisdom and Folly are Meaningless

#### 4. 智愚皆虚空

Consider wisdom, madness and folly,  
What can be done by the king's successor?  
Only that which has been done already.

智慧狂妄愚昧，  
王后任者何干？  
重复前人所为

Wisdom bett'r than folly, th'n darkn'ss, light better.  
The eyes o' a wise man see clearly anything,  
A foolish person lives i' a place darker,

智过愚，明胜暗，  
智者目明万事，  
愚者居于黑庵，

But for us all, the same fate is waiting,  
What happ'ns to fools go'ng to happen to me,  
What I've gained from be'ng so wise is nothing.

同命相连无异。  
愚人遇，吾必尝，  
余所得，虚非实。

The wise man, like the fool, will forgott'n be,  
Like th' fool, the wise man too must pass away.

智愚日后被忘，  
愚智均要死亡。

#### 5. Toil Is Meaningless

#### 5. 劳碌是虚空

The work done under th' sun was deplorable,  
For all is van'ty and I hat'd labor,  
Because everything i' it brought me trouble.

日下劳作恼懊，  
恨恶劳碌无成，  
凡事皆有烦恼。

I must leave th' gains to th' one that comes after,  
Who knows whether wise or foolish he'll be?  
Yet o' everything I toiled he'll be master,

收益得留后生，  
岂知聪慧愚昧，  
余得予他权柄。

Everything my wisdom has earned for me.  
I regret I work'd so hard, but in vain,  
And have to leave all to someone toilfree.

拥有系余智慧，  
悔恨劳苦无益，  
留与气力无费。

What do mortals get from all th' toil and strain?  
Even night their minds can't rest, fast beating,  
For all their days are full of grief and pain.

劳力费神何利，  
夜里也难坦然，  
日日伤悲痛兮。

Bett'r than eat and drink men can do nothing,  
Enjoy what he's earned, this too comes from th' Lord,  
Without him, who can eat and find d'lighting.

人莫强如吃穿，  
劳碌享福由主，  
无主难有平安。

Knowledge and joy giv'n to who pleases God.  
Sinners' wealth comes to naught before the Lord.

智慧喜乐神祝，  
惟罪财富虚无。

### 6. Everything Has Its Time

### 6. 万事均有定时

Oh, to everything there is a season,  
God sets th' time for everything und'r th' heaven:

天下凡事有定期，  
主为万务选定时：

He sets th' time for birth and the time for death,  
The time to plant and the time to uproot,

生有时，死有分，  
栽种拔除有时辰，

The time for killing and th' time for healing,  
The time for tear'ng down and th' time for building,

杀戮医治各有期，  
拆毁建造会有时，

The time for cry and time for elation,  
The time for sorrow and time cotillion,

哭有时，笑有歇，  
哀恸跳舞各有节，

The time for making love and the time not,  
The time for kissing and the time for naught,

相拥相爱欢有散，  
接吻互亲酣亦闲，

The time to search and the time to mislay,  
The time to keep and th' time to throw away,

寻找有时失有约，  
保守有期舍有權，

The time to tear and the time to tinker,  
The time to keep silence and time utter,

撕裂有辍补有裨，  
静默言语有始末，

The time to love and the time to abhor,  
The time for concord and the time for war.

喜爱有缘恨有限，  
和平争战无延误。

### 7. The God-Given Task (Sonnet)

### 7. 神付世人劳务 (商籁体)

What do the mortals get for their hard toil?  
I've seen th' heavy load God has put on 'dults,  
He's made everyth'ng beautiful in it's while.

世人劳碌有何益，  
世人劳苦神加担，  
神造万物美其时。

Also he's set eternity i' men's hearts,  
However, they can't completely fathom  
What he's done from th' beginning to th' limits.

永生人心神置安，  
世人难悟神作为，  
创始成终神恩典。

I know that there's nothing better for them  
Than happy and do good while they exist.  
In toil, one should eat, drink and have pastime,

我知世人乐所归，  
喜乐好善一生歆，  
劳碌吃喝享福美，

It's God's gift, and what'ver God does will last,  
Nothing can be add'd, noth'ng can be tak'n 'way,  
God does it so men will fear his sway vast.

神恩神为必永存，  
不会增添不减少，  
神行要人敬其尊。

Which is b'fore has, to be, is already,  
God makes th' same thing happen repeatedly.

今事先有未生早，  
万事往复神奇妙。

### 8. Injustice In The World (Sonnet)

### 8. 世上的不公平 (商籁体)

In th' place of judgment, there was the vicious,  
In th' place o' righteousn'ss, there was iniquity,  
God will judge both the wicked and th' righteous.

审判之处有奸恶，  
奸恶也在公义处，  
恶徒义人神审核。

He's appoint'd every matt'r and activ'ty.  
God might manif'st than beast man is no b'tter,  
Both man and beast are wait'd by th' same dest'ny.

神定时分为万务，  
显明人非优于兽，  
人与动物命无殊。

And as the one dies, so dies the other,  
In fact, both man and beast have the same breath,  
Meanwhile, life has no meaning for either.

人兽两类死相侔，  
两相气息无差异，  
生如朝露空逗留。

Both are from earth and both return to earth,  
Who knows if th' human spirit goes upward,  
And th' spirit of animals goes beneath?

出于尘泥回于泥，  
人兽灵魂何处归  
天堂地狱谁晓知？

Enjoy his work is what for man by God,  
No one can see what will be afterward.

喜乐事工主分配，  
无人得见事央未。

### 9. Oppression and Toil (Sonnet)

### 9. 欺压与劳碌 (商籁体)

Look all th' oppressions done the sun under,  
The tears of such as were oppressed, behold,  
No comforter; th' oppressors had power.

日光之下见欺压，  
受压之人泪满面，  
压迫之人有权爪。

The dead are happier than the living, I told,  
But bett'r than both is he who hasn't got birth,  
Who hasn't seen th' injustice goes on i' the world.

逝者胜比活人安，  
未生之人胜死生，  
人世邪恶未曾见。

All toil and skill spring from th' envy one hath,

劳碌灵巧忌邻朋，

It's useless and a chasing after squall.  
The fool folds his hands and starve him'slf to death.

如是捕风也虚空，  
愚人束手饿鬼迎。

Bett'r is a handf'l wi' quiet than two handfuls wi' toil.  
A man had neither son nor broth'r, lonel'ness,  
No end to his toil, not cont'nt wi' he had all.

一把强胜两把工，  
孤独无兄无子孺，  
劳碌不止愿难穷。

Under the sun again someth'ng meaningless,  
It's too meaningl'ss, miserable business.

日下再见多虚无，  
也是虚空是劳苦。

### 10. The Value of a friend

Two men are better than one man lonely,  
They will have a good reward for their toil.  
If one falls, his friend helps him upquickly.  
But pity, no help if one falls to soil.

### 10. 朋友的价值

两人甚好一人孤，  
二人劳碌得果甜。  
倘若摔倒有人扶，  
孤身跌倒无人搀。

Again, if it's cold, two can sleep t'gether,  
And stay warm, no one can keep warm alone.  
Two can resist an 'ttack that would one c'nquer.  
A rope of three cords isn't eas'y broken.

二人同寝取暖好，  
一人独卧暖难取。  
抗敌同心二人妙，  
三股拧绳断不惧。

### 11. Advancement Is Meaningless

Better a poor but wise youth than an old  
But foolish king, who no longer takes advice.  
Though i' the kingdom born from a poor household,  
Instead, th' youth comes to reign and lives i' palace.

### 11. 显贵是虚空

贫穷智慧年少娃，  
胜过拒谏愚昧王。  
尽管生在贫困家，  
进驻王宫治国邦。

All th' living, moving about th' sun under,  
Follow that youth who replaced the old king;  
Yet not rejoice i' him will be those come l'ter.  
'Lso vanity and aft'r wind a chasing.

日下活人随新君，  
取代老王立后生。  
众后人啊吝欢欣，  
真乃虚空也捕风。

### 12. Stand in Awe of God (Sonnet)

Guard your steps when you go to th' house of God;  
To hear r'ther than to proff'r fools' offering,  
For they don't know what they do offend th' Lord.

### 12. 对神要肃敬 (商籁体)

谨慎脚步进神殿，  
闻道胜献愚人祭，  
愚氓未晓犯罪愆。

N'ver be rash wi' your mouth to utter anything  
B'fore God, for God is i' heav'n, and you on earth;  
Be few your words, not many as fools speaking.

不可冒失开口急，  
神在天上汝地下，  
勿多言语显愚兮。

Fulf'll your vow, for no pleasure i' fools he hath,  
It's better that you not make a promise  
Than you should vow but not fulfill your oath.

神不喜悦愚愿发，  
愿许不还弗如无，  
誓约出口还未差。

Don't let your mouth lead you 'nto wickedness,  
Neither say that b'fore th' ang'l your vow an 'rror.  
Why let God angry and make you fruitless.

口勿使身罪无赎，  
勿告天使愿许错，  
何故恼神挫汝输。

Much dreaming and many words are useless, for,  
Therefore stand i' awe of God wi' metic'lous care.

梦多言多虚幻多，  
敬畏上主慎心魄。

### 13. Riches are Meaningless

If i' a district you see the poor oppressed,  
Justice and rights denied, there's no marvel,  
By a higher one, one official is watched,  
And o'er them both are others higher still.  
Lo, the king himself profits from the crofts;  
The increase from th' land is taken by all.

### 13. 富有是虚空

眼见穷人受欺压，  
公平被夺勿诧异，  
官员也被高官察，  
两阶官上有高职。  
君王也得田利润，  
众人都从地获益。

Lovers o' wealth is ne'er satisfied wi' he gets;  
Lovers of money ne'er has money plenty.  
It's also chasing aft'r th' wind and conceits.

贪爱财富无足心，  
银钱难使贪知足。  
同是捕风也混沌。

As goods increase, so do those who are h'ngry.  
And to th' owner what are they benefit?  
On them except to feast his eyes greedy.

食物增添饥者簇，  
主人可有何益赚？  
除却眼福剩余无。

Sweet's th' sleep o' work'rs wh'ther little or much they eat,  
But th''bundance o' rich man p'rmits him no slumber.  
Wealth stored up brings hum to the owner o' it,

吃喝不拘劳安眠，  
富足丰满睡难香。  
财资积存招祸患，

Or his wealth were lost through some disaster,  
Then left for th' owner's son, there won't be 'nything.  
Naked a man comes from th' womb of his mother,

遭遇灾难财损光，  
无有留存给儿女。  
赤身母腹人世上，

And as he comes, so he departs wi' nothing,  
A man d'parts as comes, what he gets lastly?  
His whole life is full o' trouble and suff'ring.

赤身而来赤身去，  
分毫无得劳所获，  
一生烦恼与冤屈。

To eat and drink for one is good, comely,  
And enjoy th' good o' all his work that he taketh

吃喝本为享与乐，  
尽享劳碌所得份，

All th' days of his life God gives him wholly,

神赐人生所得果。

For it's lot. E'ery man was giv'n riche's and wealth,  
And enables him to enjoy, acc'pt th' doom,  
To rejoice i' his labor; it's th' gift God giveth.

神赐人人资财丰，  
使人享用命注定，  
劳碌喜乐本神恩。

Remember th' days of his life, he seldom,  
For God answers him i' the joy o' his bosom.

人少思念人一生，  
人心喜乐神允应。

#### 14. The Futility of Life

#### 14. 人生的虚空

An evil I have seen under th' heaven,  
And it lies heavy 'pon humanity:  
God gives wealth, possessions, and hon'r to men.

日下有祸患，  
重压世人身：  
神赐资荣钱，

They lack noth'ng they d'sire, yet no felic'ty.  
They can't enjoy these things, 'nstead a stronger.  
Grievous evil it is and vanity.

丰盈福无份。  
外人享福祉，  
虚空也祸恩。

Many years lives, and hundr'd childr'n has a father,  
But doesn't enjoy life, not suitably buried,  
Off than he, a stillborn child is better.

寿长生百子，  
无福无妥埋，  
莫强胎产死。

Comes'nto van'ty, goes in darkn'ss, name shrouded.  
Ne'er sees th' sun, and knows anything, yet finds rest,  
To th' same place wi' whom long-lived, but ill-fated.

虚来暗去胎，  
息于无醒苏，  
归地寿无择。

All human toil is for the appetite,  
What 'dvantage has a wise man o'er a fool?  
What good do th' poor have, knowing life conduct?

劳碌为口腹，  
智何长于妄？  
何长穷识务？

Bett'r is what th' eyes see than th' desires of th' soul.  
Whate'er exists has been named already,  
No man can contend wi' one who is pow'rful.

眼见胜欲望。  
先物名已夺，  
争勿与人强。

The more the words and the more vanity,  
What then is the advantage to a man  
During th' few years o' his life futility?

言多虚浮多，  
何益益人兮？  
岁月白度过。

Who knows what is good for men under th' sun?  
Who can tell what will happen aft'r he's gone?

日下人何益？  
身后谁人知？



**15. The Contrast of Wisdom and Folly**

A good name is better than pr'cious ointment,  
And th' day o' death better than th' day o' beginning.  
It's bett'r to go to the house o' bereavement

Than to go to a house that is feasting,  
For death is th' destiny o' individual;  
And lay it to heart should be the living.

And lo, sorrow is better than giggle,  
A face is sad, a heart may be happy.  
The mind o' the wise is in the house mournful,

While th' mind of fools is in the house merry.  
It's better to hear the rebuke of th' wise  
Than for one to listen to th' fools' ditty.

Under a pot as the crackling of thorns,  
So it's also meaningless, th' fools laughter.  
A wise man 'to a fool, extortion turns,

And a bribe corrupts a man's character.  
Better is th' end o' thing than its birth;  
And than pride, patience o' spirit is better.

In th' bosom of fools, for anger resteth,  
Be i' your spirit to b'come angry, not quick.  
“Why were th' old days better than these?” not asketh

For it is not wise such questions to ask.  
Wisdom, good thing to profit those see th' sun,  
For th' prot'ction o' wisdom is that o' money like.

It's the advantage of information;  
That wisdom preserves one's life who it hold.  
And do please consider what God has done:

Who can straighten what God has made twisted?  
In th' day of prosperity be joyous;  
When times are bad, it should be considered:

**15. 智愚之别**

美名胜香膏，  
死时胜生初。  
丧家去哀悼，

强宴喜庆府，  
死为人之终，  
活人心中缚。

忧伤胜笑容，  
容愁心喜乐。  
慧心丧屋躬，

愚聚欢乐所。  
聆听智者斥，  
胜听愚人歌。

釜下燃荆噼，  
愚人笑空虚。  
勒索慧变痴，

贿赂败禀赋。  
终结胜起头；  
忍耐胜自诩。

勿心急恼怒，  
怒存愚心坎。  
“昔胜今之由？”

此问非聪贤。  
智慧见日辈，  
智慧似银钱。

知识有益惠：  
保护智者命。  
查看神作为：

神曲谁可正？  
幸运当喜悦；  
患难应思省：

Oh, God sends both trouble and happiness;  
And you never know what is going to chase.

祸福神并列，  
后事无知觉。

### 16. The Riddles of Life

### 16. 人生之谜

A righteous man perishes i' his righteousness,  
A wick'd man length'ns his life i' his e'ildoing.  
Don't have o'errihteousn'ss, neith'r overwiseness.

义人行义反灭亡，  
恶人行恶享长寿。  
勿义过份逞慧长。

Why should you die before your time coming?  
Don't be overwicked, neither a fool,  
To grasp the one and not let th' oth'r going.

何必早逝寿未休？  
勿恶过份别愚昧，  
持守美好勿松手。

Th' man who fears God will avoid extremes all.  
Than ten rulers that are in a city  
Wisdom makes one wise man more powerful.

敬神之人避偏危。  
慧使智者力更添，  
强胜城中十官位。

There's not a righteous man on earth, surely  
Who does what is right and ne'er makes error.  
Don't pay 'ttention to e'ery word people say,

行善之人罪不犯，  
如此义人实属无。  
勿用在乎世人言，

Or your servant cursing you, you may hear  
For you also have realized in your mind  
That you likewise have many times cursed other.

一恐闻仆人咒诅汝，  
晓尔屡次咒诅人  
只因汝心最清楚。

All this I've test'd by wisdom and I said,  
"I will be wise," but it was far from me.  
That which has been is far off, 'nd most profound

余用智慧行甄审，  
“吾要智慧”智远离。  
一万事之理远难论，

Who can disco'er it, whate'er wisd'm may be?  
I turned my mind to know and to search out  
And to seek wisdom and the things' issue,

谁能测透何慧智？  
一味想知与寻访  
求寻智慧万事理，

Wick'dness is folly, folly madn'ss, find that.  
More bitt'r than death th' woman who is a snare,  
Whose hands are chains and a trap is her heart.

欲知邪愚与愚妄。  
手是锁链心网罗，  
此等妇人苦难当。

The man who pleases God will escape her,  
But by her the sinner will be captured.  
Behold, this is what I found, says th' preacher,

神爱之人避其祸，  
有罪之人落其套。  
传道言人他寻获，

Adding one thing to 'nother th' sum to find,

为寻其理作比较，

Among a thousand onl' one upright man,  
But a woman 'mong all these hasn't been found.

千人一男有义行，  
众女一义未找到。

God made mankind upright; I found this 'lone,  
But men have gone in search of many design.

造人神为要直正，  
人寻巧计多纷呈。

### 17. Obey the King (Sonnet)

### 17. 服从君王（商籁体）

"Who is like the wise man?  
Who knows the explanation of things?  
Wisdom brightens a man's face and changes its hard appearance." (Ecclesiastes 8:1)

Keep th' king's command because o' your sacred oath.  
Be not hasty to go from his presence.  
And do not join in an unrighteous pith,

指神起誓遵君令。  
勿急退离王视线。  
也勿固执从恶行，

For he will do whatever he rejoice.  
Who can say to th' king, "What are you doing?  
The word o' him is authoritative since,

因王凡事随己愿。  
"谁问王事有胆量？  
王之言语有柄权。

Whoe'er keeps command will know no e'il thing,  
And th' wise heart will know th' prop'r time and th' just way.  
For there's a time and way for everything,

遵王命令无祸殃，  
智慧人心明时律。  
凡事成就有时光，

Although man's trouble lie on him heavy.  
Indeed, they do not know what will happen,  
And there's no one tell them how it will be.

苦难重压人伛偻。  
无人得知将来事，  
无人告知事何如。

No man has power th' spirit to retain,  
Nor will e'il deli'er those to war who're giv'n.

无人有权管生死，  
邪恶难救恶行魑。

### 18. The Wicked and the Righteous

### 18. 恶人和义人

I've seen wick'd men buried 'nd i' their ossuary,  
Those who used to do good and receive praise  
And they're soon forgott'n, this's 'lso vanity.

恶人葬于墓，  
义人受赞称，  
人忘亦虚无。

The hearts o' th' people are fill'd to do wrong wi' schemes,  
When th' sentence for crime isn't quickly carried out.  
Though sinn'rs do ev'l hundr'd times and pr'long  
their lives,

世人心恶盈，  
罪未立刑施。

百恶享寿增，

It'll do b'tter wi' God-fearing men I know yet,  
Because these men stand in fear before God,

敬神归福祉，  
此辈敬畏神。

But it will not be well wi' the miscreant, 福乐恶人失，

Neither will they prolong their days like a shade. 恶人岁影荫。  
That takes place on earth there's a vanity, 人世原虚空，  
Righteous men get th' punishment of th' wicked, 义人遭惩罚，

And wicked men get th' reward of th' saintly. 恶人受义功，  
I say that this too is without meaning. 吾谓此空虚，  
And I commend joy of vivacity, 快乐余称颂。

Under the sun for man has no good thing, 除却吃喝娱，  
Except to eat and drink and be joyous, 别无世人乐，  
Then joy will go with him in his toiling. 劳碌享欢愉。

My mind applied to know wisd'm 'nd see th' business, 慧心看生活，  
And then I see all the work God has done. 通晓神工价。  
No one can comprehend what's contin'ous. 无人明沿革，

Despite all his efforts, man discov'rs none, 费力难寻查，  
Claims he knows but can't even a wise man. 智者无觉察。

### 19. A common Destiny for All

Th' righteous and th' wise and their deeds are i'  
God's hands,  
No man knows eith'r love or hate b'fore by all.  
It's th' same for all, since th' same event betides

To th' righteous and th' wicked, th' good and th' evil,  
To th' clean 'nd th' unclean, who off'rs and who not does.  
As it's with the good man, so wi' the sinful;

And he who swears is as who an oath shuns.  
Th' same destiny o'ertakes all, under th' sun  
This is the evil i' everyth'ng that happens.

Full o' evil and there's madness, th' hearts of men  
While living 'nd afterward they join th' dead being.  
E'en a live dog is bett'r off than dead lion,

There's hope for whoe'er is joined wi' all th' living.  
The living knows that they'll die, but th' dead don't;

福乐恶人失，

恶人岁影荫。  
人世原虚空，  
义人遭惩罚，

恶人受义功，  
吾谓此空虚，  
快乐余称颂。

除却吃喝娱，  
别无世人乐，  
劳碌享欢愉。

慧心看生活，  
通晓神工价。  
无人明沿革，

费力难寻查，  
智者无觉察。

### 19. 临到众人的事都是一样的

义人智者神掌控，  
爱恨临面无声“诶”。  
同样遭遇同困窘

义罪好恶洁与非，  
献祭与否无差异。  
好人罪人同运随；

起誓无誓无参差。  
日下命同与众人，  
万事唯此为祸事。

恶狂充盈活人心，  
随后归于死人帮。  
活狗不比死狮逊，

相连活人有指望。  
活者知亡死人否，

They've no more reward e'en their memory missing. 无人纪念无赐赏。

Their love, hate and envy have already perished,  
They've no more share in all that's done the sun under.  
Go to eat and drink with a merry heart,  
爱恨嫉妒早销勾，  
日下所行永无缘。  
欢喜吃饭与喝酒，

For what you do now is in God's favor.  
Be sure always to look happy and merry.  
Enjoy life with the wife whom you love ever,  
汝之作为神许赞，  
永远快乐与高兴。  
快乐度日与妻贤，

All the days of your vain life are in your destiny.  
For it's your reward in life and in your toil.  
For there's no work, thought, lore, wisdom in ossuary.  
虚空年日属乎命。  
人生劳碌当得份，  
劳思智无于坟墓。

The race isn't to the swift or to the strong the battle,  
Nor does food come to the wise or wealth the brilliant  
Because time and chance happen to them all.  
未必强胜赢者迅，  
未必智食明哲财  
时光机会临众人。

As birds are taken in a snare, fish in net,  
Men are trapped by evil moment we least expect it.  
鱼被网罗鸟被逮，  
祸患突临世人裁。

## 20. Wisdom Superior to Folly (Sonnet)

The great example of wisdom under the sun seemed:  
A little city with few people in it,  
A great king came against it and besieged,

And constructed large siegeworks it against.  
Now there lived in the city a poor wise man,  
And he by his wisdom delivered it.

Yet the poor man was not remembered by one.  
So I said, "wisdom is better than power."  
But despised is the wisdom of the poor person.

And the words aren't heeded of the man who's poor.  
More to be heeded are the quiet words of the wise  
Than among fools the shouting of a ruler.

Wisdom is better than battle weapons,  
But a lot of good one bungler destroys.

## 20. 智慧胜过武力 (商籁体)

日下智慧乃大：  
居民稀少小城，  
有大君王攻打，

围困修垒筑营。  
贫穷智者城中，  
施智救了池城。

穷人无人尊崇。  
“智慧胜过勇力。”  
穷人被疏慧聪。

听从穷者无一。  
静中听从慧音，  
勿听领袖愚痴。

智慧胜过兵刃，  
众善败于罪人。

**21. Miscellaneous Observations**

As dead flies give perfume a foul odor,  
A little foll' outweighs wisd'm and honor.

A wise man's heart inclines him to the right,  
A fool's heart directs him to the left.

The fools lacks sense as they walk along th' road,  
And show to e'eryone how they are stupid.

Don't leave th' post, if 'gainst you th' chief's  
wrath 'rises,  
For calmn'ss will lay to rest great offenses.

There's an evil I've seen the sun under,  
The sort o' error that 'rises from ruler:

Oh, folly is set in great dignity,  
And the rich sit in low locality.

I have seen some slaves riding on horses,  
And walking like slaves on the land princes.

A man who digs a pit may 'nto it fall,  
A snake may bite him who breaks though a wall.

He may be hurt by stones who them removeth,  
And he may b' threatened by logs who them cleaveth.

If dull ax isn't sharpened, more strength must b' put;  
But bring success, w'sdom profit'ble to direct.

O if the serpent bites before charmed being,  
How to charm a snake is o' no use knowing.

The words from a wise man's mouth are graceful,  
But consumed by his own lips is a fool.

The start of th' words o' his mouth is foolishness,  
And th' end of his talk is evil madness.

**21. 诸多观点**

死蝇芳香臭，  
愚昧智荣朽。

智者心右居，  
愚人心左处。

愚行显无知，  
愚示众人识。

官怒勿离去，  
柔和免失误。

日下有患祸，  
出自官长错：

愚人居高位，  
富人处卑微。

奴仆骑大马，  
王子行步踏。

陷坑为已刨，  
拆墙被蛇咬。

搬石受损伤，  
劈木有伤创。

斧钝耗气力，  
得智多受益。

蛇伤魔法前，  
施法何相干。

慧口言有恩，  
愚嘴已灭吞。

愚人言生昧，  
奸狂见话尾。

The fool mult'plies words, no one knows what'll 'ccur,  
And who can tell him what'll come him after?

愚言罔预测，  
身后谁言说？

A fool is wearied by his fool'sh toil so  
How t' go a city that he doesn't e'en know.

愚味劳碌困，  
进城路无认。

Woe t' you, O land, when a child is your king,  
And your princes feast gaily in th' morning!

童王国祸，  
群臣晨宴乐。

Blessed are you, O land whose king is o' noble birth  
And whose princes eat at prop'r time for strength.

王贵国有福，  
臣食为力补。

If a man is lazy, the rafters sink;  
If his hands are idle, the houses leak.

人懒房顶塌，  
手懒屋雨洒。

A feast for laughter, and wise for merry,  
But th' answer for everything is money.

酒乐筵欢欣，  
钱叫事应心。

Even i' your thoughts, the king do not condemn,  
Nor curse the rich even in your bedroom,

君王勿咒诅，  
卧室勿咒富。

For your words may b' carried by bird o' th' heaven,  
And th' winged creature will make the matter known.

传扬有飞鸟，  
有翅必喧噪。

## 22. What a Wise Man Does (Sonnet)

Please invest your money in trade foreign,  
And one of these days you'll make a profit.  
Give portions to seven, or t' eight even,

## 22. 明智者何为（商籁体）

将钱投资外贸，  
终有一日获利。  
七人或八人俵，

What disaster may happ'n for you know not.  
When clouds are full, they empty rain on th' earth;  
In th' place where the tree falls, there will lie it,

何灾降临不知。  
云若满了雨下；  
树倒何处留遗，

Whether a tree falls t' the south or to th' north.  
The one he observes the wind shall not sow;  
And he shall not reap the clouds that regardeth.

无论南倒北趴。  
看风必不撒种，  
望云不收庄稼。

How th' breath comes to th' bones i' a womb you  
don't know,

不懂骨成胎中，

So you don't know th' work o' God, who makes  
e'erything.  
Both i' th' morning and i' th' evening you seed sow.

怎知万事神行。  
早晚都得撒种，

Which will prosp'r, this or that, for not knowing,  
Or whether will be good both resembling.

何种发旺不明，  
或是两种均丰。

### 23. Advice to Young People

### 23. 对年轻人的劝告

Light is sweet, 'nd it pleases th' eyes to see th' sun.  
So if man lives many years, let him 'njoy th'm all.  
But let him r'call, that th' days o' darkn'ss will  
be 'mpteen.

光本佳美日光悦目。  
人活多年就当快乐。  
当想黑暗此日多诸。

Everything to come is meanin'g' ss on th' whole.  
Be happy, young man, while i' adolescent,  
And i' th' days o' your youth let your heart you console.

所来之事虚无居多。  
青春年少应当欢欣，  
年少之日汝心快活。

Walk in the ways o' your heart and your eyes sight.  
But r'call God is gonna judge you for story.  
Banish anxiety from th' bott'm o' your heart,

行心所愿看眼所亲。  
当记汝行神必审理。  
务从心中除掉愁闷，

And cast off the troubles of your body,  
For youth and th' dawn of life are vanity.

当从肉体除去劣迹，  
初始年少都是虚兮。

### 24. Remember Your Creator in Your Youth

### 24. 当趁年轻纪念造你的主

Rem'mber your creator when you're young i' those day,  
Before th' evil days come and th' years near tow,  
"I find no pleasure i' them"—when you will say.

年轻当记造汝主，  
衰败时日未曾临，  
毫无喜乐尚潜伏；

Before the sun, light, moon and stars dark grow,  
And the clouds return after the shower;  
In th' day when tremble th' keepers o' the chateau,

别等日月星光隐，  
雨后云彩返归兮；  
房屋看守打颤身，

The strong men stoop and for few cease th' grinder.  
And those who look through th' windows see dimly;  
When the doors are shut on the thoroughfare,

壮者屈身推磨息，  
从窗外看皆昏暗；  
街上门窗均关闭，

Be 'ble t' hear th' mill as it grinds you'll barely;  
And one rises up at the sound o' a bird;  
And all the daughters o' song will sing softly.

推磨声小听也难，  
雀鸟一叫人起床；  
歌唱女子声衰倦。



One is afraid o' heights, and terrors are i' th' road;  
Hair white, Hardly be able t' drag will you  
Yourself along 'nd desire no long'r is stirred.

人怕高处路惊慌；  
发白力衰曳步撑，  
人众欲望都消亡。

Man t' his 'ternal home, mourners 'bout th' 'venue.  
B'fore silver cord snapp'd, and gold'n bowl broken  
And is broken at th' fountain th' jug i' red hue.

家归恒久唁人行。  
银链折断金碗破，  
泉边损坏红罐瓶，

And the cog-wheel broken at the cistern,  
And th' dust returns to the earth as it was,  
And to God who gave it the breath return.

水轮坏在井口侧，  
尘埃仍旧归于土，  
生命终归赐灵者。

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” the teacher says.  
Vanity, vanity of vanities.

“虚空虚空”夫子呼。  
虚无虚无皆虚无。

## 25. Epilogue (Sonnet)

But because the philosopher was wise,  
On teaching th' people what he knew he kept.  
He pondered, searched out and 'rranged many proverbs.

## 25. 结论（商籁体）

智慧传道人，  
授人他所知。  
默想陈言箴。

The Preacher sought to find words of delight,  
Uprightly he wrote words of precision.  
The words o' the wise man are like goads to prompt,

寻求他所喜，  
书写诚实话。  
其言棍激刺，

Like nails firmly fixed are th' collect'd mention,  
The mentions are given by our shepherd.  
Be warned, my son, o' anything to them i' add'tion:

稳钉喻语话，  
所赐唯牧者。  
另一劝诫加：

To the writing of books there is no end,  
A weariness o' th' body is much study.  
The end of the matter, all has been heard.

无尽著书多，  
多读身疲倦。  
此言皆听说。

Fear God and keep his commands, it's man's duty.  
For 'nto judgment God will bring deed every.

神谕当戒鉴，  
所行必审判。

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