

All doors are open to = courtesy

Ask a silly question = you get a silly answer

“ Equality = begins in the grave ”

“ When proverbs speak ... ”

If you are blind = don't walk behind a blind

Contradictions

in our Daily Life

A mouse = may help a lion

Caesar's wife must be = above suspicion

Abdallah Shams Alden

“ A closed mouth = catches no flies ”

“ The exception = proves the rule ”

“ All the fingers of the hand = are not a like ”

If the blind lead the blind = both shall fall into the ditch



**Contradictions
in our Daily Life**





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When proverbs speak ...

Contradictions in our Daily Life

Abdallah Shams Alden



Dear Reader,

I hope the best for you. Always keep these proverbs in your mind:

First of all: “Hope for the best and prepare for the worst!”

After that, remember that in life “If you are blind; don’t walk behind a blind person” because “If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch”!

Introduction

For a few decades, people have faced hard times regarding different moments they lived and experienced. This book aims to show that contradictions people faced made their times harder than they thought it would be.

We may spend our lives trying to seek justice, but later we find out that it is impossible to be applied on reality. That is why there is a day after death, the Justice Day. Therefore; "Equality begins in the grave!" is a proverb which seems to be so realistic.

Welcome to a life full of contradictions!

They taught me that “Those who live longer, see more”, but I wished I lived longer without seeing what I’ve had seen!

They taught me that “life is too short to fight and to have bad moments”, but I saw their lives are filled with bad moments because they fought for their rights and never gave up!

They taught me that “absence makes the heart grow fonder”, so I passed far away off their eyes for that reason, then I was shocked later that they forgot me! When I met them later, they said: “What the eye doesn’t see, the heart doesn’t grieve over”.

They taught me that there are good and bad people, and people are not alike, and they said: “all the fingers of the hand are not alike”. However, the same type of people I keep meeting always made me feel that “the fingers of the hand are alike”!

They taught me to be a kind person and said that “all doors are open to courtesy”, but they were tough with me because as they said, “Life

is tough so get tougher” and being a “sweet boy” is not always right.

Destiny

They taught me that death is sure (common) for all, so I need to do good for my afterlife, but they lived their lives filled with sins and encroaching people's rights, acting as if they are immortal!

They taught me "some things are meant to be", but I found out that "everything is meant to be".

They taught me that "anger punishes itself", and "when angry, count to hundred" before having a fast reaction, but when they got angry they couldn't even count "one", and they had very insulting reaction and said: "that's your destiny.. believe in it"!

Do not play with me, my friend! Part of destiny is what we do and choose!

They taught me never to be late, because "the train never waits for passengers", but they were always late when it came to me, and they assumed "better late than never".

They taught me "A closed mouth catches no flies" but they kept opening their mouths to the flies! They panicked after all when the flies entered their mouths!

Chat and Silence

They taught me that if there is nothing to say, it is better to stay silent. “Speech is silver, silence is golden” but they always talked with nonsense.

They taught me that words are words and “talk is cheap” until it is translated to actions. I heard good words, but unfortunately, I saw no actions!

They taught me “ask a silly question, you get a silly answer”, but they kept asking me silly questions, expecting respectful answers.

It was really better for you to stay silent!

Hypocrisy

They taught me to be patient and said: “All things to those who wait”, but they cannot wait because “The early bird gets the worm.”

They taught me that “All good things come to an end”, but the good things they own never came to an end because they are hypocrites and know how to satisfy all people!

They taught me not to find an excuse that is worse than the mistake I have done, but they lied when they committed a mistake and created a bad excuse and said proudly: “A bad excuse is better than none!”

They taught me “what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger”. Thus, they were tough on me until they killed me¹ before I got stronger!

They taught me that priorities is a must and said “first things first”, but they make the first things last in their lives.

They taught me “Ask and you won’t get lost”. Therefore, I asked them as I thought they were

¹ What I mean by “kill me” is to put me down or make me depressed, etc. ..

honest, but they gave me the wrong answers and led me to the wrong path!

They taught me that “rules are rules” and cannot be changed. After that, they excluded some people from the rule because as they assumed that “There is an exception to every rule.”

They always taught me not to be in a suspicious position, so people will not misunderstand or think negative towards me, but they always think positively about certain people even if they are mistreating others, stealing, harassing, etc. .. They said, “Caesar’s wife must be above suspicion”.

Yes my friends! I lately found out that there is an exception for every rule, for sure! Not only that.. They had the guts to say with all effrontery that “The exception proves the rule”!

They told me: “Don’t change the rules in the middle of the game”, but they kept changing the rules of any game either in its beginning, middle or end!

They taught me “Do as you would be done by”, but they treated me badly, expecting me to treat them well!

They taught me “you can’t please everybody”, but they exhausted themselves trying to please everyone!

I spent my whole life wondering why a thief does not steal a thief, until I read the proverb “dog does not eat dog.” However, if a thief is ordered by a higher position to deal with a thief then he can do it! “It takes a thief to catch a thief!”

They were wise, and they taught me that everyone has their own weakness but they did not teach me theirs... Since they were wise, I knew afterwards that fools are their weakness as it was said, “If you want to torture a wise man, imprison him with a fool”.

What made me totally certain about that is the proverb: “Fools ask questions that wise men cannot answer”.

Not only that! I also learnt that: “A fool may give a wise man counsel!”

They taught me that “Ask and it shall be given to you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you”. I asked but they refused.. I knocked their door and.. Guess what happened? They brought extra locks as a sign of “NO WAY, WE WILL NEVER OPEN FOR YOU”!

Gossip and Complainant

They taught me not to believe anything I hear about them, and they asked me to listen to them not to what others say about them, but they refused to listen to me, and they believed what others said about me!

Yes, my good friends!

They taught me not to believe what is said about someone until I listen to the other part, but they believed directly when they complaint about me because as they assume “The first to state his case is right.”

They taught me “the first to state his case is right”, then I stated my case but they called me a “gossiper” and they said, “If a person gossips about someone to you, they are gossiping about you to someone.”

They taught me that I have the right to choose what I want because “every man to his taste”, and “every man is the architect of his own fortune”. I was surprised later when they complained about my choices and forced me to choose certain things because everyone agrees it is better, although it does not suits me,

but their excuse was “What everybody says must be true.”

They were evil.. They raised up their children in a devilish way, then they gave me their daughter to marry. I complained to them about her reactions but they said, “A bad husband makes a bad wife”.

That is how people go on; they give you bad items then they put the blame on you!

They taught me not to “judge a book by its cover”, but they kept judging every book by its cover!

Yes my friends!

They taught me not to accuse or judge them before I know them and they said, “Come live with me, and you will know me”. I went and lived with them to know them and I wished I never knew them!

They asked me not to complain about something I cannot change, but they kept complaining because “a trouble shared is a trouble halved.”

They taught me that “everything has an end”,
except their endless gossip and stupidity!

They taught me to “fish where the fish are” but
they went fishing far away from the fish, then
they kept blaming others and cursing the
circumstances!

Greediness and Selfishness

They taught me to respect poor and weak people, but the reality is “Big fish eat little fish.”

They taught me that “a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush”, but they ignored the bird in their hand, running after the two in the bush because of their greediness!

They taught me that “beggars cannot be choosers”, but they begged and insisted to choose what they admire because “when they choose, they can have a better life, and when they have a better life, they can change other’s future!”

They taught me that “better are small fish than an empty dish”, but they either earn a big fish or else they sit at home with an empty dish!

Truth and Lies

They taught me that the best survival is to say the truth. I was advised that “confess is good for the soul”, but later they were in trouble; they looked for survival within lies and said, “Children and fools tell the truth.”

They taught me that “Tell the truth and shame the devil”, but I found out that they do not always say the truth unless it meets their needs.

They taught me that “actions speak louder than words”, but they ignored the actions and concentrated on lies and fake promises. Here, we understand why some people like fake promises and lies while they hate those who say the truth! **They prefer anesthetic than reality!**

They taught me that “honesty is the best policy”, but I found out that honesty could cause you much trouble! Besides, I remembered that “children, fools and drunkards tell the truth”.

They taught me to always do the right things and said, “Do right and fear no men” and one time I did the right thing but they had the

experience and the skill to show what I did was wrong, so I knew later the right proverb for the current time: “Do right and fear people!”

The surprise in the end ...

They taught me that “all roads lead to Rome”, but I found out that their roads lead me to hell!

Mistakes and Apologies

They taught me to be perfect and never commit a mistake. Guess what? They did trillions of mistakes and their excuse was: “If you don’t make mistakes, you don’t make anything.”

They taught me not to steal anything. However, small that stolen thing was, and they said: “it’s a sin to steal a pin”. The surprise was.. they stole millions of dollars!

They asked me to apologize when I make mistakes, then when I apologized, they said, “He who excuses, accuses himself!”

They taught me to have good manners, always watch my mouth and never make a mistake. The surprise was that they made tons of mistakes and kept walking in the wrong path. When I faced them, they said, “To err is human”.¹

They taught me that whoever changes for the better should not be judged about his past that he regretted and disintegrated.. but they still judge me about my past although I have

¹ To err: to make a mistake.

changed, because as they say, 'First impression is the last!'

They taught me to learn from the other's mistakes instead of doing a mistake, but they make mistakes, and they say, "Mistakes give you experience and experience makes you wiser." Haven't you heard the proverbs, "Experience is the best teacher? Experience is the father of wisdom?"

They taught me to forgive them when they do something bad with me, but they did not forgive me when I did a mistake to them, because they assume that "who does a mistake can make thousands of mistakes in the future!"

They taught me that "revenge is sweet". It could be sweet temporarily.. True.. But I found out that if revenge is sweet, then forgiveness is sweeter.

They taught me that "confessed faults are half-mended", but I saw them attacking others when they commit sin because "attack is the best form of defence."

They taught me that I am never excused if I had a will and did not find a way because "Where

there is a will, there is a way". When it came to them; they said "we had a will and we were serious but all the ways were closed and you **MUST** excuse us!"

They taught me everyone can make a mistake, but then they expelled those whom they have benefits with and said, "The king can do no mistake."

They taught me to expect some goods from bad people, but then they judged me as a bad person and said, "What can you expect from a pig but a grunt?"

Friendship

They taught me that “a friend in need is a friend indeed”, but they did not help me when I needed them and said, “Help yourself!”

They taught me that “What is done cannot be undone”, so I should forgive those who apologized to me. I did something bad with them, then I asked for forgiveness but they did not accept, and they said, “We know it happened in the past and you regretted it so much but do not forget that the past is your history and history repeats itself!”

They taught me to be patient when they make mistakes because “the devil I know is better than the devil I don’t know”, but they get rid of all the devils in their lives because a devil can never be useful!

They taught me if I got fooled twice, then it is my mistake, and they said, “Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me”. They fooled me hundreds of times and they said, “Patience is a virtue” and “For the friendship of two, the patience of one is required”.

I always wondered, “Why am I the one who must always be patient and why not they are?” Suppose if I forgive them.. Isn’t it: “What has happened once can happen again?”

They taught me that “a friend must be there for his friends”, but then I retreated this idea and all I asked after that to get rid of them and shouted out loudly to the world “Save us from our friends.”

They taught me to ask a civil question because “a civil question deserves a civil answer”. I asked a civil question, but their minds went so far which made them accuse me without shame saying that I got an evil intention!

They taught me that “a good beginning makes a good ending”. We were good to each other at the beginning, but we had a bad friendship ending!

They taught me that “war is a trick”, but they always kept tricking me because as they assumed, “We train on you before we go to the real war”!

Yes, my friends!

They taught me that “practice makes perfect”, so they practised on me until their body stopped sweating and said, “The more you sweat in training, the less you bleed in combat”.

They taught me that “there is a time for everything” when they needed me. However, When I needed them, they slowly withdraw from meeting me and their excuse was, “There is no time.. The time flies”!

Cautions and Risks

They taught me to be cautious and said, “Look before you leap”, but they leaped without looking!

They taught me that “first think and then speak” and said, “Action without thought is like shooting without aim”, but they kept speaking before thinking!

They taught me to take the risk for better future because “you can only die once”. While they never take risks because “caution is the wisdom” and “caution is the parent of safety.”

They taught me that “there is no great loss without some gain”, but they always wanted to gain without losing!

They taught me to stay out of trouble, but they were interested to try new risky things even if it harmed their health, family, money, etc.. They told me that the one who does not risk anything does not gain nor lose, and they said, “No pain no gain.”

Yes my friends ..

They taught me that “it is best to be on the safe side”, but they kept going to the bumpy way because they like to try new things even if it hurt them and caused them hard times, and they said “no pain no gain”, and “If you do not make mistakes, you don’t make anything”.

They taught me “prevention is better than cure”, but they always try new things even if it hurt them and they said, “If you never try, you’ll never know what you are capable of.”

They taught me that “when you are in a hole, stop digging”, but they fell in a small hole and started to dig until it became wide and impossible to get out of!

They taught me that “don’t go near the water until you learn how to swim”, but they went to swim in deep water before they learn the basics of swimming!

They taught me “don’t take down a fence unless you are sure why it was put up”, but they always do opposite what others do and their excuse is: “we don’t want others to say that we have a weak personality!”

Richness and poverty

They taught me that “money makes a man”. I saw a male with money, but he was not a man!¹

They taught me that “money makes you happy”. I saw them with much money and little of happiness! They said after a long journey of running after money, “Money can’t buy happiness.”

People say, “Give us money, and we can buy people to make us happy”. The truth is: Yes, you can buy a person who can make you happy, but remember it is fake temporary happiness because that person will run away in the right time!

They taught me that “poverty is not a crime”, but they run away from their other half –either husband or wife- as soon as they became poor and said, “When poverty comes in at the door, loves flies out of the window.”

They taught me that “The rich man has his ice in the summer, and the poor man gets his ice

¹ What I meant here about “man” is a good man’s characteristics such as kindness and politeness and good-manner.

in the winter”, but nowadays, the rich man has his ice the whole year while the poor man never gets his ice!

Work and Cooperation

They asked me to cooperate with them because “many hands make light works”. Later, I asked them to cooperate with me but they said, “Depend on yourself, you won’t be let down.”

They taught me that what I do to them, they will do to me back, and they said, “You scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours”. The shock was that when I scratched their back, they laid down their feet, as I am walking, to let me fall down!

Yes, my friends..!

They taught me that I must stand with them in the hard times, then when I asked them to stand with me in my hard times, they said, “If you would be well served, serve yourself.”

They taught me that “if a thing’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well”, but I saw them doing their work without perfection just to be said, “at least they did something!”

They always taught me and kept repeating that “if you want a thing done well, do it yourself”, but they always begged for help!

They taught me that “better to light one candle than to curse the darkness”, but they kept sitting in the darkness and cursing it without stopping.

Courage and Discourage

They taught me to give up and said, “One size does not fit all”, but they found a way to manufacture a **free size clothing to fit all!**

They taught me that “a journey of a thousand of miles begins with a single step”. When I decided to take a step, they got jealous and yelled: “ This is a big risk! Don’t forget a thousand of miles minus a step is remaining for you!”

They taught me to give up and said, “What must be must be”, but they tried to improve their lives and said, “God helps those who help themselves.”

They taught me that every disease has a cure. After I found the cure, they made me more worried when they said, “The cure may be worse than the disease!”

Politeness and Rudeness

They taught me that if I want to be respected, I must respect myself. I respected myself, but they did not respect me in my absence because “when the cat’s away, the mice will play!”

They taught me to be polite and “never mention rope in the house of a man who has been hanged”, but they kept mentioning bad things happened in my life to annoy me and put me down!

Here is a question for you, my oppressed friend:

Did you ever got mistreated although you didn’t do anything to others?

Here is the answer:

They taught me that it is impossible that people mistreat you without a good reason because people are never bad to you until you do something bad to them! Until I found out that “good is the enemy of the best.”

Here is another confession from them!

They taught me that “right is right”, and all people are with the right against the fault. Although they were always wrong, people were always on their side, so I asked them “what’s the secret behind the battles you’ve had won?” They answered, Our secret is “If the law is against you, argue the facts. If the law and the facts are against you, pound the table and yell like hell”.

Therefore, do not be shocked why the right is always on their side, my oppressed friend!

They taught me to be a good-mannered person, but they were impolite to me at their home because “every land has its own law.”

Final word

Do not devalue anyone, whatever useless you think that person is.

Remember that “a mouse may help a lion”!

Contents

Introduction	6
Welcome to a life full of contradictions!	7
Destiny	9
Chat and Silence.....	10
Hypocrisy	11
Gossip and Complainant	15
Greediness and Selfishness	18
Truth and Lies	19
Mistakes and Apologies	21
Friendship	24
Cautions and Risks	27
Richness and poverty	29
Work and Cooperation.....	31
Courage and Discourage	33
Politeness and Rudeness.....	34
Final word	36

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