



WAYSIDE WORDS

WILL-POWER is the philosopher's stone sought by alchemists in the Middle Ages. It turns everything into gold.

One kind of greed is honourable, greed for words.

If you wish to know man's ingratitude, hear him speak about woman.

The best heart is that which beats nearest to the earth, since it acquires earth's serene and humble fortitude.

By the grace of God the worm is able to get off the road and escape being trodden upon.

To return good for evil is the best business.

Even those who deny immortality travel by roads that lead beyond the grave.

Even works of genius improve as they grow older.

The brain presides, but in most people all the organs deliberate and vote. The decision depends on the state of each one of them.

He who goes too hurriedly will do the same thing many times over, and uselessly. There is a limit to the number of things one can do. In many existences that appear to have been cut short, what has been suppressed is repetition.

To live eighty years is to make a round trip in the world.

By learning the name of every star, every

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article, every virtue and every vice some people consider themselves very well informed of what goes on in heaven and on earth.

The only honourable literature is that which can improve mankind.

To be better today than yesterday, tomorrow better than today: this is the great aim of life.

He who does not consider good aliens as aliens in his country, enlarges that nation until it equals the world.

The spirit in doubt oscillates like a pendulum between truth and falsehood.

On the goodness of the species depends the decrease of its ills.

Things are nothing in themselves; but they possess a kind of soul. Wealth and honours are nothing in themselves; but they awaken in man activity, foresight, punctuality, initiative, patience, perseverance and other qualities.

Glory is nothing in itself, but it produces self-sacrifice and heroism.

Pain and material pleasure are nothing in themselves, while they teach ~~many virtues~~ sobriety and other virtues are desirable.

The whole of present life is nothing in itself; rather it constitutes an opportunity for the soul to purify and exalt itself.

In one of their games children stand in a circle, one strikes another and says: "Pass it on." He who is struck strikes a third, and says: "Pass it on", the third strikes a fourth, and so successively, each thinks to pass on his pain by transmitting it to his neighbour.

Many grown-ups carry on the same game.

Half of life consists in two who seek each other. Even those who have found each other continue the search in order to identify each other better.

God made nothing singular. Apart from Himself everything is dual. Even the sun goes in search of a star. Will they meet! Wish in your heart that it may be so!

The feigning of elevated sentiments is not altogether useless. The effort of the feigner ultimately stimulates certain spiritual attitudes, just as certain postures finally modify the body. The paid mourners of ancient times acquired

and produced in their hearers a pious concept of life and death.

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Without toil there is no rest. Those who wish only for rest, how they toil to obtain it!

The machines which work well are those which make least noise. Excess of words is a symptom which requires a curative treatment.

A hidden anguish comes from the fact that when we were born we lost certain things of true value, the vague memory of which lingers on. If we realise that they can be recovered when we die, peace returns to our souls.

Children frequently have to bear the most drastic consequences of the vulgar inclination to do good without stopping to find out in what it consists. Brought up to be parasites, they suffer from all the evils of parasitism.

. It is better to get off at the station than to throw oneself out of the moving train by the window of suicide, knowing not where one falls.

In the world, as in the theatres where tragedies are performed, there are simple spectators who think that the death of the actor is real.

It is in this that the theatre most resembles life.

One observes in many private actions, and in most social functions, a certain macabre atmosphere. The skeletons of cordiality, affection, merriment, make their bows, dance, caress... The heart has no share in it; the soul is elsewhere.

Our own thought has mysteries even for itself.

What we think in our waking hours silently influences others.

What we think when we are sleeping influences our ideas and our future actions, whence it is fitting to purify our ideas before we go to sleep.

Vanity has children who make a very convincing show of being children of virtue, and sometimes the deception is never discovered.

Everything useless is evil, and should be suppressed.

There are three states of knowledge.

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Complete ignorance and complete wisdom are the extremes and they frequently resemble each other. The intermediate state, half-knowledge, is the common one and the most dangerous. In it errors, absurdities, deceitful presumptions and illusory hopes easily prosper. That is why, in ancient times, transcendental learning was transmitted only to those who were capable of fully absorbing it.

Human problems must be solved in the child. In the adult, for good or for evil, they are already solved.

The best morality is pleasure. There is no surer guide.

The best man is also the happiest.

The reality of pleasure is in direct relation to its duration.

To do good is the most lasting pleasure. Thus one serves God, who is eternal, and eternal is the recompense.

The law of gravity governs the whole of life. As in the case of the planets, organic life has its orbits too. In the same way, spirits act in different orbits according to the distance between them and God.

Ideas are born great. They are disfigured and reduced in size when man makes them conform to his person.

To ask the senses if there is a life beyond the grave is like putting one's hand in a pool to catch a star reflected in its waters.

The best work of beneficence is to respect the beneficence of God. To all His children He gave the world for a refuge, a right to the sweets of life, and the means to obtain them.

Those philosophers who attempt to improve on the goodness of God and to correct His forgetfulness, errors or injustices are raving.

Certain activities leave behind them a hereditary tendency to engage in them. That is why there are executioners and buffoons who work on their own account without receiving payment from anybody.

A good man causes astonishment, and no one is ashamed of his astonishment.

"Sound is a movement"... "Electricity is a movement"... "Light is a movement"... Those

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who have no other definitions than these, attempt to deny God, since they cannot define Him.

The journalist may be compared to a sower whose field is the people, whose plough is the printing press, and whose good words are the seed.

To love is the soul's removal to a new abode.

It is a miracle to meet a man who knows what he desires and where he is going.

Lying is considered unimportant while the immense quantity of absurd ideas that it can give birth to in the prolific womb of ignorance goes unsuspected.

Society, in its respect for life, waits on the initiative and example of assassins. While these kill, it considers itself obliged to do likewise.

Truth can be sweet or bitter, but not evil. A lie can be sweet or bitter, but not good.

There is a law which prohibits child labour, because it harms them. Other laws condemn them to hunger, which harms them much more.

As long as woman fails to assimilate and infuse them into the species, the most beautiful dreams will go on wandering through this world like disembodied spirits. Hospitable hearts will welcome them as distinguished guests, worthy of deferential courtesy; but always and everywhere they will be guests.

Thus, from heart to heart, wander fraternity, tolerance, justice.

Soldiers are human beings. In peace no one doubts it; in war no one remembers it.

Forgetful of divine laws, the nations behave like squirrels in the armourer's cage. The squirrel runs, and spins the cage which is fastened to a belt, and the belt moves a grindstone to sharpen a sword.

He who does not love peace is a foreigner in America.

He who does not serve the cause of peace does not serve God.

The plough is a pen that writes only for the happiness of mankind.

There are persons who attempt to govern

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millions of souls, who are unable to govern their own stomachs.

Money is the youth of the aged; a youth like a hair dye, which deceives only him who uses it.

A patent proof of divine wisdom is the first pain of maternity, which clearly warns woman of her destiny. To become a mother is to destroy oneself in order to build up a better future. In this sacrifice lies the highest sublimity and the purest beauty of woman.

With regard to the final object of their activities, men generally find themselves knowing as much as the silkworm about the transformation of his cocoon into a magnificently coloured cloth.

Religions are roads leading to God. But not all who use them are going in the same direction.

It is marvellous to observe in how many ways slavery is perpetuated.

In pursuing pleasure man turns away from goodness. When he thinks better of it he goes back to goodness, and encounters the pleasure

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Then gravely and solemnly the State opens the doors of the lunatic asylums, the hospitals and the gaols, and says:

You are costing me a fortune, but no matter. Enter and finish dying. I shall take care of your burial too.

If you hear it said that someone is good, think: God shows His goodness in him.

God sends a message to mankind by way of the wise man and the artist.

Only from God is truth received.

Whenever you, in your solitude, name Him, a new strength will kindle in your heart.

Some convictions depend on age; others on physical peculiarities; the majority on the degree of culture that has been attained. It is stupid to be angry with anyone because of his convictions.

Bend down that you may hear that child and see him well; he cannot stretch up to you.

Give the right of way to him whose burden is greater than yours.

In the presence of a woman, never forget your mother.

"He is a bad man" is often said instead of "I know of a bad action performed by him."

It is poverty in a rich man to despise the poor and ignorance in a wise man to despise the ignorant.

The greatest praise that can be given to a man is to compare him to a child.

Vices are mistakes or impossibilities with regard to the necessities of the spirit or the body.

Let your words, my son, be simple and loving. Take upon yourself the trouble which others would suffer in deciphering your meaning. All that is not love pour into the pit of silence.

Flowers are the thoughts of the plants.

If death is true, life is false.
If life is real, death is a fiction.

How like the world of spirits is the starry vault!

The craving to remain as long as possible in this world is ardent and unanimous. Even those who suffer much, and have scarcely anything to live for, even those who are denied all

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dreams and hope, desire to prolong their lives.

Reason is incapable of discovering the benefit of this; but Life knows that this is what suits it; Life is seeking for something and expects something beyond death.

In a moral problem lie all the problems of life.

Ignorance: the point at which many sages, on returning from a trip round the globe, meet those who have not travelled a step.

Brothers are understandable to each other. In your brother you will be able to comprehend what in another man would appear inexplicable to you.

It was not wrong for an Emperor of Spain to say: "The sun never sets on my dominions." The point is for all men to be able to say likewise.

The finest thing in the world badly installed or in an unsuitable position will prove harmful.

We are moved to wonder, not at the magnificence of such-and-such a soul, but that it can reveal itself in this world.

Preachers of morality are wasting their time if they forget that virtue cannot be infused, for it is the result of a state of harmony.

Certain favours provoke contempt, for gifts have no redeeming power; happiness does not depend on the kindness of others.

There are people who laugh at the barber, whose head is like a billiard ball, and who offers a cure for baldness; but they listen to and reverence many baldheads who offer health, well-being and happiness.

The hope of goodness is in itself a great good.

Children are the reflection of their parents in the moment of conception; not as we see them now.

Sometimes you look on the mountain, without climbing to the summit; you see the river, and continue along the bank; you watch the prince, without coveting his throne. Sometimes let the crowd go by, and wrap yourself in solitude; let

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the storm of words pass, and continue your prayer in silence.

The stars are words, and to understand what they mean you must read them according to a pre-established order. Here lies the infinite before the human mind.

Tolerance is a proof of conviction.

Self-love well understood is philanthropy well practised.

No door opens to the word devoid of love.

Purity grows perfect from experience of earthly pleasures. They are all illusory and teach us only to despise themselves.

It is a strange desire of yours to pack yourself and your ideas and sentiments into a sack with a party label.

If anyone asks who you are, just say "One of the crowd."

There are people who have the misfortune of certain types of glass: the purest of waters appears cloudy in them.

There is a certain satisfaction in submitting oneself to whatever is natural, even to a painful death.

Everything turns bad in the hands of a fool; and he thinks it was bad to begin with.

To judge men's virtue, do not classify them according to their apparel, their position in life, their fortune, or misfortune, or the honours bestowed on them. The ratio of good and bad is usually the same in the different social grades and under the most varied appearances.

All joys are fugitive, except that of feeling pure and good.

Dogs howl their anguish to the moon; but you should not do so, for you know it is in vain.

I cannot judge you by this act of yours. I should need to know your whole life.

The breath of life comes from one source only; one fire alone warms the heart; one water alone reaches the soul and can assuage its thirst.

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Every lawful task can be meritorious in the eyes of the Divine Judge. The merit depends on the doer of the task.

The good man bestows his bounty in great or humble works, lovingly performed and embellished with something that is beyond price.

And no matter what the subject may be, the wise man can use it to display his wisdom and to teach a lesson.

There are not so many differences in life as is commonly supposed.

An insect has much in common with a man. A beehive resembles a country.

The difference between the ocean and a tear is one of volume.

A cell is a world brought beneath our vision.

The world is an animal wandering through space.

What sleep is to the chrysalis, death is to man.

It is God's wisdom to give good things little by little. When some are present, others are lacking.

To redeem mankind is difficult, but necessary.

Look at them while they are living, and look at them while they are dying, and you will know them better... What a terrible contrast!

If you think that anything in life is easy, attempt what may seem easiest of all to you; try to do good to someone.

I once read that a man who found himself in extreme poverty publicly renounced all claim to his wife, leaving her at liberty to look for another lover.

He was a good man who acted thus.

But a greater example of honesty would have been for the man not to have married.

And better still if, once united to a woman, he had struggled heroically in order not to leave her a prey to wild beasts.

Men, like musical instruments, vibrate according to who plays upon them.

Youth is intransigent because it expects perfection; but the years wear down the teeth of its saw and the edge of its axe. It wants to remake the house to suit the furniture; but when youth passes, the furniture is made to fit the house.

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They bring something to life; they have some thoughts, some ambitions... How few, alas, leave any words or deeds behind them!

In the end you will realise that amongst so many who dissimulate, the soldier employs force without hypocrisy and the trader states clearly what he wants.

Man does not advance one step in life if he be not led by the hand of a woman.

It is the dead who are most truly at our side. They understand us, they are companions of our hopes and guardians of our sleep by night.

In solitude and silence are born and flourish the supreme values of life.

Art is maternity in man.

It is an irremediable pain to have to die and leave the world so much in need of common sense.

The human being can create his own instincts and, like the animals, carry out a series of acts in which reflection has no part.

If youth knew as much as age it would know more than is suitable for Life.

The best part of this world is the existence of the other.

Even if they were begged on bended knees, some people would never pardon the superiority of their neighbours.

They who say that Christianity has failed overstep the bounds of proof. No nation has followed the teachings of Jesus.

To live? That is what all desire, but for each one life is different.

Happiness? That is what all seek, but they do not seek it where it is.

You work? So do they all, and for each one it has a different value.

Your death? Through that gate go all; but whither does each one go?

You thought that the horse caused the cart to go forward with its load. But without its wheels the heavy cart would not move. And these. but for the smoothness of the paving, could not revolve. But would the cart proceed

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if there were no air? Would the horse take a single step if he were deprived of the substance that nourishes him? Would this substance have grown without the labour of the sun which raised the waters from the ocean and spread them on the soil?... How hard it is to enumerate the causes of a single happening!

And some people want to know why and for what the universe was created!

Remember that the laws of God are unchangeable and eternal, that they hold sway now and in the future, here and everywhere. Do not say: God will reward me in the next world because I am good.

He has no need to wait in order for His justice to be fulfilled. The best person, wherever he is, is the happiest.

But it is not enough to appear good in the eyes of the world, to be good in the eyes of God.

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