

Sylvester's Selection

Sylvester's Selection is a collection of maxims, proverbs, quotations and teachings that I have been exposed to. Hopefully, the number of headings and their content will dramatically increase with age and wisdom!

Attitude

- Your attitude will determine your altitude

Activity

- Lack of activity destroys the good condition of every human being
- We are what we repeatedly do

Character

- Be more concerned with your character than your reputation; as your character is what you really are, whilst your reputation is merely what others think you are
- Character is higher than intellect. A great soul will be strong to live as well as to think
- If you don't stand for something, you will fall for everything

Charity

- It is not how much we do but how much love we put in the doing. It is not how much we give but how much love we put in the giving
- You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you

Children

- The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence
- Correction does much, but encouragement does more
- It is easier to build a strong child, than repair a broken man
- The father who does not teach his son duties is equally guilty with the son who neglects them

Commitment

- Commitment unlocks the doors of imagination, allows vision, and gives us the right stuff to turn our dreams into reality

Discipline

- For every disciplined effort, there is a multiple reward

Dreams

- Go confidently in the direction of your dreams, live the life you have imagined
- Whatever you can dream, you can begin it
- Man is not an island unto himself, it is dreams and direction that lead us to greatness
- If one advances confidently in the direction of one's dreams, and endeavours to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours
- Some men see things as they are, and say why? I dream of things that never were, and say why not?

Education

- Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today
- You cannot be well read unless you read well
- To defend a country you need an army; but to defend a civilisation, you need schools
- To educate man without religion makes him a clever devil
- The height of cleverness is to be able to conceal it

Effort

- The spirit to win and the will to excel, are always measured one stroke at a time

Emotions

- There can be no transformation of darkness into light and of apathy into movement without emotions

Enthusiasm

- No one keeps his enthusiasm automatically. Enthusiasm must be nourished with new actions, new aspirations, new efforts and new vision
- Every great and commanding moment in the annals of the world is the triumph of some enthusiasm

Example

- Example is not the main thing in influencing others; it is the only thing

Excellence

- The noblest search is the search for excellence

Experience

- Experience is a good school, but the fees are invariably high
- Live to learn and you will learn to live
- Nothing is real to you until you experience it, otherwise it's just hearsay
- Experience is not what happens to a man; it is what a man does with what happens to him

Failure

- The only failure is failing to try
- Failure is the greatest opportunity to know who I really am
- If one learns from a situation, then one can never fail
- There are no failures in this world – only events that give you feedback

Forgiveness

- He who forgives ends the quarrel
- Forgiveness is the letting go of the belief that the past will ever turn out any differently
- Forgive many things in others; nothing in yourself

- I can forgive but I cannot forget is another way of saying I will not forgive. Forgiveness ought to be like a cancelled note – torn in two and burnt up – so that it can never be shown against one.

Freedom

- Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter
- While the right to talk may be the beginning of freedom; the necessity of listening is what makes the right important

Friendship

- A simple friend thinks the friendship over when you have an argument. A real friend knows that it's not a friendship until after you've had a fight
- Friendship isn't about whom you have known the longest; it's about who came and never left your side

God

- Man plans, God executes
- Man aspires, God inspires
- Only God can make us more than we are
- You are who you are before God, nothing more and nothing less
- God prepares great men for great tasks by great trials
- God always answers in the deeps, never in the shallows of our soul
- The will of God will never take you to where the grace of God will not protect you.
- God promises a safe landing; not a calm passage.

Honour

- No person was ever honoured for what he received. Honour has been the reward for what he gave

Hope

- Hope is the magic ingredient in motivating yourself and others

Humanity

- There is only one race - the human race

Joy

- If you do a good job for others, you heal yourself at the same time, because a dose of joy is a spiritual cure. It transcends all barriers

Knowledge

- Be curious always! For knowledge will not acquire you; you must acquire it
- Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living; the other helps you make a life
- Knowledge has bitter roots, but sweet fruits
- Imagination is more important than knowledge
- It is not enough to have a good mind; the main thing is to use it well

Laughter

- You can turn painful situations around through laughter. If you can find humour in anything, even poverty, you can survive it

Law

- Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere
- Justice must not only be done, but must be seen to be done
- A verbal contract isn't worth the paper it's written on
- Words are a lawyer's tools of trade
- Nobody should be a judge in his own case
- He who seeks equity, must come with clean hands

Leadership

- The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on
- He that cannot obey, cannot command
- He that respects not, is not respected

- Leaders are like eagles. They don't flock. You find them one at a time.

Life

- Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans
- Life is to be lived in the present and looking forwards; it can only be understood, however, looking backwards.
- Life is a succession of lessons, which must be lived to be understood
- Every man dies, not every man truly lives
- What we do in life echoes in eternity
- Our life is what our thoughts make it
- We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give
- I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavour
- There is no shortcut to achievement – life requires thorough preparation

Man

- The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy

Money

- Money is a good servant, but a bad master
- The problem with money is that it makes you do things you don't want to do

Opportunity

- In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity
- Sometimes there is no next time, no second chance, no time out. Sometimes it's now or never

Persistence

- Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world

is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan "Press on" has solved and will always solve the problems of the human race.

Purpose

- The thing is to understand myself, to see what God really wishes me to do and to find the idea for which I can live and die
- The purpose of life is a life of purpose

Questioning

- The important thing is not to stop questioning
- Your questions indicate the depth of your belief. Look at the depth of your questions.

Success

- Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing
- The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination
- The secret of success is learning how to use pain and pleasure instead of having pain and pleasure use you. If you do that, you're in control of your life. If you don't, life controls you.
- The harder the battle, the sweeter the victory
- Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has had to overcome while trying to succeed
- Success is that old ABC – Ability, Breaks and Courage
- The ability to concentrate single-mindedly on your most important task, to do it well and finish it completely, is the key to great success
- The path to success is to take massive, determined action
- Some people dream of success whilst others wake up and work hard at it.
- Success is getting what you want, happiness is wanting what you get
- The ladder of success is best climbed by stepping on the rungs of opportunity

Thoughts

- We are what we think we are. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make our world
- Inspiration, creative power and energy flow into you when you attune yourself to the infinite

Truth

- Truth is the greatest gift of life
- If you would be a real seeker after truth it is necessary that, at least once in your life, you doubt as far as possible, all things.

Understanding

- In all thy getting, get understanding

Values

- Anything that changes our values changes our behaviour

Vision

- If you do not know where you are going, every road will get you nowhere
- What you do today that is worthwhile inspires others to act at some future time

Wisdom

- To be satisfied with a little is the greatest wisdom; and he that increases his riches, increases his cares; but a content mind is a hidden treasure, and trouble finds it not
- Wisdom is not wisdom when it is derived from books alone

Words

- The tongue weighs practically nothing, but so few people can hold it
- Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people
- Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted
- A good word is never out of season

- For all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest is “it might have been”
- Without knowing the force of words, it is impossible to know men

Work

- The reward for work well done is the opportunity to work again
- The highest reward for a person’s toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it
- Laziness may appear attractive, but work gives satisfaction
- Nothing ever comes to one that is worth having except as a result of hard work
- You are never given a wish without also being given the power to make it come true. You may have to work for it, however.