

Proverbs are wisdom of the experienced passed down from generation to generation; they are sayings and usually contain good advice for living.¹



Proverb, succinct and pithy saying in general use, expressing commonly held ideas and beliefs. Proverbs are part of every spoken language and are related to such other forms of folk literature as riddles and fables that have originated in oral tradition. Comparisons of proverbs found in various parts of the world show that the same kernel of wisdom may be gleaned under different cultural conditions and languages. The biblical proverb "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," for example, has an equivalent among the Nandi of East Africa: "A goat's hide buys a goat's hide, and a gourd, a gourd." Both form part of codes of behaviour and exemplify the proverb's use for the transmission of tribal wisdom and rules of conduct. Often, the same proverb may be found in many variants. In Europe this may result from the international currency of Latin proverbs in the Middle Ages. The proverb known in English as "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" originated in medieval Latin, and variants of it are found in Romanian, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, German, and Icelandic. Many biblical proverbs have parallels in ancient Greece. "A soft answer turneth away wrath" was known to Aeschylus as well as to Solomon, and "Physician, heal thyself" (Luke 4:23) was also known to the Greeks.

Certain stylistic similarities have been found in proverbs from the same part of the world. Middle Eastern proverbs, for instance, make frequent use of hyperbole and colourful pictorial forms of expression. Typical is the proverbial Egyptian description of a lucky man: "Fling him in the Nile and he will come up with a fish in his mouth." Classical Latin proverbs are typically pithy and terse (e.g., *Praemonitus, praemunitis*; "forewarned is forearmed"). Many languages use rhyme, alliteration, and wordplay in their proverbs, as in the Scots "Many a mickle makes a muckle" ("Many small things make one big thing"). Folk proverbs are commonly illustrated with homely imagery—household objects, farm animals and pets, and the events of daily life.

Proverbs come from many sources, most of them anonymous and all of them difficult to trace. Their first appearance in literary form is often an adaptation of an oral saying. Abraham Lincoln is said to have invented the saying about not swapping horses in the middle of the river, but he may only have used a proverb already current. Popular usage sometimes creates new proverbs from old ones; e.g., the biblical proverb, "The love of money is the root of all evil" has become "Money is the root of all evil." Many still-current proverbs refer to obsolete customs. The common "If the cap fits, wear it," for instance, refers to the medieval fool's cap. Proverbs sometimes embody superstitions ("Marry in May, repent alway"), weather lore ("Rain before seven, fine before eleven"), or medical advice ("Early to bed, early to rise, / Makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise"). 2

1. How to be a good friend (how to keep a friend)

If you want to lose a friend, lend him some money.

(Czech Republic)

Even if your friend was made of honey, do not lick him all over. (Slovakia)

The road to a friend's house is never too long. (Bulgaria)

Friendship is a golden thread that easily breaks. It can be tied up, but the knot will remain forever. (Slovakia)

Who is fighting with a sword, will die from a sword.

(Poland)

Love can die for the truth, friendship for the lie.

(Slovakia)

Once you betray a friend, you betray yourself for the whole life. (Bulgaria)

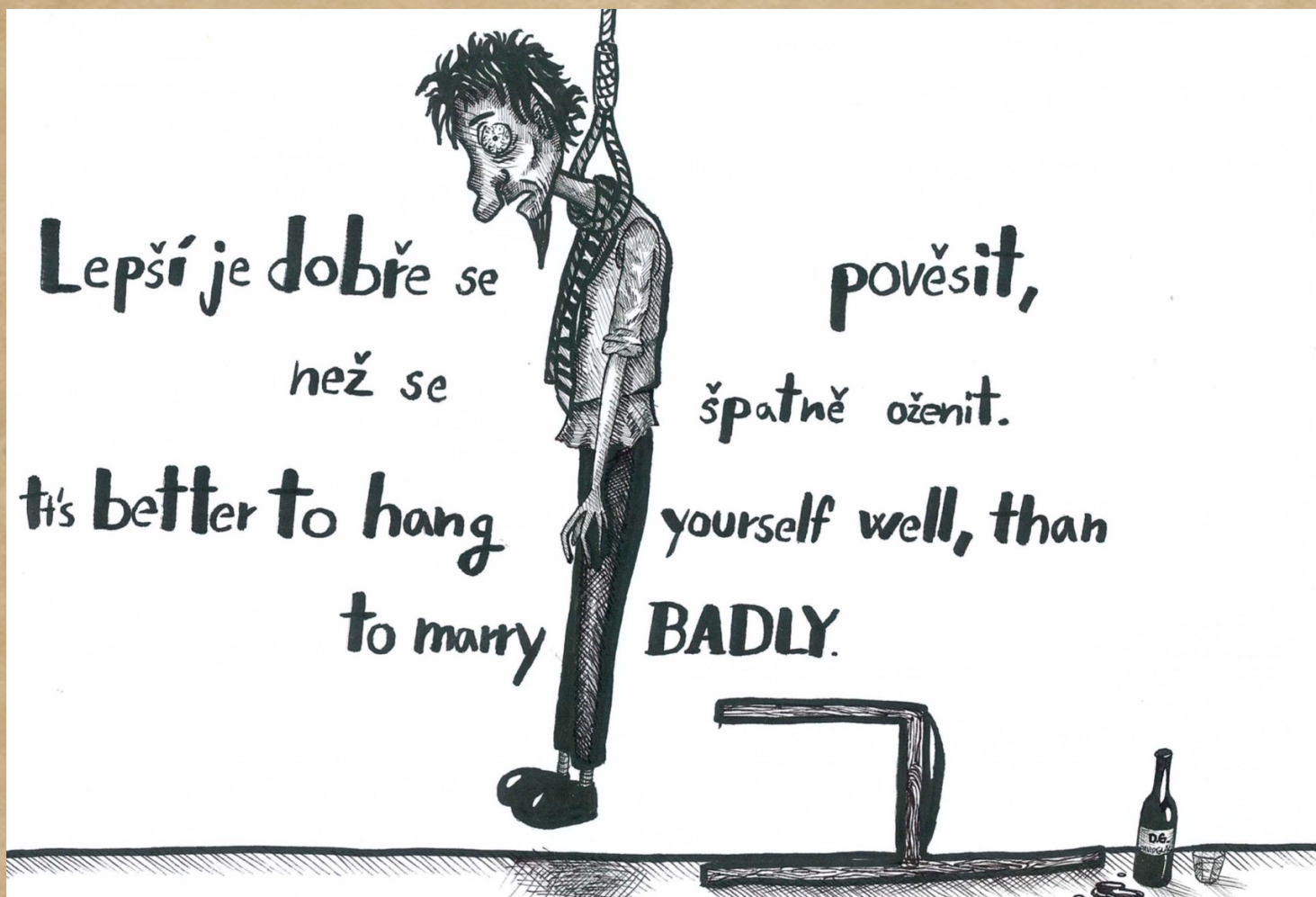
If you have a full purse, your friends will find you.

(Slovakia)

Many a friend was lost through a joke, but none was ever gained so. (Czech Republic)

The only way to have a friend is to BE a friend.

(Bulgaria)



Lepší je dobře se

než se

it's better to hang
to marry

pověsit,

špatně oženit.

yourself well, than
BADLY.

No more wine, no conversation, no more money, no friends. (Slovenia)

Let ´s be friends, let ´s pay back our debts. (Slovakia)

Being a friend doesn't mean to know somebody well, but to be a part of their personality. (Bulgaria)

Good friends share a single strawberry. (Slovakia)

Warm food, warm friendship. (Czech Republic)

Treat a good friend as a precious treasure. (Slovakia)

It is better to have a hundred friends than one enemy. (Czech Republic)

Better to have a hundred friends than one enemy. (Slovakia)

Friendship is the best that a person can give to a person. (Latvia)

For new friends, do not forget the old ones. (Slovakia)

A word to the wise is enough. (Portugal)

The one that loves his friend doesn ´t regret the investment. (Slovakia)



2. The meaning of friendship

Friendship is close to hostility. (Slovakia)

I would rather prefer walking in the darkness with a friend than walking alone on a bright day. (Bulgaria)

Do not protect yourself by a fence, but rather by your friends. (Czech Republic)

A good friend is more valuable than gold. (Slovakia)

Who digs a trap for others ends up in it himself.
(Slovenia)

You may be just an ordinary person to the world, but you may be the whole world to just one person. (Bulgaria)

Bad company often leads to unpleasant consequences.
(Slovenia)

An old friend and old wine are hardly wrong. (Czech Republic)

First come, first served. (Slovenia)

Tell me who your friend is, and I will tell who you are.
(Latvia)

If you promise something it is a debt that you have to repay. (Slovenia)

Life isn't worth without friendship. (Bulgaria)



More heads know more. / Many eyes see more than one.
(Slovenia)

Real friendship is similar to the sea – it slowly warms up
and slowly cools down. (Latvia)

Nothing is ever as bad as it seems. (Slovenia)

We never have enough friends and health. (Slovakia)

A word is not a horse. (Slovenia)

Old friends and old wine are the best. (Slovakia)

Two are better than one. (Czech Republic)

Good for those who have friends, alas for those who
need them. (Slovakia)

Friends are like stars - you do not always see them, but
you know that they are. (Latvia)

Better a handful of friendship than a car full of dosh.
(Slovakia)



3. General implications for interpersonal relationship

Eat your breakfast alone, share your lunch with your friend and give your dinner to your enemy. (Czech Republic)

Friendship is what you give not what you get. (Bulgaria)

For poor ballerina, even the edge of the skirt is harmful. (Poland)

Barking dogs seldom bite. (Slovenia)

What will be left for later, will not run away. (Poland)

What goes around, comes around. (Slovenia)

Rooster was thinking about Sunday and on Saturday they cut his head off. (Poland)

Silent water grinds the banks. (Czech Republic)

Gardener's dog- someone who won't 'eat' himself and won't give it to others. (Poland)

Friendship is tested by time just as gold is tested by fire. (Bulgaria)

For the poor person, wind is always blowing into his eyes. (Poland)

Good things come to those who wait. (Portugal)

The most precious is invisible for the eyes. (Bulgaria)

Don't walk twice into the same river. (Poland)



Good advice is better than gold. (Czech Republic)

Where two are having a fight, the third one is taking advantage. (Poland)

You will use in the old what you have learned young.
(Czech Republic)

A little finger and a little head is a school excuse. (Poland)

Your friend in need is a friend indeed and he is always happy when you succeed. (Bulgaria)

He who laughs last, laughs best. (Portugal)

Fish and guests stink on the third day. (Czech Republic)

Where there's a will there's a way. (Portugal)

The morning is wiser than the evening. (Czech Republic)

Not all that glitters is gold. (Portugal)

Where the family is in disarray, there is gold on the manure. (Czech Republic)

It is better to hang yourself well, than to marry badly.
(Czech Republic)

While there's life, there's hope. (Portugal)

Everyone should dust first before their own threshold.
(Czech Republic)

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. (Portugal)



4. How to recognize a true (good) friend

Keep as a friend the one who admonishes you. (Slovakia)

Friends are people that never ask about the road - they just follow you, no matter how it looks... (Bulgaria)

If they tease each other, they like each other. (Czech Republic)

Everybody hears what you are saying. Friends listen to what you are saying. Only the best of them hear what you are not saying. (Bulgaria)

A crow sits next to a crow. (Czech Republic)

There are no boundaries for the true friendship. (Bulgaria)

It is not a friend who loves you in luck, but the one who helps in unhappiness. (Slovakia)

A true friend never makes you cry. (Bulgaria)

In need you get to know your friend. (Czech Republic)

Old friendship does not rust, old friendship does not go down. (Latvia)

Wealth is not a friendly adviser. A true friend is a real treasure. (Bulgaria)

Appearances can be deceptive. (Slovenia)

The best friend is recognized when you are in trouble. (Bulgaria)

V nouzi potkáš přítele.
You meet a friend When times are tough.



A good well gives you water in drought, a good friend is recognized in misery. (Slovakia)

Looks can be deceiving. (Portugal)

A yes-man is not a grateful friend. (Slovakia)

A friend loves at all times. (Latvia)

You can't judge a book by its cover. (Portugal)

You recognize a friend in need. (Slovakia)

A friend is the one who knows the worst of you, but still respects you. (Latvia)

You meet a friend when times are tough. (Slovenia)

Gold is tested in the fire and a friend in misfortune.
(Slovakia)

The real test of friendship is and remains a misfortune.
(Latvia)

THE CZECH REPUBLIC



PORTUGAL



Then, before dying, he filled a large ark with gold and left another full of curse.

SLOVAKIA



POLAND



BULGARIA



SLOVENIA



LATVIA



Sources:

1 <https://www.engvid.com/english-resource/50-common-proverbs-sayings/>

2 <https://www.britannica.com/art/proverb>

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