

# Perlus Poetikas

(Poetic Pearls)

**A selection of wisdom & wit  
to guide you along life's  
troublesome trail.**

**Sponsors of Hope**  
Study Guide



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(Poetic Pearls)



A Sponsors of Hope Publication

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This book is dedicated to Sally.





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## O'ER UNCHARTED SEAS

O'er uncharted seas to their heart's desire  
do men of faith set sail,  
While beaten men walk with fearful hearts  
along life's beaten trail.

The men of faith will challenge  
both men and Satan's wrath,  
But the beaten men will compromise  
and walk the beaten path.

Beaten roads are for beaten men  
as they walk with measured tread,  
With tuneless souls they move along  
to dwell among the dead.

But men of faith climb unscaled walls  
and sail uncharted seas.  
They dare to cross conventions' bounds  
to set the captives free.

- Thomas Wyatt

## IT COULDN'T BE DONE

Somebody said that it couldn't be done  
but he with a chuckle replied,  
That "maybe it couldn't", but he would be one  
who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.  
So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
on his face. If he worried he hid it.  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
that couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;  
at least no one ever has done it";  
But he took off his coat and he took off his hat  
and the first thing we knew he'd begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
without any doubting or quiddit,  
He started to sing as he tackled the thing  
that couldn't be done, and he did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done  
there are thousands to prophesy failure;  
There are thousands to point out to you, one by  
one, the dangers that wait to assail you.

But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing that  
“cannot be done” and you’ll do it.

- Edgar Guest

## **THE NIGHT HAS A THOUSAND EYES**

The night has a thousand eyes  
and the day but one;  
Yet the light of a whole world dies  
when day is done.

The mind has a thousand eyes  
and the heart but one;  
Yet the light of a whole life dies  
when love is done.

- Francis William Bourdillon

## TO KNOW ALL IS TO FORGIVE ALL

If I knew you and you knew me  
if both of us could clearly see,  
And with an inner sight divine  
the meaning of your heart and mine.

I'm sure that we would differ less  
and clasp our hands in friendliness,  
Our thought would pleasantly agree  
if I knew you, and you knew me.

If I knew you, and you knew me  
as each one knows his own self, we  
Could look each other in the face  
and see therein a truer grace.

Life has so many hidden woes  
so many thorns for every rose;  
The "why" of things our hearts would see,  
if I knew you and you knew me.

- Nixon Waterman

## I DIDN'T HAVE TIME

I got up early one morning  
and rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
I didn't have time to pray.

Problems just tumbled about me  
and heavier came each task,  
“Why doesn't God help me?” I wondered  
He answered, “You didn't ask.”

I tried to come into God's presence;  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
“Why, child, you didn't knock.”

I wanted to see joy and beauty  
but the day toiled on, gray and bleak.  
Why God didn't show me I wondered,  
He said, “You didn't seek.”

I woke up early this morning  
and paused before entering the day,  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I had to take time to pray.

- Grace L. Naessens

## LET IT PASS

Don't stoop my friend, to answer back,  
why not just LET IT PASS?  
You'll find this giving word for word  
will never pay, alas.  
Though 'tis true of human nature  
this giving tit for tat,  
Yet truly happy folks have found  
a better way than that.  
And though it seems impossible,  
it's better in the end,  
To let them have their way and then,  
just LET IT PASS, my friend.

I know sometimes it's very hard  
and seems it can't be done,  
But if you'll learn this better way  
a victory will be won;  
For you will save what's so worthwhile  
both time and feelings too,  
When you ignore what has been said,  
don't try to argue through.  
For then you'll know without a doubt  
'twas better in the end,  
To let them have their way and then,  
just LET IT PASS, my friend.



Now some folks always answer back,  
they never hold their peace;  
In trying to defend themselves  
it seems they never cease;  
Giving vent to every feeling  
whatever's on the mind  
Regardless of the consequence  
then after all, to find  
It didn't pay and would have been  
much better in the end,  
To have borne it all in silence  
and LET IT PASS, my friend.

For truly great folks never stoop  
to answer petty things;  
The unkind word, the bitter cut  
that rankles deep and stings.  
They are too big to notice them,  
they simply pass them by,  
And even with a smile sometimes  
or twinkle in the eye.  
For they have found that after all  
'twas better in the end,  
To meet it with a smile, and then  
just LET IT PASS, my friend.

- Unknown

## AT SET OF SUN

If you sit down at set of sun  
and count the acts that you have done,  
And, counting, find  
one self-denying deed, one word  
That eased the heart of him who heard,  
one glance most kind  
That fell like sunshine where it went,  
then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,  
you've cheered no heart, by yea or nay,  
If, through it all  
you've nothing done that you can trace  
That brought the sunshine to one face,  
no act most small  
That helped some soul and nothing cost,  
then count that day as worse than lost.

- George Eliot

## **GOD HATH NOT PROMISED**

God hath not promised skies always blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways all our lives thru;  
God hath not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow peace without pain.

But God hath promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy undying love.

- Annie Johnson Flint

## **DO YOU FEED YOUR BODY BUT STARVE YOUR SOUL?**

He was a man some folks called great,  
    said he'd done good, had grappled with fate,  
Till he'd won fame and some riches too  
    but in the crowd there were those who knew,  
The soul of him so miserably small,  
    the real greatness he knew not at all,  
For all through life he'd missed the real goal,  
    he fed his body but starved his soul.

He had no time for the little things  
    Which so much joy and contentment bring;  
A blade of grass, a child's tender look,  
    A promise sweet from the dear old book,  
A little walk where the wild flowers twine,  
    A little talk with the Friend Divine,  
Just half a man, not well rounded, whole,  
    Who fed his body but starved his soul.

Then, when the day of accounting came,  
    In God's own time and death called his name,  
Then the poor frail worthless empty shell  
    He'd groomed and fed and tended so well  
Was left behind just an earth bound clod,  
    While his shriveled soul went to face his God,  
All unprepared and paid the full toll.  
    He'd fed his body but starved his soul.

So come my friend and we'll walk today  
    Where the biggest and best have full sway.  
We'll follow the path that higher goes  
    To visions where the soul larger grows.  
You'll never hear them say of you then:  
    "Just one of the common heard of men  
You'll find anywhere from pole to pole,  
    Who fed their body but starved their soul."

- Unknown

## IF...

If you can keep your head when all about you  
are losing theirs and blaming it on you;  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you  
but make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting  
or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating  
and yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream, & not make dreams your master;  
if you can think, & not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with triumph and disaster  
and treat those two impostors just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,  
and stoop and build 'em up with worn out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
and risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
and never breathe a word about your loss;

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
to serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue  
or walk with Kings, nor lose the common touch;  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
if all men count with you, but none too much.

If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
with sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the earth and everything that's in it  
and, which is more, you'll be a man, my son!

- Rudyard Kipling

## A SAMPLE, NOT A SERMON

I'd rather see a sermon  
    than to hear one any day.  
I'd rather one would walk with me  
    than merely tell the way.  
The eye's a better pupil  
    and more willing than the ear.  
Fine counsel is confusing  
    but example's always clear!

The best of all the preachers  
    are the men who live their creeds.  
For to see good put in action  
    is what everybody needs!  
I soon can learn to do it  
    if you'll let me see it done.  
I can watch your hands in action  
    but your tongue too fast may run.

The lectures you deliver  
    may be very wise and true,  
But I'd rather get my lessons  
    by observing what you do.  
I may misunderstand  
    the high advice you give,  
But there's no misunderstanding  
    how you act and how you live!



When I see a deed of kindness  
I am eager to be kind.  
When a weaker brother stumbles  
and a strong man stays behind,  
Just to see if he can help him  
then the wish grows strong in me  
To become as good and thoughtful  
as I know that friend to be!

All travelers can witness  
that the best of guides today,  
Is not the one who tells them,  
but the one who shows the way.  
One good man teaches many,  
men believe what they behold.  
One deed of kindness noticed  
is worth forty that are told.

Who stands with men of honour  
learns to hold his honour dear,  
For right living speaks a language  
which to everyone is clear.  
Though an able speaker charms me  
with his eloquence I say,  
I'd rather see a sermon  
than to hear one any day!

- Edgar Guest

## THE POWER OF LITTLE

Great events, we often find  
on little things depend,  
And very small beginnings  
have oft a mighty end.

Letters joined make words  
and words to books may grow,  
As flake on flake descending  
form an avalanche of snow.

A single utterance may good  
or evil thought inspire;  
One little spark enkindled  
may set a town on fire.

What volumes may be written  
with little drops of ink!  
How small a leak unnoticed  
a mighty ship will sink!

A tiny insect's labour  
    makes the coral strand,  
And mighty seas are girdled  
    with grains of golden sand.

A daily penny saved  
    a fortune may begin;  
A daily penny squandered  
    may lead to vice and sin.

Our life is made entirely  
    of moments multiplied,  
As little streamlets, joining,  
    form the ocean's tide.

Our hours, days, months & years,  
    are in small moments given;  
They constitute our time below  
    eternity in Heaven.

- Unknown

## HABIT

It is mighty hard to shake me;  
    in my brawny arms I take thee;  
I can either make or break thee;  
    I am Habit!

Through each day I slowly mold thee;  
    soon my tight'ning chains enfold thee;  
Then it is with ease I hold thee;  
    Thus is Habit!

I can be both good and vile;  
    I can even be worth your while,  
Or the cause of your bitter cry,  
    I am Habit!

Harmless though I sometimes seem, yet  
    my strange force is like a magnet,  
Like a great and greedy dragnet;  
    I am Habit!

Though you sometimes fear or doubt me  
    no one yet has lived without me;  
I am present all about thee;  
    Thus is Habit!

Choose me well when you are starting  
seldom is an easy parting;  
I am a devil or a darling!  
I am Habit!

- Robert E. Sly

## WORTHWHILE

It is easy enough to be pleasant  
when life flows by like a song,  
But the man worthwhile is one who will smile  
when everything goes dead wrong.

For the test of the heart is trouble,  
and it always comes with the years,  
And the smile that is worth the praises on earth  
is the smile that shines through tears.

- Ella Wheeler Wilcox

## FIRST PLACE

I was longing to serve the Master,  
but alas I was laid aside  
From the busy field of workers  
in the harvest field so wide  
They were few, yes, few in number  
and I could not understand  
Why I should be left inactive:  
it was not as I had planned.

I was longing to serve the Master  
and the need indeed was great.  
For me it was easy to labour  
but oh, it was hard to wait,  
To lie quite still and be silent  
while the song was borne to my ear  
From the busy field of workers  
in the harvest field so dear!

I was longing to serve just to serve the Master  
but He led to a desert place  
And there as we stopped and rested  
His eyes looked down in my face,  
So full of tender reproaching  
they filled me with sad surprise!  
Did He think I had grudged my service  
or counted it sacrifice?

Oh, Master, I long to serve, just to serve thee,  
there are so few at the best,  
Let me off to the fields, I pleaded,  
I care not to stay and rest.  
I knelt at His feet imploring,  
I gazed in His face above.  
My child, He said, don't you know  
your service is nothing without your love?

I was longing to serve, to serve my Master,  
oh, this was my one fond thought,  
For this I was ever pleading  
as His footstool in prayer I sought,  
But there in that lonely desert  
apart from the busy scene  
It dawned on me slowly and clearly  
where my great mistake had been.

My mind was so full of service, just service,  
I had drifted from Him apart,  
And He longed for the sweet communion,  
that union of heart with heart!

Well, I sought and I found forgiveness,  
while mine eyes with pain were dim.  
And now, though His work is still precious,  
the FIRST place is kept for HIM!

- Unknown

## WORRY WORRY WORRY

Worry worry worry  
she knew worry was a sin,  
But each night she'd worry worry  
till her loved ones all were in.

Worry worry worry,  
it was like a funeral pall,  
If they climbed up on a ladder  
She was sure that they would fall.

Even at the hour of midnight  
she would steal from bed to bed,  
Listen to the sleepers breathing,  
making sure they were not dead.

If they sneezed they had pneumonia,  
if they coughed it was TB!  
Till the very air about her  
got as blue as blue could be.

Late from school, why she'd get frantic,  
surely they had been kidnapped!  
Every tumble brought her running  
positive their bones had snapped.

Every stray dog had the rabies,  
every tramp was a criminal,



Till at last it seemed it really  
wasn't safe to live at all!

When they were out in the traffic  
her alarm was so extreme  
That one night she slept exhausted  
and she dreamed a worried dream.

Dreamed that God had grown impatient  
with His child who worried so  
For He personally had managed  
all that happened here below.

Dreamed He took her loved ones to Him  
So she needn't worry more,  
They were all safe up in Heaven,  
None were left to worry for.

In her dream she was a 'sobbing,  
"Even though my worries cease,  
Lord, I find I cannot bear it,  
such an empty bitter peace!"

When she woke they were still 'round her,  
all her children & her John,  
Did it teach her? Not a lesson!  
Worriedly she worries on!

- Unknown

## IF WE COULD SEE BEYOND TODAY

If we could see beyond today  
as God can see,  
If all the clouds should roll away  
the shadows flee,  
O'er present grieves we would not fret,  
each sorrow we would soon forget,  
For many joys are waiting yet,  
for you and me.

If we could know beyond today  
as God doth know,  
Why dearest treasures pass away  
and tears must flow,  
We'd know that darkness leads to light,  
and dreary days will soon grow bright,  
Someday life's wrongs will be made right,  
faith tells us so.

If we could see, if we could know  
we often say,  
But God in love a veil doth throw  
across our way,

We cannot see what lies before,  
and so we cling to Him the more,  
He leads us till this life is o'er,  
trust and obey.

- Unknown

### **A WISE OLD OWL**

**A** wise old owl lived in an oak;  
The more he saw the less he spoke;  
The less he spoke the more he heard:  
Why can't all we be like that bird?

- Edward Hersey Richards

## DESIDERATA

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,  
and remember what peace there may be in silence.  
As far as possible, without surrender, be on good  
terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen  
to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too  
have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons;  
they are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you  
may become vain or bitter, for always there will be  
greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your  
plans. Keep interested in your own career, however  
humble; it is a real possession in the changing  
fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for  
the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind  
you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for  
high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection.  
Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all

aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years,  
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.  
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden  
misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark  
imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and  
loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle  
with yourself. You are a child of the universe no  
less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to  
be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no  
doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever  
you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors  
and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep  
peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery  
and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be  
cheerful.

Strive to be happy.

- Max Ehrmann

## TEMPER

When I have lost my temper  
I have lost my reason too.  
I'm never proud of anything  
which angrily I do.

When I have talked in anger,  
and my cheeks were flaming red,  
I have always uttered something  
which I wish I had not said,

In anger I have never  
done a kindly deed or wise,  
But many things for which I felt  
I should apologize.

In looking back across my life,  
and all I've lost or made,  
I can't recall a single time  
when fury ever paid.

So I struggle to be patient,  
for I've reached a wiser age;  
I do not want to do a thing  
or speak a word in rage.

I have learned by sad experience  
that when my temper flies,  
I never do a worthy deed,  
a decent deed or wise.

- Unknown

## **I TAKE THE STAND**

I take the stand, I count it done.  
God answers through His precious son.  
It is His Word, it cannot fail,  
though all the powers of hell assail.  
So come what may, the promise mine,  
I'll hold it to the end of time.

I take the stand, I count it done.  
God answers through His precious son.  
He's never failed. Oh praise His name.  
For Jesus Christ is just the same.  
So live or die, or sink or swim,  
through every test I'll trust in Him.

- Unknown

## THE CLOCK OF LIFE

The clock of life is wound but once  
and no man has the power  
To tell just when the hands will stop  
at late or early hour.

Now is the only time you own.  
Live, love, toil with a will.  
Place no faith in time,  
for the clock may soon be still!

- Unknown





WHAT CAN  
**YOU** DO  
TO HELP?

We all need to be kinder to each other. Let's spread that message however we can!

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See what miracles love can do!

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