

5 SAGES

A Hero is a person whose deeds are worth emulating; a Sage is a person whose words are worth planting.

Today we tend to regard great sages, such as Confucius, Lao Tze, Pythagoras and Socrates, as wise men by profession. But wisdom never comes from the direct pursuit of wisdom, it comes from the quiet mixing of mellowed experiences. Here I present five sages—not necessarily professionals—whose words I feel may now be profitably harvested.

- Lao Tze, 604-531 B.C. On Leadership.
To lead the people, walk behind them.
As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence;
The next best, the people honor and praise;
The next, the people fear; and
The next, the people hate.
When the best leader's work is done the people say,
"We did it ourselves."
- Miyamoto Musashi, 1584-1645. On Strategy.
In strategy it is important to see distant things as if they were close and to take a distant view of close things.
You should not have a favorite weapon. To become overly familiar with one weapon is as much a fault as not knowing it sufficiently well.
You can never successfully give a fatal blow unless at the moment of delivery you fully expose yourself to the risk of your own death.
- Werner Heisenberg, 1901-1976. On Truth.
The greatest truths are those whose opposite is also true.
- St. Vincent de Paul, 1581-1660. On Giving.
When you give bread to the poor,
Ask them to forgive you your gift.
True giving is always an exchange.
The greatest gift that you can give to anyone
Is an opportunity for them to give.
- Siddhartha Gautama, 563-483 B.C. On Belief.
Believe nothing on hearsay.
Do not believe traditions because they are old.
Do not believe anything on the mere authority of myself or any other teacher.

The art of being wise is the art of
knowing what to overlook.

William James

There is wisdom in the selection
of wisdom.

Bergen Evans