Fools

Who is more foolish, the child afraid of the dark or the man afraid of the light? *(Maurice Freehill)*

You can fool all the people all of the time if the advertising is right and the budget is big enough. *(Joseph E., Levine, Hollywood producer)*

Boy making announcement at home: “Everyone in this house please be advised that I have made a complete fool of myself in sex-education class by repeating stories concerning storks told to me by certain parties residing herein.” *(Shust)*

Only a fool argues with a skunk, a mule or a cook. *(Harry Oliver, in Thousand Palms, California , Desert Rat Scrap Book)*

There is a foolish corner in the brain of the wisest man. *(Aristotle)*

That, of course, is the great secret of the successful fool -- that he is no fool at all. *(Isaac Asimov)*

If you wish to avoid seeing a fool, you must first break your mirror. *(Francois Rabelais)*

There’s a bigger fool than the fellow who knows it all; it’s the fellow who will argue with him. *(Garth Henrichs)*

What the wise do in the beginning, fools do in the end. *(Warren Buffett)*

**A physician, after examining a twitching, snarling, haggard businessman who had already amassed ten million dollars, but was avidly seeking twenty million more, advised, “I want you from this moment on to work and scheme only six hours a day instead of sixteen, and promise me that three days a week you’ll drive out to the cemetery.” “The cemetery,” exploded the tycoon. “What for?” “Just look around,” said the physician, “and meet some of the chaps you’re going to have to compete with to be the richest fool there!” *(Bits & Pieces) 49011***

The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself, too. *(Samuel Butler)*

You can’t fool all the people all the time – some of them are busy fooling you. *(Bits & Pieces)*

Any fool can criticize, condemn and complain – and most fools do. *(Dale Carnegie, in How to Win Friends and Influence People)*

When you’re certain you cannot be fooled, you become easy to fool. *(Edward Teller)*

**A wise man changes his mind; a fool never will. *(Spanish proverb)***

Failure is unimportant. It takes courage to make a fool of yourself. *(Charlie Chaplin)*

A man and a woman cannot live together without having against each other a kind of everlasting joke. Each has discovered that the other is a fool, but a great fool. *(G. K. Chesterton)*

The greatest lesson in life is to know that even fools are right sometimes. *(Winston Churchill)*

The ancient Greeks sent their infirmed to a “Home of Comedians” to be healed, and monarchs sent their “fools” or court jesters as ambassadors to other kingdoms to build goodwill and help defuse conflicts. Many Native Americans are very attuned to the Divine Wisdom of humor. Some have clown doctors who perform antics to cure the sick. (Terry Braverman, in New Thought magazine)

A fellow who is always declaring he’s no fool usually has his suspicions. (Wilson Mizner, playwright)

On the edge of a precipice, only a fool does cartwheels*. (James DePreist, in Portland Oregonian)*

I'm not denyin' the women are foolish: God Almighty made 'em to match the men. *(George Eliot)*

Embrace the fool within and reap some very positive rewards. The fool can jump outside the constraints of normal convention and shed new light. In Shakespeare’s Mid-Summer Night’s Dream and King Lear, the fool saw beneath the surface to the truth in every situation. In tarot cards, too, the fool is the first card of the deck. According to the Encyclopedia of Tarot by Stuart R. Kaplan, it can signify a new adventure, enthusiasm, initiative, spontaneity, new opportunities, unlimited possibilities, and pleasure. *(Terry Braverman, in New Thought magazine)*

Politeness was invented by wise men to keep fools at a distance. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

An enterprising salesman was trying to persuade a farmer to buy a bicycle. The farmer thought for a while and then said, “I’d rather spend my money on a cow.” “But think,” insisted the salesman. “What a fool you’d look like riding a cow.” “Not half the fool I’d look like trying to milk a bicycle,” the farmer replied. *(Marianna Schwartz, in Country magazine)*

My father always told me that a fool at 40 is a fool for life. (Idris Elba, actor)

**The primary block to developing a humorous perspective is our fear of looking foolish, being disapproved of, and ultimately being rejected. These fears were instilled with messages we received in childhood: “Wipe that stupid smile off your face!” (smiling is stupid); “Grow up and get serious!” (growing up is serious business). The average four year old laughs about every ten minutes. How many times a day do we laugh now? We have been trained to sacrifice our sense of joy for the sake of “growing up.” *(Terry Braverman, in New Thought magazine)***

**The first principle is that you must not fool yourself, and you are the easiest person to fool*. (Richard Feynman)***

Ain’t nothing in this world for free, and it blows my mind how so many fools just don’t get that. *(Jamie Foxx, in USA Weekend)*

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Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain -- and most fools do. *(Benjamin Franklin)*

Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other. *(Benjamin Franklin)*

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A fool’s paradise is a wise man’s hell. *(Thomas Fuller)*

He that has no fools, knaves nor beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightning. *(Thomas Fuller)*

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**It takes a genius to play a fool. (Michael Rapaport)**

**We all know a fool when we see one -- but not when we are one. (Arnold H. Glasow, in The Wall Street Journal)**

You can’t fool all the people all the time, but those highway interchange signs come pretty close. *(Country Extra magazine)*

Mix a little foolishness with your serious plans: it's lovely to be silly at the right moment. (Horace, Roman poet)

**Everyone is a damn fool for at least five minutes every day. Wisdom consists in not exceeding that limit. *(Elbert Hubbard, writer)***

**You are not a fool just because you have done something foolish -- only if the folly of it escapes you. *(Jim Fiebig, NANA)***

Who is the more foolish – the fool, or the fool who follows him? *(Obi-wan Kenobi)*

There are two kinds of fools: One says, “This is old, therefore it is superior.” The other says, “This is new, therefore it is better.” *(Bits & Pieces)*

A foolish man may be known by six things: anger without cause, speech without profit, change without progress, inquiry without object, putting trust in a stranger, and mistaking foes for friends. *(Arabian proverb)*

It is true that you may fool all the people some of the time; you can even fool some of the people all the time; but you can't fool all of the people all the time. *(The Wit & Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln, edited by Alex Ayres, p. 79)*

Living in a fool's paradise is great fun until the rent comes due. *(Good Reading)*

Anyone can make a mistake. A fool insists on repeating it. *(Robertine Maynard)*

A man never knows what a fool he is until he hears himself imitated by one. *(Herbert Beerbohm Tree)*

A fool and his money will soon be partying. *(Ellis J. Biderson, in The Saturday Evening Post)*

It is wise to remember that you are one of those who can be fooled some of the time. *(Laurence J. Peter, in Peter's Almanac)*

I like writing ****poetry****, and I am often asked to come up with a poem on special occasions. When Neil, a colleague at the school where I teach, retired, another teacher suggested that I read an original poem at his retirement party. I agreed and then said, “Why don't you say a few words about Neil at the party also?” “Oh, no,” she quickly replied. “I don't like to stand up in front of people and make a fool of myself.” “You just told me to get up and make a fool of myself!” I reminded her. “Yes," she said, “but you're so good at it.” (Pat Hughes, in Reader's Digest)

Prophecy is the wit of a fool. *(Vladimir Nabokov)*

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When a fool is told a proverb, it has to be explained to him. *(Ashanti proverb)*

The wise make proverbs and fools repeat them. *(Isaac D’Israeli, English author)*

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The main purpose of the stock market is to make fools of as many men as possible. *(Bernard Baruch, businessman)*

The wise person questions himself, the fool others. *(Henri Arnold, Chicago-Tribune-New York News Syndicate)*

A fine quotation is a diamond on the finger of a man of wit, and a pebble in the hand of a fool. *(Joseph Roux, cartographer)*

Fools live to regret their words, wise men to regret their silence. *(Will Henry, Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate)*

**Inviting people to laugh at you while you are laughing at yourself is a good thing to do. You may be the fool, but you are the fool in charge. *(Carl Reiner)***

Muckle John, the fool of Charles I, was probably the last official royal fool of England. There have been none there since that time. There is a rumor, probably untrue, that all the rest of them came to the United States and ran for public office. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 55)*

Any fool can count the seeds in an apple. Only God can count all the apples in one seed. *(Robert H. Schuller Tells You How to Be an Extraordinary Person in an Ordinary World, edited by Robert A. Schuller)*

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Playwright Bernard Shaw was so painfully shy that he would sometimes walk up and down the Thames embankment for 20 minutes or more trying to gather the courage to walk up to a friend’s door and knock. Asked how he acquired the courage and ability to speak publicly despite his timidity, he replied: “The same way I learned to skate – by doggedly making a fool of myself until I got used to it.” *(E. F. Wells, in Success Unlimited)*

A reporter once said to George Bernard Shaw: “You have a marvelous gift for oratory. How did you develop it?” Replied Shaw: “I learned to speak as men learn to skate or cycle, by doggedly making a fool of myself until I got used to it.” *(Bits & Pieces) 1115906*

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It sometimes seems foolish for folks to be spending so much time trying to love their enemies when they could be treating their friends a little better. *(Garth Henrichs)*

Only a fool tests the depth of the water with both feet. *(African proverb)*

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He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever. *(Mark Twain)*

I am a great and sublime fool. But then I am God’s fool, and all His work must b contemplated with respect. *(Mark Twain)*

Let us be thankful for the fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed. *(Mark Twain)*

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A common mistake that people make when trying to design something completely foolproof is to underestimate the ingenuity of complete fools. (Douglas Adams, novelist)

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