**Silence**

**Who is he that will contend with me?  
For now I will keep silent and be at rest.  
(Job 13:19)**

**Most theme parks in Japan have banned screaming on roller coasters to prevent riders from expelling respiratory droplets containing the coronavirus. One video urging compliance shows two executives of the Fugi-Q Highland amusement park silently plunging 230 feet on a roller coaster without so much as a peep. "Please scream inside your heart," the video advises*. (The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 24, 2020)***

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**Silence is the ability to hear clearly what sounds are there. It is what you have when the sounds inside your head are equal to the sounds outside. (Peter Steinhart, in Reader's Digest)**

**The first movie to win the Academy Award as Best Picture was Wings, in 1928. It was a silent picture (the only silent movie ever to win the Oscar), and it was about air battles in World War I, with spectacular sky scenes. (Charles Reichblum, in Knowledge in a Nutshell , p. 46)**

**Sign outside a monastery: “Stop air pollution -- keep your mouth shut.” (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)**

**The real problem with airline seating is when you want to read or sleep or think -- and you’re sitting next to a talker. If this happens to you, there is one surefire way to shut them up. Ask them what they paid for their ticket. And no matter what they say, tell them that you paid half and also got a coupon good for two free drinks. Trust me. For the next three hours the only sound you'll hear from them is the grinding of teeth. (Orben's Current Comedy)  
It’s amazing how much you can hear when no one is saying anything. *(Elaine St. James, in Inner Simplicity)***

**Woman says to girlfriend: “I asked him what he wanted for our anniversary and he said, ‘two minutes of silence.’” (Jim Unger, in Classic Herman comic strip)**

**Psychiatrist says to patient: “There’s something you’re not telling me, Mr. Fisk. And I want you to know, I really appreciate it.” (J. C. Duffy, in Go Figure comic strip)**

**Silence is argument carried on by other means. *(Che Guevara)*It takes a baby approximately two years to learn to talk and between 60 and 70 years to learn to keep his mouth shut. (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)**

**Evidently barbers have always been great chatterers. In the 2nd Century, Plutarch reported that when a certain gentleman was asked by a barber how he wanted his hair to be cut, the man replied, “In silence.” (Donner & Eve Paige Spencer, in A Treasury of Trivia , p. 266)**

**There are two times when a closed mouth can be of help to you -- when you're about to say something against a person, and when you're offered dessert. (O. A. Battista, in Quotoons)**

**Thus, in the presence of one who is ill or who is sorrowing in heart, at the bedside of one who seems near the border, more may depend on the reserves that speak or that are silently effective than on anything we seek to do in an overt way. (Horatio W. Dresser)**

**Honesty is the best policy, although sometimes keeping your mouth shut is even better. (United Feature Syndicate)**

**Silence is one of the hardest arguments to refute. (Josh Billings, humorist)**

**Bishop Arthur J. Moore used to tell about a young minister who asked his bishop to hold a quiet hour in the young minister's church. The bishop responded, “What your church needs is not a quiet hour but an earthquake. I don't want to be as quiet as some of your people until I'm dead.” (Dynamic Preaching)**

**Good week for: Blessed silence, after 13 DMV offices in Oregon canceled their $160-a-month subscriptions to a Muzak service due to complaints from customers about the insipid background music. (The Week magazine, March 19, 2010)**

**Every time you say something, your blood pressure goes up. *(L. M, Boyd)***

**I thank Mother for all her virtues, but mostly for never once having said, “I told you so.” (Erma Bombeck)**

**When I was born, I was so surprised that I did not speak for a year and a half. *(The PassTime Paper)***

**We are born with two eyes, but only one tongue, in order that we should see twice as much as we say. (Country Extra magazine)**

**A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: Silence is the only thing you can break by merely naming it. (Reminisce magazine)**

**The beauty of a silent breakfast: When you can't find time to meditate, there's another way of quieting your mind: eating breakfast in total silence, said Hillary Richard in The New York Times: When I first tried this ancient mindfulness practice, common to various monastic traditions, "my mind revolted halfway through my granola." It was surprisingly difficult to direct all my attention to the food in front of me. "I had a to-do list a mile long; I was deeply uncomfortable." Once my anxious brain wore itself out, though, I experienced an unusual feeling of freedom, and during subsequent breakfasts, "I worked on being my own company, on treating myself like I'd treat a guest, on asking myself questions." Now I never miss my quiet morning meal, because it's an effective way to start the day "purposefully, calmly, and in gratitude." (The Week magazine, December 4, 2020)**

**It is not the beautiful words that we say to God that bring results, but what we hear God say to us in the silence of the soul. (Cornelia Addington)**

**A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: Silence should never be broken unless it can be improved on. (Reminisce magazine)**

**The Admiralty Building in London was built from the plans for a lunatic asylum in 1887. Its architect was suddenly summoned to submit the Admiralty plans to Queen Victoria, by error, showed her his designs for an asylum -- and after her enthusiastic praise was afraid to reveal his mistake. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 331)Language of the African Bushmen depends as much upon gestures and grimaces as upon words. And Bushmen don’t talk a lot after dark. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Speech is of time, silence is of eternity. *(Thomas Carlyle)***

**Did you hear they finally made a device that makes cars run 95% quieter? It fits right over her mouth. (Billy Crystal)**

**Dad says to the child: “There’s no picture and no sound. It’s the Peace and Quiet Channel.” (Catholic Digest cartoon)**

**Silence is the unbearable repartee. (G. K. Chesterton)  
  
Aunt Karen is the mother of two high-spirited young girls. When I called her one morning, our conversation was constantly interrupted by the din of kids screaming and chasing each other. “Could you hold on for a moment?” my aunt finally asked, putting down the phone. Within ten seconds all I could hear was absolute silence. Then, “Okay, I'm back.” “But it's so quiet!” I exclaimed. “You must have complete control over those two.” “Not really,” my aunt confessed wearily. “I'm in the closet.” (Steve Brundage, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Stan Rolfsrud once candidly told readers why his column in the Carver County, Minnesota, Herald was missing. Under the usual heading was this statement: “Stan Rolfsrud has nothing to say this week.” (Associated Press)**

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**I have never been hurt by anything I didn't say. (Calvin Coolidge)**

**Silent Cal Coolidge was just that as far as the telephone was concerned. The former president refused to use it. (Jack Kreismer)**

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**No one has a finer command of language than the person who keeps his mouth shut. (Former Rep. Sam Rayburn)**

**One nice thing about silence is that it can't be repeated. (Gary Cooper)**

**The heights and recesses of Mount Taurus are said to be much infested with eagles, who are never better pleased than when they pick the bones of a crane. Cranes are prone to cackle and make a noise and particularly so while they are flying. The sound of their voices arouses the eagles, who spring up at the signal, and often make the talkative travelers pay dearly for their impudent chattering. The older and more experienced cranes, sensible of their besetting foible and the peril to which it exposes them, take care before venturing on the wing to pick up a stone large enough to fill the cavity of their mouths, and consequently to impose unavoidable silence on their tongues, and thus they escape the danger. (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)**

**Silence is sometimes the severest criticism. (Buxton)**

**The quietest place on earth is the “dead room” in the Bell Telephone System Laboratory at Murray Hill, New Jersey. The room is 35 feet by 28 feet, and inside it, 99.98% of all reflected sounds are eliminated. (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations , p. 1280)**

**The deepest feeling always shows itself in silence. (Marianne Moore, poet)**

**Silence is of different kinds, and breathes different meanings. (Charlotte Bronte)**

**The most difficult thing in the world is to know how to do something and to watch somebody else doing it wrong, without comment. (T. H. White)  
One reason the dog has so many friends: he wags his tail instead of his tongue. (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)**

**In his book, Humorous Stories About the Human Condition , Eric W. Johnson tells us about the third-grader who was given an assignment to write about “What My Dog Means to Me.” Here's what he wrote: “My dog means somebody nice and quiet to be with. He does not say Do like my mother, or Don’t like my father, or Stop like my big brother. My dog Spot and I sit together quietly and I like him and he likes me.” (Bits & Pieces)  
Which of the seven dwarfs couldn't talk? Trick query. If you mean Dopey, that's wrong. He could talk. He just didn't. Nothing to say. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Preach not to others what they should eat, but eat as becomes you, and be silent. *(Epictetus) Hunter Davies’ Book of Lists, p. 38)***

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**You will have many opportunities in life to keep your mouth shut: You should take advantage of every one of them. *(Thomas Edison)***

**Thomas Alva Edison’s first attempt at marketing an invention was an offer of a new stock ticker he had devised to the president of a large Wall Street firm. Edison wanted to ask $5,000, but he was only twenty-three and completely inexperienced, and his nerve failed him. He asked the president to make an offer, and the president offered $40,000. (Isaac Asimov)\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  
Professor Albert Einstein gave what he considered the best formula for success in life. “If a is success in life, I should say the formula is a equals x plus y plus z, x being work and y being play.” “And what is z?” inquired the interviewer. “That,” he answered, “is keeping your mouth shut.” (Christian Register)**

**Albert Einstein was four years old before he could talk. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 98)***

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**The best morale exists when you never hear the word mentioned. When you hear a lot of talk about it, it’s usually lousy. (Dwight Eisenhower)**

**What makes electric cars dangerous to pedestrians, it's claimed, is that said cars run so silently. (L. M. Boyd)**

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**Blessed is the man who, having nothing to say, abstains from giving in words evidence of the fact. (George Eliot, in Impressions of Theophrastus Such)**

**If we had a keen vision of all that is ordinary in human life, it would be like hearing the grass grow or the squirrels heart beat, and we should die of that roar which is the other side of silence. (George Eliot)**

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**To my great fortune, a herd of 147 elk (I had plenty of time to count them) wandered into the very field where I was sitting. To see on elk is exciting; to watch 147 elk in their natural habitat is enthralling. But I soon learned that to watch 147 elk for two hours is, to put it mildly, boring. They lowered their heads and chewed grass. They raised their heads in unison and looked at a raspy crow. They lowered their heads again and chewed grass. For two hours, nothing else happened. No mountain lions attacked; no bulls charged each other. All the elk bent over and chewed grass. After a while, the very placidity of the scene began to affect me. The elk had not noticed my presence, and I simply melded into their environment, taking on their rhythms. I no longer thought about the work I had left at home, the deadlines facing me, the reading that Brennan had assigned. My body relaxed. In the leaden silence, my mind fell quiet. *(Philip Yancey, in Christianity Today)***

**Just because you find fault doesn't mean you have to report it.  
(Varallo's Restaurant, in Thoughts from the Bottom of a Chili Bowl, p. 44)  
A closed mouth gathers no feet. (Bits & Pieces)**

**The story is told of a lady watching a fisherman landing a fish. “O, the poor little fish!” she cried. “Yes,” said the fisherman, “but if he had only kept his mouth shut he would not be on the end of my line.” (Albert E. Cliffe, in Let Go & Let God , p. 47)**

**Under a mounted fish on an office wall appears this sign: “If I’d kept my mouth shut, I wouldn’t be here.” (L. M. Boyd)**

**At times, it is better to keep your mouth shut and let people wonder if you're a fool than to open it and remove all doubt. (James C. Sinclair)**

**Remember not only to say the right thing** **in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. (Benjamin Franklin)**

**There’s one thing that keeps surprising you about stormy old friends after they die – their silence. (Ben Hecht)**

**Helga: “I’m bored! We have to make new friends!” Hagar: “What’s wrong with the friends we have?” Helga: “They don’t talk.” (Dik Brown, in Hagar The Horrible comic strip)**

**Silences make the real conversations between friends. Not the saying but the never needing to say is what counts. (Margaret Lee Runbeck)**

**The damp north wind was blowing a chill off the moors. It would be good to be inside on an evening like this. The American drew his coat collar tighter as he made his way to the home of his Scottish friend. Ralph Waldo Emerson and Thomas Carlyle had enjoyed a strong friendship through correspondence for many years before they actually met. Now, after all that time, Emerson had finally come to Europe, making a special journey to Scotland, so that he could at last meet the renowned essayist and historian face-to-face. When Emerson arrived for the momentous occasion, Carlyle greeted him warmly, offered him a pipe, and then lighted one for himself. The great men then sat together in virtual silence until it was time to retire for the night. At that point the two warmly shook hands and praised each other for the fruitful evening they had shared together. (Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest , p. 127)  
The anatomy of a frog is such that it must close its eyes to swallow, and if its mouth is held open too long it will suffocate. (E. C. McKenzie, in Tantalizing Facts)**

**In the attitude of silence the soul finds the path in a clearer light, and what is elusive and deceptive resolves itself into crystal clearness. Our life is a long and arduous quest after Truth. *(Mahatma Gandhi)***

**Silence is never more golden than when you hold it long enough to get all the facts before you speak. (Bits & Pieces)**

**A Hollywood producer keeps a goldfish bowl on his desk, “Because I like to see something with its mouth open not asking for a raise.” (Los Angeles Herald Examiner)**

**Grandpa asks Grandma: “What’s for supper, Dear?” There is no response from Grandma. Grandpa then says to his grandson: “Gramma’s not speaking to me today. And I’m in no mood to interrupt her.” (Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)**

**I once gave my homeroom of senior honors students a graduation gift in advance. They were permitted one unexcused absence as long as it didn't conflict with other teachers' schedules. All I asked was that they do something worthwhile and hand in a paragraph sharing that experience. My favorite report was from a young man who wrote: “I went fishing with my grandfather. I listened to him all day long without once saying, ‘Pops, you already told me that.’” (Barbara Scarpato, in Reader’s Digest)**

**Great joys, like griefs, are silent. (Shackerley Marmion)**

**Lady: “I did it, Dan. I got my haircut! Do you like it? Be honest.” Dan: “Well, let me have a good look. Uh huh. Uh huh.” Lady: “Well, what do you think?” Dan: “Do I have the right to remain silent?” (Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)**

**Lord, please keep one hand on my shoulder and the other over my mouth. (Sign in front of a church in Dubuque, Iowa, in Guideposts magazine)**

**Fortune is better than fame – you can be quietly fortunate, but it’s harder to be quietly famous. (Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)**

**That man’s silence is wonderful to listen to. (Thomas Hardy)**

**If people are having trouble communicating, the least they could do is shut up about it. (Tom Lehrer)**

**You cannot hear a heartbeat. The sound you hear when you listen to someone’s heart is that of the valves of the heart closing. The beat itself is a silent contraction of the muscles. *(Barbara Seuling, in You Can’t Sneeze with Your Eyes Open, p. 35)***

**My personal hobbies are reading, listening to music and silence. (Edith Sitwell)**

**Never tell your problems to anyone. Twenty percent don’t care and the other 80 percent are glad you have them. *(Lou Holtz, football coach)***

**Don't explain yourself, your friends don’t need it and your enemies won't believe it anyway. (Elbert Hubbard)**

**Psychic: “You can’t get him to talk?” Woman: “That’s my husband, all right!” (Reminisce magazine cartoon)  
You can walk up to a total stranger and say, “I love you.” It's really very easy. You just say it in your heart. It was the most amazing experience. People turned around to smile and say “Good morning." They could feel that “I love you.” Since then I have done this many times. Try it for yourself, it will make you feel wonderful and of course, that feeling will be shared by everyone you meet. (Jack & Cornelia Addington)**

**Wife to husband: “I’m right and you are wrong! And I don’t want to hear any more from you about it! Don’t look at me in that tone of voice!” (Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)When Jesus is taken before Herod to be judged, the king would like to see him do “some miracle” and is enraged when Christ replies with silence. (Ernest O. Hauser, in Reader's Digest)**

**In the silence we get the wonderful inward joy that is God. (Myrtle Fillmore)**

**One way to keep people from jumping down your throat is to keep your mouth shut. (Bits & Pieces)  
When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt. (Henry J. Kaiser, American industrialist)**

**The actor who became a star without uttering a line, Boris Karloff, achieved stardom in his roles in “Frankenstein” and “The Old Dark House” -- yet he never spoke a word in either. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance)**

**The kindest word in all the world is the unkind word, unsaid. (Official Crossword Puzzles)**

**Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter. (Martin Luther King, Jr.)**

**Absolute silence – that’s the one thing a sportscaster can quote accurately. *(Bob Knight, basketball coach)***

**Here in the silence we shall know the presence of God, and seek clearly just how we should go about living the life that He is giving us, so that we may bring forth order and beauty and freedom that He has planned. We are now awaiting the understanding of this. (Myrtle Fillmore)**

**The silence of the mind is the true religious mind, and the silence of the gods is the silence of the earth. (Krishnamurti, in The Second Penguin Krishnamurti Reader)Carole Landis (1919-1948) had several speaking roles in movies early in her career, but was recognized as having star material only after appearing in “One Million B.C.” -- a film in which she did not say a word. (Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 5)**

**The third most-used language in the United States is American Sign Language. (Kids’ Pages, 2008)**

**Our granddaughter came home from her first day of school. “What did you learn?” her mother asked. “To be quiet,” she replied. (Norma Felsburg, in Reminisce magazine)**

**Grandpa: “How do you like second grade?” Little girl: “It’s okay.” Grandpa: “What have you learned so far?” Little girl: “To be seen, stand up; to be heard, speak up; to be appreciated, shut up!” (Art & Chip Sansom, in The Born Loser comic strip)**

**One learns in life to keep silent and draw one’s own confusions. (Cornelia Otis Skinner, American actress and author)**

**Dolly says to Billy while walking to school: “To be a librarian, all you have to learn is how to say ‘SHH!’” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**Reprieve: Asked what she was going to do while her two small sons were visiting their grandmother during the Christmas holidays, one mother replied, “Something I haven’t done in years -- listen to the silence.” (Christine Smith, in Reader’s Digest)**

**I live in silence. It’s always a good place from which to speak. (Sister Wendy Beckett)**

**Doctor says to patient: “The human body is the Lord's temple, Mr. Pemberton, and I think it's about time we nailed your front door shut.” (National Enquirer cartoon)**

**Blessed are they who have nothing to say and who cannot be persuaded to say it. (James Russell Lowell)**

**A time comes when silence is betrayal. (Martin Luther)**

**A man is known by the silence he keeps. (Oliver Herford, American author)**

**Speech is civilization itself. The word, even the most contradictory word, preserves contact – it is silence which isolates. (Thomas Mann)**

**Do not the most moving moments of our lives find us without words? (Marcel Marceau)**

**The first sign of maturity is the discovery that the volume knob also turns to the left. (Jerry M. Wright, in Catholic Digest)**

**Israel's Prime Minister Golda Meir turned down an aide's request that she talk to reporters, explaining, “You can't improve on saying nothing.” (As Good As Golda, edited by Israel & Mary Shenker)**

**A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: Let each day be your masterpiece … even silence has a melody of its own. (Reminisce magazine)  
Recently I spent some time in a monastery in which disciplined silence was required 24 hours a day. At first it was difficult, for much that I was feeling, experiencing, seeing, or reading I wanted to share with the others. And then, slowly and subtly, I discovered that the silence was overwhelmingly blissful. It was almost as though a gentle wave of peace had rolled over me during this quiet period. There was nothing but silence--in me, around me, all through me, and everywhere expanding and reaching out to touch all creation. Those things that touch the heart are frequently difficult to put into words, and this was one of the experiences. I just knew that I loved the silence, reveled in it, wanted to have it always. (Dr. Susan Smith Jones, in New Realities magazine)**

**We cannot find God in noise or agitation. God is the friend of silence. Trees, flowers, and grass grow in silence. The stars, the moon, and the sun move in silence. (Mother Teresa)  
The most expensive silent movie ever made was the 1926 epic Ben Hur, which cost $3.9 million. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 17)***

**Mysticism is derived from “myein,” which originally meant “to shut the mouth, to close the eyes”--to be silent, to “just be.” (Dr. Larry Dossey, in Unity magazine)**

**The best way to keep one’s word is not to give it. *(Napoleon Bonaparte)***

**He approaches nearest to the gods who knows how to be silent, even though he is in the right. (Cato)**

**A Sunday school teacher asked her students as they entered the church, “And why is it necessary to be quiet during Mass?” One bright little girl replied, “Because people are sleeping.” (www.catholicsites.com)**

**Never miss a good chance to shut up. (Rocky Mountain News)**

**While he was a member of Parliament, Sir Isaac Newton’s only recorded utterance was a request to open the window. *(Noel Botham, in The World’s Greatest Book of Useless Information, p. 142)***

**There is nothing wrong with having nothing to say -- unless you insist on saying it. (Bits & Pieces)**

**As you go through life you are going to have many opportunities to keep your mouth shut. Take advantage of all of them. (Quoted by James Dent, in Charleston, W. Va. Gazette)**

**In 1956, the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay went to the film “The Red Balloon.” The picture hasn't a word of dialogue. (Jeff Rovin, in The Unbelievable Truth! , p. 116)**

**When it pays better to talk than listen, change your company. (Ladies' Home Journal)**

**Turn Off, Tune Out, Unplug: For people who like peace and quiet – a phoneless cord. (www.coolsig.com)**

**Kellogg’s sells more than two billion Pop-Tarts each year, but they owe part of their success to a blunder by a competitor. Post announced to the press in 1963 that they were busy working on a new product – toaster pastries called Country Squares. Kellogg’s rushed to create their own toaster pastries, and gave them a catchy name: Pop-Tarts. What’s more, they managed to get them on the market six months ahead of Post’s Country Squares. (Murray McLeod, in Tidbits)**

**After Jeffy breaks the window playing baseball, Billy says to him: “Jeffy, you have the right to remain silent.” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**As the children’s band practice becomes louder and louder, Dad goes in to the practice room and says to them: “You have the right to remain silent!” (Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)**

**After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you’re full of bull, keep your mouth shut. And last but not least: Never miss a good chance to shut up. (Will Rogers)**

**These three basic rules of effective communication were enunciated first by the late Vice President Alben Barkley: “No. 1 -- Have something to say. No. 2 -- Say it. No. 3 -- Shut up.” (L. M. Boyd)**

**The world’s smallest and oldest republic, San Marino (24 square miles), is located mostly on top of a mountain entirely surrounded by Italy. It has survived for hundreds of years as an independent nation because, in all of the wars, revolutions, invasions, and banditry that have swirled around it through the ages, San Marino kept its mouth shut. Interested parties, take note. (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 331)  
Researchers monitored several sidewalk Santa Clauses to note a pattern -- Christmas donations increased considerably when those bell ringers stopped ringing their bells. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Dentist to patient: “I realize how hard it is to open your mouth and not say anything, Senator -- but try.” (Lichty & Wagner, Field Newspaper Syndicate)**

**Sigh: An amplifier for people who suffer in silence. (Orben’s Current Comedy)**

**Early monks in silent orders invented the first sign language. *(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 255)***

**Smart people speak from experience -- smarter people from experience, don't speak. (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)**

**In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak; his main responsibility is to preside over the deliberations. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 37)***

**Little three-year-old Elijah came stomping down the stairs. His mother shouted, “Elijah! You go right back up those stairs and come down like a civilized person.” The little boy went back upstairs and, in a little bit, silently showed up at his mother’s side. “Now,” his mom said, “that was so much better! I want you to always come down the stairs that way.” “Fine by me,” Elijah replied, “I like sliding down the banister better.” *(The PassTime Paper)***

**Thomas Edison wanted to put a large phonograph in the mouth of the Statue of Liberty to give it a voice that could be heard all over New York Harbor. His idea was met with silence. (Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Book , p. 44)**

**Silent gratitude isn’t very much use to anyone. (Gertrude Stein)**

**Wife: “Know what I’m in the mood for?” Husband: “Yeah … an ice cream sundae!” Wife: “How did you know?” Husband: “My stomach is always a step ahead of you!” Wife thinks to herself: “No comment.” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**Silent Storytelling: Almost all of the great directors in the 1930s trained in silents, and if there is one characteristic that unites artists as disparate as John Ford and Alfred Hitchcock, it is their ability to tell a story in purely visual terms. (Smithsonian magazine)  
Jonathan Swift, the author of “Gulliver's Travels,” once went for an entire year refusing to speak to any other human being. (Paul S. Hagerman)**

**If a thing goes without saying – let it. (Jacob Braude, in Treasury of Wit & Humor For All Occasions)**

**The tongue weighs practically nothing, but few can hold it. (Sign seen in North Charleston, South Carolina)**

**One can stay in the silence too much. It is merely the doorway opening onto that which is beyond the silence; i.e., activity based upon the light and strength gained in claiming it. One can get too much of this good thing, just as one can get too much of perfectly good nourishing food. So instead of spending too much time in the silence, begin to make real practical use of what you have already gotten from study and from the silence. (Myrtle Fillmore's Healing Letters, p. 45-46)**

**Researchers say they've learned youngsters watch more educational TV when not urged to do so by parents. (L. M. Boyd)**

**Silence is not always golden; sometimes it’s just plain yellow. (Abigail Van Buren)**

**Woman to cloistered monk: “I don’t care if you have taken a vow of silence. I’m your mother – you should have called!” (Hickerson, Los Angeles Times Syndicate)**

**It's interesting to note that when the children of Israel marched around the walls of Jericho, God didn't allow them to talk. Could it be that in seven days they might have talked each other out of an answer from God? They might well have all quit on the fourth day and gone home.  
(Russ Johnston, in God Can Make It Happen)As president of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, George Washington did not feel free to enter the debates. This suited him. He was not a good public speaker. As a young man in the Virginia House of Burgesses, he had barely said a word. He had been equally silent in the Continental Congress in 1774 and 1775. But his commanding presence at every session of the convention was a powerful reminder to the delegates that they had gathered to create a stronger central government. (Thomas Fleming, in Reader's Digest)**

**John Wesley one day said to Dr. Clarke, “As I was walking through St. Paul’s church yard I observed two women standing opposite to one another. One was speaking and gesticulating violently, while the other stood perfectly still and in silence. Just as I came up and was about to pass them, the virago, clenching her fist and stamping her foot at her imperturbable neighbor, exclaimed, ‘Speak, wretch, that I may have something to say.’” “Adam,” said Mr. Wesley, “that was a lesson to me; silence is often the best answer to abuse.” (Current Anecdotes)**

**A wise man is one who thinks twice before saying nothing. (Paul Lee Tan, in Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations)**

**If you wouldn’t write and sign it, don’t say it. *(Quoted by Earl Wilson, Publishers-Hall Syndicate)***

**Calmness is the living breath of God's immortality in you. Every person needs a retreat, a dynamo of silence where he may go for the exclusive purpose of being newly recharged by the Infinite. (Paramahansa Yogananda)**

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