Advice

I have good advice and sound wisdom;

I have insight, I have strength.

(Proverbs 8:14)

I sometimes give myself admirable advice, but I am incapable of taking it. (Mary Wortley Montagu)

We all admire the wisdom of people who come to us for advice. (The Friday Letter)

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When we ask for advice, we are usually looking for an accomplice. *(Marquis de La Grange, 18th-century statesman)*

**The best way to succeed in life is to act on the advice we give to others. *(Bits & Pieces)***

Advice is like castor oil, easy enough to give but dreadfully uneasy to take. *(Josh Billings, humorist)*

When your mother asks, “Do you want a piece of advice?” it is a mere formality. It doesn’t matter if you answer yes or no. You’re going to get it anyway. *(Erma Bombeck)*

He who builds according to every man’s advice will have a crooked house. *(Danish proverb)*

There are three kinds of businessmen – successful, unsuccessful, and those who give lectures telling the second group how the first group did. *(Los Angeles Times Syndicate)*

The best career advice given to the young is: “Find out what you like doing best and get someone to pay you for doing it.” *(Katherine Whitehorn) 4239812*

I think they should have a hotline that never answers, for people who don’t follow advice in the first place. *(George Carlin, in When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?, p. 262)*

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Advice is judged by results, not by intentions. *(Cicero)*

Nobody can give you wiser advice than yourself. *(Cicero)*

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Advice is like snow – the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind. (Samuel Taylor Coleridge)

When you encounter seemingly good advice that contradicts other seemingly good advice, ignore them both. *(Al Franken, in Oh, the Things I Know!)*

A businessman taking an efficiency seminar presented a case study on his wife's routine for cooking breakfast: "After a few days of observation, I determined what was slowing her down and suggested ways to speed up the process." "Did it work?" the teacher asked. "It sure did. Instead of taking her 20 minutes to cook my breakfast, it takes me only seven." *(Reader's Digest)*

A word to the wise ain’t necessary. It’s the stupid ones who need the advice. *(Bill Cosby)*

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Dolly says to her Dad as he leaves for work: "Goodbye, Daddy! Have a good day at work and be sure to look both ways before crossing the street!" *(Bil and Jeff Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

Thomas Edison sent the following recommendation to a youth assembly that requested a message from him:

1. Always be interested in whatever you undertake.
2. Don’t mind the clock, but keep at it, and let nature indicate the necessity of rest.
3. Failures, so called, are but fingerposts pointing out the right direction to those who are willing to learn.
4. Hard work and a living general interest in everything that makes for human progress will make men or women more valuable and acceptable to themselves and to the world. *(Bits & Pieces)*

Advice for executives over 50: Keep an open mind and a closed refrigerator. *(Bits & Pieces)*

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Expert advice is a great comfort, even when it's wrong. *(Quoted by Ellen Currie in New York Times)*

Expert Advice?: “If you are ever tempted to take the advice of a so-called expert, just remember what some experts have said in the past:

“I don’t need bodyguards.” *(Jimmy Hoffa, president of the Teamsters Union, in 1975)*

“TV won’t be able to hold on to any market; it captures after the first six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night.” *(Daryl F. Zanuck, head of 20th Century Fox, in 1946)*

“With over 50 foreign cars already on sale here, the Japanese auto industry isn’t likely to carve out a big slice of the U.S. market for itself.” *(Business Weekly, in 1958)*

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Benjamin Franklin’s advice to those who wanted to be immortalized: “Either write things worth reading or do things worth writing.” *(L. M. Boyd)*

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each New Year find you a better man. *(Benjamin Franklin)*

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Friendship will not stand the strain of very much good advice for very long. *(Robert Lynd, in The Peal of Bells)*

**As the child continues to talk non-stop, the father says to her: “Penny, I know you have a lot to say, but I’m going to give you a little advice. You have two eyes, two ears and only one mouth. That means you should look and listen twice as much as you talk!” Penny: “Oh. Then I should also smell twice as much, because I have two nostrils!” Father: “Well, I guess that’s right.” Penny: “And I should walk twice as much because I have two feet! And I should clap twice as much because I have two hands! And I should wiggle my toes ten times as much because . . .” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

Good advice is no better than bad advice unless it is taken at the right time. *(Danish proverb)*

**It takes a great person to give sound advice tactfully, but it takes a greater person to accept it graciously. *(J. C. McCauley) 920905***

**Had I abided by good advice I might have been saved from some of my most valuable mistakes. *(Edna St. Vincent Millay)***

The record shows that Persian Sultan Selim I hanged two doctors simply because they advised him to stop drinking coffee. *(L. M. Boyd, in Boyd’s Book of Odd Facts, p. 1)*

First man: "When you stop and think about it, the only thing you and I really have to offer the world is our advice. It would be nice to be able to share it, but unfortunately, no one wants to pay us for it." Second man: "I can show you how to get paid for advice." First man: "How?" Second man: "Give me ten bucks and I'll show you." *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)*

It is a little embarrassing that, after 45 years of research and study, the best advice I can give to people is to be a little kinder to each other. (*Aldous Huxley)*

If you ask enough people, you usually can find somebody who’ll advise you to do what you were going to do anyway. *(Bits & Pieces)*

According to Herodotus, the Babylonians had few doctors because they left illness to the wisdom of the public. A sick individual was placed in the city square, where passerby who had suffered from the same ailment, or had seen it treated, gave him advice on how to be cured. Pedestrians were forbidden to pass such an individual without inquiring about the complaint and “prescribing” for it if they could.***(Isaac Asimov’s Book of Facts, p. 240)***

I was sorting through treasured stuff my three daughters had accumulated over the years and came across a questionnaire my middle daughter, Julia, had filled out while completing her master’s degree. In response to the query “What was the most important advice you received from your mother?” she wrote, “Always rely on your own good judgment.” And to “What was the most important advice you received from your father?” Julia answered, “Ask your mother.” *(Pauline S. Bentley)*

Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't. *(Erica Jong)*

Trade Mark: I was a bit nervous the day before I was scheduled to have knee surgery. I asked my boss, the veterinarian at the clinic where I worked, if he had any advice for me. Without hesitation he replied, “Turn your worries into prayers, get plenty of rest and don’t lick your incision.” (Lisa C. Owens, in Reader’s Digest)

**If I were asked to give what I consider the single most useful bit of advice for all humanity it would be this: Expect trouble as an inevitable part of life and, when it comes, hold your head high, look it squarely in the eye and say, “I will be bigger than you. You cannot defeat me.” Then repeat to yourself the most comforting of all words, “This too shall pass.” *(Ann Landers, in Reader’s Digest)***

Frank: "Did your lawyer give you some bad advice?" Ernest: "No. He sold it to me." *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)*

An 1860 campaign photograph of Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln prompted Grace Bedell, 11, of Westfield, New York, to write to him in October with a suggestion: grow a beard. Her Democrat brothers will vote for him, she said, and “all the ladies like whiskers.” Lincoln replied that a beard might strike some as a “silly affectation,” but months later a bearded president-elect stopped in Westfield, kissed Bedell and told the crowd he had taken her advice. An 1864 Bedell letter to Lincoln asking for a job turned up in 2007; embroiled in the Civil War, Lincoln likely did not see it. Bedell died in 1936 at age 88. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)*

Medical practitioners of old Babylonia customarily started treatment by putting their patients on beds in the street. So passersby could offer advice. A pedestrian second opinion. Greek historian Herodotus told about it in his "History." *(L. M. Boyd)*

After being examined by the doctor, an old mountaineer was given instructions as to what he should do. Just as he was about to leave, the doctor said, “Look here, you forgot to pay me.” “What fer?” asked the old fellow. “For my professional advice,” replied the doctor. “Don’t owe you nothing,” said the mountaineer on his way out, “cause I ain’t going to take it.” *(Bits & Pieces)*

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Advice is never appreciated, for it turns out well, the recipients think it was their own idea; if it turns out badly, they eternally blame the giver. *(Sydney Harris) 12129119*

Never take the advice of someone who has not had your kind of trouble. (Sydney J. Harris, journalist)

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Isaac Newton’s mother told him to take up farming. *(L. M. Boyd)*

Billy says to his Mom in regards to his brother, Jeffy: “But I’m not telling him what to do. I’m just givin’ him my advice.” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)*

Old people like to give good advice, as consolation for the fact that they can no longer set bad examples. *(Francois de La Rochefoucauld, 17th-century writer)*

Husband turns on a hair dryer and says to his wife: “Well, I’m taking the Pastor’s advice. I’m here to help you with the dishes!” *(The Lutheran Witness cartoon)*

When people get too old to set bad examples, they start giving advice. *(California Highway Patrolman)*

You don't need to take a person's advice to make him feel good -- just ask for it. *(Laurence J. Peter, in Peter's Almanac)*

See everything, overlook a great deal, correct a little. *(Pope John XXIII)*

My wife was pregnant and overdue with our third child. As the days beyond her due-date began to stack up, so did the phone calls inquiring if the baby had come yet. Finally, I suggested we go out to dinner. At the restaurant, we ran into a sympathetic friend who gave us some good advice. "You'll know it's time to go to the hospital," she said, "when the phone calls are five minutes apart." *(Jeff Sullivan, in Reader's Digest)*

To profit from good advice requires more wisdom than to give it. *(John Churton Collins)*

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Lucy: “Those kids over at the playground think they’re so tough. Well, I’m not out to start any trouble, but I’m also not afraid of them! I’m taking the advice of Theodore Roosevelt, speak softly, and carry a beagle!” (Charles Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)

Linus: “If you can get this last man out, Charlie Brown, we’ll win the ball game. Therefore, I would suggest you throw him a curve!” Lucy: “No, don’t do that! Throw him a drop!” Charlie Brown: “This world is filled with people who are anxious to function in an advisory capacity!” *(Charles Schulz, in Peanuts comic strip)*

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Grandfather: One time I asked my grandfather the secret of his long life. He told me, ‘Always be faster than your fastest friend.’” Grandson: “Was that good advice?” Grandfather: “Yeh, if you’re a gazelle.” (Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)

Advice should always be consumed between two thick slices of doubt. *(Walt Schmidt, in Los Angeles Parklabrea News)*

Socrates was a Greek philosopher who went around giving people good advice. They poisoned him. (Anonymous)

When you speak to others for their own good, it’s advice. When they speak to you for your own good, it’s interference. (Bits & Pieces)

No one wants advice -- only corroboration. (John Steinbeck)

If stock market experts were so expert, they would be buying stock, not selling advice. (Norman Augustine, in Augustine’s Laws)

All you have to do to be successful is follow the advice you give to others. (Bits & Pieces)

How is it possible to expect that mankind will take advice, when they will not so much as take warning? (Jonathan Swift)

Shortly after their arrival in East Africa, two British nurses were given the job of taking a Jeep up-country with medical supplies for a "bush" clinic. Uncertain of their ability to handle either the vehicle or the country ahead, they set off in some trepidation. When they had gone a short distance, smoke began to pour from the front of the Jeep and it soon ground to a halt. To add to their dismay, they saw two savage-looking tribesmen, armed with spears, squatting by the track. Their hearts sank as one of the natives approached the Jeep and peered inside. After a fearful pause, he said, "I think you ladies would do better with the hand brake off." (J. R. Goatland, in Reader's Digest)

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The trouble with advice is that you seldom know whether it is good or bad until you no longer need it. (Bits & Pieces) 17931

The trouble with getting good advice is that it gets in the way of our other plans. (Bits & Pieces)

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I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and then advise them to do it. *(Harry Truman)*

We give advice by the bucket but take it by the grain. *(William Alger)*

Maybe you recall the old comic routine: “With all my troubles, I went to see my priest. He said, ‘Cheer up, my son, things could be worse.’ So I cheered up and sure enough, things got worse.” (Joe Griffith, in Speaker's Library of Business, p. 253)

I don't always follow my own advice. *(Edith Wharton)*

Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn’t. *(Erica Jong, novelist)*

The only thing to do with good advice is to pass it on. It is never of any use to oneself. *(Oscar Wilde)*

Many receive advice; only the wise profit from it. (Latin maxim)

Nightclub comic Henny Youngman tells of a man who heeded his doctor's advice to run ten miles a day to improve his love life. After two weeks he phoned the doctor to say he'd been following instructions. "Has it helped you?" asked the doctor. "I don't know," replied the runner. "I'm 140 miles from home." (Earl Wilson, Publishers-Hall Syndicate)

When Don Zimmer was San Diego Padre manager, he watched a rookie talking to his boyhood idol, Maury Wills. Commented Zimmer, “That’s what’s wrong with the world today. The rookie is asking Wills for advice but he’s doing 90% of the talking.” (Bits & Pieces)

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