

What is Wisdom?

Philosophy is the Love of Wisdom, but what is Wisdom?

Socrates was said to be the "Wisest of men". What does it mean to be wise?

A definition of Wisdom is 'experience and knowledge together with the power of applying them practically'. Wisdom is associated with attributes such as compassion, experiential self-knowledge, non-attachment and virtues such as ethics and benevolence.

In a sense, anyone who has mastered their trade or area of specialism could be called wise in their sphere of knowledge – for example, if we call someone a wise doctor we may mean he or she has experience and knowledge of medicine and is able to apply these practically. This is known as 'Phronesis' and refers to practical knowledge. However, as philosophers, the idea here is not to be a wise doctor, or a wise anything else, but to be wise people. The activity of interest is life itself – therefore the knowledge to be sought is that which can enable us to master the art of living. This is known as 'Sophia' and refers to “transcendent wisdom” or the “ultimate nature of reality.”

So we can define 'wisdom' to mean **"that knowledge which will enable a person to live truly and happily"**.

We can also define the "attitude of wisdom" as "acting with knowledge while doubting what one knows".

We can approach the question of discovering wisdom through considering the way a wise person acts, how they speak, how they are in themselves. We can ask, for any situation -**"What would a wise person do?"**

In education, should the focus change from the acquisition of knowledge to seeking and promoting wisdom, and the capacity to realise what is of value in life, for oneself and others? The wise application of knowledge will then be to attain a positive goal by receiving instruction in governing oneself.

.....

When a wise man walks, he just walks.

The unexamined life is not worth living. **Socrates**

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” **Aristotle**

Let no one be slow to seek wisdom when he is young, nor weary in the search of it when he has grown old. For no age is too early or too late for the benefits of philosophy. **Epicurus**

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her. **Proverbs**

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler. **Albert Einstein**

“More than any other time in history, mankind faces a crossroads. One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness. The other, to total extinction. Let us pray we have the wisdom to choose correctly.” **W Allen**

The essence of wisdom is the fear of God, the dread of His scourge and punishment, and the apprehension of His justice and decree.

Baha u llah

The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing

Socrates

“Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears.”

John Lennon

“By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest.”

Confucius

“The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.”

William Shakespeare

“Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom.”

Aristotle

“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.”

Isaac Asimov

“Never laugh at live dragons.”

J.R.R. Tolkien

“Any fool can know. The point is to understand.”

Albert Einstein

“It is amazing how complete is the delusion that beauty is goodness.”

Leo Tolstoy

“Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to reform (or pause and reflect).”

Mark Twain

“Confidence is what you have before you understand the problem.”

Woody Allen

“I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.”

Albert Einstein

“Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.”

Rumi

“Trees are poems the earth writes upon the sky, We fell them down and turn them into paper, that we may record our emptiness.”

Kahlil Gibran

“I'm not young enough to know everything.”

J.M. Barrie

“Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens”

Jimi Hendrix

“The past has no power over the present moment.”

Eckhart Tolle

“Guard well your thoughts when alone and your words when accompanied.”

Roy T. Bennett

“We need not take refuge in supernatural gods to explain our saints and sages and heroes and statesmen, as if to explain our disbelief that mere unaided human beings could be that good or wise.”

Abraham H. Maslow

“Those who are wise won't be busy, and those who are too busy can't be wise.”

Lin Yutang

“If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans.”

Woody Allen

“A wise person is the one who knows what he knows and what he does not know.”

Mohith Agadi

“Wisdom is not in having resources, it's in knowing how to use them, when to use them & if to use them.”

Temitope Ibrahim

To make the right choices, you have to be at peace with yourself.”

Tara Estacaan