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PROVERBS 19: 1 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than he who is perverse in his lips and is a fool.

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The worth of a poor upright man. Riches preserve friends. False witnesses. False friends. A king's wrath. The foolish son. The prudent wife. Slothfulness. Pity for the poor. The fear of the Lord. The spendthrift son. Obedience to parents.

Verse 1

Better is the poor - The upright poor man is always to be preferred to the rich or self-sufficient fool.

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PROVERBS 19: 2 It isn't good to have zeal without knowledge; nor being hasty with one's feet and missing the way.

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Verse 2

Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good - Would it not be plainer, as it is more literal, to say, "Also, to be without knowledge, is not good for the soul?" The soul was made for God; and to be without his knowledge, to be unacquainted with him, is not only not good, but the greatest evil the soul can suffer, for it involves all other evils. The Chaldee and Syriac have: "He who knows not his own soul, it is not good to him." "Where no discretion is, there the soul is not well." - Coverdale.

And he that hasteth with his feet sinneth - And this will be the case with him who is not Divinely instructed. A child does nothing cautiously, because it is uninstructed; a savage is also rash and precipitate, till experience instructs him. A man who has not the knowledge of God is incautious, rash, headstrong, and precipitate: and hence he sinneth - he is continually missing the mark, and wounding his own soul.

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PROVERBS 19: 3 The foolishness of man subverts his way; his heart rages against the LORD.

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Verse 3

The foolishness of man - Most men complain of cross providences, because they get into straits and difficulties through the perverseness of their ways; and thus they fret against God; whereas, in every instance, they are the causes of their own calamities. O how inconsistent is man!

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PROVERBS 19: 4 Wealth adds many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend.

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Verse 4

The poor is separated from his neighbor - Because he has the "disease of all-shunned poverty."

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PROVERBS 19: 5 A false witness shall not be unpunished. He who pours out lies shall not go free.

PROVERBS 19: 6 Many will entreat the favour of a ruler, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.

PROVERBS 19: 7 All the relatives of the poor shun him: how much more do his friends avoid him! He pursues them with pleas, but they are gone.

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#### Verse 7

Do hate him - They shun him as they do the person they hate. They neither hate him positively, nor love him: they disregard him; they will have nothing to do with him. שָׂנֵא sana signifies not only to hate, but to show a less degree of love to one than another. So Jacob loved Rachel, but hated Leah - showed her less affection than he did to Rachel.

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PROVERBS 19: 8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul. He who keeps understanding shall find good.

PROVERBS 19: 9 A false witness shall not be unpunished. He who utters lies shall perish.

PROVERBS 19: 10 Delicate living is not appropriate for a fool, much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

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#### Verse 10

Delight is not seemly for a fool - תַּעֲנוּג taanug, splendid or luxurious living, rank, equipage, etc. These sit ill on a fool, though he be by birth a lord.

For a servant to have rule over princes - I pity the king who delivers himself into the hands of his own ministers. Such a one loses his character, and cannot be respected by his subjects, or rather their subjects. But it is still worse when a person of mean extraction is raised to the throne, or to any place of power; he is generally cruel and tyrannical.

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PROVERBS 19: 11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger. It is his glory to overlook an offence.

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#### Verse 11

It is his glory to pass over a transgression - "No," says what is termed a man of honor; "he must meet me as a gentleman; I must have his blood, let God say what he will." O poor, dastardly coward! thou canst not bear the reproach of poor, flimsy, paltry fellows who ridicule thee, because thou hast refused to commit murder. Such laws should be put down by law; and the man that gives a challenge should be hanged, because he intends to commit murder.

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PROVERBS 19: 12 The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favour is like dew on the grass.

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Verse 12

The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion - There is nothing more dreadful than the roaring of this tyrant of the forest. At the sound of it all other animals tremble, flee away, and hide themselves. The king who is above law, and rules without law, and whose will is his own law, is like the lion. This is strongly descriptive of the character of Asiatic sovereigns.

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PROVERBS 19: 13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father. A wife's quarrels are a continual dripping.

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Verse 13

The contentions of a wife are a continual dropping - The man who has got such a wife is like a tenant who has got a cottage with a bad roof through every part of which the rain either drops or pours. He can neither sit, stand work, nor sleep, without being exposed to these droppings. God help the man who is in such a case, with house or wife!

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PROVERBS 19: 14 House and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

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Verse 14

A prudent wife is from the Lord - One who has a good understanding, **אשה משכלת** ishshah mascaleth; who avoids complaining, though she may often have cause for it.

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PROVERBS 19: 15 Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep. The idle soul shall suffer hunger.

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Verse 15

Into a deep sleep - **תרדמה** tardemah, the same into which Adam was thrown, before Eve was taken from his side. Sloth renders a man utterly unconscious of all his interests. Though he has frequently felt hunger, yet he is regardless that his continual slothfulness must necessarily plunge him into more sufferings.

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PROVERBS 19: 16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is contemptuous in his ways shall die.

PROVERBS 19: 17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD; he will reward him.

Verse 17

Lendeth unto the Lord - O what a word is this! God makes himself debtor for every thing that is given to the poor! Who would not advance much upon such credit? God will pay it again. And in no case has he ever forfeited his word.

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PROVERBS 19: 18 Discipline your son, for there is hope; don't be a willing party to his death.

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Verse 18

Let not thy soul spare for his crying - This is a hard precept for a parent. Nothing affects the heart of a parent so much as a child's cries and tears. But it is better that the child may be caused to cry, when the correction may be healthful to his soul, than that the parent should cry afterwards, when the child is grown to man's estate, and his evil habits are sealed for life.

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PROVERBS 19: 19 A hot-tempered man must pay the penalty, for if you rescue him, you must do it again.

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Verse 19

A man of great wrath - He who is of an irritable, fiery disposition, will necessarily get himself into many broils; and he that is surety for him once is likely to be called on again and again for the same friendly office.

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PROVERBS 19: 20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter end.

PROVERBS 19: 21 There are many plans in a man's heart, but the LORD's counsel will prevail.

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Verse 21

There are many devices, etc. - The same sentiment as in Pro 16:1 (note), where see the note.

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PROVERBS 19: 22 That which makes a man to be desired is his kindness. A poor man is better than a liar.

PROVERBS 19: 23 The fear of the LORD leads to life, then contentment; he rests and will not be touched by trouble.

PROVERBS 19: 24 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

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Verse 24

A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom - Is too lazy to feed himself, If he dip his hand once in the dish, he is too lazy to put it in a second time. It is a strange case that a man, through his excessive slothfulness, would rather starve than put himself to the trouble to eat.

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PROVERBS 19: 25 Flog a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke one who has understanding, and he will gain knowledge.

PROVERBS 19: 26 He who robs his father and drives away his mother, is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.

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Verse 26

He that wasteth his father - Destroys his substance by riotous or extravagant living, so as to embitter his latter end by poverty and affliction; and adds to this wickedness the expulsion of his aged widowed mother from the paternal house; is a son of shame - a most shameful man; and a son of reproach - one whose conduct cannot be sufficiently execrated. Who tormentith the fader, and fleeth the modir, schenful schal ben, and unblisful - Old MS. Bible. The common reading of the Vulgate is, et fugat matrem, and expels his mother; but the Old Bible was taken from a copy that had fugit matrem, shuns his mother, flees away from her, leaves her to affliction and penury. It is prostitution of the term to call such, man.

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PROVERBS 19: 27 If you stop listening to instruction, my son, you will stray from the words of knowledge.

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Verse 27

Cease, my son - Hear nothing that would lead thee away from God and his truth.

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PROVERBS 19: 28 A corrupt witness mocks justice, and the mouth of the wicked gulps down iniquity.

PROVERBS 19: 29 Penalties are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.

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Verse 29

Stripes for the back of fools - Profane and wicked men expose themselves to the punishments denounced against such by just laws. Avoid, therefore, both their company and their end.