



WISDOM OF ANCIENT GREECE:

The Maxims of Delphi, and the Quotations of the Seven Sages

John Kyriazoglou

Athens, January 17, 2010

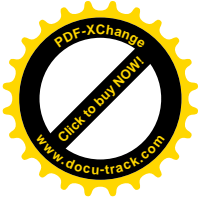


TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEDICATIONS..... 4
PREFACE..... 5
CHAPTER 1: THE MAXIMS OF DELPHI 6
CHAPTER 2: THE QUOTATIONS OF THE SEVEN SAGES OF ANCIENT
GREECE..... 13
2.1. Quotations of Cleovoulos 13
2.2. Quotations of Solon 15
2.3. Quotations of Chilon 16
2.4. Quotations of Thales..... 17
2.5. Quotations of Pittacos..... 19
2.6. Quotations of Bias 19
2.7. Quotations of Periandros..... 21
APPENDIX A: THE MAXIMS OF DELPHI IN ANCIENT GREEK AND ENGLISH
..... 22
APPENDIX B: THE QUOTATIONS OF THE SEVEN SAGES IN ANCIENT
GREEK AND ENGLISH 29
B.1. Quotations of Cleovoulos 29
B.2. Quotations of Solon 30
B.3. Quotations of Chilon..... 32
B.4. Quotations of Thales 33
B.5. Quotations of Pittacos 34
B.6. Quotations of Bias 35
B.7. Quotations of Periandros..... 37
BIBLIOGRAPHY 39

THE SEVEN WISE MEN



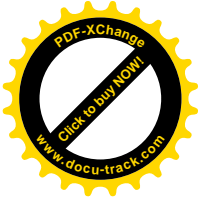
A mosaic (3rd Century, ancient Corinth, Greece) showing the muse Kalliope, Socarates, and the seven sages: Solon, Thales, Cleovoulos, Periandros, Pittacos, Bias, and Chilon.



DEDICATIONS

This book is dedicated:

To the glory of Ancient Greece,
And to my blue-eyed,
lovely grand-daughter,
and princess of my life, Melina.



PREFACE

This book contains a set of wisdom pieces of ancient Greece, in terms of maxims and quotations of the seven sages of ancient Greece.

The seven sages were Thales, Pittacos, Bias, Solon, Cleovoulos, Periandros, and Chilon. They lived in ancient Greece over 600 years B.C. and before the advent of the classical Greek philosophers, like Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, etc.

Their maxims and quotations set the background for the development of the classical Greek philosophy.

This book contains 2 chapters and two appendices:

Chapter 1: The maxims of the Oracle of Delphi,

Chapter 2: The quotations of the seven sages of ancient Greece,

Appendix A: The maxims of the Oracle of Delphi, in ancient Greek and in English.

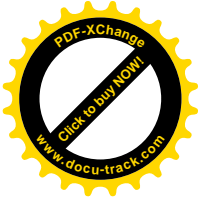
Appendix B: The quotations of the seven sages, in ancient Greek and in English.

The purpose of this book is to offer any reader a very simple guide into the wisdom of ancient Greece, and possibly allow him or her to gain some better understanding of this very old wisdom, and therefore see with their own 'eyes' and soul how these can help them in their every-day life..

The translation of the maxims and quotations into English were done by the author on the basis of the original texts in both ancient Greek and modern Greek.

I am responsible for any errors and omissions in the translation, hoping that the reader will excuse me in this very difficult and demanding task.

John Kyriazoglou
jkyriazoglou@hotmail.com



CHAPTER 1: THE MAXIMS OF DELPHI

*'O quanta qualia sunt illa sabbata,
Quae semper celebrat superna curia'.*

*'O what their joy and their glory must be,
Those endless Sabbaths the blessed one see!'*

*Peter Abelard, 1079-1142
'Hymnus Paraclitensis'*

The maxims of the Oracle at Delphi were made up of very brief quotations (two to five words) full of wisdom and moral values. The subject matter they deal with varies from religious faith, to obedience to law, how to treat friends, how to behave in a just manner, education, country, way of life, happiness, etc.

These maxims were inscribed in the frontal columns at the temple of the god Apollo, at the Oracle of Delphi. They were copied on single marble tablets and were transported to all parts of the Ancient Greek World, as the writing on paper or on parchment was not known at the time.

Most of them have been attributed to the seven sages of Ancient Greece: Thales, Pittacos, Bias, Solon, Cleovoulos, Periandros, and Chilon. A short life history of each sage is included in Chapter 2, along with their own quotations.

The maxims of Delphi, translated into English, are presented next. These maxims, in the original ancient Greek and their English translation, are included in the appendix.

1. Follow God.
2. Obey the law.
3. Worship God.
4. Respect your parents.
5. Be overcome by justice.
6. Base your knowledge on learning.
7. Understand after you have heard what has occurred.
8. Know yourself.



Wisdom of Ancient Greece (Copyright: John Kyriazoglou)



9. Intend to get married.
10. Take care to know the right opportunity.
11. Think as a mortal.
12. Act as if you are a stranger.
13. Honor your family.
14. Control yourself.
15. Help your friends.
16. Control your anger.
17. Exercise prudence.
18. Honor divine providence.
19. Do not use an oath.
20. Love friendship.
21. Concentrate on education.
22. Pursue honor.
23. Seek wisdom.
24. Praise the good.
25. Do not accuse anyone.
26. Praise virtue.
27. Practice what is just.
28. Be benevolent to your friends.
29. Guard yourself against your enemies.
30. Exercise nobility of character.
31. Shun evil.
32. Be interested in public affairs.
33. Guard what is yours.



Wisdom of Ancient Greece (Copyright: John Kyriazoglou)



34. Shun what belongs to others.
35. Listen to everyone.
36. Be religiously silent.
37. Do favors for your friends.
38. Nothing to excess.
39. Use time in an economical way.
40. Look toward the future.
41. Hate violent and offensive behavior.
42. Respect those who have taken refuge in holy temples.
43. Be accommodated to all.
44. Educate your sons.
45. When you have, give freely.
46. Fear deceit.
47. Praise everyone.
48. Be a seeker of wisdom.
49. Judge according to divine law.
50. Think first, act later.
51. Shun murder.
52. Wish for things possible.
53. Associate with the wise.
54. Test the character of a person.
55. Give back what you have received.
56. Do not suspect anyone.
57. Exercise knowledge and skills in profession, trade or science.
58. Give what you mean to give.



Wisdom of Ancient Greece (Copyright: John Kyriazoglou)



59. Honor good deeds.
60. Be jealous of no one.
61. Be on your guard.
62. Praise hope.
63. Hate a false accusation.
64. Gain possessions justly.
65. Honor good men.
66. Know the person who judges.
67. Submit to married life.
68. Believe in good luck.
69. Do not sign a guarantee when obtaining a loan.
70. Speak plainly.
71. Associate with your peers.
72. Govern your expenses.
73. Be happy with what you have.
74. Revere a sense of shame.
75. Fulfill a favor.
76. Pray for happiness.
77. Be fond of fortune.
78. Observe what you have heard.
79. Work for what you can own.
80. Despise strife.
81. Detest disgrace.
82. Restrain your tongue.
83. Guard against violent and offensive behavior.



Wisdom of Ancient Greece (Copyright: John Kyriazoglou)



84. Judge in a just way.
85. Use what you have.
86. Judge without accepting gifts.
87. Accuse someone (only) when he is present.
88. Speak (only) when you know.
89. Do not behave in a violent way.
90. Live without sorrow.
91. Behave with gentleness to others.
92. Complete your activities without fear and without shrinking back.
93. Treat everyone with kindness and friendship.
94. Do not curse your sons.
95. Govern your wife.
96. Benefit yourself.
97. Behave with a friendly and courteous manner.
98. Respond in a timely way.
99. Struggle without losing your good reputation.
100. Act without repenting.
101. When you err, repent.
102. Control your eyes.
103. Think without time limits.
104. Act quickly.
105. Guard friendship.
106. Be grateful.
107. Pursue harmonic co-existence.
108. Do not reveal entrusted secrets.

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

