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Popular proverbs and wisdoms database

Be

An accidental meeting may be better than a fixed date
All must be as god wills
All truth is not always to be told
As well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb
As you are so will your governors be
An ass must be tied where the master will have him
Be always in time too late is a crime
Be content with your lot one cannot be first in everything
Be ever vigilant but never suspicious
Be just before you are generous
Be slow to promise but quick to perform
Beggars must not be choosers
Better be a fool than a knave
Better be an old man's darling than a young man's slave
Better be envied than pitied
Better be sure than sorry
Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion
Better face a danger once than be always in
Better starve free than to be a fat slave
Better to know things than to be ignorant
Blessed is he who expects nothing for he shall never be disappointed
Books and friends should be few but good

A broken friendship may be soldered but will never be sound
The bull must be taken by the horns
A door must be either shut or open
Defer not till tomorrow what may be done today
Do all you can to be good and you will be so
Do as you would be done by
Dress a stick and it does not appear to be a stick
Every difficulty slurred over will be a ghost to disturb your repose later on
Every oak must be an acorn
Everyone is held to be innocent until he is proved guilty
Evil be to him who evil thinks
A fault confessed should be forgiven
The fish will soon be caught that nibbles at every bait
A friend that you buy will be bought from you
God our parents and our masters can never be requited
A good lawyer must be a great liar
He cannot be virtuous that is not rigorous
He is idle that might be better employed
He that goes for marriage will either deceive or be deceived
He that is ill to himself will be good to nobody
He that is not handsome at twenty nor strong at thirty nor rich at forty nor wise at fifty will never be handsome strong rich or wise
He that toucheth pitch shall be defiled
He that would be obeyed must wisely command
He who mocks shall be mocked

Home is home be it ever so homely
If all days were feasts to feast would be tedious
If every man mends one all shall be mended
If fools went not to market bad wares would not be sold
If money be not thy servant it will be thy master
If the counsel be good no matter who gave it
If the staff be crooked the shadow cannot be straight
If you steal for others you will be hanged yourself
If you wish to be obeyed do not ask the impossible
Injuries may be forgiven but not forgotten
Injury is to be measured by malice
It is best to be on the safe side
It is better to be safe than sorry
It is easy to be wise after the event
It is the height of merit in a man that his faults can be numbered
It will be all the same a hundred years hence
Judge not that ye be not judged
Keep aloof from quarrels be neither a witness nor a party to them
Keep good company and you shall be one of the number
The kite will never be a good hawk
Law makers should not be law breakers
Leave not till tomorrow what can be done today
Let bygone be bygone
Let them that be cold blow at the coal

A lion may come to be beholden to a mouse
Love cannot be compelled
Many would be cowards if they had courage enough
Men are not to be measured in inches
Neither a borrower nor a lender be
Never put off till tomorrow what may be done today
No man loveth his fetters be they made of gold
No man ought to be judge in his own cause
Nothing is to be got without pains
An occasion lost cannot be redeemed
Old love will not be forgotten
One cannot be in two places at once
One cannot love and be wise
Promises are like pie-crust made to be broken
The remedy may be worse than the disease
Say well or be still
There is a time to speak and a time to be silent
There will be sleeping enough in the grave
What can't be cured must be endured
What is not right must be wrong
What may be done at any time is done at no time
What must be must be
What's done cannot be undone
When ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise
You are not the first to be fooled by mirage

As good be an addled egg as an idle bird
An ape is an ape a varlet is a varlet though they be clad in silk or scarlet
Be what you would seem to be
Beggars can not be choosers
Better be out of the world than out of the fashion
Better be safe than sorry
It is better to be born lucky than rich
Little birds that can sing and won't sing must be made to sing
If you're born to be hanged then you'll never be drowned
Boys will be boys
Caesar's wife must be above suspicion
If candlemas day be sunny and bright winter will have another flight if candlemas day be cloudy with rain winter is gone and won't come again
Where the carcase is there shall the eagles be gathered together
Be careful what you pray for you might get it
Ne'er cast a clout till may be out
Children should be seen and not heard
Confess and be hangedconfession is good for the soul
Corporations have neither bodies to be punished nor souls to be damned
What can not be cured must be endured
Be the day weary or be the day long at last it ringeth to evensong
The devil was sick the devil a saint would be the devil was well the devil a saint
A door must either be shut or open
Eat drink and be merry for tomorrow we die
What everybody says must be true

February fill dyke be it black or be it white
If in february there be no rain 'tis neither good for hay nor grain
Gold may be bought too dear
If you can not be good be careful
A good horse cannot be of a bad colour
One might as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb
If you would be happy for a week take a wife if you would be happy for a month kill a pig but if you would be happy all your life plant a garden
If ifs and ands were pots and pans there'd be no work for tinkers' hands
Where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise
No one should be judge in his own cause
Be just before you're generous
If you have to live in the river it is best to be friends with the crocodile
Love and a cough cannot be hid
What is new cannot be true
Nothing should be done in haste but gripping a flea
It is best to be off with the old love before you are on with the new
Promises like pie-crust are made to be broken
If there were no receivers there would be no thieves
Revenge is a dish that can be eaten cold
If you can not ride two horses at once you shouldn't be in the circus
Who won't be ruled by the rudder must be ruled by the rock
Rules are made to be broken
If saint paul's day be fair and clear it will betide a happy year
Saint swithun's day if thou be fair for forty days it will remain saint swithun's day if thou bring rain for forty days it will remain

If you would be well served serve yourself
If it sounds too good to be true it probably is
Sussex won't be druv
If every man would sweep his own doorstep the city would soon be clean
Three things are not to be trusted a cow's horn a dog's tooth and a horse's hoof
He that touches pitch shall be defiled
A woman a dog and a walnut tree the more you beat them the better they be
Young folks think old folks to be fools but old folks know young folks to be fools
Youth must be served
Things past cannot be recalled

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