

## AN OLD FARMER'S ADVICE

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*These simple words of wisdom, from Texas state legislator Judge Roy English: "Don't Whiz on an Electric Fence: Grandpa's Country Wisdom, 1996," are fruits ripe for the picking by people from all walks of life:*

"Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.  
Keep skunks and bankers and lawyers at a distance.  
Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.  
A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.  
Words that soak into your ears are whispered; not yelled.  
Meanness does not just happen overnight.  
Forgive your enemies. It messes up their head.  
Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.  
It does not take a very big person to carry a grudge.  
You cannot unsay a cruel word.  
Every path has a few puddles.  
When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.  
The best sermons are lived, not preached.  
Most of the stuff people worry about is never going to happen anyway.  
Do not judge folks by their relatives.  
Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.  
Live a good honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you will enjoy it a second time.  
Do not interfere with something that is not bothering you none.  
Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.  
If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is to stop digging.  
Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.  
Always drink upstream from the herd.  
Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.  
Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back in.  
If you get to thinking you are a person of some influence, try ordering somebody else's dog around.  
Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God."

*Old Scottish Prayer;*

"From ghoulies,  
and ghosties,  
and long-legged beasties,  
and things that go bump in the night,  
Good Lord,  
deliver us."

*The eight Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3–12*

<sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Holy Quran quotes the Bible in Sura: 21:105 which resembles Psalm 25:13 referred to in Matthew 5:5.

The Holy Quran uses "righteous" rather than "meek".

Matthew 5:5 translates into Arabic as:

“al-barakatu lilmuslimina fasawfa yarithuna-l-arda.”

The Holy Quran expresses the fifth beatitude covenantal concept explicitly in Sura 21:105: “wa-laqad katabnaa fi-l-zabur min ba`di-l-dhikri anna-l-arda yarithuha `ibadiya-l-salihuna”:

“We have decreed in the Psalms, from beside (in addition to) the reminder, that the land shall be inherited by My righteous (pious — salihuna) servants.”

*Confucius' counsel:*

“A seed grows with no sound.

But a tree falls with huge noise.

Destruction has noise but creation is quiet.

This is the power of silence ... grow silently.”