

Plucking the Goose

Proverbs is one of my favorite Old Testament books. It contains wonderful precepts for daily living. The word, proverb, means a brief popular epigram or maxim. That's how the dictionary defines it. Perhaps a better way to describe a proverb is to say that it is a simple truth that can apply to many different situations and that has been repeated so often it is accepted as truth.

Its wisdom is evidenced by the fact that sages have repeated it through the ages, making it an eternal truth. Let's see, then, what we may learn today from a few proverbs that have been passed down through generations:

- Anyone can navigate in fine weather.
- The goose is only plucked feather by feather.
- Hope is a good breakfast but a bad supper.
- An old Indian proverb, often quoted by Nehru, tells us that the two greatest causes of unhappiness are (1) if a person doesn't get what he wants, and (2) if he or she does.
- When you have a stubborn mule, you need a stubborn driver.
- It is not the same to talk about bulls as it is to be in the bull ring (a Spanish saying).
- If you lie down with dogs, you get up with fleas.
- A thread will tie an honest man better than a rope will tie a rogue (Scottish origin).
- He who tells the truth is in the majority, even though he be one (Middle Eastern).

More proverbs will be published in this space in the future. If you have a favorite one, please pass it along to be shared with all our readers.

--Beecher Hunter