

Commonplace book

Steven Powell

September 25, 2016

Contents

1	Introduction	5
2	Action	9
3	Focus	23
4	Leadership	43
5	Patience	63
6	Learning	73
7	Resilience	81
8	Humility	119
9	Confidence	135
10	Gratitude	145
11	Generosity	153
12	Index	161

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

We all want to be better people, shout at the kids less often, get some perspective at work and call our friends and family more. We have a picture of a better version of ourselves but we're still fallible, lazy, tired and busy. Best intentions fall away and we forget our better selves. To make our jobs a little easier we can listen to Marcus Aurelius who tells us that without a goal we can't live consistently (cf. 3.21). Thinking about the sort of qualities we want to show is a great first step but we need a little more help. Thinking about the sort of person we want to be and looking closely at the qualities they embody we can come up with a consistent goal, a set of high or even unattainable targets. Even with our goal, we'll still fail.

Badly. But to get us through the tough spots we're going to get help from philosophers, deities, sportsmen, fictional characters, artists and other people far smarter than us.

The hope here is that we can turn to this "manual" for help at times when we're losing our way, forgetting what's important to us and the promises we've made about the sort of person we want to become.

The set of qualities we're looking to develop here are inspired in part by the Modern Virtues page from the School of Life ¹, the majority of content is helpful quotes and aphorisms. Anything useful you find in these pages will be directly attributable to them.

Good luck, and live well.

¹<http://thephilosophersmail.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Ten-Virtues.pdf>

CHAPTER 2

Action

Without action of some kind our plans for improvement simply won't get very far. We need to look at the mammoth task in front of us and take that scary first step (and then the next). Taking action isn't always easy and choosing the right move (cf. 2.14) at the right time (cf. 5.2) can be stupefyingly hard. The hope is though that we won't be paralysed and we will make an impact on the things important to us.

We won't be successful all the time (in particular I'm not even be successful much of the time) but by persevering (cf. 2.9 and 7.36) we can chip away at the

habits (and even relationships (cf. 3.3)) that are slowing us down or even undoing good progress we've already made.

We need to remember what's important to us. Remember how much time we have and how we choose to spend it. Marcus often looks at how little life he's been allotted (and how much he thinks he has left) and it's a good reminder for people like us to just get on with it.

We also need to remember that people will see where we spend our time and the choices made. No matter what we say they will believe what they see (and don't see).

Action may not always bring happiness, but without action there is none

Benjamin Disraeli

You may never know what results come from your action but if you do nothing there will be no result

Mahatma Ghandi

Each of us lives only now in this brief instant. The rest has been lived already or is impossible to see

Marcus Aurelius

Do what nature demands. Get a move on if you have it in you and don't worry whether anyone will give you any credit for it. And don't go expecting Plato's "Republic" either, just be satisfied with even the smallest progress

Marcus Aurelius

Action expresses priority

Mahatma Gandhi

2.6: Fac aut tace

Do or be silent

2.7: Code wins

2.8: Demonstrate don't explicate

Robert Greene

2.9: Quality is not an act. It is a habit.

Aristotle

2.10: How you do anything is how you do everything

Ryan Holiday

2.11: If I cannot do great things I can do small things in a great way

Martin Luther King Jr.

2.12: Stick to what's in front of
you;
Idea, action, utterance

Marcus Aurelius

2.13: It's amazing what you can
accomplish if you don't care who
gets the credit

Harry S Truman

To think is easy
To act is hard
But the hardest thing of all is to
act in accordance with your think-
ing

John Von Goethe

When you come to a fork in the
road, take it

Yogi Bera

Life is what happens while you are
busy making other plans

John Lennon

2.17: When you confront a problem you begin to solve it

cf. 4.9

Rudy Guillian

CHAPTER 3

Focus

As hard as it can be to take action, it's even harder to maintain the level of focus we need to on the right things. To help us find the right things we should think about what impact our efforts can produce (cf. 7.13). The sun will still hide behind the clouds on our day at the beach, the white van will still drive too close no matter how much we hope otherwise. Better to work on things we can control.

When we do identify the right things, we still squander our time and energy. We're too polite, putting ourselves and our priorities to one side to avoid offending people (cf. 3.2 and 7.22), we make great gains on Twitter and Facebook while we let our Amazing Book Idea gather dust (cf. 3.11), we spend hours mindlessly scrolling around crappy sensationalist journalism when we could be reading an immersive novel (cf. 6.1) or working on our

beloved hobby (cf. 4.1).

Epictetus reminds us that we need to gut things from our lives which take us away from the tricky but important business of improvement. We can be sure that nothing truly terrible will happen if we stop using social media. We can be confident that life will carry on if we leave the "mind numbing spirit crushing game shows¹" to someone else. There are so many ways to spend our time, we need to be careful not to waste it and that can require significant effort. Asking ourselves whether what we're doing right now is truly important to us (cf. 3.13) is an incredibly useful habit to develop.

Maybe we should call someone who's important to us and focus solely on that for starters.

Let's take 15 minutes. The advice and guidance on the next few pages will still be here when we get back.

¹Renton, Trainspotting

Call your mom

3.2: Don't spend time with people you don't like

Prue Leith

3.3: You are whatever the company you keep is

Lord Chesterfield

3.4: Let your mind dwell on examples of honor

Cicero

Steer clear of lifers, the toxic and charlatans.
You become who you know

Ryan Holiday

Never wrestle with pigs, you both get dirty and the pig likes it

cf. 3.16

George Bernard Shaw

You can do anything.
but you can't do everything.

cf. 3.11

David Allen

Reaching your true potential involves choice.
How exactly you choose to excel is up to you

Brian Colbert

No random actions, none not based on underlying principles

Marcus Aurelius

If you're not doing what you love, you're wasting your time

Billy Joel

You're better off not giving the
small things more time than they
deserve

Marcus Aurelius

Slow down and remember this;
Most things make no difference.
Being busy is a form of laziness.
Lazy thinking and indiscriminate
action.

cf. 3.13

Tim Ferriss

See: efficacy hacks² and a not to do list³.

²<http://bit.ly/1EDPjUQ>

³<http://bit.ly/1EDPu2H>

3.13: If you seek tranquillity, do less
or (more accurately) do what's essential because most of what we say and do is not essential
Ask yourself at every moment "is this necessary?"

Marcus Aurelius

3.14: If you wish to improve,
be content to appear clueless or
stupid in extraneous matters

Epictetus

3.15: Hard work is simply the
refuge of people how have nothing
better to do

Oscar Wilde

3.16: Never try to teach a pig to
sing.
It wastes time and annoys the pig.

cf. 3.6

Robert Heinlein

3.17: Parkinson's Law:

A task will swell in (perceived) importance and complexity in relation to the time allocated for its completion.

3.18: And so I'll treat them as the
law that binds us requires.
With kindness and with justice.
And the inconsequential things?
I'll do my best to treat them as
they deserve.

Marcus Aurelius

The cucumber is bitter?

The throw it out.

There are brambles in the path?

Then go around them

cf. 3.2

Marcus Aurelius

Four habits to watch for.

Ask yourself:

- is this thought necessary?
 - is it destructive to those around me?
 - is it really what you think?
 - is it just self indulgent?
-

If you don't have a consistent goal
in life, how can you live it in a con-
sistent way?

Marcus Aurelius

3.22: They should try to subordinate things to themselves not themselves to things

cf. 4.17

Horace

3.23: The things you used to own.
Now they own you

Jack, Fight Club

3.24: Never look back unless
you're planning to go that way.

Henry David Thoreau

It's a long road there's no turning back

Funki Porcini

3.26: In six months you will have discarded most of what you claim is important right now.

Ryan Holiday

Sometimes the hard stuff is hard because you shouldn't do it in the first placeTim Ferriss

3.28: A man is successful if he gets up in the morning, goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants to.

cf. 3.10

Bod Dylan

NoMFuP

Malcolm Tucker

Handy to remind ourselves what we should be paying attention to.

CHAPTER 4

Leadership

When you are not practicing remember that someone else is and when you meet him he will win.

Bill Bradley

Races are won here not there. Where it is hardest to speed up not easiest

Ryan Holiday

4.3: Wise men make more opportunities than they find

Francis Bacon

4.4: Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you sow.

Robert Louis Stephenson

4.5: As I grow older I pay less attention to what people say, I just watch what they do.

Andrew Carnegie

4.6: People do not change, they are merely revealed

Anne Enright

4.7: Kindness gives birth to kindness

Seneca

4.8: Pay less attention to the words people use and greater attention to the tone of their voice, the look in their eyes and their body language

cf. 4.24

Robert Green

4.9: There is no use talking about the problem unless you talk about the solution

Betty Williams

4.10: Under promise;
over deliver

Tom Peters

4.11: You can't build a reputation
on what you're going to do

Henry Ford

4.12: Be careful not to baost of
any success

cf. 8.17

Robert Greene

4.13: Be quiet, work hard, stay healthy

4.14: use strict;
good servant,
bad master.

Simon Cozens

4.15: Be the chief but never the
lord

Lao Tzu

4.16: One man practicing sports-
manship is better than 100 teach-
ing it

cf. 4.11

Knute Roche

4.17: Life is defined by how much
you do, how often you took the dif-
ficult path and were rewarded for
it

Ryan Holiday

(not by how much you own)

4.18: Super-human effort is not worth a damn unless it produces results

Shackleton

4.19: Recognise effort
Reward results

BAML

4.20: Close captures no crowns

Ryan Holiday

4.21: Learning to listen is the most valuable thing you can do

cf. 4.5

Robert Love

4.22: The ability to measure people and know who you're dealing with is the most important skill of all

cf. 4.6

Robert Greene

4.23: Do not impose on others
what you yourself do not desire

Confucious

Practice really hearing what people say.

Do your best to get inside their
minds

cf. 4.21

Marcus Aurelius

4.25: Learn to ask of all actions,
"why are they doing that?"
Starting with your own.

cf. 7.4

Marcus Aurelius

4.26: If it's in your control why do
it? If it's in someone else's then
who are you blaming?
Blame no one
Set people straight if you can. If
not just repair the damage

cf. 11.7

Marcus Aurelius

4.27: If they've done something wrong, correct them gently and show them how to improve.
If you can't do that the blame lies with you or no one

cf. 2.13

Marcus Aurelius

4.28: To undertake nothing:

- without purpose or at random
- for any other reason than the common good

cf. 3.12

Marcus Aurelius

4.29: Quiet minds cannot be perplexed or frightened but go on like a clock ... in a thunderstorm

Robert Louis Stephenson

In the end, if people mistrust you and resist your authority you have only yourself to blame

Robert Greene

4.31: Ability will never catch up with the demand for it

Confucious

4.32: It takes a great talent and skill to conceal a great talent and skill

cf. 6.6

Francois de La Rochefoucauld

4.33: Everything is judged by its appearance; what is unseen counts for nothing. Do not get lost in the crowd or buried in oblivion

Robert Greene

4.34: They may forget what you said but they will never forget how you made them feel.

Carl W. Buechner

4.35: Never content with a man
who has nothing to lose

cf. 5.2

Baltazar Graian

4.36: Disclosure is disinfectant

Tim Ferriss

4.37: All defects are lighter in
the open. They are most pernicious
when concealed beneath a
pretense of soundness

Seneca

We don't need to post our defects on Facebook, but we can spend
some time thinking about them¹

¹<http://thephilosophersmail.com/PhilosophicalMeditation.pdf>

CHAPTER 5

Patience

Ask yourself this question:

Am I in charge of this situation or is this situation in charge of me?

Anthony De Mello

5.2: Do not make war unless victory may be gained;
If there is a prospect of victory move;
If there is no prospect of victory do not move.

Sun Tzu

5.3: Impatience: perhaps the single greatest pitfall

Robert Greene

5.4: How much more damage grief and anger do than the things that caused them

Marcus Aurelius

5.5: There are always more of them before they are counted

cf. 7.18

Ulysses S Grant

5.6: The senses don't deceive judgement deceives

Goethe

It is more important to know
where you're going than to get
there quickly

cf. 3.21

Isocrates

Patience Wounded too often becomes rage

Publius Syrus

If you are unsure of a course of action do not attempt it. Your doubts and hesitation will infect your execution

cf. 5.2

Robert Greene

Once the words are out, you cannot take them back. Keep them under control.

Robert Greene

5.11: Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools speak because they have to say something.

Plato

The best advice I ever got was
"shut up"

Ryan Holiday

Always say less than necessary¹.

¹<http://thoughtcatalog.com/ryan-holiday/2015/06/shut-up-when-theyre-talking-to-you-always-say-less-than-necessary/>

5.13: Never do anything when you are in a temper, for you will do everything wrong

Baltazar Gracian

5.14: Anger and emotion are strategically counterproductive. You must always stay calm and objective

Robert Greene

5.15: The best fighter is never angry

Lao Tzu

Fear is a bad advisor.

Angela Merkel

CHAPTER 6

Learning

If I read a book and get one good idea from that \$20, then I've gotten one of the greatest deals of all time

Tom Peters

6.2: To forgive and forget means to have thrown away a dearly bought experience

Arthur Schopenhaur

6.3: The greatest danger you face is your mind growing soft and your eyes growing dull

Robert Greene

6.4: You think you are doing fine
you are not compelled to adapt until
it is too late

Robert Greene

6.5: The art lies in concealing the
art

Horace

6.6: If people knew how hard I worked, it would not seem so masterfulMichelangelo

6.7: never expose the sweat and labor behind your poise

Robert Greene

6.8: Never nitpick a heuristic

Nassim Taleb

6.9: You must see your attempt
at attaining mastery as something
necessary and positive

Robert Greene

More listening, more learning
Fewer interruptions, fewer conclusions.

cf. 8.11

Ryan Holiday

I would never die for my beliefs because I might be wrong

Bertand Russell

6.12: An investment in knowledge
always pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin

6.13: Does learning mean nothing
to you unless you know that some-
one else knows that you know it?

cf. 8.17

Michel de Montaigne

6.14: It is a greater thing to make oneself impassable than to be impassable as a property of one's nature.

Michel De Monataigne

CHAPTER 7

Resilience

We can't have full control and so things won't always turn out as we'd hoped. Having the courage to pursue our goal in the face of set backs and
We're also going to run into opposition as we make progress. Oth-

ers will see our improvement and resent us (cf. 7.10) for showing them in an unfavourable light. We just need to rise above that and remember what we're trying to achieve.

When we are tired we are attacked by ideas we conquered long ago.

Friedrich Nietzsche

All the meat and all that it wants.

Case, Neuromancer

It's just fat and muscle

7.4: Hanlon's Razor:

Never attribute to malice that
which can be adequately explained
by incompetence

cf. 11.7

Robert J. Hanlon

or weakness or fear or hunger or . . .

Promise yourself to be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind

Christian D'Larson

You control the effort not the results

Ryan Holiday

7.7: We control our own actions and are responsible for them.
If we act wrongly we have done serious harm to ourselves

Marcus Aurelius

7.8: Does what happened stop you from acting with justice, generosity, self control, sanity, prudence, honesty and stright forwardness?

Marcus Aurelius

The world loves to blacken the radiant and drag the sublime through
the dust

Schiller

Haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate, hate

cf. 11.3

Taylor Swift

7.11: You don't need their approval

Danielle La Porte

7.12: Tranquility comes when you stop caring what they say

Marcus Aurelius

Ta eph'hemin
Ta ouk eph'hemin

Stoic phrase

what is up to us, what is not up to us.

7.14: Nothing either good nor bad
but thinking makes it so

Shakespeare

7.15: Real difficulties can be over-
come
It's only the imaginary ones that
are unconquerable

Theodore N Vail

7.16: Problems are rarely as bad as we think they are, or rather, they are precisely as bad as we think they are

cf. 7.47

Ryan Holiday

7.17: External things are not the problem. It's your assessment of them which you can erase right now

Marcus Aurelius

7.18: See things for what they are,
do what we can,
endure what we must

Ryan Holiday

7.19: Not to give into adversity.
Not to trust prosperity.

And always take note of Fortune's
habit of behaving exactly as she
pleases

Seneca

7.20: You can't stop the waves but you can learn how to surf

cf. 7.52

Jon Kabat Zin

All of our unhappiness comes from our inability to be alone

Jean de la Brugere

A bore is someone who deprives you of solitude without providing you with company

Gian Vincenzo Gravina

Strive to keep yourself free from unnecessary entanglements and alliances

Robert Greene

7.24: Happiness depends on ourselves

Aristotle

7.25: Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.

Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles

Ralph Waldo Emerson

7.26: Everyone gets one life. Your's is almost up and instead of treating yourself with respect you have entrusted your happiness to others.

Marcus Aurelius

7.27: He who conquers others is strong, he who conquers himself is mighty

Lao Tzu

Success depends on previous preparation, and without such preparation there can be no success

Confucius

Proper planning prevents piss poor performance

cf. 7.28

7.30: Optimism is cowardice

Oswald Spengler

7.31: Hope is a poor hedge

Erik R. Sirri

2007, but likely earlier

7.32: Preparation not luck

7.33: So keep at it until it's fully digested.

A strong stomach digests whatever it eats.

A blazing fire takes whatever you throw on it and makes light and flame.

cf. 9.6

Marcus Aurelius

7.34: Courage doesn't always roar.
Sometimes courage is the quiet
voice at the end of the day whispering "I will try again tomorrow"

cf. 7.35

Mary Anne Radmach

7.35: Disgraceful for the soul to
give up while the body is still going
strong

Marcus Aurelius

Fall seven times, stand eight

cf. 7.35

Japanese Proverb

7.37: Choose not to be harmed
and you won't feel harmed
Don't feel harmed and you haven't
been

Marcus Aurelius

7.38: It can ruin your life only if it
ruins your character. Otherwise it
cannot harm you. Inside or out

Marcus Aurelius

Trust yourself more and others less

Robert Greene

Love all
Trust a few
Do wrong to none

William Shakespeare

I was once s fortunate man, then
fortune deserted me.

But true good fortune is what
you make for yourself.

Good fortune:

- good character
- good intentions
- good actions

7.42: Ambition: tying your well being to what other people say and do

Self-indulgence: tying it to the things that happen to you

Sanity: tying it to your own actions

cf. 7.13

Marcus Aurelius

7.43: Straight not straightened

Marcus Aurelius

7.44: What is outside my mind
means nothing to it

Marcus Aurelius

7.45: The mind without passions
is like a fortress. No place is more
secure

Marcus Aurelius

7.46: Objective judgment now, at this very moment.

Unselfish action now, at this very moment.

Willing acceptance of all external events now, at this very moment.

That's all you need

Marcus Aurelius

7.47: It is we who generate the judgments inscribing them on ourselves

Marcus Aurelius

7.48: When you judge another you do not define them, you define yourself.

Wayne Dyer

7.49: Care about what other people think and you will always be their prisoner

cf. 7.13

Lao Tzu

7.50: It is reason and wisdom which take away cares
not places affording views over the sea

cf. 7.24

Horace

7.51: Successful people are not gifted; they just work hard, then succeed.

On purpose

cf. 6.6

G. K. Nielson

7.52: Change is the only constant in life

Heraclitus

7.53: You can suffer the pain of change or suffer remaining the way you are.

Joyce Meyer

7.54: The more conflicts and difficult situations you put yourself through the more battle tested your mind will be.

cf. 4.2

Robert Greene

This is the precept by which I have lived:

Prepare for the worst, expect the best and take what comes.

Hannah Ardent

7.56: The burden is equal to the
strength of the horse

The Talmud

CHAPTER 8

Humility

No chorus of lamentation, No hysterics

Marcus Aurelius

8.2: If you're not humble life will
visit humility upon you

Mike Tyson

8.3: He who does not employ a
guide cannot gain advantage from
the ground

Sun Tzu

8.4: Take the help

Danielle La Porte

8.5: Learn as if you were going to live but live as if you were going to die tomorrow.

via Ryan Holiday

8.6: After the game the king and the pawn go back into the same box

Italian Proverb

8.7: You could leave this life right now. Let that determine how you act.

Marcus Aurelius

8.8: Foolish is the man who delights in his good fortune, supposing it will never leave him.

cf. 7.19

Euripides

8.9: To accept it without arrogance,
to let it go with indifference

cf. 8.8

Marcus Aurelius

8.10: Your opinion is either dependent on the facts or it's not;
When they change you should shift along with them

cf. 7.20

Ryan Holiday

The facts were always there, of course, just unclear or hidden. Think clearly about what you're looking at. cf 9.10

8.11: Remember that to change your mind and accept correction are mere acts too

Marcus Aurelius

and so, under our control

8.12: It is the folly of many to mistake the echo of a London coffee shop for the voice of a kingdom

Jonathan Swift

Everywhere, at each moment, you have the option:

- to accept this event with humility
- to treat each person as he should be treated
- to approach this thought with care, so that nothing irrational creeps in

8.14: That you've made enough mistakes yourself. Your just like them.

cf. 11.7

Marcus Aurelius

8.15: So make your exit with grace the same grace shown too you

Marcus Aurelius

8.16: Be willing to be a beginner every single morning

cf. 3.14

Meister Eckhart

Boasting is what a boy does, because he has no real effect on the world.

cf. 8.18

Matthew Crawford

8.18: A superior man is modest in his speech but exceeds in his actions

Confucious

8.19: Never be so self absorbed as to beleive that the master is interested in your criticisms of him, now matter how accurate they are

Robert Greene

8.20: Listen to their criticism, take it and use it to improve

8.21: A great failing: to see yourself as more than you are and value yourself at less than your true worth

John Von Goethe

8.22: The fool doth think e is wise and the wise man knows himself to be a fool

cf. 5.11

William Shakespeare

8.23: Diversity in counsel, unity in command

cf. 8.3

Cyrus the Great

8.24: You are not a beautiful and unique snowflake

Tyler Durden

8.25: The unnamed should not be mistaken for the non-existent

Jon de la Brugre

8.26: Those who say it cannot
be done should not interrupt those
who are doing it

cf. 2.12

George Bernad Shaw

CHAPTER 9

Confidence

Let go and move with the chaos that presents itself to you. From within it you will find endless oppourtunities that elude other people

Robert Greene

9.2: Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage.

cf. 7.20

Anais Nin

9.3: So often self confidence is dependent on the basic but elusive premise

”I’m fine as I am”

via the School of Life

On confidence¹

9.4: Don’t water your weeds

Harvey Mackay

Any kind of resistance or obstacle that crosses your path should be seen as yet another chance to improve your work

Robert Green

¹<http://www.thebookoflife.org/on-confidence/>

9.6: You can adopt the attitude that there's nothing you can do, or you can see the challenge as a call to action

cf. 10.3

Catherine Pulsifer

You've already made it this far, might as well take one more step

Ryan Holiday

But to get back up when you fail, to celebrate behaving like a human (however imperfectly) and fully embrace the pursuit you've embarked on.

Marcus Aurelius

9.9: You will fail eventually. Whatever.

cf. 7.8

Danielle La Parte

9.10: A mistake is not something to be determined after the fact but in the light of information up to that point

Nassim Taleb

A failed attempt is just that and nothing more, its not the end and its not fatal. Keep at it.

9.12: Failure cannot cope with persistence.

cf. 7.34

Napoleon Hill

9.13: Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we might oft win be fearing to attempt.

William Shakespear

9.14: You don't have to be the best you just have to be harder to destroy. You have to be relentless

cf. 9.12

Ryan Holiday

9.15: You cannot display yourself too brazenly, yet you must get noticed. Create a distinctive (a subtly distinctive) style and image.

Robert Greene

Understand: you should be radiating confidence not arrogance and disdain

Robert Greene

9.17: He who demands little gets it.

Ellen Glasgow

9.18: You are not your genes

Danielle La Porte

9.19: Don't let someone else's opinion of you become your reality

Les Brown

9.20: Don't look for miracles you yourself are the miracle

Henry Miller

CHAPTER 10

Gratitude

10.1: Certainly, if a man of understanding still has himself, he has lost nothing.

Michel De Montaigne

10.2: If the stars were to appear but one night every thousand years how man would marvel

Ralph Waldo Emerson

10.3: Get used to your circumstances, complain about them as little as possible. Grasp whatever advantages they have to offer

cf. 3.19

Seneca

10.4: When you kiss your wife or child, repeat to yourself, "I am kissing a mortal"

Epictetus

and she may be gone tomorrow.

10.5: Treat what you don't have
as non-existent

Look at what you have, the things
you value most and think how
much you'd crave them if you
didn't have them

cf. 4.17

Marcus Aurelius

The ability to express wonder and amazement and seem like you mean it, is a rare a dying talent but one that is still greatly valued

cf. 10.2

Robert Greene

May all beings have happiness and
the causes of happiness

May all sentient beings be free of
suffering and the causes of suffer-
ing

May all sentient beings not be sep-
arated from sorrowless bliss

May all sentient beings abide in
equanimity, free of bias, attach-
ment and anger

Traditional Buddhist Prayer

The four immeasurables.

It is so hard to foget pain but it
is harder to remember sweetness.
There is no scar for happiness

Chuck Palaniuk

CHAPTER 11

Generosity

11.1: Tell yourself this the people
I deal with today will be:

- meddling
- ungrateful
- arrogant
- dishonest
- jealous
- surly

cf. 11.7

Marcus Aurelius

People are going to be like that from time to time and so long
as you remember that you've been like that too you can see the
behaviour for what it is.

Resentment is like taking poison and waiting for the other person to die

cf. 7.10

Malachi McCourt

11.3: Someone hates me? Their problem.

Mine: to be patient and cheerful with everyone (including them)

Marcus Aurelius

11.4: Because... hate will get you
every time
Every time.

Ryan Holiday

11.5: If talking to oneself did not
look so mad no day would go
by without my growling to myself
"you silly shit!"
Yet, I do not intend that to be the
definition of me

cf. 9.4

Michel De Montaigne

11.6: Always give with remembering and receive without forgetting

cf. 4.7

Brian Tracy

11.7: Forgiveness means a long memory of all the times when we wouldn't have gotten through life with someone cutting us some slack. It is recognising that living with others is not possible without excusing errors

via School of Life

See the modern virtues

You've given and they've received it. And yet, like an idiot, you keep holding out for more. To be credited with a good deed? To be repaid in kind? why?

cf. 2.13

Marcus Aurelius

11.9: Forgiveness means giving up hope of a better past

cf. 2.3

Lily Tomlin

11.10: Light cares can talk huge ones are strick dumb

Hippolitus

Index

Anais Nin, 137
Andrew Carnegie, 47
Angela Merkel, 71
Anne Enright, 47
Anthony De Mello, 65
Aristotle, 17, 98
Arthur Schopenhaur, 75

Baltazar Gracian, 70
Baltazar Graian, 61
BAML, 53
Benjamin Disraeli, 12
Benjamin Franklin, 79
Bertand Russell, 79
Betty Williams, 48
Bill Bradley, 45
Billy Joel, 29
Bod Dylan, 41
Brian Colbert, 28

Brian Tracy, 158

Carl W. Buechner, 60
Case, Neuromancer, 84
Catherine Pulsifer, 139
Christian D'Larson, 86
Chuck Palaniuk, 152
Cicero, 27
Confucious, 55, 59, 129
Confucius, 100
Cyrus the Great, 132

Danielle La Parte, 140
Danielle La Porte, 89, 122, 143
David Allen, 28

Ellen Glasgow, 143
Epictetus, 32, 148
Erik R. Sirri, 101

- Euripides, 124
 Francis Bacon, 45
 Franois de La Rochefoucauld, 59
 Friedrich Nietzsche, 84
 Funki Porcini, 40
 G. K. Nielson, 114
 George Bernard Shaw, 133
 George Bernard Shaw, 28
 Gian Vincenzo Gravina, 97
 Goethe, 67
 Hannah Ardent, 116
 Harry S Truman, 18
 Harvey Mackay, 138
 Henry David Thoreau, 39
 Henry Ford, 49
 Henry Miller, 144
 Heraclitus, 114
 Hippolitus, 159
 Horace, 39, 76, 113
 Isocrates, 67
 Italian Proverb, 123
 Jack, Fight Club, 39
 Japanese Proverb, 105
 Jean de la Brugere, 97
 John Lennon, 21
 John Von Goethe, 19, 131
 Jon de la Brugre, 132
 Jon Kabat Zin, 96
 Jonathan Swift, 126
 Joyce Meyer, 115
 Knute Roche, 52
 Lao Tzu, 51, 71, 100, 113
 Les Brown, 144
 Lily Tomlin, 159
 Lord Chesterfield, 27
 Mahatma Ghandi, 12, 13
 Malachi McCourt, 156
 Malcolm Tucker, 41
 Marcus Aurelius, 12, 18, 29, 31,
 35, 36, 38, 55–58, 66,
 87, 89, 94, 99, 102, 103,
 106, 108–112, 121, 124–
 128, 139, 149, 155, 156,
 159
 Martin Luther King Jr., 17
 Mary Anne Radmach, 103
 Matthew Crawford, 129
 Meister Eckhart, 128
 Michel De Monaigne, 80
 Michel De Montaigne, 147, 157
 Michel de Montaigne, 79

- Mike Tyson, 122
 Napoleon Hill, 141
 Nassim Taleb, 77, 140
 Oscar Wilde, 33
 Oswald Spengler, 101
 Plato, 69
 Prue Leith, 27
 Publius Syrus, 68
 Ralph Waldo Emerson, 98, 147
 Robert Green, 48, 138
 Robert Greene, 15, 49, 54, 59, 60, 66, 68, 70, 75–78, 97, 107, 115, 130, 137, 142, 143, 150
 Robert Heinlein, 33
 Robert J. Hanlon, 85
 Robert Louis Stephenson, 46, 58
 Robert Love, 54
 Rudy Guillian, 22
 Ryan Holiday, 17, 28, 40, 45, 52, 53, 69, 78, 86, 94, 95, 125, 139, 142, 157
 Schiller, 88
 Seneca, 47, 61, 95, 148
 Shackleton, 53
 Shakespeare, 93
 Simon Cozens, 51
 Stoic phrase, 91
 Sun Tzu, 65, 122
 Taylor Swift, 88
 The Talmud, 117
 Theodore N Vail, 93
 Tim Ferriss, 30, 61
 Tom Peters, 49, 75
 Traditional Buddhist Prayer, 151
 Tyler Durden, 132
 Ulysses S Grant, 66
 via Ryan Holiday, 123
 via School of Life, 158
 via the School of Life, 138
 Wayne Dyer, 112
 William Shakespear, 141
 William Shakespeare, 107, 131
 Yogi Bera, 20