

See, how you torment me, by calling me so —
But what is your service in fact, I would know?

At least I could listen, and try to imbibe,
And get to the root of the matter beside.

So tell me your thoughts about order and law,
Traditions and customs, and manners, and all!"

OGDYULMISH'S REPLY TO ODGURMISH

So then Ogdyulmish gave a friendly reply:
"You answered me truly, with light in your eye!

At first you were far from a reasoning road,
But with your request thirst for truth there you showed!

4030 And I will tell all, and I'm sure you will see
How all knotty problems are solved patiently!

And if you desire to know all I can say —
Then don't interrupt me, you'll spoil things that way!"

47.

OGDYULMISH TELLS THE RIGHTFUL LAWS OF SERVICE TO BEYS

"Two main kinds of people are servants of Beys,
And day after day bear their cares in all ways.

The first are the young, who start serving in youth.
The next are the elders, mature folk, forsooth!

The ones most preferred are the first of these kinds —
From childhood they serve, with their hearts and their minds.

I'll tell, for a start, what comes first to my tongue,
And explain what they do, when they serve very young.

If you start in the middle, the end will be bad,
So it's best to begin while you're still a young lad.

If you wish for maturity, speak mature things.
If you wish to go straight, don't start to make swings!

If you wish the Beys gates to be open to you,
Then start very early, and learn your way through!

You'll learn all the laws and the customs by heart,
And go in and out, when you're sure of your part.

4040 In life's early morning, if you start to serve,
Be honest and humble, and work full of verve.

In doing your work you must be quick, and slick!
With sharp eyes and ears you must learn every trick.

And if you are serving more elderly folk,
Hold your tongue, be respectful, and don't try to joke!

If you do all this, and attend when you're becked,
The Bey will be pleased, and will show you respect.

To serve the Bey well means great honour, you see,
You'll tell your opinions, ask questions, maybe.

And if you reach such a high place with the Bey
He'll certainly help you, and pick out your way.

A servant who notes what the visitors tell,
In accepting petitions will do very well.

A bold one at archery may show his zeal.
A truthful one may be in charge of the seal.

And one who is honest, and has a kind face,
Might well as a butler receive a high place.

And he who can write, and can add two and two —
He may be a scribe, and a book-keeper too!

4050 All servants who know how to cope with their toil
Work carefully, zealously, nothing will spoil.

Just hear what a good, faithful servant once said,
Whose service to what he deserved then had led:

'Conduct yourself nobly before a great Bey;
Stand fearful, and careful, and don't look away.

Be quiet, and cautious, collected, but meek,
With heart what is true, just a few words then speak!

In service be ready for work of each kind.
A good fellow-servant as comrade then find.

You wish to succeed — then in service take joy,
Serve well, ring the bell, be a bright-browed young boy.

In serving a Bey be alert, eye and ear,
Look down in his presence, but everything hear.

Stand straight up before him, and cross your hands tight.
Remember to lay then the left on the right!

Step over the threshold with right foot stretched first,
And watch how you go, strict and slow, not a burst.

If you come to beg pardon, then fall on your knees,
Hand on heart, humble part, with bowed head try to please.

4060 Don't look to the right, to the left do not glance,
And, submissive, obey when he gives you the chance.

If he gives you the chance to speak out — then speak true,
And afterwards do what he tells you to do.

Don't drink, and don't laze, but be strict and be stern,
Avoid all that's shameful, away from it turn.

Of what you may know, as if deaf, nothing say.
Of what you may see, as if blind, look away.

If you serve with good sense, your affairs will succeed,
And happy you'll be everywhere in the deed.

One such will be chief of a warrior group,
Another the head of a cavalry troop.

One such as khadzhib* or Khalif* may win fame,
Another in science or art win a name.

On reaching high levels in serving a Bey,
Success in your wishes will then come your way.

One such with intelligence, excellence shows.
Another with diligence, elegance knows.

One such may become a great Bey's bosom friend,
Another as Chief of the Army may end.

- 4070 Yagbu* he may be, or a Khan, or Vizier;
Still greatest respect he will earn, that is clear.

And if such a servant becomes rich in glory,
No higher reward can be found in his story.

And if a Bey raises a man with respect,
Then they pay him back for his generous act.

When servants are honoured, in use they'll be true.
The Bey will achieve what he most wanted to.

But if good-for-nothings in honour are found,
From them great misfortunes will later abound.

A wise man once said about this, by-the-by;
'If a man's good-for-nothing, then don't raise him high!'

Another old sage such a saying began:
'Don't get in close touch with an ignorant man!'

A senseless man can't be of any use then;
An ignorant fool just depraves other men.

And when a Bey honours some sense-lacking clot,
He also displays then his own crooked spot!

- 4080 A Bey should, of course, treat his serving-men fair,
According to sense, and to services there.

A Bey should test servants, and know their ways too,
And then from the cleverest, choose the best few.

Those chosen should love and respect a good Bey,
And thus reap reward for their service one day.

Hear words from a bey who respected the law,
And ruled by the customs which round him he saw;

'A servant's a servant, no matter how good,
And he serves a master, be that understood!

A Bey, though a small one — he still is a Bey.
He's master o'er others, and they must obey!

Oh you, on whom glory by Beys is bestowed,
Respect them most humbly, as you go your road.

Don't think for one moment to match up to them,
But keep a close check upon all you say then.

For them was predestined high power, in its turn,
And they are like fire, and you they will burn!

Yes, they are the substance and essence of fate,
And slaves should be glad if they stand at their gate.

4090 And rightly once said an experienced man,
Who serve uncomplaining the Bey's latest plan:

'When Beys would invite you, with flattering word,
Don't trust them too much, nor believe all you've heard.

And serving, don't swagger nor swank, be discreet;
The Bey will not pardon false tricks and deceit!

A Bey, great or small, receives glory and praise;
A servant must serve, and give service always.

In serving a Bey, great attention you need;
That helps you along your hard pathway indeed!

And however high you are raised by the Bey,
Control yourself strictly, be as honest as day!

No matter how kind your grand master may be,
You're never his equal — be cautious, you see!

Their words burn like fire, or like blessings they flow,
And you will know laughter, and you will know woe!

Three things are a danger; avoid them, in brief:
The fire and the water will bring you to grief.

And then the Bey's way — like a lion he'll roar:
Just look, soft as silk, and sit quiet once more.

- 4100 If you start to tease — say farewell to your head,
For he'll hew it off — drink your blood when you're dead!

When a Bey shows his anger, then steer clear, my friend!
For if you draw near you will meet a bad end.

Reply when you're asked, and come quick when you're called.
Then you'll be respected, in comfort installed.

Things heard, keep them secret, as though you were deaf:
Things seen do not speak, as though dumb, out of breath.

Just hear what a watchful and careful man said,
Who was cautious and vigilant, keeping his head:

'The Bey comes and orders — that's honour, respect.
The Bey goes to order his anger expect!'

Be wise and beware, and control all your ways:
A slow stately manner means honour and praise.

Three evils cast out, and don't sully your name:
The first — don't be stubborn, it leads but to shame.

The second's deceit, and the third thing is greed —
One end for all three — sudden exit, indeed!

Avoid empty gossip and slanderous word.
Don't forthright speak out, and don't hide — that's absurd!

- 4110 Be honest in all, and in action sincere;
An honest Bey holds such sincerity dear.

When at court act precisely, with mannerly looks,
Then you'll be respected, in people's good books.

No pride in your ways, nonetheless don't be slack,
And try not to knock folk, nor answer them back.

Sit civilly down in your own proper place.
Be careful no others, by chance, to disgrace.

Don't spit out your spite, and don't sputter and spume.
Such ways are disgusting, for them there's no room!

Sit down quite serenely, don't let yourself doze,
Don't put on a comic, ridiculous pose.

Don't nibble your nails, and don't stick out your knees.
You'll lose all respect, for such ways do not please.

If elders start speaking their wise counsel then,
Give up chitter-chatter, and listen to them.

If you start to speak, then be honest, sincere.
Converse with your peers, then all will be clear

If you have drunk wine, do not enter the court.
A tipsy man shames himself more than he ought.

4120 Three rules you must keep: if such things you ignore,
You'll part with your head, so take notice once more;

Attend to the Bey, that's the first thing to do —
And see, on your life, that his orders go through.

The second: from right roads do not step aside,
Be faithful, take difficult day in your stride.

The third: in true service it's honesty pays,
So keep well away from all dishonest ways.

If you fail to keep only one out of these,
You'll go to the Devil, as quick as you please'

If you're truly worthy, then hold yourself in.
Don't push yourself forward: that way you won't win!

If you have already sat down in your place,
Then when you are called, show a stern, honest face.

When Beys start to question, then keep to the point;
Don't drag out your speech, and put things out of joint.

When questioned, reply, what you know, make it clear,
But keep your speech short, and recall — time is dear!

If you are invited to dine with a Bey,
Then keep to good habits, and don't break away.

- 4130 Use right hand for eating, be moderate too,
And start with a prayer to the Lord, as is due.

And into your neighbour's dish don't put your hand,
But eat what's before you my friend, understand!

Eat all with no knife, and don't fuss with a bone,
And don't smack your lips — not with guests, nor alone!

Don't eat like a woman, to finish don't haste.
Don't make any fuss, and don't make a grimace.

And though you be full, if the Bey eats — eat too:
To feed with a Bey is great honour for you!

And whatever work you may start, see it through.
Be devoted in service, — find blessing anew.

Just listen to words from a wise man of old,
Remember them, tend to them, just like pure gold:

When you serve a Bey, and with him you would stay,
Then always show sense, get things going straightway!

And even attaining a very high place,
Be faithful, sincere, show a calm sedate face!"

And even should you a war-leader become,
In crucial moments — see duty is done!

- 4140 And if you grow rich, and have treasure in store,
Remember to share it; be good to the poor.

And if you become a Vizier in the land,
See to it that always with justice you stand.

If you're an advisor, in all be discreet.
If a Bey goes astray, then at once guide his feet.

If you are a Bey's bosom friend, serve with zeal.
The girdle of happiness round you you'll feel.

If you lead a squadron in war-time array,
With eye and with ear always seek the true way.

If you're some official, steer clear of the bribe.
Take care of the widows and orphans beside.

If you become Treasurer, measure what's there.
Above all, be honest — know no other care!

If you are a scribe, then no secrets divide.
Take care what you write, all excesses avoid.

To serve is a calling, and talent you need.
But where is the end to such servants, indeed?

We still have not mentioned the courtier's lot,
Domestics, and fowlers, and cooks, and what not!

4150 And if you're excluded from serving the Bey,
No joy, only torment will then come your way.

And if you should wish to hold power and place,
Then prize your own helpers, and show a kind face.

The worthy one praise, and the ready ones raise,
And you will be happy yourself in those days.

Recall what was said by an old man besides —
Who listens to sages grows wiser likewise:

"Respect for one's elders is custom and law.
On meeting them, stand; give a bow to them all.

The young must show honour to all who are old,
But let them, in turn, look on youth as pure gold!"

And so Ogdyulmish, in conclusion then said:
"Well, that's how to serve — get it all in your head!"

I've given advice, and you've heard it, dear friend;
Just how to behave, if you seek a good end!

The customs of service are simple, you see,
But they open joy's gates, both for you, and for me.

So now show your goodness, and your manly nerve —
And if you've caught on, you must go, you must serve!"

ODGURMISH'S QUESTION TO OGDYULMISH

4160 "I heard," Odgurmish said to him in reply,
"All that which you wish me to know, and I'll try!

I still have a word I have not said before -
So answer my question, I beg you, once more:

If I serve the Bey, one thing that will mean —
I shall be in the court, and by all shall be seen.

So I'd like to know how the customs go there,
And how to behave, so that people don't stare.

I'll meet many men there, of various kinds,
And must learn their customs, and must know their minds.

So you must explain things precisely to me,
I want to know all, and act similarly."

48.

OGDYULMISH TELLS HOW HE MUST TREAT MEN SERVING IN COURT

So then Ogdylmish said: "You don't ask in vain:
All you need to know I shall gladly explain.

My lesson, I hope, will be useful to you,
And then you'll know what you can do, or can't do.

When living with people, get used to their trends,
And some treat as brothers, and others as friends.

With all the men then, and of whatever kind,
Make contact, converse, and among them friends find.

- 4170 If you act unfriendly to any you see,
Your life won't be happy, unhonoured you'll be.

Just hear what a man who had served long and well,
Confirming the laws of the court, had to tell:

"If you wish to be some great Bey's trusted friend,
Grow nearer through service, and dear at the end!"

If you're an official, and seek greater power,
Let friendship wit servants grow greater each hour.

If your Bey promotes you to some special place,
Make sure you are just, show to all a kind face.

Received at the court are officials — three kinds;
From these depends all that a serving man finds.

One kind are officials who stand over you.
If you serve them well, they'll make life good for you.

So pay them respect, and their orders fulfil —
And they will promote you to higher posts still!

Recall what a wise man said once in his speech,
And learn from such sages what they try to teach:

"From elders and lesser men you will win praise:
To serve well your seniors means happy days!

- 4180 Attend to their orders, and do what they say —
For obedience to them is the very best way!"

For elders give younger men blessings all round.
If you wish for success, let your service be sound.

The next kind are those on a level with you —
If you quarrel - you're foes: if you're friends all goes through!

They have equal footing with you, equal praise.
If they help you on, pay them back in all ways.

The third sort are those who are younger than you.
They all need kind nursing, but kind counsels too!

Don't pander to them, but be firm and severe,
Don't joke, and don't waste idle words in their ear.

For mistakes — box their ears; for good work, a good word.
Don't let them waste time, let no chatter be heard.

And if they respond, treat them well, all the same.
The more you win to you, the higher your fame!

Animosity sweep from your soul, if you can —
No happiness waits for the quarrelsome man.

In small petty quarrels, great danger may lie.
No, open hostility's bad, so say I!

4190 And what said one man of the worthiest kind,
Who'd met with misfortune in quarrels ill-timed?

"Though foes may be few — great the woes they bring you.
You have many friends — but they seem to be few!"

No one ever yet found much profit in foes.
If he did, costly victory won it from those.

And so that your friends remain loyal to you,
Treat them as your equals, and make them glad too.

Those level with you, treat with love and respect,
Take care of them too, and show no sad neglect.

Steer clear of the bad ones, don't make friends with those:
They'll set you astray, on a way no one knows...

If you would live well, and would win worthy fame,
Be stern with the bad ones, and don't play their game.

All living things long for their own flocks and herds,
All people, all cattle, and insects, and birds.

Just hear what a man of great power once said,
Who'd felt good and bad on his own aging head:

"I once saw a starling, who chirped as he flew.
His feathers were black, and the whole flock were too.

- 4200 Where swans are all white, there's no place for the black.
The whites have their heights, but the blacks that height lack!"

If birds choose their like, when they start circling round,
Then people should seek, till their likes they have found.

In friendship a pair a good union make,
For Nature unites them, and that is no fake!

Such friendship is smiled on by Allah above.
No tricks will you see there, just straightforward love.

In some other friendships there's grappling greed —
But that is most strained, and to discord will lead.

And if you make friends, as our God gave the word,
Then share joys and sorrows, whatever's occurred.

From friendship, as such, for great profits don't hope,
For God will reward you in infinite scope.

And if only greed leads a friend to your side,
Then keep well away, by his side don't abide.

Well, here's the advice of a man who had friends;
He knew what that meant - that it led to good ends:

"Try out your good friend in the days good and bad,
And what you see worthy, of that then be glad.

- 4210 If you wish to know the real heart of a friend,
Pretend to be angry, and see if he'll bend!

Think well, and you'll know what is love, what's a lie.
Ask first, my dear friend, and you'll understand why.

And he who frowns not in his anger or fear,
Call him then sincere, and the friend you hold dear!"

From all scandal-mongers keep further away.
More scorching than fire are the slanders they say.

The scandal's source of confusion and fights —
So punish the gossips, good fellow, by rights!

And keep well away from extortioners mean:
The greedy as dangerous foes must be seen!

The skin-flint, led on by his greed to the end,
Will mutter: "My brother!" and call you "Dear friend!"

But if you don't pay him his tithe on a loan,
He'll not call you "brother", but you will disown!

Find someone not greedy as brother and friend.
Believe him in all things, and blessings he'll tend.

A real friend stands by you, in joy or in woe,
And helps you at all times, wherever you go.

4220 And if you would wish to be loved by your nate,
Be kind and be generous, early or late.

These two things knowing, your heart will be warm,
And you will be blessed, come the sunshine or storm.

On this has a wise man once given advice,
So learn it, and take it, and keep it likewise!

"Invite people in, feed them well till they swell —
With a shining bright brow bid them welcome as well!"

All people for these two good things will stay true;
If you find ought better, then take it in too!

Two enemies also exist, be it said,
For their naïve victims their nets they have spread.

Some, in their hostility, swear by the Lord,
The others, in thousands, pour scorn on his word.

Another great danger in avarice lies —
The greedy man often with vengeance replies.

So try, then, to punish dishonest ones hard,
With firm, righteous power, but be on your guard!

With a foe, who's contriving to stick to his greed,
Don't quarrel, dear friend, make agreement, indeed.

- 4230 Make peace with your foe, no more hostile he'll be;
His spite disappears, then a good friend is he!

With the hostile unite, with opponents agree,
And you'll live in peace and in concord, you see.

So learn well the lesson: Hostility's vain,
And quarrels for ever aside must be lain.

Serve people instead, and your foes won't increase,
But if you stay hostile, then strife will not cease.

Take only the worthy and fine men to you;
If not, then your lot will be pitiful too.

If so, and you wish with the best men to be,
Then two kinds of friends with your aims will agree.

One kind are well-born, and most noble are they.
With them, my good fellow, make friends straight away.

The others are those who to Allah stay true,
And they are a source of good fellowship too.

Respect these two kinds, remain faithful to such;
From them you'll receive in return very much.

From those who are known for ill deeds, keep away,
For black are their actions, and thus they will stay.

- 4240 My bright friend, to dark folk I beg you, don't go,
For they will besmirch all your glory, you know!

Advice of the best gave one learned old sage;
A lesson for all we can take from his page;

"Keep clear of the bad ones, if you've good in you;
If you mix with them, you'll be unrighteous too.

Good fellow, avoid evil men, of bad mood.
Your fame will be blachened — they do you no good.

If you meet bad people, keep out of their way;
They brand you with shame with the things they will say.

I've seen many men of the most noble kind,
But they have been lowered by men of ill-mind.

I've known worthy men who've made friends with the bad,
Who've lost all their strength, and the good name they had!"

The refuge of Beys — their palace, their court,
With slander and gossip are everywhere fraught.

In chambers are heard petty quarrels which bore,
And with idle gossip, dissention grows sore.

Those elders will try humiliate you;
Be patient — don't let them upset what you do!

4250 Or else, from their spite, you'll be left without strength,
And your days will be darker than midnight at length.

The young men are spiteful, and envy's their crime,
So don't expect good from them, that's not their line!

Court men are offenders — they're mostly pretenders.
A real deadly danger their false way engenders.

O light of my soul, scorn all envy, stay whole;
Be just, offend no one, pursuing your goal.

Yes, envy's a sickness not cured in a year.
It's fruits are all poisonous — sorrow draws near.

O'er good, and o'er ill. Allah's word's ruling still;
And envy can not interfere with His will.

To envy another — pray what sense in that?
The envious man his own purpose knocks flat!

To good deeds respond with the whole of your power,
For good answers good, and brings kindness to flower.

If someone is joyful, then with him rejoice;
If someone is sad, comfort him with kind voice.

Then people will like you, your fame will grow rich;
To you their affection the folk then will switch.

- 4260 Remember, young brother, forget hostile ways,
And seek only friendship and peace all your days.

But if your foe weaves a net, making you squirm,
Prepare him a road of your principles firm.

Recall what one said, who much enmity knew,
To one of his foes, who prepared his lasso:

"Get rid of your foes by some cunning deceit —
Unseen lay your trap on the road at his feet.

Remember that he too is able, and strong;
Set up iron fences, preserve yourself long!"

Relieve your friend's burden, and lend him a hand;
Recall my advice, by his side firmly stand.

For if your best friend should become your worst foe,
And secretly envies your glory also,

Then who, if not he, knows your secrets so well,
And all he can take, and his treasure-chest swell.

If he wishes, your goods he can seize with delight.
If he wishes, your head he can mortally smite!

So just as you try your own self to defend,
Then likewise, I say, just protect your own friend.

- 4270 A friend's easy taken, not easily kept.
A quarrel, once started, away can't be swept.

And if you've a foe, and you know, then beware!
Not many are saved from their onslaught, I swear!

Two kinds of bad people there are — keep apart,
Don't let them torment you, don't give them a start.

One kind of bad person is out to denounce;
The other, two-faced, is preparing to pounce.

And keep away, too, from the man who drinks wine;
He'll often break forth, being drunk at the time.

A self-centred man doesn't make a good friend —
He'll give you away just to serve his own end.

For permanent friendship it's better to wait.
Don't be in a hurry, don't get in a state.

And if you would live without worry or woe,
Then don't offend others, nor make them feel low.

If something you need — offer silver or gold.
Take his beard in your hand; don't let go of your hold.

With near ones just venture this excellent way:
Don't give those who ask, but to those who nought say.

4280 And if you desire to live long on this earth,
Be kind, and feed others — a man of true worth!

And if you desire to be loved, then you see,
Be kind and caressing, and warm as can be.

And if you should wish to win others' respect,
Then show your esteem, and no others neglect.

And if you wish riches, with less be content;
And you will have wealth, if not carelessly spent!

And if you wish praises, to bring you delight,
Then let both your looks and your actions shine bright!

In this lies the essence of humanity:
In all to your fellows devoted to be.

If you so desire, really nobly to act,
Let actions and words with real truth then be packed.

Read beautiful verses, and think them well o'er,
And you will find truth there, as never before!

If you wish to know what's a man's inner core,
Then judge by his heart, words and deeds, what is more.

Who in essence is good, he is righteous and kind,
And these are the signs of a real noble mind!

- 4290 So, my worthy man, have no friends in disgrace,
For they'll spoil your image, bring shame to your face.

Hear the words of a man who all customs well knew,
A wise one, who shunned all the evil ones too:

"With bad folk, if you are a good man, don't mix;
They raise much dissention with mutinous tricks.

And don't make acquaintance with folk full of spite;
They betray faithful friends with a bitter delight."

Keep secrets and innermost thoughts well concealed;
You'll suffer regretfully, once they're revealed.

And if you desire to be good friends with all,
No selfish accounts keep with them, or you'll fall.

If likewise you wish to be merry, and gay -
Be honest -- no misery then comes your way.

If it's fame, and a name which you wish to possess,
Be humble, restrained, and you'll find it no less.

If you want to be faultless, then watch what you say;
From lies and from vice, in a trice sheer away.

Where happiness raises its bright head on high
Support it, dear friend, or at least make a try!

- 4300 Be glad if you see other's happiness too,
Or else all your food will seem bitter to you.

And so that your word may be heard with good weight,
Let all that you answer with truth be sedate.

And scorn secret whispers, and vain words likewise:
Don't scold other folk, nor offend them with lies.

Bad words, like a wind, every heart penetrate,
And he who's offended is not far from hate.

With elders don't boast when you're speaking to them,
And don't answer back to the words of old men.

To all of your seniors show due respect,
Then they, in their turn, your good fate won't neglect.

To all of your friends be attentive, not blind;
Make presents to them, and receive in like kind.

If they show you honour, then answer likewise;
For people who shun you, show scorn in your eyes.

For all things their equal on even terms pay;
For words which caress you, caressing words say.

For any good deed, with a good deed reply,
But do not let harm, all unharmed, then slip by!

4310 A sage who well valued such custom once said,
Arousing his people, and leading ahead:

"If someone says 'you' — answer 'you' coldly back.
No feeling he shows, so all feeling he'll lack!

But if he says 'dear' — let your answer ring clear;
Like echoes in mountains, then 'dear' let him hear!"

So these are the means of good contact with folk.
If you live among them, such words must be spoke.

So learn, then, of all that has come to my ear,
Fulfil my advice, and there's no need to fear!"

ODGURMISH'S QUESTION TO OGDYULMISH

To him Odgurmish then replied: "I have heard
Your speech, my dear friend, and have caught every word

There's still something else that I'd much like to know,
So please hear my question, and answer it so:

If I live with them, in some village or town
I'll have to know people, ere I settle down.

So how should I act towards them, I would know?
Please say what to do, and the proper way show!"

OGDYULMISH'S REPLY TO ODGURMISH

"Yes, that you must know!" then replied Ogdylmish,
And truly, you've spoken out well about this!

- 4320 So, since you have asked, I shall try to explain,
And, as far as I can, I'll inform you again!"

49.

OGDYULMISH SHOWS HOW TO BEHAVE WITH SIMPLE PEOPLE

Of the manners of ordinary people I'd say —
Their minds are quite simple, and likewise are they.

They know no decorum nor style in their ways,
And no pride of place any one e'er betrays.

But, lacking such folk, we can nothing achieve,
Though you're far above them, as you may believe.

The masses are dark, and their manners are too.
Don't darken yourself, though, whatever you do!

They all have coarse ways, of such ignorant kinds,
In accord with low levels of uncultured minds.

They think much of food, and full bellies of theirs;
Except for the flesh, they have few other cares.

Take note what a man who'd lived with them once said,
Who knew to what ends had their ignorance led:

"All thoughts of the mass with full bellies are bound.
But ignorant minds ever empty are found.

And how many folk have such greedy mouths killed —
With such are the fires of Hell ever filled!

4330 When stuffed, the dark mass do not hold back their word,
And then what sheer rubbish from such folk is heard!

But one needs, dear comrade, to deal with them too;
To feed and to clothe them, agree what to do.

Go easy in speech, try to give what they need —
A gift to the giver brings blessings, indeed!

So keep a cool tongue, and speak calmly, what's more.
Remember that too many words are a bore.

Now here is a fellow who mastered his speech,
And thus people's hearts he was able to reach:

"Keep watch on your tongue, say no unthought-of word,
And say only what you've already preferred.

I've seen real wise men — not loquacious were they.
Regret waits for those who too many words say!"

50.

**TELLS HOW ONE SHOULD DEAL WITH THOSE
OF NOBLE ORIGIN**

Among the Bey's subjects are other folk too —
To deal with such people's an honour for you.

Among them the Prophet's descendants are found.
Show them deep respect, if you tread the same ground.

Love them with your heart, with the warmth of your soul,
And send them rich gifts, show your gratitude whole.

4340 Those men all stand near to Mahomet's own home.
Show love to them gladly, thank God they have come.

Respect their position, in nought interrupt,
Not e'en if they treat you a little abrupt!

HOW ONE SHOULD DEAL WITH LEARNED PEOPLE OF KNOWLEDGE

Another kind still are men learned and wise;
Their knowledge shines out, like the stars in the skies.

Be kind and respectful to folk such as these,
Though their special knowledge your own may not please.

Philosophers they — knowing evil and good,
And teaching the others, as good people should.

So hasten to learn ancient wisdom from them.
Reward their good efforts with welcome words then.

Their very name means 'We are friends of the Truth',
And their righteous laws show their power, forsooth.

And if there were no such wise leaders on earth,
We then should not see what their wisdom is worth!

For they bring us light, show a road always bright,
And where ways are clear you don't lose them at night.

Reward their good work, and their efforts respect,
And make them your guests, and thus serve them direct.

4350 In speech be restrained, and be humble in much,
For too many words sound like poison to such.

Show deference to them, hospitality too.
Don't let your tongue wag more than that ought to do!

Believe what they say, take their word of advice,
And don't think to judge them, that would not be nice.

Their knowledge is needed by you, don't forget.
They show the right road, and will help you there yet.

For they're like sane goats, in a flock of lost sheep:
The goats show the way, and to that path they keep.

Respond to them kindly, and see they're not vexed,
And you will be blessed in this world, and the next!"

52.

HOW ONE SHOULD DEAL WITH PHYSICIANS

How many more kinds of good people there are!
Of various professions, all different by far.

Among them physicians you soon will make out;
They're healers of sickness, of fever, and gout.

Just think how you need such, when you are not well.
Without them on earth, many roads would be hell.

For healthy ones suffer disease now and then,
And physicians seek out a right course then for them.

4360 Disease leads to death, step by step, on the road;
And death life's worst foe has itself ever showed!

Show doctors respect, they are your nearest friends,
And never say ought which a doctor offends!

53.

**HOW ONE SHOULD DEAL WITH SORCERERS
AND WIZARDS**

Magicians there are, aye, and sorcerers too.
They drive off the sprites and the devils when due.

So keep on good terms with the wizards as well.
Where a doctor falls through, they can cure a bad spell.

And so that they're ready to help when you need,
Keep on the right side of magicians, indeed!

Though doctors don't heed any word that they say,
The wizards despise them, and oft win the day.

One cures any sickness with draughts, and with herbs,
Another with words evil goblins then curbs!"

54.

HOW ONE SHOULD DEAL WITH DREAMS AND FORTUNE-TELLERS

There still remain those who tell meanings of dreams.
They see through them all, explain what each means.

A man goes to sleep, sees a dream, wants to know
If it will come true, who can tell him jst so?

If some fortune-teller can make sense of dreams,
All then will come right in the future, it seems.

4370 But if dreams are evil, they end in the grave.
So go, help the poor, and your soul you may save!

The knowledge of dreams Allah gives as a sign,
For the good of his slaves, and a blessing divine.

A good dream's a sign of the bliss that's to come.
A bad dream brings woe; you must pray, or you're don

And then you must give all you can to the poor,
And God will forgive you, that you sin no more.

And so that the sorcerer sees through your dreams,
The dreamer must dream in good order, it seems!

And sometimes a sorceress all will make clear.
She is wise, she is kind — intuition lies here!

O comrade, such kindness is worth a reward,
So treat them as friends, and some present afford!

HOW TO DEAL WITH ASTROLOGERS AND MATHEMATICIANS

Besides those I've named are astrologers too.
Just look, how they calculate stars, not a few!

All facts they must know, of the year, month, and day.
My friend, you should value their work, anyway!

And learn of the deep calculations they make —
To knowledge they lead, and they open the gate.

- 4380 Learn multiplication, division, subtraction,
Addition — though hard, a most sensible action.

Learn also the angles, the law of degrees.
To find the square root of such figures as these.

To measure an area, plots to divide,
The heavenly seven to know well beside.

Learn algebra also, and how to equate.
Enquire of old Euclid, and knock at his gate.

And see, in this world, and the one that's to be.
All's measured and counted: there wisdom we see.

Dear friend, if you chance to lose count of your ways,
In both worlds you'll suffer from difficult days.

If things should go wrong, you must ask yourself why.
Take into account all the planets, forby.

The days and the months are all different too,
So ask and find out then the best day for you.

A wise old astrologer once made this clear:
"Take counsel, establish the month and the year.

When you thus make use of the sciences known,
Then your thought-out plans you can work on alone!"

4390 The chief thing of all — learn as much as you can,
For if you lack knowledge, you're lost, my dear man!

Ask questions of all, but in all don't believe.
From God the all-knowing the last word receive.

Attend with good will to what wise people say,
But remember that questions can't last all the day!"

56.

HOW TO GET ON WITH VERSE-MAKERS

"We've not mentioned poets — their work is the word.
By some they are scorned, and by others preferred.

Their speech, with its sharp edge, can slash like a sword.
Their way of thought's fine, like a hair hangs the word.

If such lines you'd like to imbibe as your own,
Then set your mind to it, and capture their tone.

Their essence is wide, like a sense-bearing sea,
And down at the bottom pure pearls there may be.

Whoever they praise in their verse is reknowned.
Whoever they scorn in deep shame then is found.

So try to make friends, and with them to act well,
And try to avoid what sharp tongues have to tell!

If you wish their praises for you to ring high,
Act kindly towards them, and hot words don't try!

4400 If they ask for something, give all, like a man,
If not, then defend yourself, best as you can!"

57.

HOW TO DEAL WITH FARMERS

"And now about farmers a few words I'll say —
They're very much needed by all, anyway!

Make contact with them, and treat them, as your friends,
And then you'll be fed right until your life ends.

For they are a blessing to us, one and all,
From them food and drink in our mouths each day fall.

We eat and we breathe here, with food satisfied:
Our need of the farmer can not be denied.

Such folk and their goodness you must not forget
It's thanks to their toil that you're well-fed as yet;

Make friends, then, with them and your bowels will be clear.
The healthiest food will your appetite cheer.

Just hear what one honest man long ago said,
Who understood much, and could keep a clear head:

"The one who would wish on the right road to go,
Should eat with discretion, and no greed should show.

And if you desire to stand well in men's sight,
Then dress as behoves, and eat only what's right.

4410 For only refraining from orgies, not few,
Will you avoid poverty, riches accrue.

And if you should wish to be held in respect,
Think more of your soul, and your belly neglect!

Debauchery well-founded ways will destroy.
No lecher God's blessing on earth will enjoy!

All happiness flies where depravity lies,
The true road to blessing vice always denies!"

Another wise man, who gave food for one's soul,
Accomplished great deeds by a mind that was whole:

"From dregs of depravity stand far away,
For that will besmire you for many a day.

From those who love stuffing, all happiness goes —
Don't sit as a guest at the table with those!

All farmers are workers, and generous too —
God gives them such grace and benevolence due.

To all on this earth is true nourishment given;
Grain feeds man on bread, and the birds up in heaven.

Go, make friends with farmers, as you ought to do,
Speak kindly to them, and with open face too!"

58.

HOW TO DEAL WITH TRADERS

4420 We'll now speak of traders, who both day and night
Are only concerned that their profits stay tight.

In seeking for profits, the whole world's a road.
In seeking far ways they rely upon God.

So keep up good contacts you've already made,
And then, when they ask it, with them you may trade.

They're needed on earth, and that don't forget,
They all provide goods which we have not as yet.

From region to region their legion is set,
And all that you want from their hands you may get.

And thousands on thousands of treasures they bring,
And there, packed on camels, you'll find everything.

If they were not here, roaming over this earth,
Who'd bring us the sables and silks of great worth?

If they did not come in their long caravan,
Which in far-off China their trade-route began,

If they did not come from where desert-sand blows,
Then who'd bring us pearls, all a-shining in rows?

If I tell of treasures which from their hands fall,
My tongue would run dry, just in counting them all!

4430 So that's what the traders are like on their way,
And you may throw open your doors any day!

Make friends with them honestly, treat them just so,
Then they all will praise you wherever they go.

They too are well-known all throughout the wide world.
They're cursed and they're blessed where their flag is unfurled.

Their presents to you will then gladden your heart,
And so will good-will towards them on your part.

They have a fine feeling for good-will, or no,
So give them your blessing, and you'll please them so.

And mark what a man who had travelled afar
Has said about those who such travellers are:

"O you who would wish to maintain a good name,
Give wanderers welcome, and greet all the same.

O, you who're afraid to give way when they plead,
Just learn to be generous always, indeed!

And if you desire to your good name to keep,
Be pleasant to travellers, don't make them weep!"

So that, with all traders should be your right way,
And you'll be remembered for many a day!"

59.

HOW TO DEAL WITH CATTLE-BREEDERS

4440 The breeders of cattle we must mention too —
The herds and the flocks in the valleys aren't few!

They all are a guileless and straightforward kind;
They never harm others — that's far from their mind.

Their horses mean all to them — clothing and food,
And they breed pack-animals, all for our good.

Kumis, milk and butter, and cheese, cream and curds,
And saddles, and blankets are all useful words.

All these mean a lot to both small and great men,
With good earn their trust and their confidence then.

Invite them as guests, get to know them as well,
And you'll meet the truth of this life which they tell.

What's asked of you — give; and then take what you need.
I've seen, and I know — there's no lying, indeed.

They don't learn the law, and they aren't very wise,
But ocean-wide freedom is seen in their eyes.

But keep a look out, and say nought to offend,
For if they turn nasty with you — that's the end!

Be honest with them, and they'll do ought for you.
They're down-trodden folk in their ignorance too.

4450 A man who knew order, gives us his advice —
In closest of contact he knew folk likewise:

"With an ignorant man, you will see nothing through,
He'll only do that which it's shameful to do!"

Another wise man spoke more fully of this —
That you need your brains to face life as it is:

"Don't mix with the ignorant — keep on one side.
If you stay away, then in good days you'll bide.

The farther away — then the better for you;
The ignorant only unpleasant things do!"

And all cattle-breeders, at times, are not nice —
If you go with them, just recall my advice.

I've told what I know, so that you'll know ahead,
How to live so that you'll be more useful instead!"

HOW TO GET ON WITH CRAFTSMEN AND ARTISANS

There still remain craftsmen and artisans too;
They live by their hands, and the skilled crafts they do.

And you'll need their services one day, for sure,
So be on good terms with them, please them much more.

There's the cobbler, the smith, and the farrier too,
The seamstress, the grinder, who makes edges new.

4460 Their work creates beauty in this life of ours,
And all the world's wonders are fruits of their powers!

There are many of them, who with great skill are blessed;
Just think for yourself, and let me take a rest!

Your contacts with them you may therefore increase.
If you make them happy, then you'll live in peace.

For all that they do, pay them well that same day,
And feed them as guests in a generous way.

Then others won't judge you as if somewhat mean,
And thus your good name will remain what it's been.

A wonderful word said a certain wise man,
Who loved honest folk, and like this he began:

"Take care not of life, but of your honoured name,
For that's the chief thing in this life, all the same.

For you have a name that will last after death;
The better it is, then the sweeter draw breath.

And if you've a name that you oft have forsworn,
'Twere better for you if you had not been born!

It's not life that's dear, but your name that ranks high;
The right road will raise it as high as the sky!"

HOW TO DEAL WITH POVERTY-STRICKEN PEOPLE

4470 "You also meet penniless poor on the road;
Relieve them, and feed them, and lighten their load.

With prayers and with blessings will they reward you,
And that will be excellent work that you do!

So don't expect payment for generous aid,
For God will reward you — in Heaven you're paid!

Well, that is the truth about various people.
We need one another, for mankind is feeble.

So open your heart up to them, and agree,
And they will all near ones and dear ones then be!

And then in two worlds you will surely be blessed
And you will be known then as 'one of the best!'"

HOW TO CHOOSE YOURSELF A WIFE

"If you think of marriage, then keep wide awake,
And a wife who's befitting and worthy then take.

Yes, let her be noble, and honest, and true,
And modest, and pure, with a clever head too.

Let her be a virgin, and untouched till then,
And having seen only your face among men.

And let her be one who will love you alone,
And one who no previous error has known.

4480 And let her be some slightly less well-born maid;
A better-born wife will put you in the shade!

As it has been said by a well-matured sage,
One ripe with experience, famed in his age;

"When choosing a wife, seek none higher than you,
Then you'll love contented and untroubled too!"

Don't seek a fine face, rather seek a fine soul.
A good wife brings credit to you, on the whole!

Not one on your level should you try to mate,
But one who is sensible, worthy, sedate.

So seek a fine soul, do not find a fine face.
Complaisance in mood gives a good woman grace.

Don't be led astray by sheer beauty alone,
Or your ruddy face will take on a pale tone!

If you so desire, then go seek for a bride:
Four possibilities stand side by side:

One man will then choose a bride richer than he,
Another just beauty of figure will see.

A third will choose someone who's higher in rank,
And for his misfortune his pride he must thank!

4490 A fourth seeks a woman of grace and good sense,
And once she is found, he will never go hence.

If you wish to marry — I'll give you advice,
What woman is best — well I shan't answer twice!

If it's a rich woman that you wan't to marry,
Then don't be a slave — all your plans will miscarry!

In such there is greed, and in them envy grows.
You'll spend all your money providing their clothes!

And when she has got them, she'll look down on you,
And oh, how the neighbours will laugh at you too!

All chase after beauties — but they have no shame,
And only God's grace keeps them true to your name!

If you wish to marry a bride of high rank,
Then for all your losses yourself you must thank!

Those high ones have tongues which are far, far too long;
So see you don't sing then a slave's sorry song!

If you wish to marry a bride of good sense,
You'll have more success than the other three hence.

If you chance to find then a bride of clear mind,
Take her straight away, leave all others behind.

4500 If you wish to prosper, a thrifty bride find,
Then you both will prosper, of one happy mind.

If she's a just woman, she's beautiful too.
A well-wishing woman brings beauty to you!

If she's clever and honest — she's noble as well,
Of three first-rate qualities, something she'll tell.

Yes, if you should find a wise woman to wed,
You'll see all four qualities one, in one head!

If you should meet such, upon one fine spring day —
Take your luck, happy man, and just whisk her away!"

63.

**HOW ONE SHOULD EDUCATE ONE'S SONS
AND DAUGHTERS**

If you have some children, all moon-faced and bare,
At home you must teach them, not any old where.

You must find a nurse, and a teacher you'll need,
Then they'll grow up healthy, and learn well indeed.

And let them learn all that they possibly can,
And know where our earth and our heaven began.

Give daughters as brides, and find wives for your sons.
Be happy that you could bring up little ones!

Teach all sons and daughters to be good and kind,
And therein much blessing and joy you will find!

4510 And see that your sons don't sit lazing all day;
All life has no meaning, if wasted away!

Don't let your dear daughters without husbands pine;
You'll die of regret — get them wed in good time!

Attend to my words, for I speak to you plain;
Don't let unwed daughters cause you lasting pain.

But once they are born, they had better be wed,
Than lie with the dead on a black marriage bed!

Keep your own wives at home, and be strict with them there.
They're deceptive, remember, and put on an air!

Let no strangers come, let your wives not go out.
How else, then, their yearning can you ever flout?

Though you do not see, in their hearts wishes lie:
Attractive is that which just catches the eye!

So don't let them look, then their hearts will not yearn.
If hearts do not yearn, then their bondage won't burn!

Your wives are forbidden all contacts with men,
But if you permit it, there's woe for you then.

So don't let them walk on their own chosen way —
For outside your house they will soon go astray.

4520 A woman's like meat — when well kept — no decay.
But if it goes bad — then you throw it away!

Respect them, deflect them with gifts of all kinds,
But keep their doors locked, make them draw down the blinds.

For women have long since been faithless to men;
Their hearts follow just what their eyes have seen then.

But if tender branches are grafted by force,
Then don't taste their fruit — it is poison, of course!

For hundreds of thousands of brave men have died,
Their tap-roots cut off by sheer feminine pride!

And how can many men of bright-blossoming face,
Because of such women, have died in disgrace?

And hosts of young men, of the noblest in birth,
Still living have gone to their graves in the earth!

And how can we save them from this ghastly game?
Oh, All-watchful Allah, protect them from shame!"

64.

**HOW ONE SHOULD TREAT SUBJECTS
IN A WORTHY MANNER**

"Watch all of your subjects, unsleeping, wide-eyed.
With food, drink, and clothing the poor ones provide.

According to strength then set each one his task.
You'll answer to God for them all, at the last!

4530 Too heavy a burden on them do not lay,
Or God will destroy you in His wrathful way!

They all stand as slaves 'neath their master's firm will.
If you drive them hard, they'll reply harder still!

You stand as an elder, they're young in your sight,
And elders to youngers should never show spite.

And if you stand high, then bend down to the small;
The great should be humble, and just to them all.

Now hear what was said by a wise leading man,
And keep to his counsel, dear friend, if you can!

"When you stand before all the folk that you lead,
Be restrained, and they'll show you great honour indeed!

Be watchful, and see you don't stray from your road;
Go straight, don't go crooked, whatever your load!

And keep your whole house in good order as well,
And happy you'll be when your folk ring the bell!"