

Gossip or Slanderers

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92 He who is in the mud likes to pull another into it.

■ Spanish proverb

93 A lot of molehills become mountains when someone adds a little dirt.

94 Proverb

95 A slip of the foot may be soon recovered; but that of the tongue, perhaps never.

96 A wound heals, but the scar remains.

97 Proverb

98 Close your ear against him who opens his mouth against another. If you receive not his words, they fly back and wound him. If you receive them, they fly forward and wound you.

99 Francis Quarles (1592-1644)

100 Have patience awhile; slanders are not long-lived. Truth is the child of time; ere long she shall appear to vindicate thee.

101 Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

102 He that filches from me my good name,

103 Robs me of that which not enriches him,

104 And makes me poor indeed.

105 William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

106 He that injures one threatens a hundred.

107 Proverb

108 He who blackens others does not whiten himself.

109 German Proverb

110 He who flings dirt upon another dirties himself more.

111 Proverb

112 He who is guilty of slander never can repair it. A false report spreads where a recantation never reaches, and an accusation flies faster than a defense.

113 Samuel Johnson (1709-1784)

114 He who plants thorns must never expect to gather roses.

115 Arabian Proverb

116 If nobody took slander in and gave it lodging, it would starve and die.

117 Archbishop Robert Leighton (1611-1684)

118 If slander be a snake, it is a winged one-it flies as well as creeps.

119 Douglas William Jerrold (1803-1857)

120 It isn't necessary to blow out the other person's light to let your own shine.

121 Proverb

122 Never burn your fingers to snuff another man's candle.

123 Proverb

124 Slander flings stones at itself.

125 Sir Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)

126 Slander is a kind of murder.

127 Slander is answered best with silence.

128 Ben Jonson (1572-1637)

129 Slander slays three persons: the speaker, the spoken to, and the spoken of.

130 Hebrew Proverb

131 Slander-whose edge is sharper than the sword.

132 William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

133 Slander: at every word a reputation dies.

134 Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

135 Slanderers are the devil's bellows to blow up contention.

136 Proverb

137 That abominable tittle-tattle, The cud eschewed by human cattle.

138 Lord George Noel Gordon Byron (1788-1824)

139-Edythe Draper, Draper's Book of Quotations for the Christian World (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1992). Entries 10467-10470.

140 The absent are always in the wrong.

141 English Proverb

142 The most dangerous of wild beasts: a slanderer; of tame ones: a flatterer

143 Greek Proverb

144 The tongue breaketh bone, though itself have none.

145 Proverb

146The tongue is more to be feared than the sword.

147Japanese Proverb

148Trample not on any; there may be some work of grace there, that you do not know. The name of God may be written upon that soul.

149Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)

150We cannot control the evil tongues of others; but a good life enables us to disregard them.

151Cato the Elder (234-149 B.C.)

152When will talkers refrain from evil-speaking? When listeners refrain from evil-hearing.

153August W. Hare (1792-1834)

154Whispered insinuations are the rhetoric of the devil.

155Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749-1832)

156You can't hold a man down without staying down with him.

157Booker T. Washington (1856-1915)

158You cannot sink someone else's end of the boat and still keep your own afloat.

159Charles Brower

160A slander is like a hornet; if you cannot kill it dead the first blow, better not strike at it.

■ H. W. Shaw

161If slander be a snake, it is a winged one--it flies as well as creeps.

■ D. W. Jerrold

162Slander slays three persons: the speaker, the spoken to, and the spoken of.

■ Hebrew proverb

163No character, however upright, is a match for constantly reiterated attacks, however false.

■ Alexander Hamilton

164Slander-mongers and those who listen to slander, if I had my way, would all be strung up, the talkers by the tongue, the listeners by the ears.

■ Plautus

165 To murder character is as truly a crime as to murder the body; the tongue of the slanderer is brother to the dagger of the assassin.

■ Tryon Edwards

166 Character assassination is at once easier and surer than physical assault; and it involves far less risk for the assassin. It leaves him free to commit the same deed over and over again, and may, indeed, win him the honors of a hero even in the country of his victims.

■ Alan Barth

167 The worthiest people are the most injured by slander, as is the best fruit which the birds have been pecking at.

■ Jonathan Swift

168 Have patience awhile; slanders are not long-lived. Truth is the child of time; ere long she shall appear to vindicate thee.

■ Immanuel Kant

169 We saw in the Museum at Venice an instrument with which one of the old Italian tyrants was accustomed to shoot poisoned needles at the objects of his wanton malignity. We thought of gossips, backbiters, and secret slanderers, and wished that their mischievous devices might come to a speedy end. Their weapons of innuendo and whisper appear to be as insignificant as needles, but the venom which they instill is deadly to many a reputation.

■ Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *The Quotable Spurgeon*, (Wheaton: Harold See: Jer 9:4-6, 8-9

170 Other Topic/Subtopic/Index:

171 The Rev. B. Jacobs of Cambridgeport could, when necessary, administer reproof quite forcibly, though the gentleness of his character was always seen in the manner in which it was done. Some young ladies at his house were one day talking about one of their female friends. As he entered the room, he heard the epithets "odd," "singular," etc. applied. He asked and was told the name of the young lady in question, and then said, very gravely, "Yes, she is an odd young lady--she is a very odd young lady. I consider her extremely singular." He then added very impressively, "She was never heard to speak ill of an absent friend." The rebuke was not forgotten by those who heard it.

172 See: Titus 3:1-2

173 Title: From Small Spark to Raging Fire

174 "I saw a terrible fire some time ago, or rather I saw the reflection of it in the sky; the heavens were crimsoned with it. It burned a large factory to the ground, and the firemen had hard work to save the buildings that surrounded it. They poured streams of water on it from fifteen engines, but it licked it up, and would have its course until the walls gave way. That terrible fire was kindled by a penny candle! Some years ago, I saw the black ashes of what the night before had been a cheerful farm-yard, with its hay-ricks, corn stacks, stables, and cow sheds. Lying about on the ashes were the carcasses of a number of miserable horses and bulls that had perished in the flames. And all that was done by a friction match. American Indians could strike a spark from a flint and steel and set fire to the dry grass, and the flames spread and spread until they swept like a roaring torrent over vast prairies and men and cattle had to flee for their lives. 'Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindles!' And the tongue is a fire! A few rash words will set a family, a neighborhood, a nation, by the ears; they have often done it. Half the lawsuits, and half the wars have been brought about by the tongue."

175 In The Jewish Press, Morris Mandel writes, "Gossip is the most deadly microbe. It has neither legs nor wings. It is composed entirely of tales, and most of them have stings."

■ Arlin Schrock Atmore, Alabama. Leadership, Vol. 6, no. 1.

176 See: 1 Pe 3:10; Pr 16:28, 26:20

177 The man who is brutally honest enjoys the brutality quite as much as the honesty. Possibly more.

178 See: Pr 11:17; Ro 12:17; Eph 4:32.

179 Augustine encouraged conversation at meals--but with a strictly enforced rule that the character of an absent person should never be negatively discussed. He had a warning to this effect carved on a plaque attached to his table.

■ "St. Augustine," Christian History, no. 15.

180 It is a sign of youthful arrogance to try to build up a reputation by assailing prominent figures.

■ Jerome, in a letter to Augustine. "St. Augustine," Christian History, no. 15.

181 See: Ps 101:5; Pr 10:18; 11:9.

182 See: Ps 41:7; Mt 5:11; 1 Pe 4:14.