

III The  
Delphic  
Maxims

The ancient Wisdom  
through 147 aphorisms

AS A **CHILD**

BE WELL-BEHAVED,

ΠΑΙΣ ΩΝ ΚΟΣΜΙΟΣ ΙΣΘΙ,

AS A **YOUTH**

BE SELF-DISCIPLINED,

ΗΒΩΝ ΕΓΚΡΑΤΗΣ,

AS A **MIDDLE-AGE**

BE JUST,

ΜΕΣΟΣ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣ,

AS AN **OLD MAN**

BE SENSIBLE.

ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΕΡΟΣ ΣΟΦΟΣ.

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# Introduction to Delphic Maxims

The Delphic maxims are a set of 147 \*aphorisms inscribed at Delphi. Originally, they were said to have been given by the Greek god Apollo's Oracle at Delphi and were therefore attributed to Apollo himself.

The 5th century scholar Stobaeus later attributed them to the Seven Sages of Greece. Contemporary scholars, however, hold that their original authorship is uncertain and that 'most likely they were popular proverbs, which tended later to be attributed to particular sages'.

Perhaps the most famous of these maxims is 'know thyself,' which was carved into the Temple of Apollo at Delphi. The specific order and wording of each maxim varies between different versions (and translations) of the text.

04

\*a pithy observation  
which contains a general truth

FOLLOW GOD  
ΕΠΟΥ ΘΕΩ

OBEY THE LAW  
ΝΟΜΩ ΠΕΙΘΟΥ

WORSHIP THE GODS  
ΘΕΟΥΣ ΣΕΒΟΥ

RESPECT  
YOUR  
PARENTS

ΓΟΝΕΙΣ ΑΙΔΟΥ

BE OVERCOME BY JUSTICE  
ΗΤΤΩ ΥΠΟ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ

KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED  
ΓΝΩΘΙ ΜΑΘΩΝ

PERCEIVE WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD  
ΑΚΟΥΣΑΣ ΝΟΕΙ

BE/KNOW YOURSELF  
ΣΑΥΤΟΝ ΙΣΘΙ

INTEND TO GET MARRIED  
ΓΑΜΕΙΝ ΜΕΛΛΕ

05

THINK AS A MORTAL  
ΦΡΟΝΕΙ ΘΝΗΤΑ

IF YOU ARE A STRANGER  
ACT LIKE ONE  
ΞΕΝΟΣ ΩΝ ΙΣΘΙ

KNOW YOUR  
OPPORTUNITY  
ΚΑΙΡΟΝ ΓΝΩΘΙ

HONOR THE HEARTH  
ΕΣΤΙΑΝ ΤΙΜΑ

CONTROL YOURSELF  
ΑΡΧΕ ΣΕΑΥΤΟΥ

HELP YOUR FRIENDS  
ΦΙΛΟΙΣ ΒΟΗΘΕΙ

CONTROL ANGER  
ΘΥΜΟΥ ΚΡΑΤΕΙ

EXERCISE PRUDENCE  
ΦΡΟΝΗΣΙΝ ΑΣΚΕΙ

HONOR PROVIDENCE  
ΠΡΟΝΟΙΑΝ ΤΙΜΑ

DO NOT USE AN OATH  
ΟΡΚΩ ΜΗ ΧΡΩ

LOVE FRIENDSHIP  
ΦΙΛΙΑΝ ΑΓΑΠΑ

CLING TO DISCIPLINE  
ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑΣ ΑΝΤΕΧΟΥ

PURSUE HONOR  
ΔΟΞΑΝ ΔΙΩΚΕ

LONG FOR WISDOM  
ΣΟΦΙΑΝ ΖΗΛΟΥ

FIND FAULT WITH NO ONE  
ΨΕΓΕ ΜΗΔΕΝΑ

PRAISE VIRTUE  
ΕΠΑΙΝΕΙ ΑΡΕΤΗΝ

PRACTICE WHAT IS JUST  
ΠΡΑΤΤΕ ΔΙΚΑΙΑ

BE KIND TO FRIENDS  
ΦΙΛΟΙΣ ΕΥΝΟΕΙ

PRAISE  
THE  
GOOD  
ΚΑΛΟΝ ΕΥ ΛΕΓΕ

WATCH OUT FOR YOUR ENEMIES  
ΕΧΘΡΟΥΣ ΑΜΥΝΟΥ

EXERCISE  
NOBILITY OF  
CHARACTER  
ΕΥΓΕΝΕΙΑΝ ΑΣΚΕΙ

SHUN EVIL  
ΚΑΚΙΑΣ ΑΠΕΧΟΥ

BE IMPARTIAL  
ΚΟΙΝΟΣ ΓΙΝΟΥ

GUARD WHAT IS YOURS  
ΙΔΙΑ ΦΥΛΑΤΤΕ

SHUN WHAT BELONGS TO OTHERS  
ΑΛΛΟΤΡΙΩΝ ΑΠΕΧΟΥ

LISTEN TO EVERYONE  
ΑΚΟΥΕ ΠΑΝΤΑ

BE (RELIGIOUSLY) SILENT  
ΕΥΦΗΜΟΣ ΙΣΘΙ

DO A FAVOR FOR A FRIEND  
ΦΙΛΩ ΧΑΡΙΖΟΥ

NOTHING IN EXCESS  
ΜΗΔΕΝ ΑΓΑΝ



USE TIME SPARINGLY  
ΧΡΟΝΟΥ ΦΕΙΔΟΥ

FORESEE THE FUTURE  
ΟΡΑ ΤΟ ΜΕΜΟΝ

DESPISE INSOLENCE  
ΥΒΡΙΝ ΜΙΣΕΙ

HAVE RESPECT FOR SUPPLIANTS  
ΙΚΕΤΑΣ ΑΙΔΟΥ

BE ACCOMMODATING IN EVERYTHING  
ΠΑΣΙΝ ΑΡΜΟΖΟΥ

FEAR DECEIT  
ΔΟΛΟΝ ΦΟΒΟΥ

GIVE  
WHAT YOU  
HAVE  
ΕΧΩΝ ΧΑΡΙΖΟΥ

SPEAK WELL OF EVERYONE  
ΕΥΛΟΓΕΙ ΠΑΝΤΑΣ

BE A SEEKER OF WISDOM  
ΦΙΛΟΣΟΦΟΣ ΓΙΝΟΥ

CHOOSE WHAT IS DIVINE  
ΟΣΙΑ ΚΡΙΝΕ

ACT WHEN YOU KNOW  
ΓΝΟΥΣ ΠΡΑΤΤΕ

SHUN MURDER  
ΦΟΝΟΥ ΑΠΕΧΟΥ

PRAY FOR  
THINGS  
POSSIBLE

ΕΥΧΟΥ ΔΥΝΑΤΑ

CONSULT THE WISE  
ΣΟΦΟΙΣ ΧΡΩ

TEST THE CHARACTER  
ΗΘΟΣ ΔΟΚΙΜΑΖΕ

GIVE BACK WHAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED  
ΛΑΒΩΝ ΑΠΟΔΟΣ

DOWN-LOOK NO ONE  
ΥΦΟΡΩ ΜΗΔΕΝΑ

USE YOUR SKILL  
ΤΕΧΝΗΣ ΧΡΩ

DO WHAT YOU MEAN TO DO  
Ο ΜΕΛΜΕΙΣ ΔΟΣ

HONOR A BENEFACTION  
ΕΥΕΡΓΕΣΙΑΣ ΤΙΜΑ

BE JEALOUS OF NO ONE  
ΦΘΟΝΕΙ ΜΗΔΕΝΙ

BE ON YOUR GUARD  
ΦΥΛΑΚΗ ΠΡΟΣΕΧΕ

DESPISE A SLANDERER  
ΔΙΑΒΟΛΗΝ ΜΙΣΕΙ

GAIN POSSESSIONS JUSTLY  
ΔΙΚΑΙΩΣ ΚΤΩ

HONOR GOOD MEN  
ΑΓΑΘΟΥΣ ΤΙΜΑ

KNOW THE JUDGE  
ΚΡΙΤΗΝ ΓΝΩΘΙ

MASTER WEDDING FEASTS  
ΓΑΜΟΥΣ ΚΡΑΤΕΙ

RECOGNIZE FORTUNE  
ΤΥΧΗΝ ΝΟΜΙΖΕ

FLEE A PLEDGE  
ΕΓΓΥΗΝ ΦΕΥΓΕ

PRAISE  
HOPE  
ΕΛΠΙΔΑ ΑΙΝΕΙ

SPEAK PLAINLY  
ΑΠΛΩΣ ΔΙΑΛΕΓΟΥ

ASSOCIATE WITH YOUR PEERS  
ΟΜΟΙΟΙΣ ΧΡΩ

GOVERN YOUR EXPENSES  
ΔΑΠΑΝΩΝ ΑΡΧΟΥ

BE HAPPY  
WITH WHAT  
YOU HAVE  
ΚΤΩΜΕΝΟΣ ΗΔΟΥ

FULFILL A FAVOR  
ΧΑΡΙΝ ΕΚΤΕΛΕΙ

REVERE A SENSE OF SHAME  
ΑΙΣΧΥΝΗΝ ΣΕΒΟΥ

PRAY FOR HAPPINESS  
ΕΥΤΥΧΙΑΝ ΕΥΧΟΥ

BE FOND OF FORTUNE  
ΤΥΧΗΝ ΣΤΕΡΓΕ

OBSERVE WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD  
ΑΚΟΥΩΝ ΟΡΑ

WORK FOR WHAT YOU CAN OWN  
ΕΡΓΑΖΟΥ ΚΤΗΤΑ

DESPISE STRIFE  
ΕΠΙΝ ΜΙΣΕΙ

DETEST DISGRACE  
ΟΝΕΙΔΟΣ ΕΧΘΑΙΡΕ

RESTRAIN  
THE  
TONGUE  
ΓΛΩΤΤΑΝ ΙΣΧΕ

KEEP YOURSELF FROM INSOLENCE  
ΥΒΡΙΝ ΑΜΥΝΟΥ

MAKE JUST JUDGEMENTS  
ΚΡΙΝΕ ΔΙΚΑΙΑ

USE WHAT YOU HAVE  
ΧΡΩ ΧΡΗΜΑΣΙΝ

JUDGE INCORRUPTIBLY  
ΑΔΩΡΟΔΟΚΗΤΟΣ ΔΙΚΑΖΕ

ACUSSE ONE WHO IS PRESENT  
ΑΙΤΙΩ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΑ

TELL WHEN YOU KNOW  
ΛΕΓΕ ΕΙΔΩΣ

SPEAK PLAINLY  
ΑΠΛΩΣ ΔΙΑΛΕΓΟΥ

ASSOCIATE WITH YOUR PEERS  
ΟΜΟΙΟΙΣ ΧΡΩ

GOVERN YOUR EXPENSES  
ΔΑΠΑΝΩΝ ΑΡΧΟΥ

PRAY FOR  
HAPPINESS  
ΕΥΤΥΧΙΑΝ ΕΥΧΟΥ

FULFILL A FAVOR  
ΧΑΡΙΝ ΕΚΤΕΛΕΙ

REVERE A SENSE OF SHAME  
ΑΙΣΧΥΝΗΝ ΣΕΒΟΥ

BE FOND OF FORTUNE  
ΤΥΧΗΝ ΣΤΕΡΓΕ

OBSERVE WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD  
ΑΚΟΥΩΝ ΟΡΑ

WORK FOR WHAT YOU CAN OWN  
ΕΡΓΑΖΟΥ ΚΤΗΤΑ

STRUGGLE WITH GLORY  
ΠΟΝΕΙ ΜΕΤ' ΕΥΚΛΕΙΑΣ

ACT WITHOUT REPENTING  
ΠΡΑΤΤΕ ΑΜΕΤΑΝΟΗΤΩΣ

REPENT OF SINS  
ΑΜΑΡΤΑΝΩΝ ΜΕΤΑΝΟΕΙ

GIVE A TIMELY COUNSEL  
ΒΟΥΛΕΥΟΥ ΧΡΟΝΟΥ

ACT QUICKLY  
ΠΡΑΤΤΕ ΣΥΝΤΟΜΩΣ

CONTROL  
THE EYE

ΟΦΘΑΛΜΟΥ ΚΡΑΤΕΙ

GUARD FRIENDSHIP  
ΦΙΛΙΑΝ ΦΥΛΑΤΤΕ

BE GRATEFUL  
ΕΥΓΝΩΜΩΝ ΓΙΝΟΥ

PURSUE HARMONY  
ΟΜΟΝΟΙΑΝ ΔΙΩΚΕ

KEEP DEEPLY THE TOP SECRET  
ΑΡΡΗΤΟΝ ΚΡΥΠΤΕ

FEAR RULING  
ΤΟ ΚΡΑΤΟΥΝ ΦΟΒΟΥ

PURSUE WHAT IS PROFITABLE  
ΤΟ ΣΥΜΦΕΡΟΝ ΘΗΡΩ

ACCEPT  
OLD AGE

ΓΗΡΑΣ ΠΡΟΣΔΕΧΟΥ

ACCEPT DUE MEASURE  
ΚΑΙΡΟΝ ΠΡΟΣΔΕΧΟΥ

DO AWAY WITH ENMITIES  
ΕΧΘΡΑΣ ΔΙΑΛΥΕ

DO NOT BOAST IN MIGHT  
ΕΠΙ ΡΩΜΗ ΜΗ ΚΑΥΧΩ

EXERCISE (RELIGIOUS) SILENCE  
ΕΥΦΗΜΙΑΝ ΑΣΚΕΙ

FLEE ENMITY  
ΕΠΕΧΘΕΙΑΝ ΦΕΥΓΕ

ACQUIRE WEALTH JUSTLY  
ΠΛΟΥΤΕΙ ΔΙΚΑΙΩΣ

DO NOT ABANDON HONOR  
ΔΟΞΑΝ ΜΗ ΛΕΙΠΕ

DESPISE EVIL  
ΚΑΚΙΑΝ ΜΙΣΕΙ



VENTURE INTO DANGER PRUDENTLY  
ΚΙΝΔΥΝΕΥΕ ΦΡΟΝΙΜΩΣ

DO NOT TIRE OF LEARNING  
ΜΑΝΘΑΝΩΝ ΜΗ ΚΑΜΝΕ

DO NOT STOP TO BE THRIFTY  
ΦΕΙΔΟΜΕΝΟΣ ΜΗ ΛΕΙΠΕ

ADMIRE ORACLES  
ΧΡΗΣΜΟΥΣ ΘΑΥΜΑΖΕ

RESPECT THE ELDER  
ΠΡΕΣΒΥΤΕΡΟΝ ΑΙΔΟΥ

DO NOT OPPOSE SOMEONE ABSENT  
ΑΠΟΝΤΙ ΜΗ ΜΑΧΟΥ

TEACH A YOUNGSTER  
ΝΕΩΤΕΡΟΝ ΔΙΔΑΣΚΕ

DO NOT TRUST WEALTH  
ΠΛΟΥΤΩ ΑΠΙΣΤΕΙ

LOVE  
WHOM  
YOU REAR  
ΟΥΣ ΤΡΕΦΕΙΣ ΑΓΑΠΑ

RESPECT YOURSELF  
ΣΕΑΥΤΟΝ ΑΙΔΟΥ

DO NOT GOVERN WITH INSOLENCE  
ΜΗ ΑΡΧΕ ΥΒΡΙΖΕΙΝ

DO NOT BE DISCONTENTED BY LIFE  
ΤΩ ΒΙΩ ΜΗ ΑΧΘΟΥ

BE SELF-DISCIPLINED  
ΗΔΟΝΗΣ ΚΡΑΤΕΙΝ

CROWN YOUR  
ANCESTORS

ΠΡΟΓΟΝΟΥΣ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΥ

SHARE  
THE LOAD  
OF THE UNFORTUNATE  
ΑΤΥΧΟΥΝΤΙ ΣΥΝΑΧΘΟΥ

DO NOT GRIEVE FOR EVERYONE  
ΜΗ ΕΠΙ ΠΑΝΤΙ ΛΥΠΟΥ

DO NOT MAKE FUN OF THE DEAD  
ΕΠΙ ΝΕΚΡΩ ΜΗ ΓΕΛΑ

BEGET FROM NOBLE ROUTES  
ΕΞ ΕΥΓΕΝΩΝ ΓΕΝΝΑ

MAKE PROMISES TO NO ONE  
ΕΠΑΓΓΕΛΜΟΥ ΜΗΔΕΝΙ

BE WELL OFF  
AS A MORTAL  
ΕΥ ΠΑΣΧΕ ΩΣ ΘΝΗΤΟΣ

GRATIFY  
WITHOUT  
HARMING  
ΧΑΡΙΖΟΥ ΑΒΛΑΒΩΣ

DO NOT BE AUDACIOUS  
ΜΗ ΘΡΑΣΥΝΟΥ

DO NOT WRONG THE DEAD  
ΦΘΙΜΕΝΟΥΣ ΜΗ ΑΔΙΚΕΙ

DO NOT TRUST FORTUNE  
ΤΥΧΗ ΜΗ ΠΙΣΤΕΥΕ

DIE WITHOUT SORROW  
ΤΕΛΕΥΤΩΝ ΑΛΥΠΟΣ

# Sources and Tools

- Wikipedia
- Google
- Canva

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The ancient Wisdom  
through 147 aphorisms



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