

Module 5: Stretching Limits in the Age of Reason

Topic 2 Content: Aphorisms from *Poor Richard's Almanack*

- No gains without pains.
- At the working man's house, hunger looks in but dares not enter.
- Industry pays debts; despair increases them.
- Diligence is the mother of good luck.
- Plough deep while sluggards sleep and you shall have corn to sell and to keep.
- Work while it is called today for you know not how much you may be hindered tomorrow.
- One today is worth two tomorrows.
- If you were a servant would you not be ashamed that a good master should catch you idle? Then if you are your own master, be ashamed to catch yourself idle.
- Trouble springs from idleness and grievous toil from needless ease.
- Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee.
- Not to oversee workmen is to leave them your purse open.
- If you would have a faithful servant, and one that you like, serve yourself.
- If you would be wealthy think of saving as well as getting: the Indies have not made Spain rich because her outgoes are greater than her incomes.
- Fools make feasts, and wise men eat them.
- Buy what thou hast no need of and ere long thou shalt sell thy necessaries.
- Silks and satins, scarlet and velvets, put out the kitchen fire.
- To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors nobleness.
- After crosses and losses men grow humbler and wiser.
- The proud hate pride — in others.
- Pride dines on vanity, sups on contempt.
- Blame-all and Praise-all are two blockheads.
- Experience keeps a dear school, but fools will learn in no other.
- It is ill-manners to silence a fool and cruelty to let him go on.
- The wise man draws more advantage from his enemies than the fool from his friends.
- The learned fool writes his nonsense in better languages than the unlearned; but still 'tis nonsense.
- When befriended, remember it; when you befriend, forget it.
- He that lives upon hope will die fasting.
- He that has a trade has an estate.
- The noblest question in the world is, / What good may I do in it?
- Sell not virtue to purchase wealth, nor liberty to purchase power.
- Nothing brings more pain than too much pleasure; nothing more bondage than too much liberty.
- Wink at small faults; remember thou hast great ones.
- Each year one vicious habit rooted out, / In time might make the worst man good throughout.
- Hear no ill of a friend, nor speak any of an enemy.
- Many a man thinks he is buying pleasure when he is really selling himself a slave to it.
- Having been poor is no shame, but being ashamed of it, is.
- 'Tis hard but glorious to be poor and honest.
- Meanness is the parent of insolence.
- The busy man has few idle visitors; to the boiling pot the flies come not.
- If you would reap praise you must sow the seeds, gentle words and useful deeds.
- Anger is never without a reason, but seldom with a good one.
- Virtue and a trade are a child's best portion.
- Love your neighbor, yet don't pull down your hedge.
- The honest man takes pains and then enjoys pleasures; the knave takes pleasures and then suffers pains.

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- What you would seem to be, be really.
- Necessity never made a good bargain.
- The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart.
- He that speaks much is much mistaken.
- Proclaim not all thou knowest, all thou owest, all thou hast, nor all thou canst.
- Words may shew a man's wit but actions his meaning.
- A great talker may be no fool, but he is one that relies on him.
- He that lies down with dogs shall rise up with fleas.
- Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing.
- The Sun never repents of the good he does, nor does he ever demand recompense.
He that would live in peace and at ease, / Must not speak all he knows nor judge all he sees.
- Think of three things: whence you came, where you are going, and to whom you must account.
- Being ignorant is not so much a shame as being unwilling to learn.
- Be civil to all; sociable to many; familiar with few; friend to one; enemy to none.
- Love your enemies, for they tell you your faults.
- Good sense and learning may esteem obtain, humor and wit a laugh, if rightly taken; fair virtue admiration may impart; but 'tis good-nature only wins the heart.
- Who is strong? He that can conquer his bad habits. Who is rich? He that rejoices in his portion.
- Wish not so much to live long as to live well.
For age and want save while you may; / No morning sun lasts a whole day.
- If you would not be forgotten, as soon as you are dead and rotten, either write things worth reading, or do things worth writing.
- Youth is pert and positive, Age modest and doubting.
Kings have long arms, but Misfortune longer, / Let none think themselves out of her reach.
- Ah simple man! When a boy two precious jewels were given thee, time and good advice, one thou has lost and the other thrown away.
- Lend money to an enemy and thou will gain him, to a friend and thou will lose him.
- Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.
- When Prosperity was well mounted, she let go the bridle, and soon came tumbling out of the saddle.
- There are three faithful friends — an old wife, an old dog, and ready money.
- Bargaining has neither friends nor relations.
- He that is of the opinion money will do everything may well be suspected of doing everything for money.
- Wealth is not his that has it, but his that enjoys it.
- Many have quarreled about religion that never practiced it.
- Keep your eyes wide open before marriage, half shut afterwards.
- You can bear your own faults, and why not a fault in your wife?
- The way to be safe is never to be secure.
- Visits should be short, like a winter's day.
- Hunger never saw bad bread.
- Beware of meat twice boiled, and an old foe reconciled.
- None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing.
- He that composes himself is wiser than he that composes books.
- I never saw an oft-transplanted tree, nor yet an oft-removed family, that throve so well as those that settled be.
- Who has deceived thee as often as thyself?
- None but the well-bred man knows how to confess a fault or acknowledge himself in an error.

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- Wouldn't thou confound thy enemy, be good thyself.
- What signifies knowing the names if you know not the natures of things?
- Glass, china, and reputation are easily cracked and never well mended.
- He that best understands the world, least likes it.
- Most people return small favors, acknowledge middling ones, and repay great ones with ingratitude.
- Sudden power is apt to be insolent, sudden liberty saucy; that behaves best which has grown gradually.
- The discontented man finds no easy chair.
- Little rogues easily become great ones.
- Where sense is wanting, everything is wanting.
- The wolf sheds his coat once a year, his disposition never.
- Vain-glory flowereth, but beareth no fruit.
- Silence is not always a sign of wisdom, but babbling is ever a mark of folly.
- How few there are who have courage enough to own their faults, or resolution enough to mend them.
An open foe may prove a curse; / But a pretended friend is worse.
- In success be moderate.
- Humility makes great men twice honourable.
- Blessed is he who expects nothing for he shall never be disappointed.
- Success has ruined many a man.
- Many a long dispute among Divines may be thus abridged: It is so; it is not so. It is so; it is not so.
- Ill customs and bad advice are seldom forgotten.
- No better relation than a prudent and faithful friend.
- An honest man will receive neither money nor praise that is not his due.
- Many foxes grow grey, but few grow good.
- Content makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor.
- If your head is wax, don't walk in the sun.
- The king's cheese is half wasted in parings; but no matter, 'tis made of the people's milk.
- There's many witty men whose brains can't fill their bellies.
- Let all men know thee, but no man know thee thoroughly; men freely ford that see the shallows.
- How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, his precepts! O! 'tis easier to keep holidays than commandments.
- Who is rich? He that rejoices in his portion.
- There is much difference between imitating a good man and counterfeiting him.
- They who have nothing to trouble them will be troubled at nothing.
- Half wits talk much but say little.
- He that buys by the penny maintains not only himself, but other people.
- Declaiming against pride is not always a sign of humility.
- Those who in quarrels interpose, must often wipe a bloody nose.
- Quarrels never could last long, / If on one side only lay the wrong.
- Visit your aunt, but not every day; and call at your brother's, but not every night.
- Hear Reason, or she'll make you feel her.
- Where there is hunger, law is not regarded; and where law is not regarded, there will be hunger.
- There are lazy minds as well as lazy bodies.
- Tart words make no friends: a spoonful of honey will catch more flies than a gallon of vinegar.
- As pride increases, fortune declines.

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- A man in a passion rides a mad horse.
- The wise man draws more advantage from his enemies than the fool from his friends.
- Industry, perseverance, and frugality make fortune yield.
- Seek Virtue, and of that possess; / To Providence, resign the rest.
- Anger and Folly walk cheek by jowl; / Repentance treads on both their heels.
Man's tongue is soft, and bone doth lack; / Yet a stroke therewith may break a man's back.
- Great beauty, great strength, and great riches are really and truly of no great use; a right heart exceeds all.
- The same man cannot be both friend and flatterer.
- He who multiplies riches multiplies cares.
- The poor have little, beggars none, the rich too much, enough not one.
- Those who are feared are hated.
- If you would keep your secret from an enemy, tell it not to a friend.
- The things which hurt, instruct.
- The eye of a master will do more work than both his hands.
- Eat to live, and not live to eat.
- Great talkers, little doers.
- Wise men learn by others' harms, fools by their own.
- He that won't be counseled can't be helped.
- All things are cheap to the saving, dear to the wasteful.
- He that waits upon fortune is never sure of a dinner.
- A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over.
- Do good to thy friend to keep him, to thy enemy to gain him.
- Teach your child to hold his tongue, he'll learn fast enough to speak.
- In rivers and bad governments, the lightest things swim at top.
- Cut the wings of your hens and hopes, lest they lead you a weary dance after them.
- Would you live with ease, do what you ought, not what you please.
- The horse thinks one thing and he that saddles him another.
- In the affairs of this world men are saved, not by faith, but by the want of it.
- Friendship cannot live with ceremony, nor without civility.
- Men and melons are hard to know.
- It is better to take many injuries than to give one.
- An old young man will be a young old man.
- If you would live long, live well; for folly and wickedness shorten life.
- He that pays for work before it's done has but a pennyworth for two pence.
- You may be more happy than princes if you will be more virtuous.
- An ill wound, but not an ill name, may be healed.
- The sting of a reproach is the truth of it.
- Virtue and happiness are mother and daughter.
- A quarrelsome man has no good neighbors.
- Many a man would have been worse if his estate had been better.
- Don't throw stones at your neighbors' if your own windows are glass.
- The honey is sweet, but the bee has a sting.
- He that sells upon trust loses many friends, and always wants money.
- Time is an herb that cures all diseases.
- If you do what you should not, you must hear what you would not.
- He that scatters thorns, let him not go barefoot.

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- Drunkenness, that worst of evils, makes some men fools, some beasts, some devils.
- 'Tis easier to suppress the first desire than to satisfy all that follow it.
- The wise and brave dares own that he was wrong.
- To whom thy secret thou dost tell, to him thy freedom thou dost sell.
- He that pursues two hares at once does not catch one and lets the other go.
- The rotten apple spoils his companions.
- Friendship increases by visiting friends, but by visiting seldom.
- 'Tis great confidence in a friend to tell him your faults, greater to tell him his.
- 'Tis easier to prevent bad habits than to break them.
- Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every New Year find you a better man.
- Old boys have their playthings as well as young ones; the difference is only in the price.
- You may give a man an office, but you cannot give him discretion.
- He is a governor that governs his passions, and he is a servant that serves them.
- Virtue may not always make a face handsome, but vice will certainly make it ugly.
- Fools multiply folly.
Where carcasses are, eagles will gather, / And where good laws are, much people flock thither.
- Hope of gain lessens pain.
All things are easy to industry, / All things difficult to sloth.
- An innocent plowman is more worthy than a vicious prince.
- He that is rich need not live sparingly, and he that can live sparingly need not be rich.
- Look before, or you'll find yourself behind.
- By diligence and patience, the mouse bit in two the cable.
- The Family of Fools is ancient.
- Of learned Fools I have seen ten times ten, / Of unlearned wise men I have seen a hundred.
- If you know how to spend less than you get, you have the Philosopher's Stone.
- If you desire many things, many things will seem but a few.
- If thou hast wit and learning, add to it wisdom and modesty.
- I have never seen the Philosopher's Stone that turns lead into gold, but I have known the pursuit of it turn a man's gold into lead.
- Reading makes a full man, meditation a profound man, discourse a clear man.
- Historians relate, not so much what is done, as what they would have believed.
- If thou injurest conscience, it will have its revenge on thee.
- Let our fathers and grandfathers be valued for their goodness, ourselves for our own.
- A wolf eats sheep but now and then, ten thousands are devour'd by men.
- He makes a foe who makes a jest.
- Who knows a fool, must know his brother; for one will recommend another.
- Avoid dishonest gain: no price can recompence the pangs of vice.
- Employ thy time well, if thou meanest to gain leisure.
- E'er you remark another's sin, bid your own conscience look within.
- At twenty years of age the will reigns; at thirty the wit; at forty the judgment.
- If thou dost ill, the joy fades, not the pains; if well, the pain doth fade, the joy remains.
- In prosperous fortunes be modest and wise, / The greatest may fall, and the lowest may rise: / But insolent people that fall in disgrace, / Are wretched and no-body pities their case.
- 'Tis easy to frame a good bold resolution; but hard is the task that concerns execution.
- Make haste slowly.
- A true friend is the best possession.
- Wars bring scars.

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- A light purse is a heavy curse.
- Vice knows she's ugly, so puts on her mask.
- It's the easiest thing in the world for a man to deceive himself.
- Good sense is a thing all need, few have, and none think they lack.
- The tongue is ever turning to the aching tooth.
- 'Tis a strange forest that has no rotten wood in it. / And a strange kindred that all are good in it.
- Courage would fight, but Discretion won't let him.
- Despair ruins some, presumption many.
- A quiet Conscience sleeps in thunder, but Rest and Guilt live far asunder.
- Write injuries in dust, benefits in marble.
- Genius without education is like silver in the mine.
- Children and princes will quarrel for trifles.
- 'Tis against some men's principle to pay interest, and seems against others' interest to pay the principal.
- Philosophy as well as foppery often changes fashion.
- Love and be loved.
- Diligence overcomes difficulties, / Sloth makes them.
- Laws too gentle are seldom obeyed; too severe, seldom executed.
- Tomorrow, every fault is to be amended; but that tomorrow never comes.
- When a friend deals with a friend, let the bargain be clear and well penn'd, that they may continue friends to the end.
- Many a man's own tongue gives evidence against his understanding.
- Great modesty often hides great merit.
- Half the truth is often a great lie.
- It is hard for an empty sack to stand upright.