

❖ PROVERBS AND APHORISMS

Proverbs and aphorisms are very similar to idiomatic expressions. They are picturesque descriptions of reality. They are products of many witty people and have been tested by the nomadic ways of life. They are the results of philosophical speculations, and are typically terse and very pointed.

They speak about the universal cycles of time.

Time is apt to change.

The iris is apt to discolour.

Colour looses its lustre.

The green of the grass is apt to turn to yellow.

The difference between proverbs and aphorisms is that aphorisms define the quality of things from a scientific point of view, while proverbs express metaphorical ideas through literary devices. Aphorisms have deep meanings and are often very witty. Proverbs are typically picturesque and descriptive.

The Mongolian proverbs and aphorisms clearly reflect the condition of life, conscience, psychology, morality, customs and habits of the nomadic herders. Proverbs and aphorisms are pedantic teachings in one sense. They clearly

Let's see examples of Mongolian proverbs and aphorisms:

- *Withstand the difficulties,
Instead of indulging
("Curiosity killed a cat").*
- *The senior is unprincipled,
The junior is lax
("Good masters make good servants").*
- *An experienced older woman is better
Than a doctor-lama who does not know practical treatment
("Experience is the mother of wisdom").*
- *When your father is alive, make acquaintances;
When you have geldings, go far away
("Make hay when the sun shines").*
- *You can become a champion by defeating a champion.*
- *The soul of the neighbouring family is one
(The intention of the neighbouring village is one).*
- *If you blurt something out, it is totally irredeemable;
But if you lose a horse, you can catch it again;*
- *If you are aware of yourself, you are a real man.
If animals adjust themselves to their pasture, they are domestic animals.*
- *A spoiled child is pigheaded.*

reflect ancient history, the thinking of remarkable people, religions and ethics, and the realities of modern social life.

Winter returns with the bleat of a lamb.

Summer returns with the sweep of the scythe.

Spring returns with the bleat of a lamb.

Autumn returns with the sweep of the scythe.

These four lines represent a witty description of the Mongolian way of life, which is closely connected to the changing of the seasons in Mongolia.

The horizon of the sky is clear.

The top layer of the nimbus cloud is thin.

The nape of the rutted camel is open.

The top layer of the sky is open.

These aphorisms demonstrate that Mongolians have observed the sky and weather condition since ancient times and have concocted saying that relate to their observations and analyses.

- *A feast has a steward,
A contest has a winner.*
- *Animals leave the grassy land,
Human beings leave the favourable places.*
- *A baby can grow up by crying and crying,
A young animal can grow up by bleating and bleating.*
- *A good man depends upon one's childhood.
A good horse depends upon its foal-time.*
- *A bridle is heavy for a fatigued horse,
Boots are heavy for an exhausted man.*
- *Laziness (sloth) starts from trifling activities.*
- *A hasty hare has muck on its hock ("Haste makes waste").*
- *Do not examine the teeth of gift-horse,
Do not look the bed sheet of an elder sister-in-law.*
- *If you accumulate a drop, it can become an ocean,
If you do not forget what you heard, it will become knowledge.*