# MARRIAGE//RELATIONSHIPS

"Παπούτσι από τον τόπο σου κι ας είναι μπαλωμένο."

*"Shoe from your place, even if it is patched."*

Take a spouse from the place you come from, even if she is not so great.

"Ολα του γάμου δύσκολα κι η νύφη γκαστρωμένη."

*"Everything about the wedding is difficult (obstacles or objections) and the bride is pregnant."*

When people make excuses or place obstacles about a task that has to be done.

"Κάλλιο να ζείς με το διάολο παρά με κακιά γυναίκα."

*"Better to live with the devil than with a mean woman."*

"Ή μικρός παντρέψου, ή μικρός καλογερέψου."

*"Either get married early, or become a monk early."*

Used to convince people to marry young.

" Θα του βάλει τα δυο πόδια σ'ένα παπούτσι."

"She will put both his feet in one shoe."

On discipline.

"Εκύλισε ο τέτζερης και βρήκε το καπάκι."

*"The kettle rolled down and found the lid."*

A person of a certain character always finds another of the same.

Αγάπα η Μάρω το χορό, ήβρε και άντρα βιολιστή.  
Mary was fond of dancing, so she found a fiddler for her husband.

"Οταν η φτώχια μπαίνει μέσα από την πόρτα, η αγάπη βγαίνει έξω απ' το παράθυρο."

*"When poverty comes in through the door, love goes out through the window."*

Financial problems in a home affect loving relationships.

## WEATHER

There are not many proverbs and clishes about the weather in Greek, probably because lightening, storms, fog, snow and rain used to be rather rare in Greece when proverbs were being created.

"One cuckoo bird does not bring the spring."

*May your weather be nasty*

It is an insult

## BYZANTINE PROVERBS

"Όψιμος γιος δε θα γνωρίσει πατέρα."

*"When you have a son at an old age, he won't know his father.*

*For people who get married late.*

"Το καλό αρνί δυο μάνες βυζαίνει."

*"A gentle sheep is being breastfed by two mothers."*

# ANCIENT GREEK SAYINGS

"Όταν ο μήνας δεν έχει ρώ (ρ) το κρασί θέλει νερό."

*"When the month has no "R" put water in your wine."*

In Greece, during the hot months of the summer, one must be careful with his alcohol consumption.

"Ου γαρ έρχεται μόνον το γήρας."

*"Old age does not come alone."*

Old age comes with illnesses, like loss of memory, sight, etc.

"Οι αιώνες αντιγράφουν αλλήλους."

*"The centuries copy each other."*

Equivalent to "History repeats itself."

"Αργία μήτηρ πάσης κακίας."

*"Laziness, mother of all evil."*

Laziness.

"Iσον εστίν οργή και θάλασσα και γυνή."

*"A woman and the sea are the same in anger."*

Αιέν αριστεύειν.\*  
*Always to excel.*

*You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation. –*Plato

Συν Αθηνά και χείρα κίνει.

"Aided by Athena (ancient Greek godess), move your hand too."

The young Athenian in Pericles' time was told that 'God helps those who help themselves'

#### 'A fish stinks from the head'

*‘Scratch him who scratches you’*

Modern Greeks have opted for a slightly different version of this proverb stemming from the Greek poet Epicharmus of the 5th century BC that says, in modern Greek, *'one hand washes the other and both the face'.*

'You scratch my back and I will scratch yours' is how the English proverb runs.

*Know yourself.*

*‘Ο νοών νοείτο.’*

A word to the wise is enough

Αργία μήτηρ πάσης κακίας.

"Laziness is the mother of all vices."

Το δις εξαμαρτείν ουκ ανδρός σοφού. "

"An error made twice does not fit a wise man."

Τα εν οίκω μη εν δήμω.

*Don't discuss your private matters in public.*

Ισχύς εν τη ενώσει.

"Strength comes from Union."

# INTERNATIONAL

"Έχασε η Βενετιά βελόνι."

*"Venice lost a needle."*

It's no big matter if you lose something you have plenty. Referring to Venice's riches.

If Muhammad doesn't go to the mountain, then the mountain goes to Muhammad."

Invite a Turk for lunch, guard your back

You made friends with a Vlach, hold a piece of wood

Vlachs belong to a European ethnic group constituting a major element in the populations of Romania and Moldova and a smaller proportion of the population in the southern part of the Balkan Peninsula and in Greece.

"Τον αράπη κι αν τον πλένεις, το σαπούνι σου χαλάς."

*"No matter how much you wash a black person, you are wasting your soap."*

This proverb is mainly used to express the futility of trying to change the mentality of a headstrong person (the color of a black person cannot be washed off) and it has racist connotations. In modern Greek, the word "αράπης" (arapis -- black man) is a lay (and at times borderline pejorative) term -- probably derived from the word "Άραβας" (Aravas -- Arab).

# EDUCATION

"Η περιέργεια είναι η αρχή της σοφίας"   
*"Curiosity is the beginning of wisdom."*

"Δάσκαλε που δίδασκες και νόμο δεν εκράτεις."   
"*Teacher who taught, but did not keep your books."*Practice what you preach.

"Άνθρωπος αγράμματος, ξύλο απελέκητο."

*"The illiterate person is like an uncarved piece of wood."*

Literacy.

It’s Chinese to me. (Greek people say it)

## *It’s all Greek to me*

## MONEY

"Φασούλι το φασούλι γεμίζει το σακούλι."

*"Bean by bean, the sack gets full."*

On the merits of saving.

Eat and drink with your relatives; do business with strangers.

'The cuckoo cost me the price of a nightingale'

To express anger for having been overcharged,

"*Money doesn't bring happiness."*

## MISCELLANEOUS

"Το παιδί σου και το σκυλί σου όπως τα μάθεις."

*"Your child and your dog (behave) the way you teach them."*

When you set up rules early, the behaviour that follows adheres to these rules.

"Το μήλο κάτω απ` τη μηλιά θα πέσει."

*"The apple will fall under the apple-tree."*

The child will be like his parents. Akin to, "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree".

"Στους στραβούς κυβερνάει ο μονόφθαλμος."

"In the kingdom of the blind, the one-eyed man is king."

"Στου κουφού την πόρτα, όσο θέλεις βρόντα."

*"At the deaf man's door, knock as much as you like."*

Some people ignore any advice or guidance that may be provided to them.

"Το ραγισμένο γιαλί δεν σιάχτεται."

*"The cracked glass cannot be fixed."*

Has to do with broken relationships, when one did or said someting that cannot be rectified.

Όπου ακούς πολλά κεράσια, βάστα μικρό καλάθι.

*"When you hear of many cherries, hold a small basket."*

Be cautious.

"Κάλλιο να σε ζηλεύουν παρά να σε λυπούνται."

*"Better to be envied than to be pitied."*

"Κάλλιο να σου βγει το μάτι παρά το όνομα."

*"It's better to lose an eye than to get a bad name."*

If one gets the reputation (name) of being something, it is very hard to lose it.

"Κάθε πράγμα στον καιρό του, κι ο κολιός τον Αύγουστο."

*"Everything in its time and mackerel in August."*

Things must be done in their proper time, not before.

"Αν δεν παινέσεις το σπίτι σου, θα πέσει να σε πλακώσει"

*"If you do not praise your own home, it will fall on you and squash you."'*

You do not speak badly about your own family.

*In hospitality, the chief thing is the good will.*

"Παλιός οχτρός φίλος δε γίνεται."

*"An old enemy can't become a friend."*

*Where too many roosters crow, the dawn comes late*Too many cooks spoil the broth

Του έδωσαν γάιδαρο και τον κοίταξε στα δόντια.

"*He was given a donkey and he was looking at it's teeth."*

Don't be too choosy when something comes to you without effort.

Ο θανατός σου η ζωή μου.

"Your death is my life."

One guy's good luck is the other guy's bad luck.

Οι καλοί λογαριασμόι κάνουν τους καλούς φίλους.

Good accounting makes good friends.

Barking dog doesn't bite.

"Tell me who you gather with and I'll tell you who you are."

*A man is known by the company he keeps*.

WORK

Ακαμάτης νιος, γέρος διακονιάρης.  
A lazy youth, when old, a beggar.

"Αργία μήτηρ πάσης κακίας." (αρχαιοελληνικό ρητό)   
"Laziness, mother of all evil." (ancient Greek saying)   
Laziness.

"'Ας με λενε Βοϊβοντίνα κι'άς ψοφώ από την πείνα."   
"Let me be called 'Voivoidina' even if I'm dying of hunger."   
Prestige (being the wife of a high official; a Voivod) is worth it even if you live miserably.

"Καλή ζωή, κακή διαθήκη."   
"Good life, bad testament."

Στα είκοσι θα δουλέψεις, στα τριάντα θα κάμεις, στα σαράντα θα 'χεις. Δε δούλεψες, δεν έκαμες, δεν έχεις."   
At (age) twenty you'll work, at thirty you'll make, and at forty you'll have. If you don't work, you will not make, and you won't have."

"Μάθε τέχνη κι άσ'τηνε κι αν πεινάσεις πιάσ'τηνε."   
"Learn a craft and quit it, and when you get poor, use it to earn a living."

Φασούλι το φασούλι γεμίζει το σακούλι."   
"Bean by bean, the sack gets full."   
On the merits of saving.

A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.

A civilization flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit. ~