

Thinking And The Thinker

الفكر والمتفكر- Thinking and the thinker

1. Think and you will perceive.

.. أَفْكَرُ تَسْتَبْصِرُ¹

2. The root of wisdom is reflection, and its fruit is wellbeing.

.. أَصْلُ الْعَقْلِ الْفِكْرُ، وَثَمَرَتُهُ السَّلَامَةُ²

3. The root of safety from error is thinking before acting, and reflecting before speaking.

.. أَصْلُ السَّلَامَةِ مِنَ الزَّلَلِ، الْفِكْرُ قَبْلَ الْفِعْلِ، وَالرَّوْيَةُ قَبْلَ الْكَلَامِ³

4. Verily the one who observes with his heart and acts with foresight begins his action by first looking at [the consequence of] his action, is it his favour or against him; if it is in his favour then he goes ahead with it and if it is against him then he holds back from [doing] it.

- إِنَّ النَّاطِرَ بِالْقَلْبِ، الْعَامِلَ بِالْبَصَرِ، يَكُونُ مُبْتَدَأُ عَمَلِهِ أَنْ يَنْظُرَ عَمَلَهُ، عَلَيْهِ، أَمْ لَهُ، فَإِنْ كَانَ لَهُ، مَضَى فِيهِ وَإِنْ كَانَ⁴ عَلَيْهِ، وَقَفَ عَنْهُ.

5. Thinking guides, truth saves.

.. الْفِكْرُ يَهْدِي، الصِّدْقُ يُنْجِي⁵

6. Contemplation is worship.

.. أَلْفِكْرُ عِبَادَةٌ 6

7. Contemplation is [a means to] right guidance, heedlessness is [a cause of] loss.

.. أَلْفِكْرُ رُشْدٌ، أَلْغَفْلَةُ فَقْدٌ 7

8. Contemplation illuminates the mind.

.. أَلْفِكْرُ يُنِيرُ اللَّبَّ 8

9. The benefit of thinking is finding solutions.

.. أَلْحِيلَةُ فَائِدَةُ الْفِكْرِ 9

10. Thinking guides [one] towards the way of right guidance.

.. أَلْفِكْرُ يَهْدِي إِلَى الرَّشَادِ 10

11. Thinking is the recreation of the God-fearing.

.. أَلْفِكْرُ نُزْهَةٌ الْمُتَّقِينَ 11

12. Contemplation leads to gaining wisdom.

.. أَلْفِكْرُ يُفِيدُ الْحِكْمَةَ 12

13. Thought is a gleaming mirror.

.. أَلْفِكْرَةٌ مِرَاةٌ صَافِيَةٌ 13

14. Thinking is the polish of the minds.

.. أَلْفَكْرٌ جَلَاءُ الْعُقُولِ¹⁴

15. Thinking about the bounties of Allah is the best worship.

.. التَّفَكُّرُ فِي آلَاءِ اللَّهِ نِعَمَ الْعِبَادَةِ¹⁵

16. Thinking outside [the bounds of] wisdom is folly.

.. أَلْفَكْرٌ فِي غَيْرِ الْحِكْمَةِ هَوَسٌ¹⁶

17. Thinking about good [action] invites one to act upon it.

.. أَلْفَكْرٌ فِي الْخَيْرِ يَدْعُو إِلَى الْعَمَلِ بِهِ¹⁷

18. Thinking about the consequences saves one from places of destruction.

.. أَلْفَكْرٌ فِي الْعَوَاقِبِ يُنْجِي مِنَ الْمَعَاطِبِ¹⁸

19. When you precede all your actions with thought [and deliberation], your outcomes will be good in all matters.

.. إِذَا قَدَّمْتَ الْفِكْرَ فِي جَمِيعِ أَفْعَالِكَ حَسُنَتْ عَوَاقِبُكَ فِي كُلِّ أَمْرٍ¹⁹

20. By thinking, deliberation is improved.

.. بِالْفِكْرِ تَصْلُحُ الرَّوْيَةُ²⁰

21. By repeated thinking [and contemplation], doubt is dispelled.

.. بِتَكَرُّرِ الْفِكْرِ يَنْجَابُ الشَّكُّ²¹

22. Through contemplation the darkness [and ambiguity] of matters get clarified.

.. بِالْفِكْرِ تَنْجَلِي غَيَاهِبُ الْأُمُورِ²²

23. By repeated thinking the outcomes become sound.

.. بِتَكَرَّارِ الْفِكْرِ تَسْلَمُ الْعَوَاقِبُ²³

24. By considering the consequences, one is saved from harm.

.. بِالنَّظَرِ فِي الْعَوَاقِبِ تُؤْمَنُ الْمَعَاطِبُ²⁴

25. Distinguishing the everlasting from the perishing is from the noblest discernment.

.. تَمْيِيزُ الْبَاقِي مِنَ الْفَانِي مِنْ أَشْرَفِ النَّظَرِ²⁵

26. Think before you decide, consult before you proceed and ponder before you rush forward.

.. تَفَكَّرْ قَبْلَ أَنْ تَعْزِمَ، وَشَاوِرْ قَبْلَ أَنْ تُقَدِّمَ، وَتَدَبَّرْ قَبْلَ أَنْ تَهْجُمَ²⁶

27. Your thinking leads to your gaining insight, and acquiring lessons [from the past].

.. تَفَكُّرُكَ يُفِيدُكَ الْإِسْتِبْصَارَ، وَيُكْسِبُكَ الْإِعْتِبَارَ²⁷

28. The fruit of reflection is wellbeing.

.. ثَمَرَةُ الْفِكْرِ السَّلَامَةُ²⁸

29. Continuous reflection and caution protects from error and saves from the vicissitudes of time.

.. دَوَامُ الْفِكْرِ وَالْحَذَرُ يُؤْمِنُ الزَّلَلَ وَيُنْجِي مِنَ الْغَيْرِ²⁹

30. May Allah have mercy on the person who reflects and then takes lesson, and who takes lesson and hence perceives [the reality of things].

.. رَحِمَ اللَّهُ امْرَأً تَفَكَّرَ فَاعْتَبَرَ، وَاعْتَبَرَ فَأَبْصَرَ³⁰

31. The cornerstone of insight is contemplation.

.. رَأْسُ الْإِسْتِبْصَارِ الْفِكْرَةُ³¹

32. Deliberate before acting and you will be saved from error.

.. رَوْ قَبْلَ الْعَمَلِ تَنْجُ مِنَ الزَّلَلِ³²

33. Deliberate before [taking] action [and] you will not be criticized for what you do.

.. رَوْ قَبْلَ الْفِعْلِ لَا تُعَابُ بِمَا تَفْعَلُ³³

34. The deliberation of the slow is better than the impulsiveness of the hasty.

.. رَوِيَّةُ الْمُتَأَنِّي أَفْضَلُ مِنْ بَدِيهِةِ الْعَجَلِ³⁴

35. Lengthy contemplation makes the end results praiseworthy and prevents the corruption of matters.

.. طُولُ الْفِكْرِ يُحْمَدُ الْعَوَاقِبَ، وَ يَسْتَدْرِكُ فَسَادَ الْأُمُورِ³⁵

36. Lengthy contemplation improves the outcomes of planning.

.. طُولُ التَّفْكِيرِ يُصْلِحُ عَوَاقِبَ التَّدْبِيرِ³⁶

37. Lengthy consideration equals [benefitting from] the opinion of the advisor.

.. طُولُ التَّفْكِيرِ يَعْدِلُ رَأْيَ الْمُشِيرِ³⁷

38. You must reflect, as this is [means of] a guidance from error and a rectifier of deeds.

.. عَلَيْكَ بِالْفِكْرِ فَإِنَّهُ رُشْدٌ مِنَ الضَّلَالِ وَمُصْلِحٌ الْأَعْمَالِ³⁸

39. The thought of an intelligent person is guidance.

.. فِكْرُ الْعَاقِلِ هِدَايَةٌ³⁹

40. The thought of an ignorant person is misguidance.

.. فِكْرُ الْجَاهِلِ غَوَايَةٌ 40

41. Thinking for a short while is better than prolonged worship.

.. فِكْرُ سَاعَةٍ قَصِيرَةٍ خَيْرٌ مِنْ عِبَادَةٍ طَوِيلَةٍ 41

42. Your contemplation guides you to the right path and motivates you to improve your Hereafter.

.. فِكْرُكَ يَهْدِيكَ إِلَى الرَّشَادِ، وَيَحْدُوكَ عَلَى إِصْلَاحِ الْمَعَادِ 42

43. A man's thinking is a mirror that shows him his good actions from his bad ones.

.. فِكْرُ الْمَرْءِ مِرْآةٌ تُرِيهِ حُسْنَ عَمَلِهِ مِنْ قُبْحِهِ 43

44. The merit of thinking and understanding is more beneficial than the merit of revision and study.

.. فَضْلُ فِكْرٍ وَتَفْهَمٍ أَنْجَعُ مِنْ فَضْلِ تَكَرُّارٍ وَدِرَاسَةٍ 44

45. Your thinking about worship prompts you to act upon it.

.. فِكْرُكَ فِي الطَّاعَةِ يَدْعُوكَ إِلَى الْعَمَلِ بِهَا 45

46. Your thinking about sin drives you to fall into it.

.. فِكْرُكَ فِي الْمَعْصِيَةِ يَحْدُوكَ عَلَى الْوُقُوعِ فِيهَا 46

47. So think, O people, and observe; take lesson and seek advice, and acquire provisions for the Hereafter, [for by this] you will attain felicity.

.. فَتَفَكَّرُوا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ وَتَبَصَّرُوا، وَاعْتَبِرُوا وَاتَّعِظُوا، وَتَزَوَّدُوا لِلْآخِرَةِ تَسْعُدُوا 47

48. Measure and then cut, think and then speak, verify and then act.

.. قَدَّرَ ثُمَّ أَقْطَعَ، وَفَكَّرَ ثُمَّ أُنْطِقَ، وَتَبَيَّنَ ثُمَّ أَعْمَلَ 48

49. How can the thought of one who is always sated be pure?

.. كَيْفَ تَصْنُفُ فِكْرَهُ مَنْ يَسْتَدِيمُ الشَّبَعَ 49

50. Contemplation is sufficient for right guidance.

.. كَفَى بِالْفِكْرِ رُشْدًا 50

51. Not everyone who shoots hits the target.

.. لَيْسَ كُلُّ مَنْ رَمَى يُصِيبُ 51

52. One who ponders [about the past] learns a lesson [from it].

.. مَنْ تَأَمَّلَ اعْتَبَرَ 52

53. One whose thinking is prolonged, his observation becomes good.

.. مَنْ طَالَ فِكْرُهُ حَسَنَ نَظْرُهُ 53

54. One whose thinking increases, his end result becomes good.

.. مَنْ كَثُرَتْ فِكْرُهُ حَسُنَتْ عَاقِبَتُهُ 54

55. One whose thought is prolonged, his discernment becomes good.

.. مَنْ طَالَتْ فِكْرُهُ حَسُنَتْ بَصِيرَتُهُ 55

56. One who puts his mind to work arrives at the correct answer.

.. مَنْ أَعْمَلَ فِكْرَهُ أَصَابَ جَوَابَهُ 56

57. One who thinks before acting, his accuracy increases.

.. مَنْ فَكَّرَ قَبْلَ الْعَمَلِ كَثُرَ صَوَابُهُ 57

58. One whose thinking is weak, his inattention [and gullibility] is strong.

.. مَنْ ضَعُفَتْ فِكْرَتُهُ قَوِيَتْ غِرَّتُهُ 58

59. One who reflects on the essence of Allah apostatizes.

.. مَنْ تَفَكَّرَ فِي ذَاتِ اللَّهِ تَزَنَّدَقَ 59

60. One who thinks about the consequences is saved from [places of] destruction.

.. مَنْ فَكَّرَ فِي الْعَوَاقِبِ أَمِنَ الْمَعَاطِبَ 60

61. One who thinks a lot about sins is pulled towards [committing] them.

.. مَنْ كَثُرَ فِكْرُهُ فِي الْمَعَاصِي دَعَتْهُ إِلَيْهَا 61

62. One who thinks a lot about [worldly] pleasures is overpowered by them.

.. مَنْ كَثُرَ فِكْرُهُ فِي اللَّذَاتِ غَلَبَتْ عَلَيْهِ 62

63. One who reflects, perceives the outcomes.

.. مَنْ فَكَّرَ أَبْصَرَ الْعَوَاقِبَ 63

64. One who keeps his mind's eye awake reaches the height of his endeavour.

.. مَنْ أَسْهَرَ عَيْنَ فِكْرَتِهِ بَلَغَ كُنْهَ هِمَّتِهِ 64

65. One who reflects on the majesty of Allah loses hope.

.. مَنْ تَفَكَّرَ فِي عَظَمَةِ اللَّهِ أُبْلِسَ 65

66. One who thinks and reflects learns a lesson from everything.

.. مَنْ كَانَتْ لَهُ فِكْرَةٌ فَلَهُ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ عِبْرَةٌ 66

67. He who excels in thinking never gets humiliated.

.. مَا ذَلَّ مَنْ أَحْسَنَ الْفِكْرَ 67

68. There is no worship like contemplation.

.. لِاعِبَادَةٍ كَالْتَفَكِيرِ 68

69. There is no [means to] right guidance like reflection.

.. لَا رُشْدَ كَالْفِكْرِ 69

70. One who does not take lessons [from the past] does not reflect.

.. لَا فِكْرَ لِمَنْ لَا عِتْبَارَ لَهُ 70

71. Thinking about the consequences [of one's action] saves one from unpleasant calamities.

.. الْفِكْرُ فِي الْعَوَاقِبِ يُؤْمِنُ مَكْرُوهُ النَّوَائِبِ 71

72. Thinking is one of the two means of guidance.

.. الْفِكْرُ أَحَدُ الْهَدَايَتَيْنِ 72

73. Thinking about the kingdom of the heavens and earth is the worship of the sincere ones.

.. التَّفَكُّرُ فِي مَلَكُوتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ عِبَادَةُ الْمُخْلِصِينَ 73

74. Thinking about a matter before undertaking it saves one from error.

.. أَلْفِكْرُ فِي الْأَمْرِ قَبْلَ مُلَابَسَتِهِ يُؤْمِنُ الزَّلَلَ 74

75. Thinking leads to taking lesson, saves one from missteps and bears the fruit of precaution.

.. أَلْفِكْرُ يُوجِبُ الْإِعْتِبَارَ، وَيُؤْمِنُ الْعِثَارَ، وَيُثْمِرُ الْإِسْتِظْهَارَ 75

76. Reflect and you will awaken [and become alert].

.. اِفْكِرْ تُفَقِّ 76

77. Contemplation guides [one] to the right path.

.. أَلْفِكْرٌ يَهْدِي إِلَى الرُّشْدِ 77

Source URL:

<https://www.al-islam.org/ghurar-al-hikam-wa-durar-al-kalim-exalted-aphorisms-and-pearls-speech/thinking-and-thinker#comment-0>