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The editor

MAHMAAH SOOMAALI (Somali Proverbs)

- 1. Nin rag ahi geeri iyo nolol labada ba waa lagu arkaa. A gentleman can either kill you or raise you
- 2. Nimaan dhul marinu dhaayò ma leh.

 A man who has never travelled has never seen the wonders of the world.
- 3. Baahiyi waxay kuu geysaa nin kuu daran. Need will force you to appeal to a man who has never helped you.
- A hunchback knows better than you how he can sleep.
- Nin gù kaa weyni, garaadna kaa weyn.
 A man who is a year older than you, is also older than you in intelligence.
- 6. Nin walba qummanihiisaa, qoorta ugu jira.
 Every man has hanging to his neck, a precious book.
- Ninkii sun ku siiya, subag baa la siiyaa.
 A man gives you poison, give him butter.
- 8. Nin yari waa sidii, nin bannaan soo ordaya.
 A young man is like a man who runs on open ground.
- 9. Ninkii seexda, siciis dibi dhal.
 It is related that two friends each had a cow. While one of them slept, the cows calfed, one bore a female, the other a male. The man who was awake transfered the male to the cow of his friend and put the female beside his own. When the sleeper awoke, he said (as the Somali proverb): «The cow of the man who sleeps produces a male. This proverb thus means that» If you do not attend to your own bussiness, no-one else will».
- 10. Nin waliba wixii uu dhigtuu u àayaa.

 «Every man harvests what he planted»
 «Every body reeps what he sows»
- 11. Nin intuu geed ka boodò, ayuu talana ka boodaa. A man who can jump the length of a walking stick can jump a situation.

- 12. Nimaan warankaagu gelin, warkaagu ma galo.

 A man who never entered your spear never entered your speech.

 This means «Until a man has tasted your spear, he will not pay attention to what you say».
- 13. Nin fadhi kugu arkaaya, looma saro joogsado.

 Do not stand up for a man who can see you. The meaning of this is that you should not ask help from a man who knows your difficulties; it is not neccessary; he can help you if he is willing.
- 14. Ninka qayrkiis loo xiirayoow, adna soo qoyso.

 A man who sees another of his own age having his hair cut, should wet his own hair in readiness for the barber. This is «If a powerful enemy has pillaged a neighboring tribe, prepare your self for the same misfortune» or alternatively. «Always prepare for the worst».
- 15. Nin baàd kaydkiisa dhigaysaa, oo kaffantaada na tolaaya. There is a man who, while you are maitaining his larder, is preparing your coifine. In otherwords «There are some men to whom you are doing good, are doing evil to you». «Some men hate their benefectors».
- 16. Nin waliba wuxuu cunuu daacaa.

 What a man eats he belches. This means, «If a man has good thoughts, he will say good words, but if he has bad thoughts he will speak evil».
- 17. Nin waliba intuu cunuu, ciidamiyaa.

 Every man serves according as he eats. The moral could be rendered «If he eats well he will work vigorously; if he starved his work suffers.
- 18. Nin is ammaanay, waa ri is nuugtay.

 A boastful man is like a goat who sucks her own milk. This means « A boastful man destroys his own reputation».
- 19. Nin been yaqaani waa nin fal yaqaan. A man who knows how to lie is like a man who knows how to hypnotise.
- 20. Nin dhintay, kabihiisaa dhaama.

 A dead man's shoes are better than he is. This means in effect, that «When a man is dead, his property is all that is valued by his heirs».

- 21. Nin aan quus aqooni, issaagaa iska quusta. A man who can not understand what is hopeless, will become hopeless himself.
- 22. Nin waliba intuu kaskiisu yahay, ayuu kor tagaa. A man urinates according to his intelligence.
- 23. Nin waliba gurigiisuu, ku dhergaa.

 Every man is satisfied with his own home.
- 24. Nin wadkiis galay, looma taag helo.
 You can not manage a man whose death is at hand. «A man suffering from un curable disease can not be saved by the physician».
- 25. Nin aad fadhi kaga adag tahay, looma sare joogsado. Do not stand up for a man you can beat while you are sitting down.
- 26. Nin waliba wuxuu yuhuu u dhurtaa.
 Every man remains what he was. What a man was, he remains.
- 27. Nin rag ah, looma duur xulo. Do not hide in the bush from an intelligent man. In otherwords «A wise man will see through your pretences».
- 28. Ninkii tiisa daryeela, ayaa tù kale na ku dara. He who can provide for the first can add a second.
- 29. Nin kaa sii socda, halna waan kuu qali lahaa baa lagu yiraahdaa. To the guest who is leaving, you can say to him: I would have slaughtered a camel for you.
- 30. Nin weyni wadkiis, wuu kaa yaqaan.
 An old man knows what will cause his death. In otherwords,
 «An old man foresees danger».
- 31. Ninkaas ma aqaan, laakiin se, qaaxadiisa baan ku jiraa.
 I have not cut open his chest, but I know what he has inside it.
 English proverb: I know him inside out.
- Nin ragihi ma hoogo.
 A brave man will never fail.
- 33. Nin iyo qabkiis. Every man has his pride.

- 34. Nin bedwinimo ogaa, ilbaxnimadu kama degto.
 The man who knew the time when people were nomads can
 not realise that they opened their eyes.
- 35. Nin hadduu is waalo waa laysla waalaa.
 If a man makes himself mad, make your self mad with him.
- 36. Nin waalan jiray, waalli loogama sheekeeyo.

 If a man used to be mad, do not tell him the story of madness. English proverb: Do not tell your granmother how to suck eggs.
- 37. Nin gèed idin dhex maray, geeriyuna òodday.

 If two men are seperated by a tree, they may also be seperated by death.
- 38. Nin daad qaaday, xunbo cuskay. A man who is seized by the flood, will snatch at the bubbles. A drowing man catches at straw.
- 39. Nin qossol badan iyo nin qoonsimaad badan, way is qab dhaaffaan.

 When a jovial man and a suspicious man meet, their minds can not agree.

Nin qoyani biyo iskama dhawro.
 A wet man can not protect himself from water.

- 41. Ninkaad is kaba lèeg tihiin ayaa lays raacaa.
 You can only go with a man whose shoes are equal to yours.
 You can associate with a man who is your equal.
- 42. Nin kelyo daran, ayaa kaadiyi dilshaa.
 Urine kills a man who has weak kindeys. English proverb:
 «A coward is affraid to say boo to a goose».
- 43. Nin filcan ba, nin baa ka sii filcan.

 For every clever (good) man, there is a man clever (better) than he.
- 44. Nin fadhiya soor buu kaa filanayaa, nin socda na war.
 A man who is sitting down is waiting for food from you, a man who is leaving is waiting for news from you.
- Nin ani yiri dad iska sooc.
 He who dictates seperates himself from others.
- 46. Aan hadalno, waa aan helshiinno. To talk is, to agree.

- 47. Kibir wuxuu kaa saaraa harka, meel se, kuma geeyo.
 pride takes you out of shadow, but it does not take any where.
- 48. Shinbir ba shinbirkiis, ayuu la duulaa.

 Birds in feather flock together. Every bird flies with birds of his feather.
- 49. Beeni mar bay ku waraabisaa, kuma se rakaadiso. A lie will serve your aim, but once.
- Nin farsamo-xumi, gacmihiisuu canaantaa.
 A bad worker blames his hands (tools)
- 51. Fuullaan waa faro ku hayn. Riding is keeping-in-touch with horse (practice makes perfect)
- 52. Nin fàaslihi qorye ma waayo.
 A man with an axe will not fail to get wood. (A wise man always gets salution for his problems).
- 53. Nin waliba abaalkiis in la mariyo, ayuu leeyahay. Every man gets his merit (the worker is worthy of his hire).
- 54. Suldaanka (ugaas) ba wax baa la sii baraa. Even the Sultan (king) needs to be taught.
- 55. Nin gunti-xumi inuu wax qarsanayo, ayaa la moodaa. Appearances are often deceptive.
- 56. Biyo kaa badan iyo rag kaa badan ba, way ku haffajiyaan It is no use struggling against impossibility.
- Waxaadan huri doonin, horay baa loo yeelaa.
 What you can not avoid, do it first.
- 58. Nimaad taqaan, waad la joogtaa.

 It is as if you stay with the person whom you know, even if he is away.

 (Like clings to like).
- 59. Far keliyuhu fool ma dhaqdo. One finger alone can not wash a face (on unity)
- 60. Laabi laba u là.
 One heart can not hold two things.
- 61. Tagto daaye, timaaddo hay. Let go of the past; keep the future. (let be gone by gone).

62. Laffo maroodi iyagaa laysku jebshaa.

To destroy the bones of an elephent, strike them against other elephent bones.

63. Oodi qaadis iyo jiidis waa isla guri geyn.

Both carrying a log and dragging it behind net the same result.

- 64. Ilko wada jir bay wax ku gooyaan. Teeth cut when they work together. (on unity).
- 65. Ulsha xashka ku dhuffo, wixii ku jiraa ba, ha ka soo baxeene.
 Before entering a thicket, strike with your stick, so that
 whatever lurks there will reveal itself.
- 66. Been fakadtay, runi ma gaarto.
 The truth can never catch a lie which has spread.
- 67. Saddex waxyaalood waa wed-ka-koris; dabaal-aqoon, oroddhèerì, gabasho-aqoon. Three things protect from death: swimming, strategy, speed.
- 68. Nin sòoru qaadday, nin seeffu qaadday baa ka roon. He who dies in battle is better than he who dies from gluttony.
- 69. Ilmo-shabeel lama qaado. Never touch the leopard's children.
- 70. Inta buuffimo taal, biri ma qaboobin. To cool the iron, first quench the fire.
- Biyo fadhiya, biyo socda baa kiciya.
 Running water can cause still water to move.
- 72. Maalintii dagaal la joogo laba nin lalama talshado; fulay iyo geessi, ee waxaa lala talshadaa nin caaqil ah. In time of war seek not the advise of the coward, nor of the brave man, but go to the wise man.
- 73. Nin kaa dood badani, dhaxal aabbahaana, wuu ku dhaafsiiyaa He who possesses a tongue more glib than yours may steal the inheritance of your father.
- 74. Hawo iyo hoos-galbeed ba, labada mid na lama gaaro. Ideals and evening shadows can never be attained.
- 75. Dad nin u taliyey iyo nin tuùgay baa yaqaan!
 Who knows a people best? Their leader and the village begger.

- 76. Nabar la filayey, naxdin ma leh.
 Anticipate the blow, and you will not be taken by surprise.
- 77. Dhallaan dhunkasho wax uguma taallo, ee dhiishiisaa wax loogu shubaa.
 Milk, and not a mother's kiss fills a child's belly.
- 78. Carrab-lòaad caws looma tilmaamo. No need to show a cow's tongue where to find grass.
- 79. Fallaar la ganay, nin walbow filò. A flying arrow can hit any one.
- 80. Aabbahay baa xoola lahaan jiray, waxaa ka fiican anigaa dameer leh.
 It is better to brag about the donkey you have than about the wealth your father used to have.
- 81. Mirò faraq ku jira, mirò gèed saaran looma daadsho.

 Do not drop the fruit in hand to get at the fruit high in the tree.
- 82. Nin lagu seexdow, ha seexan. (nin dhabtiisa lagu hurdaa ma hurdo). He who guards sleeping children must not sleep, himself.
- 83. Nin sabraa sadkiis ma waayo. He who has patience, will get his chance.
- 84. Waxaa la yiri talo xumo, talo-wanaag baa lagu bartaa. It is said that bad advice teaches good advice.
- 85. War iyo wax la cuno, baa lagu nool yahay.

 Communication (talk-exchange) and food are the things that one lives by.
- 86. Haddaad magaalò laga wada il làyahay timaaddo, il baz layska tuuraa.
 When you are in a town where all people are blind make yourself blind.
 When in Rome do as the Romans do.
- 87. Nin waliba wuxuu yahay, ayuu ku moodaa. Every man judges his neighbor by himself.
- 88. Ballan darrò waa diin darrò.
 A promise that is no good, is a religion that is no good.

- 89. Ooddu siday u kala sarrayso, ayaa loo kala qaadaa. Manjo-dhooqo; mid ba mar baa la baxshaa. Every thing must be done in due order.
- 90. Nin waliba intay taagtiisu tahay, ayaa qodaxdu ugu tagtaa.
 As you walk so thorns prick at you.
- 91. Wadiiqada yari, waddada weyn bay ku gaarsiisaa.
 A small street takes you to the long road. (Great events are caused by small things).
- 92. Intii la cayriyo, been baa u gaabisa. The habit of a lie is slow to depart.
- 93. Geel doono, geesso dhiig leh, bay dhalshaa.

 Desiring camels (not your's) will cause bloody horns.
- 94. Ayax teg, eel na reeb.
 Locust have gone by, but left damage behind (eggs).
- 95. Baryo badan iyo bugto badan ba, waa laysku nacaa. Much begging and much illness is disliked by all.
- 96. Xil-necbi xoolahaagay u daran tahay. An unselfish person soon looses his property.
- 97. Dantaada adaa ku nool, ee iyadu kugoma noola.
 You are living with a purpose, but the purpose is not living for you.
- 98. Nin tag lama yiraahdee, wuxuu ku tagaa la tussaa. Do not tell a man to go, but show him how to leave.
- 99. Nin kuu digay, kuma dilin. The man who warns you did not kill you.
- 100. Qaylo gar dhaweysey (qaylshaa ma qado)
 Shouting shortens the trial. (The shouting one never loses).
- 101. Naago ama u samir, ama ka samir. You must be patient with women or forget them entirely.

DHIGMADA IYO FAAFINTA

Tel.

Sanduuqa 388

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MUQDISHOW

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