

HINDI (INDIAN) PROVERBS

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A

- **Ati shahaana tyaacha bail rikaama** (Marathi)
- **आग रामेश्वरी आणि बंब सोमेश्वरी - Aag Rameshwari Aanee Bamb Someshwari** (Marathi)
 - Literal: Fire in Rameshwar (city at southern tip of India) and firefighting in Someshwar (city in North India)
 - Translation: The problem is one thing and the solution is given for something else.
 - Bengali equivalent: ছেলে কোটা? না পুড়িয়ে খাবো। Chhele koTa? na puRiye khabO.
- **। - age rUp nehari, pore guN bichari.** (Bengali)
 - Literal: Looks attracts first, quality qualifies later.
- **↑ ↑ (Malayalam)**
 - Literal: The other side will be green when you are in this side
 - Translation: The grass is always greener on the other side.
- **। - Ati sannyasite gajon nosto.** (Bengali)

unthon se mor marvane(hindi)

- - Literal: Too many cooks spoil the broth.
 - Maithili equivalent: ज्यादे जोगी मठ उजाड़।
- **Aanakaaryam Pareyumbol Aano htrChenakkaryam?** (Malayalam)
 - Literal: When you are discussing about elephant don't talk about yam matters.
 - Translation: Do not bring up small issues during major problems.
- **आपनो गूरो गूरो ,दोसरा के गूरो समाठो ले के हूरो** (Angika)
 - Literal: Boils on one's own body is considered as painful while those on others are deemed painless.
 - Translation: One can not understand and realise the pain of others.
- **Aasmaan se giray, khajoor mein atke** (Hindi)
 - Literal: Fell from the sky, got stuck in a date palm.
 - Translation: From the frying pan into the fire.
 - Marathi equivalent: Aagitun fufaatyaat.
- **Anni vunna aaku anigi manigi vuntae aemi laeni aaku yegiri yegiri padithi**(Telugu)
 - Literal: Fully served leaf (used to serve food) sticks to the ground whereas empty leaf flies all over.
 - Translation: Empty vessels make more noise.
 - Bengali equivalent: খালি কলসি বাজে বেশী। khali kolsi baje beSI. ;হাতি-ঘোড়া গেল তল, মশা বলে কতো জল? hati-ghORa gelo tol, moSa bole kotO jol?
- **Araante ammakku pranthu pitichaal kaanaan nalla selu** (Malayalam)
 - Literal: If somebody's mother goes mad, it is a good scene to watch

- Translation: It is always enjoyable to make fun of others tragedy till it actually hits you.
- Bengali equivalent: পরের ছেলে পরমানন্দ যত উচ্ছল য়ত তত আনন্দ । porer chhele poromanondo Joto ucchhonne jay toto anondo ; কি যাতনা বিধে বুঝিবে সে কিসে কভু আশীর্ষে দংশেনি যারে? ki Jatona biShe bujhibe se kise kobhu aSi biShe dongseni Jare?
- **Aalasyam amrutham visham** (Sanskrit)
 - (Best Chances will become Odds if you don't react in time)
- **तुम जियो हजारों साल ,साल के दिन हो पचास हजार** (Hindi)
 - Literal: May you live a thousand years and may each year have a fifty thousand days
 - Translation: May you live a long life.
- **Aalu ledu Choolu ledu koduku peru somalingam**(Telugu)
 - Literal: You don't have a wife or conception yet but you have named your son Somalingam.
 - Translation: You are making plans without acquiring the required resources.
 - Bengali equivalent: না বিয়ে কানাইয়ের মা । na biiye kanaiyer ma. ; গাছে কাঁঠাল গৌফে তেল । gachhe ka^Thal, gO^fe tel.
 - Hindi equivalent: Soot na kapaas, julahon men laatha laathi (there is neither cotton nor thread, yet weavers are fighting).
 - Maithili equivalent: गाछ में कटहल, ठोर में तेल।
 - Another Maithili equivalent: पानि में मछली, नौ टुक बखड़ा।
- **Apna hira na kholie beech kunjda haat-Kabir** (Hindi) ** Literal: One should not show his diamonds to a greengrocer
 - Translation:....*neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet,....-Bible{Matt. 7:6(KJV)}*
- - **Ab pachtaye kya hot jab chidiya chug gayi khet** (Hindi)
 - Literal: What is the use of crying when the birds ate the whole farm.
 - Translation: There is no use crying over the spilled milk.
 - Sanskrit equivalent: gotosyo Sochona nasti (yatha kormo totha Sasti)
- **I - Arthoi anorther mool.** (Bengali)
 - Literal: Money is the root cause of unhappiness.
- **Aap bhalaa toe jag bhalaa.** (Hindi)
 - Literal: If you are noble you will find world noble.
 - Hindi equivalent: Man changa toe kaThua may Ganga.
- **Cheyadagina sathavunna cheyaalemonanna bhayamu ventadutu vuntundhi...**

Bhayamu shakthivantha mainadhe, kani nammakamu antha kanna shakthivantha mainadhi...
Nammakamutho mundukellu vijayamu neethone vuntundhi...

- - Translation: You have guts to do the things, but due to fear you are not willing to complete the things; accepting that fear is more power, but confidence is more power than the fear, so please move with confidence, then you will always get success.
- **Ati parichayaat avadnya** (Marathi)
 - Literal: Excessive familiarity causes disrespect.

- Translation: Familiarity breeds contempt.
- Oriya equivalent: Ati Parichaye Gaurava Nasta.

B

- **बाजार त तूरी आणि भट भटनीला मारी Bajaraat Toori anee bhat bhatnila maari (Marathi)**
 - Literal: Lentils are still in the market and the Brahmin is beating his wife (for her failure to cook them properly).
 - Translation: Fighting for hypothetical failure of things you don't have.
 - Bengali equivalent: I gorlber ghORa rog.
- **बन्दर कबि गुला ठि मारन । नहि भुलता (Hindi)**
 - English equivalent: Old habits die hard.
- **bekku kannu muchchikondur haalu kudidante (Kannada)**
 - Literal: It is like a cat drinking milk with eyes closed
 - Translation: Others can see through a misdeed despite pretensions.
 - Bengali equivalent: bokdharmik ; beRal toposwI
 - Telugu equivalent: pilli kallu musukuni palu thaginattundi
- **beKKige chellata ilige prana sankata (Kannada)**
- **bellagiruvudella haalalla (Kannada)**
- **biriya hunda brahmana bikshe bedidanante (Kannada)**
- **bEline eddu hola mEdre hEge? (Kannada)**
 - Literal: The fence itself grazed through the field.
 - Translation: A fence is meant to stop cattle from grazing. What if the fence is the culprit? This proverb comes from a skepticism of those who break laws they are supposed to uphold.
 - Bengali equivalent: sorrSher modhye bhUt.
- **bhangi dEvarige henDaguDuka pUjari (Kannada)**
 - (For the God who is on dope you need a priest who is a drunk).
 - The underlings are usually quite a match for the rogues in power whom they serve.
 - Bengali equivalent: Jemon kukur temon mugur
Jemoni bunO Ol temoni bagha te^tul.
 - Maithili equivalent: पीठ तब तेना करियौ, जेना बहे वयार। Move your back according to the wind.
- **bhikshukaha bhikshuken drishtwa kukkurenwat gurgurayate (sanskrit)**
 - Literal: Upon seeing another beggar (on his turf) the beggar growls like a dog.
 - Professional jealousy affects everybody including beggars.
- **बंदर क्या जाने अदरक का स्वाद Bandar kya jaane adark ka swaad (Hindi)**
 - Literal: What does a monkey know of the taste of ginger?
 - Translation: Someone who can't understand can't appreciate
 - English equivalent: Laying pearls before swine
 - Bengali equivalent: Chasa ki jane karpurer gun
 - Kannada equivalent: Kathegenu gotthu Kasthuri vaasne (A donkey would not know the scent of Kasthuri)

- Literal Meaning: Even though the tamarind is dead , the sourness is not dead
- Interpretation: Even though the person has lost , he hasn't lost his pride.
- **chapti dhul ni jaroor pade** (Gujarati)
 - Interpretation1-Sometimes only a pinch of sand is all you need.
 - Interpretation2-Sometimes you do need a pinch of sand too.
 - Even insignificant people have their importance at times.
 - Bengali equivalent: |
- **chorer mayer boro gola.**(Bengali)[|
 - somebody who is the culprit shouts louder.
- **Chaar din ki chaandni phir andheri raat** (Hindi)
 - Literal: Dark nights will return after these few moonlit nights
 - Translation: While rejoicing during good times one should not forget that more trying times will also return. This is a natural cycle of events in nature.
- **Chupdi aur doe doe!** (Hindi)
 - Literal: Want two instead of one (slice of bread) and that too smeared with butter!
 - Translation: Asking for too much.
 - Bengali equivalent: |

D

- **dUrada beTta nuNnage** (Kannada)
 - Literal: Distant hill looks beautiful
 - English equivalent: Grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.
 - Hindi equivalent: Door ke dhor suhaane (distant mountains look beautiful).
 - Marathi equivalent: Duroon dongar saajre (distant mountains look beautiful).

E

- **Ek anaar, sau bimaar** (Hindi)
 - Literal: One pomegranate is all there is, and a hundred men are sick trying to get it.
 - Translation: There is a great demand for something in short supply.
- **Elaimayil kalvi, silaiyil ezhuthu** (Tamil)
 - Literal: Education in your childhood is like the letters in a sculpture
 - Translation: What you study during your childhood will never be forgotten
- **ettige jwara banthu andre yemmege bare haakidranthe.** (Kannada)
- **ettu ErigeLeyitu, kONa nIrigeLeyitu.** (Kannada)
 - Literal: The ox pulled to the shore, the buffalo pulled towards the water.
 - Translation: Mismatched company of people could lead to a disaster (this is a scenario of a cart pulled by an ox and a buffalo which do not co-ordinate well and do what they please leading to a disaster).
- **ettu Iyitu andare koTTigege kaTTu andarante** (Kannada)
 - Literal: The ox has delivered, Tie up the calf in the pen.
 - Translation: Those who agree to everything without using their brains are made fun of in this way.

- **I - Ekotai bal.** (Bengali)
 - Literal: Unity is strength.
- **ettu suraikkai kootukku uthavaathu** (Tamil)

(Literal translation: A picture of a gourd (the vegetable) is not useful to cook with) (Simple Book Knowledge will not help in real life situations)

- **Ellet ayi gai, aadat dam ke sath.**(Hindi/Urdu)
 - Misfortunes will come and go but habit will depart from ones body along with the soul.
 - English equivalent: Habits die hard.

G

- **Gaadhava pudhe vaachli Geeta, Kaalcha gondhal baraa hota.** गाढवापुढे वाचली गीता , कालचा गोंधळ बरा होता (Marathi)
 - Literal: After reading the Bhagwad Geeta to a donkey, yesterday's commotion seems more bearable.
 - Translation: It's no use wasting wisdom on a fool who thinks and acts like he is the only correct person in the world (he will yell louder than ever, that his words are wiser, and make more sense)
 - Bengali equivalent: , I
- **ganDa henDira jagaLa unDu malago thanaka** (Kannada)
 - Literal: The quarrel between a husband and wife lasts till they eat and go to bed.
 - Translation: Disagreements between people in love are forgotten easily.
- **gaNEshanannu mADalu hOGi avara appanna mADidante** (Kannada)
 - Literal: It is like trying to make an idol of Ganesh and ending up with his father.
 - Translation: A warning for the bunglers who create more trouble than fixing them.
- **Gachhe kanthal , gonfe tel** , I (Bengali)
 - English equivalent: Make castles in air.
- **geddettina bAla hiDida hAge** (Kannada)
 - Literal: Holding the tail of the winning ox.
 - Translation: Showing affiliation to a winner.
 - English equivalent: Success has many fathers but failure is an orphan.
- **Gehoo(n) ke saath ghun bhi pista hai.** (Hindi)
 - Literal: Bugs infesting the wheat get ground along with it.
 - Translation: Watch the company you keep.
 - Bengali equivalent: , I
- **giDavAgi baggaddu maravAgi bagglthe?** (Kannada)
 - Literal: If it does not bend as a sapling, will it when it is a tree?
 - Translation: Those who have trouble following rules as young will get worse when they get older.
 - Bengali equivalent: , I
- **gubbi mEle bramhAstravE?** (Kannada)

- Literal: Using a Brahmastra weapon on a sparrow? (Brahmastra is the ultimate weapon of destruction with nothing to counter it except another Brahmastra).
- Translation: Using more force than necessary can have consequences beyond proportion.
- Bengali equivalent: |
- Telugu equivalent: Pichhuka pai Brahmaastram
- **Ghar ka Jogi jogna, Aan gaon ka Siddh** (Hindi)
 - Literal: A wise man to the rest of the world, but a nobody at home.
 - Translation: We do not value the things that we already possess.
 - English equivalent: A prophet is never acclaimed at home.
 - Bengali equivalent:) |) ,
|
 - Hindi equivalent: Ghar ki murgi daal baraabar (chicken curry made at home is deemed the same as a simple daal curry)
 - Tamil equivalent: Ikkaaraikku Akkarai pachchai (one's own wife seems very ordinary).
- **Ghar ka bhedi lanka dhayey.** (Hindi)
 - Literal: A person who betrays his own, can bring down Lanka (a very prosperous city in Hindu mythology)
 - Translation: Beware of the insider, for he can bring down the biggest setup.
 - Bengali equivalent: |
- **Ghaas ke dher may sui khojna.** (Hindi)
 - Literal: To search for a needle in haystack.
 - Translation: A very difficult task.
 - Bengali equivalent: |
- **Ghiste ghiste to patthar bhi gol ho jata hai.** (Hindi)
 - Literal: Even a stone gets rounded by constant rubbing.
 - Translation: Hard work pays off.
 - English equivalent: Practice makes perfect.
 - Bengali equivalent: |

H

- **halliddAga kaDle illa; kaDle iddAga hallilla** (Kannada)
 - Literal: There are no nuts when one has teeth and there are no teeth when there are nuts.
 - Translation: It is frustrating that one is poor in youth when the ability to enjoy is abundant but when one finally gets rich, the faculties to enjoy are gone.
- **ಹೊದ್ದು ಪಿಶಾಚಿ ಅಂದರೆ ಬಂದ ಗವಾಕ್ಷಿ ಅಂತಂತೆ ' Hodhya pisachi amdhare bamdhe gavaakshili anthanthe**
 - Literal: Just when you thought a burning issue was resolved, you see the very issue appearing in another form.
- **hALUrige uLidavanE GouDa** (Kannada)
 - Literal: The last one remaining in a ruined village becomes the village head.
 - Translation: A dig at people in power at weak institutions.
- **hanigUDidare haLLa; tenegUDidare batha** (Kannada)
 - Literal: Drops join to make a stream; ears combine to make a crop.
 - Translation: Little drops of water make a mighty ocean.
- **hADidde hADO kisubAyi dAsA** (Kannada)

- Literal: Sing the same song again, you grin-mouthed beggar.
- Translation: A rude putdown of those who keep repeating the same argument.
- **hAsige iddashTu kAlu chAchu** (Kannada)
 - Literal: Stretch your legs only as far as the bed is.
 - Translation: Live within your means.
 - Hindi equivalent: Jitni lambi chaadar, utnay hee paa(n)v pasaaro.
 - Tamil equivalent: Viralukku thagundha veekkam venum.
- **Haate mApi chAkhande chAla**
 - Literal: Measure a yard, but walk a step.
 - English equivalent: Look before you leap.
- **hettorige hegNa muddu, kUDidorige kOdaga muddu** (Kannada)
 - Literal: A bandicoot is lovely to his parents; a mule is pretty to its mate.
 - Translation: Love is blind.
 - Telugu equivalent: Kaaki Pilla Kakiki Mudhau (baby crows are loved by parent crow).
- **hiriyaNNana chALi mane mandiigella** (Kannada)
 - Literal: The elder brother's habits are for all in the family.
 - Translation: The underlings follow the leader, especially his bad traits.
- **hithala giDa maddalla** (Kannada)
 - Literal: The plant in the backyard is not a medicinal herb.
 - Translation: Familiarity breeds contempt.
- **hoLe nIrige doNenAykana appaNe Eke?** (Kannada)
 - Literal: Who needs the approval of a city official for the water from a stream?
 - Translation: This is a rudimentary opposition to taxation and control of things taken for granted in a village life.
- **hosataralli agasa gONi etti etti ogeda. (Kannada)****(When he was new, the washerman beat the jute bag repeatedly).
 - People who are new on the job work eagerly and enthusiastically until they find their way and slack off. Clothes were washed in villages by Dhobis who took them to a lake, soaked them and bet the hell out of them on a rock to rid of the dirt. The amount of beating was inversely proportional to the value of the cloth. A jute bag hardly deserved attention except by one who was new to the job.
- **hosa vaidyanigintha haLe rOgine mElu** (Kannada)
 - Literal: An old patient is better than a new doctor.
 - Translation: This stems from a suspicion of inexperienced and untested people with education vis-a-vis wise, familiar and old fellows of dubious qualifications.
- **hoTTege hiTTilladiddarU juTTige mallige hUvu** (Kannada)
 - Literal: There is no food to eat but there is jasmine in the crown (wearing jasmine in the hair is considered elegant for women).
 - Translation: Dressing beyond one's means is frowned upon as a sign of vanity.
 - Telugu equivalent: Thinadaniki Thindi Ledhu, Meesalaku Sampenga nune (there is no food to eat, but there are perfumed oils for moustache)

huTTisida dEvaru hullu mEysisuttaneye? (Kannada)*(Will the God who brought us to the world make us graze on grass).

- This proverb mouths faith and optimism in the face of adversity.
- **huchhu munDe maduveyalli unDavanE jaaNa (Kannada)****(In the wedding of the mad widow one who has a meal is the clever one).
 - This earthy saying implies that one who manages to get by in a wild and chaotic situation deserves compliments.
 - A widow's wedding, that too if she is insane, is highly improbable. Only a smart person can manage to find such a wedding and even enjoy a meal there.
- **hUvina jote nAru svarga sErithu. (Kannada)**
 - Literal: The string used to tie the flowers also reached heaven.
 - Translation: Those who are in the company of the noble will reap the benefits by association.

I

- **iddaddu idda hAge hELidre, siddappanige siDilu hoDeyitu. (Kannada)**
 - Literal: When facts are said as they are, it was like the striking of lightning for Siddappa.
 - Translation: This is a dig at those who cannot take criticism and throw tantrums.
- **Hyderabad Naam Muraadi Upar Choona Nechai Khali (Urdu)**
 - (Hyderabadi favourite saying in appearance very smart but from inside bears nothing)
- **Ikyamathyam mahabalam. (Malayalam)**
 - Literal: Unity is the strength

J

- *Jal mein rehkar magar se bair karna theek nahin' (Hindi)*
 - Literal: It is not wise to live in water and be an enemy of the crocodile.
 - English equivalent: It is hard to live in Rome and strive against the Pope.
- **Jo garajte hain woh baraste nahin hain (Hindi)**
 - Literal: Clouds that thunder seldom rain.
 - Translation: Those who make the most threats seldom do anything.
 - English equivalent: Barking dogs seldom bite.
 - Tamil equivalent: Kuraikkum naai kadikkadhu.
- **jana marulo jatre marulo (Kannada)**
 - Literal: Are people stupid or the crowd stupid?
 - Translation: This proverb bemoans the irrational behavior of normal people in large crowds.
- **जननी जन्मभूमिश्च स्वर्गादपि गरीयसी ॥**
- **jananee janmabhoomischa swargaadapi gareeyasi. (Sanskrit)**
 - Literal: One's mother and homeland are greater than even heaven.
- **biddarU mIse maNNAgalilla (Kannada)**
 - (Upon falling, he didn't bother as his moustache didn't get soiled).

- Moustache is a sign of pride. One who manages not to lose face despite defeat gets such compliment.
 - **जिस की लाठी उस की भैंस (Jis ki lathi usi ki bhains) (Hindi)**
 - Whoever owns the stick owns the buffalo
 - It's always the powerful who gets lion's share
 - English equivalent: *Might is right*
 - **Jo feere woh chare (Hindi)**
 - Wandering stock graze the most
 - English equivalent: *A rolling stone gathers more mass.*
- Jibe prem kare jei jon , sei jon sebichhe Ishwar (Bengali).
 One who loves animals, he serves God too.
 Je jae Lankae , sei hoi Ravana (Bengali.).
 One who goes to Lanka (land of the devils), becomes
 Ravana (king of devils).
- **जंगल में मोर नाचा किस ने देखा ? (Jangal main mor nacha, kisne dekha) (Hindi)**
 - Even a very good thing will have to be made public, to be acclaimed by people.
 - Janmile morite hobe, amarattya kothaey pabey? (Bengali)
 - If you are born, you are to die, you can't be mortal.
 - **जान है तो जहान है (Jaan hai to Jahan Hai) (Hindi)**
 - Only if you are alive, things matter
 - **जले पर नमक छिड़कना (Jale par namak chidakhna) (Hindi)**
 - Translation: To sprinkle salt on ones burn

To prick on ones problems and make them feel worse

K

- **" Kaal Karai So aaj Kar, Aaj Karai so ab, Pal mein Parlai Hoyegi, tab bahuri karega kab" (Hindi)**
 - The quotation means that whatever you want to do tomorrow, do it today. And whatever you desire to do today, do it now because nobody knows in this uncertain world what will happen in a moment.
- Kaali agge toi (Punjabi)
 - There will always be a ditch in front of a person in hurry.
- Kaiyila Kaasu Vayila Dosa (Chennai Tamil)
 - Once you pay the money, you will receive the dosa a rice flour bread.
 - You will receive the benefits only after paying the due
- **Kal irundhaal, naai illai. Naai irandhaal, kal illai. (Tamil)**
 - (When you have a rock in hand, usually there won't be a dog to hit nearby. When there is a dog nearby, you usually won't have the rock to hit it with.)
 - When it takes 2 items to do an action, when you have one you will have most likely misplaced the second item. Once you finally find the second item, you will have lost the first.

There is a second meaning to this: A dog is sculptored on a rock. If you look at that as a rock, u will not recognise the dog. If you look at that object as a dog, the rock is not recognised. This has huge philosophical content.

- - Kannada: Halliddaga kadle illa, kadle iddaga Hallu illa :

There is no nut when you have teeth, no teeth when you have nut

- *Kallaik kaNdAl nAyaik kaANum, NAyaik kaNdAl kallaik kaANum.* (Tamil)
 - (When you see dog's figure in the rock you can't realise it's a rock, when you see the rock you can't realise it's a dog (Dog's figure))
 - This is a more common form of the previous proverb, and is easily misunderstood as "When there is a dog nearby, you usually won't find a stone (to throw at it)." However what it really means is that, if you look superficially, you fail to see the real meaning. The proverb itself is a good example.
- *Kaamale kaNNavanige kanDidella haLadhi.* (Kannada)
 - (One suffering from Jaundice, thinks that the world around him is yellow.)
 - This proverb drives home the point that narrow minded people never look at any issue holistically.
- काखेला कळसा आणि गावाला वळसा. (Marathi)

Thing next to you is searched everywhere (easily available thing is searched around the world)

- कावळा बसायला आणि फांदी तुटायला एकच गाठ. (Marathi)

Literally- bird sat and branch broke- (apparently non related events are correlated because of coincidence)

- *Katrathu Kaimann aLavU, kallathathu ulaga aLavU* (Tamil)
 - (What you know is as big as the size of sand in your palm, what you do not know is as big as the size of the universe)
 - Mainly emphasizes the importance of humility, and an open mind. Only when we realize the magnitude of our own ignorance, we remain open to knowledge.
- Kai kesaraadare baai mosaru (Kannada)
 - (You have to make your hands muddy to get curds to your mouth (In relation to agriculture))
 - English equivalent: Hard work reaps sweet success
- kAryavAsi katte kAlu (Kannada)
 - (If you need a job to be done, be prepared to fall at the feet

of a donkey).

- Kudure kandre kaalu novvu. (Kannada)
 - Your leg starts to ache when you see a horse
 - When you see a useful resource/means , you feel lazy to do the job/work.
- Kumhar phooti me khata hai. (Hindi)
 - Potter always eat out of a broken plate
 - While serving others one tends to overlook his own needs

- keTTa mEle buddhi bantu, aTTa mEle ole uriyitu (Kannada)
 - (Got wisdom after being ruined, the stove caught fire after the cooking was done).
 - In olden days the earthen stove (ole) used dried cowdung cakes to burn and it was no mean task to get it going. The dawn of wisdom after it is too late is often compared to the frustration with the stove which was too slow in becoming functional.
- Khuda meherban tho gadha pehelwan (Hindi)
 - (If god blesses a donkey it can become a wrestler).
 - With grace of god even the most useless person can become great.
- konkaNa suthi mailArakke banda hAge (Kannada)
 - (It is like circling Konkan to reach Mailar).
 - Those who do even a simple thing in a roundabout manner deserve this proverb.
 - (Tamil equivalent: Thalaiyai suthi mookai thottathu pola. Meaning - Taking the hand around the head to touch one's nose.)
- kOpadalli koyda mUgu shAntiyalli baruttadeye? (Kannada)
 - (Will the nose cut in anger recover in calmness?)
 - Rash acts done in anger lead to damages which cannot be undone.
 - (Tamil equivalent: Aathirakkaranukku buthi mattu: Meaning - An angry person has less thinking power)
- kOthi kaige mANikya kotta hAge (Kannada)
 - (It is like giving a gem to a monkey).
 - When undeserving or unqualified people are given valuable tasks such as snide comments are made of them.
- Kurakkunna Patti Kadikilla (Malayalam)
 - Barking Dog Seldom Bite
- Kurangu kaiyile poo malai (Tamil)
- Kurangande kayil poomala (Malayalam)
 - (It is like giving a garland to a monkey).
- kOti tAnU keDOdalde vanAnU keDisitu (Kannada)
 - (Not only did the monkey ruin himself, he also ruined the garden).
 - This warns one not to meddle with those who can bring down their detractors with them. This proverb is a bit mischievous because the reference is to a story in the [Ramayana](#) in which [Hanuman](#) sets fire to large parts of [Lanka](#) on his mission to find [Sita](#) who was under house arrest. In fact he succeeded in his mission to deliver a message of hope to her and intimidate her abductor, [Ravana](#). His tail was set on fire by Ravana for which Hanuman paid back by torching his palaces.
- koTTaddu tanage; bachchiTTaddu pararige. (Kannada)
 - (What you give away is yours and what you hide will go to others).
 - The virtue of charity and the evil of greed are emphasized here.
- koTTavanu kOdangi, iskondavanu Irabhadra (Kannada)
 - (The one who gave is a mule, one who got it is a winner).
 - This proverb is in contrast to the above one. It suggests that it is better to get the best deal under bad circumstances than trying to be fair and patient. You may end up with nothing in the bargain.

- kumbaLakAyi kaLLa andre hegalu muTTi nODida. (Kannada)
 - (When "Pumpkin thief!" was cried out, he touched his shoulder to check.)
 - One with a guilty conscience needs no accuser.
- kumbAranige varusha; doNNege nimisha. (Kannada)
 - (It is a year for the potter and it is a minute for the stick).
 - It is easier to destroy than to build.
- kuNiyalAradavaLu nela donku andaLante (Kannada)
 - (One Who could not dance said that the ground was uneven).
 - This is a dig on those who find excuses for their incompetence. This proverb comes from a time when women of ill repute, supported by the aristocracy, were expected to sing and dance to please their rich customers.
 - Eng: A bad workman blames his tools.
- kUsu huttOke munche kulAvi holisidaru (Kannada)
 - (They got a cap stitched even before the baby was born).
 - This is a reference to things done prematurely. This proverb goes back to a time when infant mortality was very high and people postponed getting things for children until they were born and were in reasonable health. Clothes, toys etc. of children were a painful reminder to the bereaved parents. It was even considered a bad omen to prepare excessively for a child before its birth.
- Kaikku Ettinathu Vaaikku Ettala. (Tamil)
- kaige banda tuttu bAyige baralilla. (Kannada)
 - (The food which came to the hand did not come to mouth).
 - There is many a slip between the cup and the lip. Here the imagery is one of a child being fed by a mother who makes balls of rice mixed with curry (tuttu). This is an intimate moment of great joy and satisfaction for the child. It could lead to great unhappiness if the ball did not reach the mouth.
- kaiyalli sharaNartha, kankuLalli doNNe. (Kannada)
 - (Hands are folded but there is a stick under the arms).
 - This is a warning about those who speak softly but carry a big stick to strike when you least expect.
- koopasta mandookamu. (Sanskrit)
 - (A frog in a well).
 - This is used to refer to narrow minded individuals. According to the stories, a frog living in a well thinks the well itself is the universe.
- Kutte Kee Poonch ko pipe main daloge to bhi seedhi nahin hogi (Hindi)
 - (You cant straighten dog's tail by putting in a hose pipe)
 - This is to refer to the hard core people who don't change there attitude.
 - (Tamil equivalent: Naai vaalai nimirtha mudiyathu)
- कामापुरता मामा आणि ताकापुरती आजी - Kama Poorta Mama Ani Taka Poorti Aaji (Marathi)
 - (Literal) Calls you uncle when he needs you, Calls you grandma when he needs to borrow buttermilk
 - (Translation)Selfish creature
- Kandhe pe bithaya to kaan main moota (Mumbaiya Hindi)
 - You made him sit on your shoulder and he pisses in your ears
 - English version: Give a camel an inch and he will take an ell.

- (Tamil equivalent: Idathai koduthal madathai pidippadhu pola. Meaning: Give a person place to stay for a while, and he claims that the place belongs to him)
- Bengali equivalent: Boste dile sute chai (Meaning: When you give some one a space to sit, he will ask for a place to sleep)
- Khakhra ni Khiskoli Sakar no swaad su jaane (Gujarati)
 - A squirrel who eats dried chapatis would not know the taste of sugar (literal translation)
 - Good things in life cannot be appreciated by someone who has never experienced the good things.
- Kaala agare mulA chobeibA (Oriya)
 - To munch a raddish before a deaf person.
 - This is to refer to a futile exercise.
- Kusuma parashe pata nistare (Oriya)
 - Literal Meaning: The thread (as in a garland) gets salvation in touch with the flower.
 - A novice can get recognition in the company of noble people.
 - (Tamil equivalent: Poovodu serndha naarum manakkum: The thread of the garland also smells sweet)
- koto dhaane koto chal (Bengali)
 - to know what it costs to get the result.
- Kana thile suna nahin; Suna thile kana nahi (Oriya)
 - It takes a long time to be prosperous and when you are prospered you are not in a position to enjoy.
- Kansari gharar para, kula dhaun dhaun dara (Oriya)
 - You can not scare a shrewd person with small provocation.
- Khali kalsi baaje beshi.(Bengali)
 - An empty vessel makes much noise.
- Ksudhar moto khadyo nai, ghoomer moto bichhana nai.(Bengali)
 - There is no other food as Hunger, there is no other bed as Sleep.
- Kakkakkum than kunju pon kunju (Malayalam)
 - Literal: Even for a crow, its own baby is a treasure
 - Translation: Own creations will be invaluable, even though it may not be so for others

L

- Life is a bridge. Cross over it, but build no house on it. (*Translation*)
- लक्ष्मी चांदलो करवा आवे त्थारे मों धोवा न जवाय.
- Laxmi chaandlo karva aave tyaarey mo dhova na javay (Gujarati)
 - Literally: When the goddess of wealth comes to give you a blessing, you should not go to wash your face
 - English equivalent: When opportunity knocks one's door, one should grab it

kaialavu manasu kadal alavu kanavu(tamil) english equivalent : more dreams in a small heart.

- Leek leek sab he chalen, leek he chale kapoot
Leek chod teen he, chalen shayer singh sapoot. (Hind)
 - Execept for a poet, a lion and a worthy child, every one else

including a worthless child always trail a beaten track.

- Laathon ke bhoot baaton se nahi maante.

Translation : There are people who only understand the language of beating and not of talking.

M

- maduve mADi nODu, mane katti nODu. (Kannada)
 - (Perform a wedding and see, build a house and see).
 - Telugu equivalent: Illu katti choodu, Pelli chesi choodu.
 - When worthwhile but difficult acts are done, it is gratifying in the end.
- maduveyAgO gunDa endare nInE nanna henDathi anda. (Kannada)
 - (I said "Get married, Gunda". He said : "then you are my wife.")
 - This is a warning about fellows who latch on to those who try to help them.
- mADODu durAchAra, mane munde brindAvana. (Kannada)
 - (What they do is evil but they have holy herbs in the front garden).
 - This is said of people whose outward behavior is impeccable but actions are despicable. Having a little garden of the Thulasi plant in front of a house was considered a sign of piety and goodness.
- maLLi maLLi manchanke eShtu kaalu andre; mooru mahtondu andlanthe. (Kannada)
- manege benki biddAga bhavi tODidaru (Kannada)
 - (When the house caught fire they began digging a well).
 - Too little, too late.
- maneyalli ili, beediyali huli (Kannada)
 - He is a rat at home, but when he comes to the street he becomes a tiger
- Telugu equivalent: Intlo pilli, bayata puli.
- mantrakkinta uguLe jasti (Kannada)
 - (There is more spit than the chant).
 - This is said of people whose actions do not match their claims.
- mAtu ballavanige jagaLavilla, UTa ballavanige rOgavilla (Kannada)
 - (One who knows how to talk will have no fights, one who knows how to eat will have no sickness).
 - The meaning is obvious here.
- Minnunnathellaam ponnalla (Malayalam)
 - (All that glitters is not gold)
- Mukilla Rajyathu Murimukkan Rajavu (Malayalam)
 - (In the land of people with no nose, the half-nose man is the king)
 - Similar to "In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king". Referring that among unscholarly people, a half-knowledged man is a scholar.
- mUrthi chikkadAdru kIrthi doDDadu (Kannada)
 - (Though the idol is small the fame is big).

- This is a reference to self effacing people with accomplishments. Incidentally people with accomplishments are expected to be self effacing. If not, they may be termed arrogant.
- muttathe mullaikku manamilla. (Malayalam)
 - (The jasmine flowers in the backyard do not have any fragrance.)
 - That is, the things that people already possess do not hold any charm and people fall for the delusion that what others possess is somehow more attractive.
- mare bina swarg nahi milta (Hindi)
 - (without death, there can be no heaven)
 - Great things can be achieved only with great effort
- mor na inda chitarva na pade. (Gujarati)
 - (You don't have to go and paint the eggs of peacocks.)
 - It suggests that great art,culture,skills comes in blood. As peacock is beautiful, so are its eggs, you need not to paint them separately to make them beautifull.
- Mokka vanganidi maanai vanguna(Telugu): It is easier to bend a sapling than a tree. Same as "Better to nip in the bud" in English
- Aindhil vizhaiyathathu aimbathil vizhaiyuma(Tamil)
 - (If it doesn't bend as a small plant, will it if it grows huge)(Telugu)
 - (Stem that doesn't grow at the age of 5(of a plant) will not grow at the age of 50)(Tamil)
- Mutraththe mullaiku manamilla(Malayalam)
 - Literal: There is no smell in Jasmine growing in one's front yard.
 - Meaning people dont recognize the talent seen in immediate/close relationships.

N

- **Naach na jaane aangan tedha. (Hindi) नाच न जाने आंगन टेढ़ा .** ناچ نہ جانے آنگن ٹیڑھا
 - Literal: A person who cannot dance claims that the stage is tilted.
 - English equivalent: A bad workman blames his tools.
 - Bengali equivalent: Naachte na janle uthan baeka.
 - Marathi equivalent: Naachataa yeInaa aangan waakade.
 - Tamil equivalent: Aada teriyada tevadiya, mutram konal.
- Nhaate dhote reh gaye muh te makhi bai gaye (Punjabi)
 - English Translation: Got nothing after so much hullaabaloo
- **Nahin mamu tharu kana mamu bhala (Oriya)**
 - It Is better to have something than nothing.
- navilannu nODi kembuta gari kedarisaitu (Kannada)
 - (Seeing the peacock, the rooster spread his wings).
 - Those who try to imitate people of talent and beauty, not having either of them as their own, are ridiculed like this.
- nAyi bogaLidare dEvalOka hALe? (Kannada)
 - (If the dog barks will it ruin the heaven?)
 - This is said of spiteful people who speak ill of others.
- nAyi bAla Donku (Kannada)
 - (The tail of a dog is always crooked).
 - You cannot convince some people no matter what you do.

- **ના મામો કરતાં કહેણો મામો સારો Na maamo karta kaheno maamo saaro** (Gujarati)
 - Literal: Having an uncle with one eye is better than having no uncle.
 - English equivalent: Something is better than nothing.
- **Nirai kudam Neerthalumbathu!** (Thamizh/Tamil)
 - Literal: Experts Dont Advertise themselves!
 - English equivalent: Empty vessel makes the greatest sound.
 - Malayalam equivalent: Nirakudam Thulumbilla
- **Nai na dekhunu langalA** (Oriya)
 - Literal: Getting ready to bathe even before seeing the river
 - Translation: This is to refer to undue haste in anticipation of a future event.
- **NaanA Muni NaanA mata** (Oriya)
 - Literal: Different sages have different opinions.
 - English equivalent: Doctors Differ.
 - Sanskrit equivalent: Munde munde matir-bhinnaha|
- **Nanhe se woh nanhe rahe jese nani dub, ghas fis sabh udh gaya dub dub ki khun** (Hindi)
 - Literal: Strong winds may blow the tree down, but the grass will still stand
 - Translation: It's better to be small than big.
 - English equivalent: The taller you are, the harder you fall.

O

- **Odi Odi maruLAda kUchu bhaTTa** (Kannada)
 - (The fellow became stupid by reading and reading).
 - All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
- **ollada ganDanige mosaralli kallu** (Kannada)
 - (The disagreeable husband finds stones in curds).
 - Faults are thick when the love is thin. The wife who is loved by her husband is complimented for her cooking. When faults are found which are clearly untrue the marriage is truly on the rocks.
- **Onnil Aashan de nenjath, alle Kallarik purath** (Malayalam)
 - (During the traditional Kerala Martial arts practice, the trainee is either flinging himself at the chest of the instructor or landing outside the arena
 - Dabbling in extremes is not helpful
- **Oont ke Muh mein Jeera.** (Hindi)
 - Literal: A (small) cumin seed in a camel's mouth.
 - Translation: Too small an amount for a very large need.
 - Malayalam equivalent: Aana Vayil Ambazhanga (a small fruit in an elephant's mouth).
- **Omtea Kolshear udok** (Konkani)
 - Translation: Poring water with pot upside down
 - Meaning: Poring water with pot upside down results in no water going in the pot, i.e. the entire work is wasted

P

Palam Kadakkuvolam "Narayana Narayana" Palam Kadannal "Korayana Korayana" (Malayalam) Praise the God upto gain, then after

- पाद्राला पावट्याचे निमित्त.(Marathi)

Literally—chronic farter blames the beans—lazy man finds an easy excuse.

Pala Tulli Peru Vellam (Malayalam) --Unity is Strength

Pinnem Chankaran Thengel (Malayalam) Still repeating the same type of mistakes

- *Pratyakshya ko praman ki aavashyкта nahi* (Hindi)/ *Hath kangan ko aarsee kya* (Hindi/Urdu)
 - Translation: Facts don't require proof to stand correct/ You do not require a mirror to see the bracelet
 - Things that are visible do not need proof for their existence
- *pakkinti pulla koora ruchi* (Telugu)
 - translation: the neighbour's curry even if sour is tasty
 - interpretation: things that are not ours always appear worth-possessing
- *pApi samudra hokkrU moLakAludda nIru* (Kannada)
 - (If a sinner enters the ocean the water only comes up to the knee).
 - This is said of those unlucky fellows for whom nothing goes well.
- *Pattikku muzhuvan thenga kittiyathu pole* (Malayalam)
 - (Like a dog that gets a whole coconut.)
 - Used in the event of someone getting something that they cannot use.
- *Papi chellunnidam paathaalam* (Malayalam)
 - (It's a hell wherever a sinner goes)
 - Said of those who seem to have all the bad luck.
- *Pen chollu kettavanu peruvazhi aadhaaram* (Malayalam)
 - (He who listens to a woman will end up on the main street--that is, he will be reduced to begging in the street)
 - Said to any man who is so enamoured of a woman that he does not bother to use his own judgement, but blindly agrees to her wishes.
- *poriginti pulla kurra ruchi*(telugu)
 - the fields on the other side look greener
- *pagole kina bole, chagole kina khay*(Bengali)
 - no one can predict behaviours of a mad man.
- *Phoolon ki ruth hai*
Thandi hawayen
Ab unki marzi
Aaen na aaen (Hyderabadi sher)

R

- rAmeshwarakke hOdaru shanIshwarana kATa tappalilla. (Kannada)
- Raameswaram vellina shaneeswaram tappaledu. (Telugu)
 - (Even after going to Rameshvaram (a holy place) the torture of Saturn (god of bad luck) did not stop.)
 - This is said of people whose bad luck does not go away whatever they do. Saturn is considered a bad sign in astrology bringing bad luck. A visit to holy places often counters the effect except for those unfortunate souls referred to in this proverb.
- Raatra thodee, songe faar. (Marathi) रात्र थोडी सोंगे फार
 - (Too many things to do in too short a time.)
- rOgi bayasiddu hAlu anna vaidya hELiddu hAlu anna. (Kannada)
 - (The patient wanted rice with milk and the doctor prescribed rice with milk).
 - This is what you say when things turn out fine under circumstances expected to be harsh. A meal of rice with milk is a euphemism for getting what one wants.
- Rogi ichichathum pAlu, vaidyan kalpichathum pAlu (Malayalam)
 - (The patient wanted milk and the doctor prescribed milk).
 - This is what you say when things turn out fine under circumstances expected to be harsh.

S

- सर सलामत, तो पगडी हज़ार(Hindi) .. Sar Salamat, to Pagdi hazaar
 - (Literal) If your head is intact, you can have a thousand turbans.
 - Meaning, in troubled times, save your head first, your possessions should not be your priority. You can buy worldly things anytime later.
- सौ सोनार की, एक लोहार की (Hindi) *Sau sunar ki, ek lauhar ki*
 - (A single blow of a blacksmith is equal to a hundred blows of a goldsmith)
 - Generally used to demonstrate the power of a strong person to a weak one.
 - The power in one blow of hammer used by blacksmith equals hundred blows of hammer used by goldsmith.
- सौ चूहे खाकर बिल्ली हज को चली (Hindi) *Sau choohey khakar billi hajj ko chali*
 - (Feasting on hundreds of mice the cat embarks on a pilgrimage)
 - A remark for a person who tries to veil his/her shameful - and in most cases deliberate acts - by trying to do righteous deeds in order to improve his/her image in the sight of the world.
 - An attempt to apparently undo detestable acts committed by a person.
- Saddi na bulai, main laaddhe di tai (Punjabi)
 - (I need no invitation, I am aunt of the bridegroom)(She was not invited, but came, calling herself as aunt of bridegroom)
 - Appearing at a party with full enthusiasm but without an invitation.
- Sawan ke andhe ko sab hara hi hara nazar aata hai. (Hindi)
 - One who goes blind in spring, sees only greenery all around

- Used for people who fail to see reality, especially dire circumstances when they have lived through prosperous times.
- *"Sweet are the sounds of the flute and the lute," say those who have not heard the prattle of their own children.*
 - The Tirukural by Saint Tiruvalluvar (translation)
- sAvira suLLu heLi onDu maDuve mAdu (Kannada)
 - (Utter a thousand lies and perform a wedding).
 - A little deceit in the performance of good deeds is forgivable. Arranging a wedding was considered a good deed worthy of praise in India. An old maid was a source of stigma for the family and one who came to the rescue by whatever means was considered a savior.
- samsAra guTTu; vyAdhi raTTu (Kannada)
 - (Family matters should be kept secret; a disease should be brought to the open).
 - This is in a society where insurance companies are not watching. The reason to reveal ailments is with a hope that a cure may be found in the process. Laundering the dirty linen in public serves no purpose however.
- sankTa bandAga venkaTaramana (Kannada)
 - (Seeking God when in sorrow).
 - This is said of those who have no true faith or belief but seek God's help only when calamity strikes.
- shiva pUje madhye karaDi biTTa hAge (Kannada)
 - (Like bringing a bear in the middle of a pUja).
 - This is said when bungling idiots intrude when they should not. NOTE: It was brought to my attention that the original version of the proverb is as follows:
- shiva pUje madhye karaDige biTTa hAge (Kannada)
 - Lingayats wear a string around their body that has a small Linga, called KaraDige, tied to it. The gAde says that the Shiva Puje cannot go on if you forget the karadige, not withstanding all else you may have done in preparation. Over a period of time, the KaraDige has become KaraDi.

T

Thala Irikkumbol, Valu-attaruthu (Malayalam) When Head (elders) are present, tail should not wag (let them decide)

Thala marannu enna thekaruthu. (Malayalam)

- (Don't forget the head when applying oil to your body)
- Should always remember the things (favour done to us) in priority
- Don't forget the past
- To the mediocre, mediocrity appears great (*Translation*)
- To watch us dance is to hear our hearts speak (*Translation*)
- tumbida koDa tuLukuvudilla. (Kannada)/ Adh jal gagri chalkat jaye.(Hindi)
 - (The pot which is full does not splash).
 - This is said to contrast the unassuming good guys against the shallow show-offs. Or also, silence is an attribute of the wise.

- Tumhara pyar pyar, mera pyar chakkar (Hindi)
 - (Your love is true love, my love is an affair)
 - When a person considers his cause greater than another person's cause
- तेल गेले, तुप गेले, हाती आले धुपाटणे (tel gele toop gele, haati aale dhupaatane)(Marathi)
 - (Literal)Lost oil, lost butter, only left with two sided bowl.

Y

U

- unDeyEnO gunDA endare munDASu mUvattu moLa anda. (Kannada)
 - (When asked “Did you eat, Gunda?” he said “the turban is thirty feet long).
 - This is said of people who do not get what is asked of them and go round in circles.
- unDU hOda, konDU hOda (Kannada)
 - (He ate and took some too).
 - This is said of a guy who snatches the hand if a finger is offered.
 - Given an inch, one takes a mile.
- UrigobbaLu padmAvati (Kannada)
 - (only one beauty for the village).
 - This is a put down of leaders of mediocre groups.
- Unda ele etto gunda andre, undavaru eshtu anda

V

- **Vaadi Prati Aayi** (Malayalam)
 - Literal: plaintiff became the culprit
- **Vaidyan kalpichathum roogi itchichedum paal** (Malayalam)
 - Literal: What doctor prescribed and what patient wanted were same
- **Vaidyan Oothi Oothi Pilla Keninju Keniju** (Malayalam)
 - Literal: Doctor tried all the medicine, still no result on the kid.
- **वासरात लंगडी गाय शहाणी** (vasarat langadi gaay shahani)(Marathi)/ **Andhon main kana raja** (Hindi)
 - Literal: Amongst calves handicapped cow is wise
 - Translation: In the land of the the blind, a one-eyed man is the king
- **विनाशकाल` विपरित बुद्धी** (Vinashkale Vipareet Buddhi) (Sanskrit)
 - Translation: When doomsday comes, one takes wrong decisions

W

- When you were born you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life in such a way that when you die, the world will cry and you will rejoice. (*Kabir Das*)

Jab hum paida huye jag hanse hum roye. Aisi karani kar chalo hum hanse jag roye.

- When u remember the best days of your life, You will remeber the day when u gave love to someone special.

Z

- jhajha hath raLiyaNa ઝઝ હથ રળિયામણ(Gujarati)
 - Unity is strength.
 - More the merrier

<http://torchdambrain.blogspot.com>