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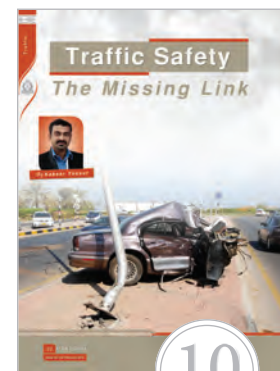
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Inspector General Receives British Assist. Commissioner of Police



His Excellency Lt. General Hassan bin Mohsin Al-Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs received on 18 / 1 / 2012 the British Assist. Commissioner of Police, Member of the Association of Chief Police Officers and his accompanying delegation.

They discussed in the meeting the bilateral relations, aspects of common cooperation and the exchange of expertise and visits in relation to policing.

The meeting took place in His Excellency's office at the police headquarters and was attended by a number of senior Royal Oman Police officers.

Boats to be Constructed, Imported for *R O P*



His Excellency Lt. General Hassan bin Mohsin Al-Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs signed on 22/ 11/ 2011 an agreement for construction and importing of boats for the Coastguard Police Command. The boats, which will be made to Oman's standards will boost the coastguard police capabilities against smuggling and infiltration on the territorial waters of Oman.

A number of senior police officers attended the signing of the agreement.

New *R O P* Vehicles Commissioneds



Major General Salem bin Musallam bin Ali Qatan inaugurated on 3 / 12 / 2011 new vehicles for different ROP divisions to enhance policing and security in the governorates.

A number of ROP commanders, assistants, officers and non-commissioned officers attended the ceremony.

R O P Officers, New Recruits Graduated

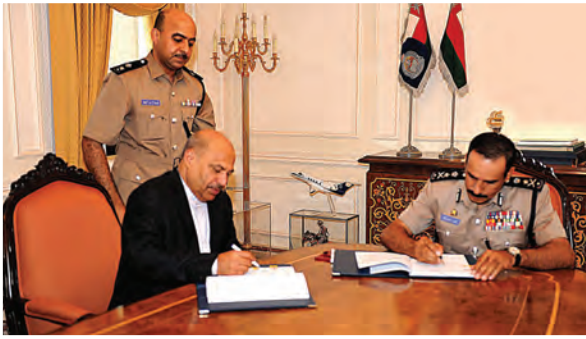


His Excellency Khalid bin Hilal Al-Busaidi, Minister of the Royal Office presided over on 7 / 1 / 2012 the celebration of the Royal Oman Police Day and the graduation of the 28th batch of officers and detachments of new recruits. The ceremony was held on the parade ground at the Sultan Qaboos Academy for Police Sciences, Nizwa.

The ceremony was attended by some ministers, commanders of the Royal Armed Forces, military and security organizations, as well as members of the State Council, Ashura Council, undersecretaries of ministries, dignitaries, parents and senior police and army officers.



Agreements for Construction of Rub'al-Khali Border Post, Adduqum Police Station



His Excellency Lt. General Hassan bin Mohsin Al-Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs signed on 5 / 12 /2011 an agreement for the construction of Rub'alkhali border post complex on the borders between Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Deputy Chairman and General Manager of Galfar's Engineering and Contracting Company signed on behalf of the contractor. The post will facilitate the movement of travelers and goods between the two countries.



His Excellency signed also another agreement on 19/ 12 / 2012 for the construction of Adduqum police station and complex in Al Wosta Governorate. The Executive Manager of Al Idrak Trading and Contracting Company signed on behalf of the contractor.

The project is within the ROP efforts to expand their facilities to various governorates, and in line with the general physical development of Adduqum.

The project consists of buildings for the police station, directorate of inquiries and investigations, directorate of traffic, automatic inspection and registration of vehicle, civil defence and ambulance stations.

National Committee for Road Safety Holds Second Meeting



The Road Safety Committee held its second meeting on 31 / 11 / 2011 at the Police Headquarters chaired by His Excellency Lt. General Hassan bin Muhsin Al-Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs, Chairman of the Committee.

The meeting reviewed topics on the agenda including the latest traffic statistics. His Excellency noted that traffic accidents and their consequences were a headache in all countries of the world. However, the figures of 1,051 deaths and 11,322 injuries in 2011 were unacceptable in Oman. He added that although Oman was not listed among countries of high rate of road accidents, further collective efforts were needed from individuals, and organizations, governmental and non-governmental.

He said that Royal Oman Police valued all the efforts made in this regard, and would do more on awareness, control of road traffic, and would apprehend, heedless, violators of rules, and inconsiderate road users.

The Committee commended the deployment of the first batch of the traffic patrols on the Governorate of Musandam's roads. They reviewed the deployment of more patrols in all governorates as planned, and the installation of fixed and mobile radars on all main roads and at traffic lights.

They reviewed also the technical committee's plan to solve the problems at the blind spots, where repeated accidents take place, the road traffic plan for 2012, and recommended its implementation in an efficient manner by employing local and international expertise. They reviewed the progress of work on the establishment of a national centre for road-safety-related statistics and information, and praised the progress in the traffic safety researches by the Scientific Research Council, international researchers and Sultan Qaboos University.

Regarding the Council of Ministers' recommendation to seek the help of an international expertise to reduce the road accidents, the Committee members commended the government's care for road safety.



Agreement signed for Supplying *New Civil Card*



His Excellency Lt. General Hassan bin Mohsin Al-Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs signed on 3 / 1 / 2012 an agreement with Gemalto, a French company, for supplying new civil cards for Omani citizens and residents. Under the agreement the company will supply the cards, the materials and the reading machines.

Royal Oman Police is in the process of introducing a new generation of the civil cards that will provide more easy, more secured services, while ensuring safety and confidentiality of data. The new card is provided with some technical features including a double-the-present card's memory. Therefore, more applications can be added to it including the processing of formal transactions online, and the holder's medical file, which ROP intends to add to the civil card in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the Technical Information Authority.



His Excellency Lt General Hassan bin Muhsin Al Shuraiqi, Inspector General of Police and Customs received on 27 / 2 / 2012 His Excellency Dr. Mohammed bin Ali Koman the Secretary General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council. During the meeting, matters of joint concern and aspects of mutual cooperation especially in the field of security were discussed.



أداء منضبط ودقة متناهية
Disciplined Performance and Absolute Accuracy



Traffic Safety

The Missing Link



By Kabeer Yousuf





'Lessons of a lifetime'

Howra Abbas al lawati

Dear all, was a medical student of Arabian Gulf University of Bahrain when I had an accident while my cousin and I were travelling in a car. Fate came in the form of a tyre blast and she lost control over the car. A heavy vehicle that lost control seeing us veering off hit us and I was seriously injured at several parts of the body including my right leg which was bruised beyond any hope. It was not a tragedy rather an unforgettable experience that destined me to confine my life to a wheel chair. Days and months on hospital beds, Bahrain, Oman, Germany.. No doctor, no medical science could save my right leg. My family and I believe everything is from Allah Almighty and we have no complaints on His will. He chose me to be the lesson for so many and I'm in fact happy about it. It made us stronger and closer to Allah than before. I know for a fact that Allah loves me- HE wants me to get closer to HIM... HE wants to hear my voice uttering HIS name every time.

But I have one request to my brothers and sisters out there who are driving. Dear, please don't be careless while you are behind the wheels. Over speeding- it certainly will kill you... You may be making a futile attempt to save a few minutes. What will happen if you don't reach on time? Will the sky fall asunder? Will the sea overflow? Will the world come to an end? But nothing is more precious than YOUR LIFE. Think of your life and think of your family who will live through the trauma. Mobile phones- both speaking and texting, reading a message are all dangerous dear friends. The other person can wait. No person is going to die without your call or SMS. Again, what is more important? A few minutes or your life?

Dear, never take things very personally on the road- if someone is overtaking you- or crossing the shoulder to reach ahead of you- he may be in a hurry or let him bother about his own life. Don't let your ego break and do never chase him. It's the duty of the cops out there. Think not only of yourself but about the lives of others too. Why should we hurt other innocent people who have done no harm to us?

Disability is not on the physique but to the brains of the people who don't respect the rights of the disabled people to them. Finally, I wish no young woman would ever meet with an accident again on the earth.

'Let's join forces'

Mohammed bin Awadh al Rowas, Colonel, Director General of Traffic

Unfortunately, last year we lost what we have achieved a decline in the year 2010 (820 deaths) compared to 2009 (953 deaths) but the same is showing an increase and till yesterday, the number of deaths on Omani roads have touched an alarming figure. The toll of victims of over speed and overtaking from the wrong side are annually increasing with more than 70 per cent of total mortality, and the use of mobile phone and typing and reading messages while driving have become the most dangerous practices that lead to traffic accidents.

What we need is the complete cooperation from the public in bringing down the number of traffic accidents and believe that this is a responsibility of every single person in the country.

'Collective responsibility'

Major Abdullah bin Saeed al Jaafari, General Directorate of Operations at ROP

By virtue of ensuring social security, reducing traffic accidents is (and the case is no different with other accidents too) a joint responsibility of each and everyone among us. Bringing down the disturbing figures of traffic accidents is the responsibility of all the various groups, especially men of the Royal Oman Police for being the concerned authority to deal with it, and the public administration of the operations represented by the status of police operations, like other departments concerned with their obligation to reduce these incidents.



'Reduce bottlenecks'

Barka al Bakri

Traffic jam is a main cause of accidents in the cities. What cause traffic jams? It is when everyone drives at the same time, the same direction with no enough roads - bottle necks. In Muscat every road is a bottle neck at peak hours. In my opinion, there should be wider roads from the purview that we are building roads every day but we are settled with 3 lanes only. The Ruwi Airport road that was recently expanded due to construction of the Airport flyover is still 3 lanes while our neighbors now have a minimum of 6 lanes in the cities. Another area where our focus should fall is to raise the standards and quality of the public transport. I live in Samail and travel everyday to and from Muscat. If I take a public bus, I will be able to reach my work on time, I am willing to take the bus - we are now aware of the cost of maintaining personal vehicle, cost of gas. Our public transport is really neglected as it is. Actually it is as if the public transport is only for low income foreign population. Combining the 2 - wider roads and public transport, we can have one lane specific for public transport, no other vehicle to be allowed and hence the buses move freely without delays. This is not something new, it is in many countries. Trams and rails fall under public transport. I believe that the country can afford these, and on the way create more jobs for Omanis.

'Various measures'

Hamid al Bahri

In my opinion, the issue of Road Safety is a phenomenon that can be contained easily. This is because we are not hundreds of millions of people, we just over 3 million in this vast land. Half of them are still in school but it is shocking that we are always among the top in road accident list internationally. There must be solutions, and we do not have to reinvent the wheel.

As a long term strategy, we need a serious study on the reasons, not guess work, not perceptions

that the young ones for example, are the culprits. This should be long term strategy. The short term solutions in my opinion are to see what other countries do to mitigate road accidents. This may include having more police standing at the main roads. In the past, we used to see police cars lazily patrolling the roads and I believe, people by nature act differently when they see a police car just at the side of the road. They may not respect the radar, but the police car will be respected. In the 80s and 90s, we used to see these a lot. I actually expected that, the recent 50,000 jobs created will be used for ROP and MOD and good chunk of this will be on the roads. Another simple measure can drastically mitigate accidents that occur almost every day at traffic lights is to introduce the count-down electronic clocks. As of now, accidents at traffic lights take place because of wrong calculations by bad-habit-drivers - approaching a green at the highest speed before it turns red. At the high speed when suddenly the red lights up the driver finds himself unable to control the car.

'Set of driving etiquettes'

Laila al Lawati

What we need is a set of code of driving etiquettes on the road. Countries like Oman are witnessing a huge migration from various countries and no other country in the region is exception to this. As a result, a kind of mix culture is formed on the road in terms of driving. A mix culture of driving can cause various hazards on the road ending up in accidents and fatalities. What we need is a set of common driving etiquettes which can be implemented across all the sectors of the society.

'Remember your loved ones'

Mohammed Suhail Bahawan

Haste makes things waste and so as the case when it comes to driving. People hurry and rush for nothing. In order to save ten minutes or so, they are in fact, endangering their own lives as well as that of others. What is the result? Nothing but fatalities and sorrows. Think before starting your car next time what your priorities are and where you want



to reach and , last but not the least, you r family members and others who are waiting for your safe arrival.

'Let's start from home'

•Kainat Faris

All efforts should start from one's own house. They should reduce the number of cars in the house. We can see five to six cars and even ten cars in a single house for each member in the family. This is wastage of energy and space. So, there should be a ceiling up to which a family can have cars. They can pool in a car or they can make use of the pick and drop service or other mode of transportation such as taxi or mass transportation system.

'Catch 'em young'

Sajeesh Gopal, PR Manager •

Certain steps should be followed on a regular basis so as to keep your car in perfect condition and to avert accidents. Always, make sure that your vehicle is in good condition when you plan to go on a journey. Ensure that the fuel tank of your vehicle always has sufficient fuel. Always lock your vehicles doors and keep windows closed. Also, do not leave your vehicle unlocked, even if you think you will be away for only a minute. Avoid stopping at remote places and park your vehicle in places that are lit well. If something seems suspicious, do not talk to strangers, rather be rude and drive away. Limit your trips at night or at least take someone along with you. Always visit the authorised service station/ garage for regular check up so that the vehicle remains in perfect condition.

'Why maximum speed 200?'

Issa al Lamki •

First of all, there should be an attitudinal change and a change in the mindset of the young drivers. They should understand that they are not driving any sports car but they are on the road trying to reach their destination safely. The racing icons on

the TV should be just kept at home while venturing out with their cars. Secondly, they should say a big no to the mobile phones while behind the wheels. I STRONGLY FEEL LIKE TALKING TO THE MANUFACTURERS LIKE TOYOTA AND NISSAN TO SET THEIR CARS' SPEED LIMIT TO A MAXIMUM OF 140 Kms/ HOUR. These cars that we buy mostly are not for racing purposes and for an ordinary person's use, whcy should there be 180 and 200 kms on the odometer???

Another important issue is that most of us are not keeping distance with other cars. This should be tackled and the youngsters should be encouraged to keep distance with other cars and not to tailgate.

'Psychiatric checkup for drivers'

Hilal al Rahbi, Businessman •

I strongly believe all drivers- whether professional or private drivers- should be subject to regular psychiatric checkups to assess their mental condition/ fitness to steer a vehicle on the road. With this suggestion, I mean nothing but a routine check up and this may sound to be strange but given the escalating number of accidents and fatalities on the Oman roads, this MUST be implemented. All their problems that can have a say in their driving pattern should be assessed and solutions found. This can be done in three months/ six months intervals.

'Self-discipline on the road'

Mahira Saqib, event coordinator •

There has been a lot of increase in the number of accidents in Oman. Reason behind is lack of self discipline! If we improve on self discipline I am sure we can reduce the number of accidents. Now what is it that one has to do.. very simple. First & most important is to follow the traffic rules. And then eat properly, finish your makeup, make all necessary calls & texts, before driving because most of the time you get the steering wheel out of control while



texting, eating or doing your makeup. for moms, buckle up your child in seat belt so that they don't distracted you by moving front and back. And lastly always leave early for your appointment so that you don't drive in haste and endanger yours & others lives. As they say Better late than Never!! Keep driving but safe.

'Simply, obey traffic rules'

Musallam al Jenaibi

The broad concept of traffic safety is that all traffic policies, rules, instructions, programmes and prevention procedures should be implemented and thoroughly followed to reduce or prevent traffic accidents. These points lead to protect the human and its property which results in protecting of citizens and economical issues. The three main elements of traffic safety depend on vehicle, driver and walkers and those must follow different procedures to save their life with no accidents or dangers. The most important procedures of traffic safety are, put the seat belt, follow the traffic guidance, not to use mobile phone and focus while driving, and take attention of traffic lights and signs boards.

'Improve public transportation'

Bhoomika Suthar

More public transportation system should be given more importance which will certainly enable us depending upon our own mode of transportation that is cars and other 4WD's. Traffic jam is a main cause of accidents in the cities. What cause traffic jams? It is when everyone drives at the same time, the same direction with no enough roads - bottle necks. In Muscat every road is a bottle neck at peak hours. In my opinion, there should be wider roads from the purview that we are building roads every day but we are settled with 3 lanes only. The Ruwi Airport road that was recently expanded due to construction of the Airport flyover is still 3 lanes while our neighbours now have a minimum of 6 lanes in the cities. Another area where our focus should fall is to raise the standards and quality of the public transport.

'Pedestrians should be fined'

Yaqoob al harthy

It may sound weird. But the fact is that more pedestrians are killed on the roads of Oman than in any other countries. the reason is nothing but the pedestrians are using any method to cross the road in hurry without paying much attention to the vehicles and others on the road. There are some countries in the region that fine the pedestrians for using areas not designated for them and repeated offences may invite other punishments including alerting their sponsors, etc. I don't understand why we are not punishing the pedestrians who are crossing the road right under the pedestrian bridge!!!

'More police should be on the road'

Rabia Beig, Store In-charge

When I first came down to Oman from another GCC country, I was shocked to see the skeleton number of policemen on the road. In some other countries including the UAE, you can find atleast one policeman or a police motor bike in every 5 minutes or so. Here, on my way from Ruwi till Seeb, I hardly found a policeman. We all know that we remember of our seatbelts only when we see a policeman on the road. Likewise, people are more careful if they get to see police people on the way. So, my suggestion is that more police people should be appointed for traffic service which can also benefit more Omani youth in finding jobs.

'More awareness campaigns'

Sameera al harthiya, Store In-charge

The efforts of the Royal Oman Police are really appreciable and I'm sure no other police force in the GCC must be exerting this much like the ROP. Additionally, the various public and private companies in the country are really doing a wonderful job for road safety. They all have taken road safety as part of their Corporate Social Responsibilities. Nevertheless, taking into consideration the number of road victims in the country, I strongly believe that there should be more awareness campaigns educating and enlightening the people out there. They should be reminded of the road accidents and other repercussions of road accidents on a daily basis, if not on an hourly basis.



'Minimum age for DiL should be increased'

Nabeel Ali al Riyami

The problem is with youngsters. I have a strong opinion that the age of giving licence should be increased. It should be at least 25 so that they will not be allowed to drive until and unless they finish their studies and start working and become more responsible citizens of the country. I live in slightly far away and travel everyday to and Fro Muscat. If I take a public bus, I will be able to reach my work on time, I am willing to take the bus - we are now aware of the cost of maintaining personal vehicle, cost of petrol, etc. Our public transport is really neglected as it is. Actually it is as if the public transport is only for low income foreign population. Combining the 2 - wider roads and public transport, we can have one lane specific for public transport, no other vehicle to be allowed and hence the buses move freely without delays. This is not something new, it is in many countries. I believe that the country can afford Trams and rails which under public transport, and on the way create more jobs for Omanis.

'Punishments should be severe'

Fatma Tasil, Coffee Shop

I agree that there are strict punishments for traffic offences. Having said that, I cannot help but say that there should be stricter punishments for traffic violations jeopardising one's own life and that of others as well. For example, for breaking red light, one should be slapped with a fine of at least RO 1,000 and three days behind bars. Or using mobile phones, one should be fined with RO 500 and so on and so forth. None will be ready to pay such a huge amount a next time.

'Banks should tighten car loan terms'

Maurizio Monte, PR Manager

If there is yet another authority that can play a role in curtailing the number of accidents is the banks in the country that encourage youngsters to buy a car as soon as they obtain driving licence. Most of the direct victims of accidents are youngsters in Oman and hence, banks should be strict on repayment terms,

EMI's, interest rates, and the in the ceiling of salary that a person can be allotted a loan with. In countries like India or Pakistan, getting licence may be easier but buying a car is not that easy as the interest rates and other procedures are still complicated and no sales person would bring in more and more poorly paid employees to buy cars.

'Colour the number plates'

Liza Paz

When I first came to Oman in 1999, there were very few cars on the roads and today you can see the exodus of vehicles on the road which causes the number of accidents also increase and as a result, more number of fatalities. In countries like Philippines we have a system of colour coding the number plate of the car which means that particular car should be given rest one given day. For example, a car with a red coloured plate is not supposed to enter the city streets on Monday from 9am to 5pm that means that car should be kept idle during that time on that particular day as a matter of concern to the social cause. Likewise, each car will have one day break in a week thereby number of vehicles is reduced on the road. So, around the 7 days in a week, thousands of cars are kept away from the road. And if the driver of the car is found driving the car on a prohibited day, he will be fined and recurrence of the offence will invite imprisonment even.

'Train the trainer first'

Mustapha Jafer

I think the root cause is that these drivers are used to driving in that way because they are taught that way. I can see even the trainers using mobile phones while driving which means that are sending out a message that using mobile phones is not a great offence which in fact is. And trainers who don't wear seat belts, those who break laws of driving are aplenty out there. So, there should be regular 'train the trainer' programme with which these erring trainers can be reminded of the necessity of teaching safe driving etiquettes and habits for the safety of the drivers of tomorrow as well as that of the public.



Road SAFETY



william jeans



In the last year or two there has been an increasing amount of publicity about traffic accidents, with almost daily pictures of horrifyingly mangled cars. One is frightened to think of the injuries suffered by the occupants and the ensuing burden of work and cost for the Royal Oman Police Ambulance Service, Accident Departments and hospitals. The Observer noted (August 27th 2011, pages 1 & 2) that Oman's fatality rate at 29.1 / 100,000 people is above the world's average of 21 / 100,000.

For comparison the rate for the UAE is 37.1, the USA 12.3 and the UK 3.6/100,000/. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/list_of_countries_by_traffic-related_death_rate)

Factors influencing this death rate must be related to either the roads, the vehicles or the drivers. Roads in Oman have progressively improved over the last 40 years and dual carriageways must have reduced the number of head-on collisions, at the cost of allowing more speeding. Perhaps the current need is to provide more overpasses for pedestrians to get from one side to the other of busy roads such as Sultan Qaboos Street. Cars in Oman tend to be newer than those in many countries, and should therefore be safer if properly maintained. However, the major cause of accidents is related to driver behaviour. This has been well established since Smeed published his hypothesis in 1949 (J.Royal Stat.Soc: Vol 112, 134- doi 10.23072984177/), that the number of deaths are determined by the behaviour of drivers, independent of material circumstances. This is clearly supported by the analysis of causes of road fatalities in Oman (Statistical Year Book 2010 Issue 38, P.270, Ministry of National Economy).

The question we have to ask then is how can we improve the standard of driving? There are two strands to this. We all start by having tuition, and Oman has a large number of driving instructors in their distinctive red-striped cars. It is surprising to discover that there is no course of instruction for the instructors, and that almost any Omani can pay for a permit from the police to become an instructor. Learning to drive involves much more than

developing the practical skills needed to handle a car. It should teach the importance of wearing safety belts, of keeping small children in the back of the car, the need for basic maintenance techniques of checking tyres, oil and water levels. It should cover relationships with other road users - using indicators well before turning or changing lane, being aware of potential problems, and being considerate to other drivers. The list can be extended indefinitely.

The other strand is to enforce the existing laws more strictly. Every day we all see people overtaking on the inside lane, exceeding the speed limit, going through red lights, using mobile phones whilst driving. A developed country as Oman is now has to stop these law-breakers.

The majority of drivers in Oman are good, but it only takes one poorly trained driver or inattention for a moment to kill someone. A good start to improving the standard of driving would be to set up a school for instructors, and make sure they can pass an independent test before allowing them to teach new drivers. We owe it to the 1,051 people killed on the roads in Oman last year and the 800 killed in 2010 to start this driving instructor school very soon.





KNOWLEDGE

Food for Thought:



by: 1st Lieutenant
Abdullah Said Al-Harthy

Directorate of Public Relations

- *The longest highway in the world is Trans Canada*
- *The biggest desert in the world is Sahra Desert*
- *The coldest place on the earth is Verkoyansk in Siberia*
- *The largest island in the Mediterranean Sea is Sicily.*
- *The book 'Nineteen Eighty Four' was written by George Orwell*
- *Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman to travel in space in 1963.*
- *The novel 'Ulysses' was written by the Irish author James Joyce.*
- *DNA stands for Deoxyribonucleic Acid*
- *The word 'Charisma' is derived from Greek and means 'Gift of grace'.*
- *French chemist Louis Pasteur invented the process known as pasteurization.*

GARDEN

Wise Quotes

- An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have. The older she gets the more interested he is in her
Agatha Christie
 - He who angers you conquers you
Elizabeth Kenny
 - An artist is someone who produces things that people don't need to have but that he-for some reason- thinks it would be a good idea to give them.
Andy Warhol
 - The secret of business is to know something that nobody else knows.
Aristotle Onassis
 - Only the wisest and the stupidest of men never change
Confucius
 - Treat your password like your toothbrush. Don't let anybody else use it, and get a new one every six months.
Clifford Stoll
 - While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die
Leonardo da Vinci
- So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem impossible, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.
Christopher Reeve
- Faith is a passionate intuition
William Wordsworth

Poems by Robert Frost

A Prayer in Spring

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers to-day;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.
Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,

The swarm dilating round the perfect trees.
And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard,
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid air stands still.
For this is love and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what far ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfil.

After Apple Picking

My long two-pointed ladder>s sticking through a tree
Toward heaven still.
And there>s a barrel that I didn't fill
Beside it, and there may be two or three
Apples I didn't pick upon some bough.
But I am done with apple-picking now.
Essence of winter sleep is on the night,
The scent of apples; I am drowsing off.
I cannot shake the shimmer from my sight
I got from looking through a pane of glass
I skimmed this morning from the water-trough,
And held against the world of hoary grass.
It melted, and I let it fall and break.
But I was well
Upon my way to sleep before it fell,
And I could tell
What form my dreaming was about to take.
Magnified apples appear and reappear,
Stem end and blossom end,
And every fleck of russet showing clear.
My instep arch not only keeps the ache,
It keeps the pressure of a ladder-round.
And I keep hearing from the cellar-bin
That rumbling sound
Of load on load of apples coming in.
For I have had too much





Of apple-picking; I am overtired
Of the great harvest I myself desired.
There were ten thousand thousand fruit to touch,
Cherish in hand, lift down, and not let fall,
For all
That struck the earth,
No matter if not bruised, or spiked with stubble,
Went surely to the cider-apple heap
As of no worth.
One can see what will trouble
This sleep of mine, whatever sleep it is.
Were he not gone,
The woodchuck could say whether it's like his
Long sleep, as I describe its coming on,
Or just some human sleep. Further than target ever
showed or shone

A Time to Talk

When a friend calls to me from the road
And slows his horse to a meaning walk,
I don't stand still and look around
On all the hills I haven't hoed,
And shout from where I am, What is it?
No, not as there is a time to talk.
I thrust my hoe in the mellow ground,
Blade-end up and five feet tall,
And plod: I go up to the stone wall
For a friendly visit

Asking for Roses

A house that lacks, seemingly, mistress and
master,
With doors that none but the wind ever closes,
Its floor all littered with glass and with plaster,
It stands in a garden of old-fashioned roses.
I pass by that way in the gloaming with Mary;
I wonder, > I say, 'who the owner of those is.>
'Oh, no one you know,> she answers me airy,
'But one we must ask if we want any roses.>
So we must join hands in the dew coming coldly

There in the hush of the wood that reposes,
And turn and go up to the open door boldly,
And knock to the echoes as beggars for roses.
'Pray, are you within there, Mistress Who-were-
you?>
'Tis Mary that speaks and our errand discloses.
'Pray, are you within there? Bestir you, bestir you!
'Tis summer again; there's two come for roses.
'A word with you, that of the singer recalling--
Old Herrick: a saying that every maid knows is
A flower unplucked is but left to the falling,
And nothing is gained by not gathering roses.>
We do not loosen our hands> intertwining
(Not caring so very much what she supposes),
There when she comes on us mistily shining
And grants us by silence the boon of her roses.

Acquainted with the Night

I have been one acquainted with the night.
I have walked out in rain -- and back in rain.
I have outwalked the furthest city light.
I have looked down the saddest city lane.
I have passed by the watchman on his beat
And dropped my eyes, unwilling to explain.
I have stood still and stopped the sound of feet
When far away an interrupted cry
Came over houses from another street,
But not to call me back or say good-bye;
And further still at an unearthly height,
A luminary clock against the sky
Proclaimed the time was neither wrong nor right.
I have been one acquainted with the night
A Minor Mind
I have wished a bird would fly away,
And not sing by my house all day;
Have clapped my hands at him from the door
When it seemed as if I could bear no more.
The fault must partly have been in me.
The bird was not to blame for his key.
And of course there must be something wrong
In wanting to silence any song.





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