

The Sentences of Sextus

CODEX XII

- (157) [...] is a sign of ignorance.
- (158/159) Love the truth, and the lie use like poison.
- (160) May the right time precede your words.
- (161/162) Speak when it is not proper to be silent, but speak concerning the things you know (only) then when it is fitting.
- (163a) The untimely word is characteristic of an evil mind.
- (163b) When it is proper to act, do not use a word.
- (164a) Do not wish to speak first in the midst of a crowd.
- (164b) While it is a skill to speak, it is also a skill to be silent.
- (165a) It is better for you to be defeated while speaking the truth, than to be victorious through deceit.
- (165b) He who is victorious through deceit is defeated by the truth.
- (165c) Untrue words are a characteristic of evil persons.
- (165d) There has to be a great crisis before the lie is necessary.
- (165e) When there is someone, while you speak the truth, even if you lie there is no sin.
- (165f) Do not deceive anyone, especially him who needs advice.
- (166) Faithful is he who is first with all good works.
- (167) Wisdom leads the soul to the place of God.
- (168) There is no kinsman of the truth except wisdom.
- (169) It is not possible for a believing nature to become fond of lying.
- (170) A fearful and slavish nature will not be able to partake in faith.
- (171a) When you are faithful, what it is fitting to say is not of greater value than the hearing.
- (171b) When you are with believing persons, desire to listen rather than to speak.
- (172) A pleasure-loving man is useless in everything.
- (173) When there is no (accounting of) sin, do not speak in anything (which is) from God.
- (174) The sins of those who are ignorant are the shame of those who have taught them.
- (175) Those on account of whom the name of God is blasphemed are dead before God.
- (176) A wise man is a doer of good works after God.
- (177) May your life confirm your words before those who hear.
- (178) What it is not right to do, do not even consider doing it.

- (179) What you do not want to happen to you, do not do it yourself either.
- (180) What it is shameful to do, is also ...
- (pp. 17-26 are missing)*
- (307/308) He is a wise man who commends God to men, and God thinks more highly of the wise man than his own works.
- (309) After God, no one is as free as the wise man.
- (310) Everything God possesses, the wise man has also.
- (311/312) The wise man shares in the kingdom of God; an evil man does not want the foreknowledge of God to come to pass.
- (313) An evil soul flees from God.
- (314) Everything bad is the enemy of God.
- (315) What thinks in you, say with your mind that it is man.
- (316) Where your thought is, there is your goodness.
- (317) Do not seek goodness in flesh.
- (318) He who does not harm the soul neither does (so) to man.
- (319) After God, honor a wise man, since he is the servant of God.
- (320) To make the body of your soul a burden is pride, but to be able to restrain it gently when it is necessary, is blessedness.
- (321) Do not become guilty of your own death. Do not be angry at him who will take you out of (the) body and kill you.
- (322) If someone brings the wise man out of the body wickedly, he rather does what is good for him, for he has been released from bonds.
- (323) The fear of death grieves man because of the ignorance of the soul.
- (324) <It were better> for you had the man-killing sword not come into being; but when it comes, say with your mind that it does not exist.
- (325/326a) Someone who says "I believe," even if he spends a long time pretending, he will not prevail, but he will fall; as your heart is, (so) will be your life.
- (326b) A godly heart produces a blessed life.
- (327) He who will plot evil against another, he is the first [...].
- (328) Let not an ungrateful man cause you to cease to do good.
- (329) Do not say with your mind that these things which were asked, (and) you gave immediately, are more valuable than the receiver.
- (330) You will use great property, if you give to the needy willingly.
- (331) Persuade a senseless brother not to be senseless; if he is mad, protect him.
- (332/334) Strive eagerly to be victorious over every man in prudence; maintain self-sufficiency.

- (333) You cannot receive understanding unless you know first that you possess <it>. In everything there is again this sentence.
- (335) The members of the body are a burden to those who do not use them.
- (336) It is better to serve others than to make others serve you.
- (337) He whom God will not bring out of (the) body, let him not burden himself.
- (338) Not only do not hold an opinion which does not benefit the needy, but also do not listen to it.
- (339) He who gives something without respect commits an outrage. [...].
- (340) If you take on the guardianship of orphans, you will be the father of many children (and) you will be beloved of God.
- (341) He whom you serve because of honor, you have served for a wage.
- (342) If you have given that which honors you ..., you have given not to man, but you have given for your own pleasure.
- (343/344) Do not provoke the anger of a mob. Know, then, what is fitting for the fortunate man to do.
- (345) It is better to die than to darken the soul because of the immoderation of the belly.
- (346) Say with your mind that the body is the garment of your soul: keep it, therefore, pure since it is innocent.
- (347) Whatever the soul will do while it is in (the) body, it has as witnesses when it goes into judgment.
- (348/349) Unclean demons do lay claim to a polluted soul; a faithful (and) good soul, evil demons will not be able to hinder in the way of God.
- (350) Do not give the word of God to everyone.
- (351) For those who are corrupted by glory it is not assuring to hear about God.
- (352/353) It is not a small danger for us to speak the truth about God; do not say anything about God before you have learned from God.
- (354/356) Do not speak with a godless person about God; if you are polluted on account of impure works, do not speak about God.
- (357) The true word about God is the word of God.
- (355) Speak concerning the word about God as if you were saying it in the presence of God.
- (358) If first your mind is persuaded that you have been god-loving, then speak to whomever you wish about God.
- (359) May your pious works precede every word about God.
- (360) Do not wish to speak with a crowd about God.
- (361) Be (more) sparing with a word about God (than) about a soul.

- (362) It is better to dispose of a soul than to discard at random a word about God.
- (363a) You conceive the body of a god-loving man, but you will not be able to rule over his speech.
- (363b) The lion also rules over the body of the wise man; also the tyrant rules over it alone.
- (364) If a tyrant threatens you, then, especially, remember God.
- (365) He who speaks the word of God to those for whom it is not lawful, he is the betrayer of God.
- (366) It is better for you to be silent about the word of God, than to speak recklessly.
- (367/368) He who speaks lies about God is lying to God; a man who does not have anything truthful to say about God is abandoned by God.
- (369) It is not possible for you to know God when you do not worship him.
- (370) A man who does evil to someone will not be able to worship God.
- (371) The love of man is the beginning of godliness.
- (372) He who takes care of men while praying for all of them - this is the truth of God.
- (373/374) It is God's business to save whom he wants; on the other hand, it is the business of the pious man to beseech God to save everyone.
- (375) When you pray for something and it happens to you through God, then say with your mind that you have [...].
- (376a) A man who is worthy of God, he is God among men, and he is the son of God.
- (376b) Both the great one exists and he who is next to the great one exists.
- (377/378) It is better for man to be without anything than to have many things while not giving to the needy; so also you, if you pray to God, he will not give to you.
- (379) If you, from your whole heart, give your bread to the hungry, the gift is small, but the willingness is great with God.
- (380) He who thinks that no one is in the presence of God, he is not humble towards God.
- (381) He who makes his mind like unto God as far as he is able, he is the one who honors God greatly.
- (382) God does not need anything, but he rejoices over those who give to the needy.
- (383) The faithful do not speak many words, but their works are numerous.
- (384) It is a faithful person fond of learning who is the worker of the truth.
- (385) Adjust [...] the calamities, in order that [...].

- (386) If you do not do evil to anyone, you will not be afraid of anyone.
- (387) The tyrant will not be able to take away happiness.
- (388) What is right to do, do it willingly.
- (389a) What is not right to do, do not do it in any way.
- (389b) Promise everything rather than to say "I am wise".
- (390) What you do well, say with your mind that it is God who does it.
- (391) No man who <looks> down upon the earth and upon tables is wise.
- (392) The philosopher who is an outer body, he is not the one to whom it is fitting to pay respect, but (the) philosopher according to the inner man.
- (393) Guard yourself from lying; there is he who deceives and there is he who is deceived.
- (394/395) Know who God is, and know who is the one who thinks in you; a good man is the good work of God.
- (396) They are miserable because of whom the word is blasphemed.
- (397) Death will not be able to destroy [...].
- (pp. 35-end are missing)*