

## Pythagoras (580B.C.≈500B.C.)

“Moral and Political Laws”(3506) , 1794, France

See also:

Th. Stanley: “Pythagoras: His life and teachings” 1687  
(a compendium of classical sources), IBIS press 2010

Avoid picking a flower with a bee on it

Do not go in Africa to see monsters: travel in a place  
where the people rebelled

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Man is similar to a cart pulled by a white and a black horse (Plato)

Do not run after happiness; she is in your home; guard your house, eat home to be free and restraint.

Parent, put in the way of your children unexpected  
hardness, but easy to pass beyond, to model their  
character

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**Become a world citizen when you will meet a wise  
people with straight laws.**

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Do not crucify your soul on your body.

Crotonians! Stay away from rebellions: they are followed by a flood of laws

Do not offer presents while still in dept.

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Offer your fellow citizens a tenth of your life: from 50 to the 60 years of age.

Do not fight with your wife in front of your children

See in your enemy a friend in disarray

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**Maritime people: honor Erythras who invented the  
floating boat**

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**The most shameful thing of leadership is spying and encouraging delation among their subjects.**

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**Keep fresh the memory of Eumolpius who invented  
plant hybridization**

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**Add experience to the most luminous theory:**

**The experience does not have wings but is not  
wandering among clouds.**

**Do not have a numerous family; the wise man has  
fewer children but they are Gods.**

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“Politics tell people: gather, you are made to be social”(Aristotle, later!)

The mind tells people: stay with your belongings, you are made to live in a family

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**People of Crotona:**

**You may overlook censorship, satire and gossip by  
chasing away Flattering.**

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**Be a philosopher to avoid being only a learned man .**

**A load of science is less than a drop of wisdom.**

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**Do not fear death: it is just a passage.**

**You are wise and happy when you feel best by returning  
to your heart.**

**Philosophers and legislators: do not write much: follow  
Homer who did not repeat a sentence from Hesiod**

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In thunderstorm touch the Ground; during war time  
tender your garden

Crotonians: ask your children to learn: slavery is the  
daughter of ignorance.

When asked about being immortal say: to be a father  
of a family

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Legislator of a free city: Do not allow the rich to give charity or to the poor to accept it; liberty and equality ask only for *work* and *reward*

Keep a daily journal when you realize what is going on with your life

Do not hurt your wife who is just giving her milk to your children ,so they do not swallow her tears too.

Liberty said to the law: “You are limiting me”

The Law responded: “I am guarding you”

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Honor Lycurg who eliminated the door lockers; the laws suffice

Before building temples for God, make sure you have a house to live

The house should be placed such that to enjoy the first sun rays of the day

Do not serve as “ladder” even to your father

Medicine is the science which needs most wisdom

Young man: meditate, as meditation dampens the  
impulse to talk.

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Head of a family: Believe in metemphsihosis: that is, the soul of the fathers passes into the body of his children

Talented people: do not forget that Minerva is the Godess of Arts and of Wisdom

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Crotonians: do not be republicans because you hate  
monarchy

Do not learn the language of people that rebelled: the  
chaos of deeds passes into their words.

If it were only one Science, it should be that which  
gives names to things (Plato, later !)

To be free you have to eat like slaves (frugality)

Parent: ask your children to read from Iliad in the morning and from Odisee in the evening.

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You can not trust even your eyes: in some places  
the “eye of the world is covered by clouds”

Dress your big truth into an opinion: opinion is the  
“wisdom” of people

Erect a temple for family: only after that ,one for  
National Glory



Young man: if you want to live long, be balanced in your pleasures: the bird that sings with most heart, lives less.

The fathers which do not have children should take care of children which lost their father.

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Before worshiping Philosophy cut your nails and free your heart of any hate-feeling.

Better plant trees than build; a forest is a longer lasting monument than the Pyramids of Egypt

Crotonians: weight the laws by the virtues of the Legislator

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Do not make but free prisoners

Agree to give laws only to a people that owns its lands; citizens without property do not have a country

Leader: before attempting a “coup d'état” assess its consequences

Make a list with all your mistakes because you can not trust your memory on this

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Do not look back to see if your fame follows you  
even in the last day of your life: it is too early

Do not bother to get the appreciation of people,  
strive to do better though, always.

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The wise man will consent to becoming rich when  
he will see the rich man becoming wise

Live in peace with your neighbors: the Earth is  
round for all people

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Do not add perfume to the aromatic rose flower

Legislators: do not let anything useless in the political mechanism

Do not be mellow with arts, too, if they do not find the secret to be useful

Do not imitate heroes: almost all their deeds are driven by the desire to become famous!

Do not ever believe you are wiser than others

Prefer the Order to the Method: The Method makes the scholar while the Order makes the wise man

Become first wise, then learned, if you have extra time left.

**Stop the enthusiasm of science but do not tame  
the “love for truth”**

**Do not judge a man before the last day of his life**



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In Greece the citizens wish each others health and joy.

Crotonians: wish each other WISDOM and LIBERTY

Legislator: when people rise, seat

Before being a legislator: travel to learn about other  
people lives

**Tell the truth without minding the consequences**

**Learn to distinguish the signs of Sky after you know  
what happens around you, on Earth**

**Leave the people the cult of land; cultivate your land;  
Agriculture is the cult of wisdom**

Crotonins: do not welcome a new law with shut eyes  
like the Thracians who swallow quickly some boiled  
composure recommended by doctors

The father will build a house for his children; the  
children will build a grave for their father

Honor Tiresias, who never lied

To a Reformer: do not pass the laws of a country to another country directly

Do not let someone become a magistrate before he was the shepherd of a hurdle of animals

Be wise but modest:

Wisdom relies on so few things that you have no reason to be arrogant

Love Truth, to be ready to discover it

If you are only a philosopher do not speak to people:  
to please the crowd you have to be a smooth talker

**Embrace Virtue, without looking around**

**Discard the deposition of a sacrificier**

**To live a long life prepare some wine and make sure  
you keep an old friend around.**

The bath of old people should be different from that of youngsters

Eliminate the leaves of grapes which obstruct the fruits;  
clean your soul to allow virtue to serve as example

Visit the city but stay longer in the fields/nature.

When you need a good advice: seat and ponder on  
the grave of your parents

Make time to live; do not eat while running

Do not drawn into the dark depth of high sciences:  
the useful first



**Crotonians: Keep the memory of VULCAN who invented the plough**

**Do not be like number Zero: your value should be yours, not to the place where you live**

**Eliminate gossip and luxury from your house**

From Prolog

ZOROASTER is the Persian legislator, Lycurg, of Spartans, Solon of Greeks, Numa of Romans;

To give good laws: there is only need for a bright mind and for fair judgment

