

# **A LITTLE BOOK OF GERMAN WISDOM**

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A little book of German wisdom by Claud Field

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**CLAUD FIELD**

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GERMAN WISDOM**





*A Little Book  
of  
German Wisdom*

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# A Little Book of German Wisdom

Arndt, Moritz

**W**HEREVER, O man, God's sun first beamed upon thee, where the stars of heaven first shone above thee, where His lightnings first declared His omnipotence, and His storm-wind shook thy soul with pious awe,—there are thine affections, there is thy country.

Where the first human eye bent lovingly over thy cradle, where thy mother first bore thee joyfully on her bosom, where thy father engraved the words of wisdom in thy heart,—there are thine affections, there is thy country. And though it be among bare rocks and desert islands, and though poverty and care dwell there with thee, thou must love that land for ever; for thou art man, and thou



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canst not forget it, but it must abide in thine inmost heart.

And freedom is no empty dream, no barren imagination; but in her dwell thy courage and thy pride, and the certainty that thou art of high and heavenly race. There is freedom where thou canst live according to the customs and fashions and laws of thy fathers; where that which rejoiced their heart, rejoices thine; where no foreign oppressor can command thee, no foreign ruler drive thee at his will, as cattle at the will of their driver.

This thy country,—thy free country—is a treasure which contains within itself indestructible love and faith; the noblest good (excepting religion, in which dwells a still higher freedom) that a virtuous man can possess or can covet.—*Moritz Arndt*

## Auerbach, Berthold

**H**ONOUR your father and mother that you may live long" does not mean that a good child will live till it is seventy or eighty years old; no, they who honour father and mother live long, but in time past. They have the life of their parents within them in remembrance and in thought, which cannot be taken from them, and they live long on earth whatever their years, whereas those who do not honour their parents, live but their own life.

—*Berthold Auerbach*

In the small affairs of life how often do we seek something which we want with trouble and solicitude, and after a time when the eye is clear and calm, it is lying plain before us. It is as if before some demon had blinded and confounded us. Is it not also thus in life on a large scale; in the higher needs of our being?—*Berthold Auerbach*

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Eat and drink  
On God oft think  
Thine honour strictly save ;  
Of all thou'st got  
Thou takest not  
More than a sheet to the grave.

—*Berthold Auerbach*

Man has the single and prime duty of preserving the repose of his mind. All that is external to him, that terrible "What will people say?" has no business to concern him. This question makes the mind homeless. Do right and fear no one ; thou may'st be sure that with all thy consideration for the world, thou wilt never satisfy the world. But if thou goest forward straight on thy way, not concerning thyself with the friendly or unfriendly glances of men, then thou hast conquered the world, and it is subject to thee.—*Berthold Auerbach*

There was once a young girl who having gone astray and died, found herself in hell, and the holy Peter kept hearing her crying out of the flames to her former lover, "Paul!