

THE BOOK OF LIFE

*Guiding Principles for
Successful Living*



Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

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Successful Living*

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Goodword Books

First published 2026

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This book is an English translation of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan's Urdu book, *Kitab-e-Zindagi* (First Published 1996).

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CONTENTS

Preface	7	All To The Mind	32
Chapter One		The Cause Within	33
PAGES OF WISDOM		One's Own Mistake	34
The Mature Person	10	Increase Through Saving	35
Superior Solutions	11	Victory Without War	37
The Power of Creativity	12	A Word of Wisdom	38
Sheer Hard Work	13	A Simple Principle	39
Purposefulness	14	No Danger	40
Walk Carefully	16	Courage Without Caution	42
The Wise Approach	17	Conventional Thinking	43
Developing Insight	18	The Condition For Success	44
The Way to Succeed	20	The Journey of Life	46
A Piece of Advice	21	Learning From The Enemy	47
The Question About Cost	22	Closed Mind	48
Failure and Success	24	Rising Higher	49
Business Consistency	25	Lack of Wisdom	51
Action, Not Reaction	26	Accepting Reality	52
Do Not Provoke Anger	28	The Secret of Success	53
Between Choice And Constraint	29	Who is Guilty?	54
One's Weakness	30	Ease in Difficulty	56

CONTENTS

Shopkeeping	57	Against the Times	88
Present-Day Society	58	Truly Alive or Spiritually Dead	89
In A Dream	59	A Suicide	91
A Successful Journey	61	The Secret of Life	92
Possible and Impossible	62	Human Greatness	93
Opportunities of Every Kind	63	The Lesson of the Owl	95
Despite Disability	65	Even After Losing	96
The Secret of Success	66	Underestimating Others	97
What A Difference	67	Focus of Mind	98
The Importance of Purpose	68	Nature's Judgment	99
Wrong Way Round	69	Great Progress	100
Justice is Alive	70	Ticket to Success	101
Not Destruction	72	Discovery	103
Words or Reality	73	The Miracle of Service	104
A Greater Danger	75	Shaping The Mind	105
After The Time	76	An Unavoidable Reality	106
Churchill's Tribute	77	A Lesson From Nature	107
How Difficult, How Easy	78	The Journey of Life	108
Acknowledgement	80	Imaginary Fear	109
Resilience	81	An Example	111
Against Oneself	82	The Outcome of Anger	112
High Thinking	83	What Is The Cause?	113
Necessary Preparation	84	A Step Beyond The Job	114
Commercial Success	85	A Sabotage Plan	116
A Simple Solution	87		

CONTENTS

The Big Story	117	Chapter Two	
The Spirit of Reform	118	INSIGHTS OF THE WISE	
Better Governance	120	The Difference In Thinking	152
Correct Advice	121	Think Solution, Not Complaint	154
Great Vision	122	Another Opportunity	157
Why The Difference	123	Ticket to Success	160
Action and Result	125	A Spoonful of Sugar	162
War and Peace	126	Looking to the Future	165
One Event, Two Outcomes	127	Twenty Years Later	167
The Need To Pay The Price	128	Challenge, Not Oppression	170
The Power of Construction	129	Extraordinary People	172
Two Kinds of Leaders	131	The Importance of Time	175
Living Nation, Dead Nation	132	The Tiger's Way	178
Towards Nature	133	Water Instead of Blood	180
The Way of Wisdom	134	An Easy Solution	183
The Fruit of Morality	135	The Importance of Knowledge	186
The Wonder of Hard Work	136	After Deprivation	188
Wisdom	138	Avoid Provocation	191
The No-Problem Person	139	A Friend Within The Enemy	194
The Only Path	141	Success Through Failure	196
Obstacles Are Steps	142	Maintain Distance	198
An Incident	143	The Courage to Face Challenges	201
An Easy Method	145	The Power of Conscience	203
The Secret of Life	146		
A Word of Wisdom	148		
What Purpose Demands	149		

CONTENTS

Applying The Brain	206	Chapter Three	
The Lesson of History	208	ARTICLES OF WISDOM	
The Power of Unity	211	The Mind	
A Natural Shield	213	A Treasure of Power	246
Awareness of Purpose	215	Opportunities Never End	249
Misunderstanding	217	The Miracle of Service	251
The Power of Usefulness	220	Tolerance: The Way of Nature	255
A Sure Solution	222	A Misunderstanding	258
Victory Without War	224	Boundless Possibilities	261
Prudence in Spending	226	A Model Minority	264
Do Not Be Wasteful	227	Solution-Oriented Policy	272
A Message of Hope	228	This is Not Islam	282
The Secret of Success	231	Realism Wins	284
From Experience	233	A Comparison	289
A Lesson	236	Outstanding Achievement	293
The Art of Patience	238	Patience Wins Hearts	296
The Wisdom of Seizing Opportunities	241	The Power of Constructive Work	300
The Principle of Life	243	The Secret of Life	303

PREFACE

Besides human beings, the entire universe operates according to well-established laws. Every element of creation follows a specific order and never deviates from it. By adhering to this order, each thing in the universe attains its stage of perfection.

In the same way, there is also a law set by nature for human life. The person who follows this law succeeds in this world. The one who ignores it ends up failing and disappointed.

The basic principle of this law is that the system of human life is built on competition. Here, every person must consider others. Each individual has to contend with others in order to secure their rightful share.

This principle means that whenever a person or a nation gains something in this world, it is because of their own ability. And whenever they lose something, it is because of their own shortcomings. Therefore, if any group is left behind in the race of life, it should not complain about others but should instead look within itself to find the cause of its loss.

This compilation presents the same law of nature explained from various perspectives. It has been arranged in a simple

order, based on length: first, one-page essays; then, two-page essays; and after that, longer essays. Accordingly, it has been divided into three sections—Pages of Wisdom, Insights of The Wise, And Essays of Wisdom.

Wahidudddin Khan,

New Delhi

March 19, 1992



CHAPTER ONE

PAGES OF WISDOM

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THE MATURE PERSON

In an article on maturity, Anne Landers writes: Maturity is the ability to control anger, and settle differences without violence or destruction. Maturity is patience, the willingness to give up immediate pleasure in favour of the long-term gain. Maturity is perseverance, sweating out a project despite setbacks. Maturity is Unselfishness, responding to the needs of others. Maturity is the capacity to face unpleasantness and disappointment without becoming bitter. Maturity is humility. A mature person is able to say, "I was wrong." And when he is proved right, he does not have to say, "I told you so." Maturity means dependability, integrity, keeping one's word. Maturity is the ability to live in peace with things we cannot change.

That is to say that the truly mature person is one who cannot only bear with unpleasantness, but who can rise above negative reaction in situations of severe adversity; who can keep his emotions firmly under control, who, in the last analysis, is a man of iron character.

Maturity stands at the apex of human virtues. One who has this quality has reached the high point of humanity: he is the perfect man. It is such individuals who are the true achievers in life; who will carry their nation forward to success.

The entire universe, excluding human beings, operates according to well-established laws of nature set by the Creator. Every element in the universe follows a fixed order and never deviates from it. By adhering to this order, each element in the universe reaches its stage of perfection.

In the same way, there is a natural law governing human life. Those who follow this law succeed in this world, while those who ignore it end up in failure. The present book explains these principles of nature from various perspectives, showing how human beings can lead successful lives by following them.

The basic principle of this law is that human life is structured around competition. Each individual must contend with others to secure their rightful share. This means that whenever a person or a nation achieves something in this world, it is owing to their own ability. If any group is left behind in the race of life, it should not complain about others but should instead look within to identify the cause of its failure. This compilation presents the same law of nature, explained from different perspectives.

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ISBN 978-93-47638-38-1



9 789347 638381