

## **Proverbs Across the World**

### **1. Greek – Όποιος γίνεται πρόβατο τον τρώει ο λύκος**

Literal meaning: Whoever becomes a sheep is eaten by the wolf.

Follow the wrong people, and you will fail with them.

### **2. German – In der Kürze liegt die Würze**

Literal meaning: In shortness is spice.

The shorter a joke, the funnier it is.

### **3. Yiddish – ווען די באבע וואלט געהאט רעדער, וואלט זי געווען א טראלייבוס**

Literal meaning: If grandma had wheels, she'd be a trolleybus.

Stop focusing on 'what ifs', and concentrate on what you've got.

### **4. Russian – Любовь зла, полюбишь и козла**

Literal meaning: Love is evil, you will even fall in love with a goat.

Love can blind you, and make you see someone for better than they really are.

### **5. Spanish – Los trapos sucios se lavan en casa**

Literal meaning: Dirty clothes are washed at home.

Personal family problems should be sorted out in private, not in the view of everyone else.

### **6. Dutch – Hoge bomen vangen veel wind**

Literal meaning: High trees catch a lot of wind

Those that are successful always attract criticism.

### **7. Catalan – De mica en mica s'omple la pica i de gota en gota s'omple la bota**

Literal meaning: Little by little you fill the sink and drop by drop you fill the barrel.

Be patient in your achievements, lots of little bits are better than just one lot.

**8. Italian – Al contadino non far sapere quanto è buono il cacio con le pere**

Literal meaning: Don't let the peasant know how good the cheese with pears is.

Know your place, don't long for things you can't afford.

**9. Afrikaans – Al dra 'n bobbejaan 'n goue ring, bly hy nog 'n lelike ding**

Literal meaning: Even if a baboon wears a gold ring, he's still an ugly thing. Don't be taken in by superficial changes in appearance – a leopard doesn't change his spots.

**10. French – Qui vole un oeuf, vole un boeuf**

Literal meaning: Whoever steals an egg steals an ox.

Once a thief, always a thief, no matter how big or small the crime.