



## JOURBRAN KHALIL JOUBRAN

Ask not what your country can do for you ... But what can you do for your country.

(Yes, It is Joubran - JFK quoted him in his speech)

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Had Lebanon not been my country I would have chosen it to be.

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We were a silent, hidden thought in the folds of oblivion, and we have become a voice  
that causes the heavens to tremble.

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Advance and never halt ...for advancement is perfection.

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The most pitiful among men is he who turns his dreams into silver and gold.

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Friendship is always a sweet responsibility, never an opportunity

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Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need.

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I love you when you bow in your mosque, kneel in your temple, pray in your church.

For you and I, are sons of one religion, and it is the spirit.

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Say not, 'I have found the truth,' but rather, 'I have found a truth.'

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If you love somebody, let them go, for if they return, they were always yours. And if  
they don't, they never were.

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Progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be.

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All that spirits desire, spirits attain.

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An eye for an eye, and the whole world would be blind.

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The just is close to the people's heart, but the merciful is close to the heart of God.

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To understand the heart and mind of a person, look not at what he has already  
achieved, but at what he aspires to.

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When love beckons to you, follow him, though his ways are hard and steep. And when  
his wings enfold you yield to him, Though the sword hidden among his pinions may  
wound you.

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Yesterday is but today's memory, and tomorrow is today's dream.

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You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself  
that you truly give.

## *The Prophet : On Freedom*

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**And an orator said, "Speak to us of Freedom."**

**And he answered:**

**At the city gate and by your fireside I have seen you prostrate yourself and worship your own freedom,**

**Even as slaves humble themselves before a tyrant and praise him though he slays them.**

**Ay, in the grove of the temple and in the shadow of the citadel I have seen the freest among you wear their freedom as a yoke and a handcuff.**

**And my heart bled within me; for you can only be free when even the desire of seeking freedom becomes a harness to you, and when you cease to speak of freedom as a goal and a fulfillment.**

**You shall be free indeed when your days are not without a care nor your nights without a want and a grief,**

**But rather when these things girdle your life and yet you rise above them naked and unbound.**

**And how shall you rise beyond your days and nights unless you break the chains which you at the dawn of your understanding have fastened around your noon hour?**

**In truth that which you call freedom is the strongest of these chains, though its links glitter in the sun and dazzle the eyes.**

**And what is it but fragments of your own self you would discard that you may become free?**

**If it is an unjust law you would abolish, that law was written with your own hand upon your own forehead.**

**You cannot erase it by burning your law books nor by washing the foreheads of your judges, though you pour the sea upon them.**

**And if it is a despot you would dethrone, see first that his throne erected within you is destroyed.**

**For how can a tyrant rule the free and the proud, but for a tyranny in their own freedom and a shame in their won pride?**

**And if it is a care you would cast off, that care has been chosen by you rather than imposed upon you.**

And if it is a fear you would dispel, the seat of that fear is in your heart and not in the hand of the feared.

Verily all things move within your being in constant half embrace, the desired and the dreaded, the repugnant and the cherished, the pursued and that which you would escape.

These things move within you as lights and shadows in pairs that cling.

And when the shadow fades and is no more, the light that lingers becomes a shadow to another light.

And thus your freedom when it loses its fetters becomes itself the fetter of a greater freedom.

## JOURNAN KHALIL JOURNAN

### *On Self-Knowledge*

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And a man said, "Speak to us of Self-Knowledge."

And he answered, saying:

Your hearts know in silence the secrets of the days and the nights.

But your ears thirst for the sound of your heart's knowledge.

You would know in words that which you have always know in thought.

You would touch with your fingers the naked body of your dreams.

And it is well you should.

The hidden well-spring of your soul must needs rise and run murmuring to the sea;

And the treasure of your infinite depths would be revealed to your eyes.

But let there be no scales to weigh your unknown treasure;

And seek not the depths of your knowledge with staff or sounding line.

For self is a sea boundless and measureless.

Say not, "I have found the truth," but rather, "I have found a truth."

Say not, "I have found the path of the soul." Say rather, "I have met the soul walking upon my path."

**For the soul walks upon all paths.**

**The soul walks not upon a line, neither does it grow like a reed.**

**The soul unfolds itself, like a lotus of countless petals.**