

THOUGHTS  
& Witticisms

JOSEPH G. LOPEZ, PHD

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THOUGHTS & WITTICISMS  
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~ DEDICATION ~

This collection of thoughts & witticisms is dedicated to my parents, Celia and Jesse, my brothers Jesse and James, my son, Joseph, and grandchildren, Arielle, Julian and Madeline, and to all individuals who have been part of my life and to every person with a kind, generous heart and soul.

*“When friends converse and share thoughts and laughter, the journey is much sweeter and an exciting one.”*



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~ PREFACE ~

*“Life is filled with creative and interesting thoughts and experiences and every now and then a chortle.”*

[JOSEPH LOPEZ]

Why not expose a grain of truth or a lie with words of wit? Why not pose a question or state a declaration and stimulate the mind? Is it not in order to think and learn for growth and reflection? This is the author’s endeavor, as he plays with words in small clusters to bring about a smile, laughter, a puzzled expression, or a solemn face in reflection.

Throughout centuries, kings, queens, emperors and those in power have used humor and philosophical thoughts to learn and ponder as they wielded their power. In western and eastern civilizations, from Greece to Asia, Europe and other corners of the world’s continents, the courts and rulers of power often paid tribute to the muses, goddesses of literature, arts, and dance; used jesters for entertainment; and made use of philosophers and learned men to provoke thought and acquire wisdom. At times, rulers chose and allowed specific individuals to voice thoughts aloud in their presence. Thoughts were presented or expressed as brief comments, questions or as parcels of wisdom to help serve as food for thought for the ruler or leader to consider in decision-making. Often, it was only the chosen ones who could be free from

retribution for sounding out words in a whisper or aloud, as appropriate, when others could not without trepidation.

*Thoughts and Witticisms* is an addendum to the Poet series (THE POET—How Memory Clings to the Heart; POET II—A Restless Spirit Have I; and POET III—The Many Faces of Love). The addendum represents a different collection and form of poetic thoughts with the use of comments and witticisms for reflective thinking.

Poetry like music comes in many forms and structures, from simple to complex, and may be pleasant or unpleasant depending upon the receiver of the music and words. The audience of one among the audience of few or many will decide the degree of value. So it is with this collection of clustered thoughts and witticisms, the author hopes the reader may discover select moments to smile, laugh and ponder.

— Joseph G. Lopez, Ph.D.

DISCLAIMER: The collection of *Thoughts and Witticisms* are mostly original. Still, the human subconscious works in mysterious ways and may have affected some of the works in the collection. Overall the works derive from the many conversations and experiences with colleagues and friends in the world of education and from some of the poems in The Poet series.



## ~ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ~

THOUGHT—*“A lie diminishes the nobility of humanity. When one lies he betrays the integrity of others and self.”*

WITTICISM—*“He is such a conservative thinker that ideas never leave his mind.”*

[JOSEPH G. LOPEZ, PH.D.]

I wish to thank family, friends, colleagues, and bartenders who have a healthy sense of humor and wit. Further, all individuals who respectfully seek wisdom by listening, reading and reflecting on philosophical thoughts. Humor and reflection can be powerful tools in living an honorable and productive life, because life undoubtedly offers many interesting challenges.

Since a child, young man and in these adult years, I always appreciated how my parents, uncles, aunts, and certain individuals possessed a special natural wit and healthy perspective towards life and the world. I discovered that within expressed humor or spoken and shared thoughts there existed unique golden nugget lessons for living a good life.

The fruits of witticisms and thoughts can also provide seeds for further thinking and contemplation, giving rise to greater understanding of choices for civility and perseverance. The collection of thoughts and witticisms in this book may serve as a springboard

for conversation, laughter and a smile. Perhaps, too, to strengthen the collegiality among individuals.

I encourage you to create and add to the collection of thoughts and witticisms in this book. Surprisingly, you may discover a substantial number of thoughts and witticisms of your own that can be written down and further lead to interesting conversations among friends. Share them with your family and others. Be a teacher of universal lessons.

As poet, I say to you, “When friends converse and share thoughts and laughter, the journey is much sweeter and an exciting one.”

Enjoy the readings.

— Joseph G. Lopez, Ph.D.



An outstanding athlete does not defy gravity and the laws of physics, but becomes one with the natural laws.



If you betray Nature, you betray yourself and there will be consequences.



Love and respect Nature, so she will never leave us.



My eyes can see the distance of light-years from star to star, but my mind's eye can see beyond, making all things possible.



Nature has a way of teaching us the lesson of humility, so that we can strive to be better human beings.

Once again alone in my bed I see the moon and stars held by a blanket of dark blue night and say to them, “Goodnight my faithful and silent friends.” The moon responds with an enhanced glow and the stars twinkle.



One can enjoy life simply by seeing the beauty of nature and the good earth.



Seek the beauty of nature and the goodness of people. You will learn to enjoy and love life.



Sense the beauty of nature and preserve it.



The birds chirp softly and sing their song for all to listen.

A man who drinks too much often becomes angry or silly, but a man who never drinks is quite often rather boring.



Despite what people say, it's not good being stoned, especially when you find yourself between a rock and a hard place.



I am really not a drunk when I first begin to drink.



I can always walk a straight line when I'm drinking, so long as the line doesn't start to swivel.



I can handle rejection very well. I just cry and drink for twenty-four hours.



I do not drink excessively, just regularly, and I always know where to place my face on the floor.



I don't drink every day, but I try.



I drink and play the piano for therapeutic reasons. When I don't play the piano, I just drink a lot more.



I have no problem handling stressful situations. I just increase my drinking.



I'll never forget the night we fell in love, maybe we should get drunk again.

