November 29, 1994

This collection of Basque proverbs was selected, standardized, translated, and commentary was added by Jon Aske. Thanks are due to Inaki Heras Saizarbitoria and friends from the Basque Culture List, Basque-L, for invaluable assistance.

The published sources are cited at the end of the list. The proverbs were posted to Basque-L during the months of July-November 1994 at the rate of about 2 a day.

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Enjoy!

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Note: This copy was formatted by Blas Uberuaga. The references that were mentioned above have been taken out to lessen the amount of information contained.

Blas Uberuaga
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A, zer parea! Karakola eta barea!
Oh, what a pair, a snail and a slug.
FRIENDS, RELATIONSHIPS, MISCHIEF,
CHARACTER, BEHAVIOR

Aldi luzeak, guztia ahaztu
With time, all things are forgotten.
TIME, FORGIVENESS, FORGETTING

Abadearen lagiko, txikia baina gozoa
The priest's pot is small but tasty.
CLERGY, FOOD

Alfer egon eta alfer-lana egin, biak berdin
Doing nothing and doing useless work are the same thing.
LAZINESS, WORK

Aberats izatea baino, izen ona hobe
It's better to have a good name than to be rich.
WEALTH, REPUTATION

Alferkeria, askoren ondamendia
Laziness leads many people astray.
LAZINESS

Adiskide onekin, orduak labur
With a good friend the hours are short.
FRIENDSHIP, TIME

Alferrak, beti lanez beterik
Lazy people are always busy.
LAZINESS

Adiskidegabeko bizitza, auzogabeko heriotza
Life without friends means death without neighbors.
FRIENDSHIP, DEATH, LIFE, LONELINESS

Alferrarentzat jana eta langilearentzat lanak, ez da inoiz faltako
There is never a lack of food for the lazy person, nor of work for the industrious.
LAZINESS, WORK, FOOD

Aditu nahi ez duenak, ez du esan behar
He who doesn't want to hear, shouldn't say.
TALKING

Aita biltzaileari, seme hondatzaile
A thrifty father begets a squandering son.
FAMILY, DIFFERENCES, FATHERS, SONS

Agindua zorra, esan ohi da
A promise is a debt, it's always been said.
DEBT, PROMISES

Alferrik da, ura joan eta gero, presa egitea
It is useless, once the water is gone, to hurry.
OPPORTUNITIES, TIMING

Amari egindako zorrak ez dira inoiz ordaintzen
The debts made to one's mother are never paid.
MOTHERS, DEBT
Amen: Zu hor eta ni hemen
Amen: you there and me here
ARGUMENT, DISAGREEMENT

Apaizaren eltzea, txikia baina betea
The priest's pot is small but full.
CLERGY, FOOD

Ardi galdua atzeman daiteke, aldi galdua berriz ez
The lost sheep may be recovered, the lost time cannot.
TIME

Ardi txikia, beti bildots
The small sheep, always a lamb.
REPUTATION, CATEGORIZATION

Ardiak beeka egonik, ez du jaten belarrik
A bleating sheep eats no grass.
ACTING, TALKING

Arian, arian, zehetzen da burnia
Working and working at it, iron can be pulverized.
INDUSTRY, PERSISTENCE, PERSEVERANCE

Arranoak lumak behar, txepetxak ere bai
The eagle needs feathers, and the wren does too.
SIMILARITIES

Arrozt-herri, otso-herri
A foreign land is a land of wolves.
DISTRUST, STRANGERS, FOREIGNERS

Aseeak gosea ezin ikus
The satiated cannot see the hungry.
HUNGER, INEQUALITY, SELFISHNESS

Aski ez duena, deusik ez duena
Not having enough is like not having anything
DISSATISFACTION, PRIVATION

Asko baduk/n, asko beharko duk/n
If you have much, you will need much.
SIMPLICITY, AMBITION, WEALTH

Asko daki zaharrak, erakutsi beharrak
Old people know much; they were taught by necessity.
NECESSITY, OLD AGE, KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE

Asko dakin/k/zu, bizitzen baldin badakin/k/zu
You know much if you know how to live.
WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE

Askoren mina, tontoen atsegina
The stupid find relief in the suffering of others.
CONSOLATION, CONTENTMENT

Asto askok, lasto asko
A lot of donkeys means a lot of hay.
FAMILY, EXPENSES

Astoari ezin mendeka, mendeka albardari
Not able to take revenge on the donkey, take it out on the saddle.
REVENGE

Aukera maukera, azkenik trankera
The choosy one ends up with the ordinary.
CHOICES, RELATIONSHIPS, HUSBANDS, COURTSHIP
Aurrera begiratzen ez duena, atzean dago
Those who don't look forward, stay behind.
EXCELLENCE, INDUSTRY

Azeri zaharrak ile zaharra utzten du, aztura zaharrik ez
The old fox sheds its old hair, but not its old habits.
HABITS, OLD AGE

Azeria solas ematen zaukanean ari, gogo emak heure oiloari
When the fox is engaging you in conversation, keep an eye on your chicken.
MISCHIEF, DISTRUST, VIGILANCE

Azken gaizto egingo duk, txoria, gazterik egiten ez baduk habia
You will have a sad end, bird, if you don't make your nest while you're still young.
OLD AGE, YOUTH, WORK

Bakoitzari berea, eta beti adiskide
To each their own, and always friends.
FRIENDSHIP, JUSTICE

Balantza duen aldera erortzen da arbola
The tree falls towards the side it's leaning.
PREDISPOSITION, INCLINATIONS

Balizko errotrak, irinik ez
An imaginary mill produces no flour.
ILLUSIONS

Bat eman eta bi hartzu, gure etxean ez berritza sartu
Giving one and taking two, don't come back into our house.
SELFISHNESS, DECEIT, DISHONESTY, SNEAKINESS

Bat izatea hobea, bi itxo egitea baino
It's better to have one than be waiting for two.
SECURITY, CERTAINTY

Begi bat aski du saldunak, chun ez ditu sobera erostunak
One eye is enough for the seller, but one hundred is not too many for the buyer.
BUSINESS AND COMMERCE, BUYING, SELLING

Begiak noraino, nahia haraino
As far as the eyes can see, that's how far one's desires go.
DESIRE, GREED

Begietatikurruti, bihotzetikurruti
Far from the eyes, far from the heart.
FEELINGS

Beltz guztiak ez dira ikatz
All things black are not coal.
DECEPTION, APPEARANCES, COMPARISONS

Berbak handiak, ezkurra txikiak
The words are big but the acorns are small.
TALKING, ACTIONS

Bere etxe pobrea, erregearena baino hobea
His or her poor house is better than a king's.
POVERTY, SIMPLICITY, HAPPINESS, HOME

Berri gaiztoa bera zaldi
Bad news is it's own horse.
NEWS

Beste lekutan ere, zakurrak oinutsik ibiltzen dira
In other places dogs go barefoot too.
COMPARISONS, SIMILARITIES
Basque Proverbs

Burla minena, egia dioena
The most painful insult is the one that's true.
INSULTS, MOCKERY

Bururik ez duenak, hankak ibili behar
If you don't have a good head, then you better have good legs.
INCOMPETENCE

Bururik ez duenak, txapel-beharrik ez
Those who don't have heads don't need hats.
INCOMPETENCE

Buztana lastozkoa duena, suaren beldur
Those who have their tail made of straw are afraid of fire.
WEAKNESS, FEAR

Dagonean bonbon, ez dagonean egon
When there is, spend lavishly, and when there isn't, that's life.
ADVERSITY, CIRCUMSTANCES

Dakien guztia ez derrala, ahala oro jan ez dezala
Don't say as much as you know, and don't eat as much as you can.
TALKING, EATING

Dakienak, dakien adina esaten du
One who knows, tells everything one knows.
TALKING

Dakizunaz gutxi mintza zaitez, ez dakizunaz bat ere
Say little about what you know, and don't say anything about what you don't know.
TALKING, IGNORANCE
Esaera Zaharrak

Danbolin ordainduak soinu txarra jotzen du
A paid drum plays bad music.
BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

Dantzatu nahi ez dana, ez doala dantzara
If you don't want to dance you shouldn't go to a dance.
CHOICES, DECISIONS

Denbora badao eta gu harekin
Time goes by, and we go with it.
TIME

Dezagun gutxi, dezagun beti
Let us have little, but let us always have enough.
WEALTH, SIMPLICITY, CONTENTMENT, SECURITY

Dirua, mutilik hoberen eta nagusirik txarren
Money is the best of servants, but the worst of bosses.
MONEY

Diruak malkarrak zelaitzen
Money flattens hilly terrain.
MONEY

Edozein txoriri, eder bere habia
Every bird thinks its own nest is beautiful.
HOME

Edozeinek, edanondoan, dio bere iritzia
After drinking everyone gives their opinion.
DRINKING, TALKING, OPINIONS

Egarri dagoenarentzat, ur loirik ez
For one who is thirsty, there is no muddy water.
CONTENTMENT, ADVERSITY

Egi guztiak ez dira on esateko
Not all truths are good to say.
TRUTH, TALKING

Egia, askoren erregarria
For many, the truth hurts.
TRUTH, PAIN

Egia da latz eta garratz
The truth is bitter and unpleasant.
TRUTH, PAIN

Egiak esan eta adiskideak gal
Telling the truth, you may lose your friends.
TRUTH, FRIENDS

Eguzki beti on, ez jakinarren non
Do always the right thing, even if you don't know who benefits.
GOODNESS, ACTION, GENEROSITY

Eguzki bera, on ala gaiztoentzat
The sun shines equally on the good and the bad.
EQUALITY

Eguzkia nora, zapiak hara
Where the sun is, that's where you should hang your clothes.
FREEDOM, OPPORTUNITIES, ADAPTATION, CIRCUMSTANCES

Ekark idia, edo begia
Bring the ox or bring the eye.
DEBTS

Elizatik hurreanena, paradisutik urrunena
The closest to the church are the farthest from paradise.
CHURCHES, RELIGION, PARADISE
Entzun eta isil, baiezko borobil
If you hear something and you don’t object, people will assume that you agree.
AGREEMENT, TALKING

Eroriz, eroriz, oinez ikasten da
By falling, one learns to walk.
WALKING, OBSTINACY, PERSISTENCE, PERSEVERANCE

Esaera zaharrak, gezurrik ez
The old sayings tell no lies.
PROVERBS, NATURE

Esan da erraz eta egina garratz
Talking is easy, doing is hard.
TALKING, ACTION

Esan esan, emana eman
What’s said is said, what’s given is given.
TALKING, GIFTS

Esaten baduk nahi duana, entzungo duk nahi ez duana
If you say anything you want, you will hear things you don’t want to.
TALKING, INSULTS, OFFENDING

Eskola-mutilak sasiz sasi, asko jan eta gutxi ikasi
School children from bush to bush, they eat a lot, but learn little.
STUDENTS, SCHOOLS, LEARNING

Ezkukoa behatzak ere, ez zituen Jainkoak berdinak egin
God didn’t make even the fingers all the same.
DIFFERENCES

Etxe hutsa, haserre hutsa
In an empty house, there's nothing but anger.
FAMILY, HOME, ANGER, PRIVATION, SCARCITY

Etxe gatza ugari dagoela eta, ez dezazula bazkaria gehiegi gazitu
Just because there is a lot of salt in the house, you shouldn’t make your food too salty.
EXCESS, MODERATION

Etxe ikusia, umeak ikasia
What is seen at home is what the child learns.
CHILDREN, HOME, GROWING UP, LEARNING, NURTURE

Etxeko sua etxeko hautsez estali behar da
The home’s fire must be put out with the home’s ashes.
FAMILY, HOME, PROBLEMS

Ez ardo bizidunik, ez andre bizardunik
Two things to avoid: sparkling wine and bearded women.
WINE, WOMEN

Ez da horixe atzo goizekoa
That wasn’t invented yesterday.
HISTORY, INVENTIONS

Ez da ogirik neke gaberik
There is no bread without pain.
WORK, SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES

Ez dakusan begik, ez nigarrik
Eyes that don’t see don’t cry.
KNOWLEDGE, EMOTIONS, OBLIVIOUSNESS, AWARENESS
Esaera Zaharrak

**Ez egin gaitzik eta ez izan beldurrik**  
*If you do no wrong, you need not be afraid.*  
GOODNESS, EVIL, FEAR

**Ez egin oihanean, eder ez denik kalean**  
*Don't do in the forest what you shouldn't do in the street.*  
ACTION, RIGHT AND WRONG

**Ez gehiegi hitz egin, ez ba da nahi huts egin**  
*Don't speak too much if you do not want to make mistakes.*  
TALKING, ERROR

**Ez naiz joaten elizara, maingu naizelako; joaten naiz tabernara, ardoa on zaidalako**  
*I don't go to church, because I'm lame; but I do go to the bar, because I like the wine.*  
CHURCHES, DRINKING, EXCUSES

**Ezer ez duena, emateko prest**  
*One who has nothing is always willing to give.*  
GIFTS, GIVING

**Ezina, ekinez egina**  
*Through effort and sacrifice, the impossible can be done.*  
SACRIFICE, DETERMINATION, INDUSTRY, STRUGGLE

**Ezkondo baino lehen, ezagutzea lehenago**  
*Before getting married, get to know your partner.*  
MARRIAGE, RELATIONSHIPS

**Ezkondo baino lehen, kontu zer egiten den**  
*Before you get married, make sure you know what you're doing.*  
MARRIAGE, RELATIONSHIPS

**Gaitz guztiak, bere gaitzagoa**  
*For every evil, there is always something worse.*  
EVIL, COMPARISONS, RELATIVITY

**Gaitza, gaitzagoa derahatza**  
*The worse makes you forget about the bad.*  
RELATIVITY

**Gaitza, ongi hator, baldin bakar bahator**  
*Be welcome, misfortune, as long as you come alone.*  
EVIL, DISEASE

**Gaizki esanak barkatu, ondo esanak ondo hartu**  
*Forgive the badly said, take well the well said.*  
TALKING, CONVERSATION

**Garaipena, neke askoren ondorena**  
*Success is the result of a lot of hard work.*  
SUCCESS, SACRIFICE, SUFFERING

**Gaua, gogapenen ama**  
*Night is the mother of thought.*  
NIGHT, THOUGHT

**Gaur hitza eman, bihar haizeak eraman**  
*Today's promise carries air tomorrow.*  
PROMISES

**Gaurko izerdia, biharko ogia**  
*Today's sweat is tomorrow's bread.*  
EFFORT, SACRIFICE, CONSEQUENCES, RESULTS

**Gaztean alfer, zaharrean lander**  
*In youth, lazy; in old age, destitute.*  
LAZINESS, YOUTH, OLD AGE
Edukiago eta nahiago
The more one has the more one wants.
AMBITON, CONTENTMENT,
DISSATISFACTION, WEALTH

Gehiegi baino, aski hobe
Having just enough is better than having too much.
AMBITON, WEALTH, CONTENTMENT

Geroa, alferaren leloa
The lazy person's motto: 'Later'.
LAZINESS, PROCRASTINATION

Gezurra esan nuen etxean: ni baino lehenago kalean
I told a lie at home and it was in the street before me.
LIES

Gezurra esan nuen Getarian, eta ni baino lehenago zen atarian
I told a lie in Getaria and it was home before me.
LIES

Gezzurrak hankak motzak ditu
Lies have short legs.
LIES

Gezurtiak zer duen merezi? Egia esatean ez sinetsi
What does a liar deserve? To not be believed when telling the truth.
LIES

Gilen, bihar hilen, etzi ehortziren, etzdamu ahantziren
Tomorrow will kill you, the next day will bury you, and the day after will forget you.
DEATH

Gogoa den tokian, aldaparik ez
In a place of one's liking, there are no hills.
HAPPINESS, CONTENTMENT, OPTIMISM

Goiz jagia, ez da egunsentia
Just because you get up doesn't mean it's dawn.
MORNING, WAKING

Gorostian gorosti, eta Donostian donosti
In the holly tree you will find holly, and in Donostia (San Sebastian), Donostia.
CUSTOMS

Gure beia erro handiago eta zuenak esne gehiago
Our cow has a larger teat, but yours gives more milk.
ENVY, DECEPTION, COMPARISONS, APPEARANCES

Gutxi edatea eta gutxi sinistea, zintzoaren egitea
The wise person drinks little and believes little.
DRINKING, TRUST, CREDULITY

Guztia gura izatea, guztia galtzea
Wanting everything, you will lose everything.
AMBITON, EXCESS

Guztien adiskide dena, ez da inorena
One who is everybody's friend, is no one's friend.
FRIENDSHIP

Guztien gogora egitea, da gauza nekea
Pleasing everyone is tiresome.
ACTION, TASTE, PLEASING

Gutxiegia eta larregia, beti kaltegarria
Too little or too much: both are harmful.
EXCESS
Gutxika gutxika, asko egiten da
Little by little, much is done.
INDUSTRY, PERSISTENCE, PERSEVERANCE

Haitzean jaioak, haitzera nahi
What's born on rocks, to the rocks wants to return.
HOME, PEOPLE AND PLACES

Handiak, txikia ahantzarazten
The big things make you forget about the little things.
FORGETTING

Haria meheenean eten ohi da
A thread usually breaks where it is thinnest.
WEAKNESS

Harri ibiliak goroldiorik ez, erle uxatuak aberaskarik ez
A rolling stone gathers no moss; and a bee that scares easily builds no honeycomb.
ACTION, ACTIVITY, BUSINESS

Hartua, emana zor
That which is taken is owed.
GRATITUDE, DEBT, GIFTS, RECEIVING, GIVING

Hartzen dena, zortzen dena
What you receive, you owe.
DEBT, GIFTS, GRATITUDE, RECEIVING

Haurrak hazi, nekeak hazi
One's troubles really begin when one begins to raise children.
CHILDREN, FAMILY, TROUBLES, DIFFICULTIES

Hauxe da lorra! Goian zerua eta behean lurra
What a life! Below the earth and above the sky.
POVERTY

Hazi gaiztoa, bera sortzen
The bad seed grows by itself.
EVIL, NATURE

Hegaztia airerako, gizona lanerako
Birds are meant to fly and people are meant to work.
WORK

Hil arteraino bizi, han arte ez izi
Live until you die. Until then, don't panic.
LIFE, ADVERSITY, CALMNESS

Hilak lurpera, biziak mahaira
May the dead go under ground and the living to the table.
DEATH, BURIAL, FEASTS, MOURNING

Hiru belarritan igaren hitz isila, orotan lasterka dabila
That which is taken is owed.
SECRETS, GOSSIP

Hitzontzi, hutsontzi
Lots of talk, lots of mistakes.
TALKING, ERROR

Hobe da ezer, ezer ez baino
Something is always better than nothing.
PROPERTY, SECURITY

Hobe da gorde eta ez eske
It is better to save than beg.
THRIFT, SECURITY, BEGGING, LOOKING AHEAD, SAVING
Hobe da oinez eta segurora, eta ez zaldiz eta zulora
It's better to go by foot and arrive safely than to go on horseback and fall into a hole.
SAFETY, SECURITY, CERTAINTY, CONTRASTS

Hobe da txori bat eskuan, eta ez bost ezkurrean
One bird in the hand is better than five in the tree.
SAFETY, SECURITY, CERTAINTY

Hordikeria, gizatasunaren lotsaria
Drunkenness is a disgrace to humanity.
DRINKING

Ibiltari gauean, logura goizean
Late night walkers are sleepy in the morning.
MORNING, NIGHT, SLEEP

Idia adarretik eta gizona hitzetik
Hold oxen by their horns and people to their word.
PROMISES, TALKING, RESPONSIBILITY

Igaitia gorago, eroria dorpeago
The higher the climb, the harder the fall.
FAILURE, CONSEQUENCES

Igaroa, igaro
The past has passed.
TIME

Ihaurk egin dezakeana ez utzi besteri egiten
Don't let another do what you can do yourself.
RESPONSIBILITY, DISTRUST

Inoren oiloak, gureak baino arraultz gehiago
Everybody else's chickens lay more eggs than ours.
ENVY

Iretargia argi da, baina eguna baizen argi ez.
Inoren ama ona da, baina norberena baizen ona ez.
The moon is bright, but not as bright as the sun.
Anybody else's mother is good, but not as good as one's own.
MOTHERS

Iturri txikiak, handiak adina egarria kendo
A small fountain quenches your thirst as well as a big one.
SIMPLICITY

Izena duen guztiak izatea ere badauke
Everything with a name exists.
NAMES, EXISTENCE

Izenak ez du egiten izana
A name doesn't make something true.
NAMES, EXISTENCE

Jaio zara, hilko zara
You were born, you will die.
LIFE, DEATH, CERTAINTY

Jakindunen artean dabilena, jakindun
One who spends his time among wise people is also wise.
WISDOM

Jakiteak ez du ogirik jaten
Knowledge doesn't eat bread.
KNOWLEDGE

Jakiteko hartzon, ikas ezazu ematen
To know how to receive, learn to give.
GIFTS, GIVING, TAKING
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Esaera Zaharrak</th>
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| **Jan behar ba duk/n, lan egin beharko duk/n**  
*If you must eat, then you must work.*  
WORK, EATING, SURVIVAL |
| **Lagun onak, ondu; gaiztoak, gaiztotu**  
*A good friend makes one a better person, a bad friend makes one worse.*  
FRIENDS |
| **Jan eta edan eta pakea eman**  
*Eat and drink and be quiet.*  
EATING |
| **Lan baratza, lan aratza**  
*A job done slowly, is a job done well.*  
WORK |
| **Jan-edanaren gozoa! Kontu-emanaren gaiztoa!**  
*How sweet it is to eat and drink! How terrible to have to pay the bill!*  
EATING, DRINKING, PAYING |
| **Lan lasterra, lan alferra**  
*Hasty work is useless work.*  
RUSHING |
| **Jaten duten santuekin, ez dago fidatzerik**  
*Those who eat with saints cannot be trusted.*  
RELIGION, TRUST, DECEPTION, APPEARANCES, SAINTLINESS |
| **Lanik errazena, agintzea**  
*The easiest of jobs is giving orders.*  
WORK, HIERARCHY |
| **Jende ederra, jende alferra**  
*Beautiful people are lazy people.*  
LAZINESS, BEAUTY |
| **Lapiko txikiak, laster gainez**  
*A small pot soon overflows.*  
NATURE, CONSEQUENCES, LIMITATIONS |
| **Kanpoan uso, etxean otso**  
*A dove to the world, but a wolf at home.*  
HOME, RELATIONSHIPS |
| **Lastoaren sua, ez da luzaroko sua**  
*Fire from straw is not long-lasting.*  
DECEPTION, LAZINESS, APPEARANCES |
| **Katurik ez dogoen etxean, saguak dantzaren**  
*In a house without a cat, the mice are dancing.*  
FREEDOM, MISCHIEF |
| **Lastozko isatsa duenak, atzera begira**  
*Those who have tails made of straw are always watching their backs.*  
FEAR, WEAKNESS |
| **Etorkizuna, kontakizuna**  
*The future has yet to be told.*  
FUTURE |
| **Lehen hala, orain hola, gero ez jakin nola**  
*Before, things were that way; now, this way; and it is not known how they will be later.*  
CHANGE, FUTURE |
| **Kontuak garbi, eta adiskide zahar**  
*If your accounts are settled, your friendships will last.*  
DEBTS, FRIENDS |
| **Lehenean barka, bigarrenean urka**  
*The first time, forgive; the second time, hang.*  
FORGIVENESS, PUNISHMENT, CRIMES, FAULTS, CAPITAL PUNISHMENT |
| **Lehenik jan, gero lan** |

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First eat, then work.
EATING, WORK

Mihiaz egiten den mina, da azken sendatzen dena
The pain caused by the tongue is the last to heal.
TALKING, PAIN

Lekuan lekuian ardiak, beltzen artean zuriak
In any place you will always find white sheep among the black ones
DIVERSITY

Munduan nahi duenak luzaroan bizi, oihaleka ohera eta txoriekin jagi
Those who want to live long go to bed with the chickens and get up with the birds.
LIFE, WAKING, SLEEP

Lur bigunean, zulo handia
In soft ground, big hole.
CIRCUMSTANCES, RELATIVITY

Nagi: utz nazak jaikitzen, has nadin lan egiten
Laziness: let me get up so that I may begin to work.
LAZINESS, WAKING, WORK

Lurra bigunago, harra barrenago
The softer the ground, the deeper the worm goes.
DECEIT

Nagia, beti lantsu
Lazy people are always busy.
LAZINESS, WORK

Lurrak hazi, lurrak jan behar
The earth makes us grow and the earth must eat us.
DEATH, BIRTH, GROWING UP

Nagusi eroa baino, gogorrea honbeh
A harsh boss is better than a crazy one.
MENTAL HEALTH, WORK, BOSSES

Mando merkea, nagusiaren nekea
A cheap mule is more work for the owner.
BUSINESS AND COMMERCE, QUALITY

Nahi bada jan, egin behar da lan
If one wants to eat, then one must work.
WORK

Mendiak mendia behar ez du, baina gizonak gizona bai
Mountains don't need other mountains, but people do need other people.
SOCIETY

Nahi dukana hirietat, besterentzat
What you want for yourself, want also for others.
SOCIETY, GOLDEN-RULE

Mihiak ez du hezurrriak hausten, baina bai hautsarako
The tongue can't break bones, but it can cause them to be broken.
TALKING, PAIN

Nahi izatea da ahal izatea
Wanting is being able
DESIRE, ABILITY

Nahiago dut behin to, eta ez hamabizi emango
I prefer one 'take this' to twelve 'I-will-give-you'-s.
SAFETY, SECURITY, CONTRAST, GIVING
Nahigabeko ezkontzea, neke eta kaltea
An involuntary marriage brings nothing but troubles and tribulations.
MARRIAGE

Nekatzen da emailea, baina ez hartzailea
The giver tires, but not the taker.
GIFTS, RECEIVING, GIVING

Neke gaberik ez da bizitzerik
Without suffering, there is no life.
LIFE, SUFFERING

Neke ondoren, poza
After the suffering comes joy.
SUFFERING, HAPPINESS, JOY, CONSOLATION

Nekez hartutako gauza, nekez utzi
What is obtained with suffering, with suffering is given up.
SUFFERING

Nere etxeko kea, auzoko sua baino hobea
The smoke of my house is better than the fire of my neighbor's.
DIFFERENCES, COMPARISONS

Nerea neretzat, zurea biontzat
Mine for me, yours for both of us.
PROPERTY, SELFISHNESS, SHARING

Nola bizi, hala hil
How you live is how you will die.
LIFE, DEATH

Nola soinu, hala dantzat
As is the music, thus will be the dance.
ADAPTATION, CONSEQUENCES, RESULTS

Nolako egurra, halako sua
As is the wood, thus will be the fire.
CONSEQUENCES, RESULTS

Non gogoa, han zangoa
Where the mind goes, the legs follow.
AMBITION, WILL, HEDONISM

Non hilgo zara, haraxe joango zara
You are going to the place where you will die.
DEATH

Nori berea, da zuzenbidea
To each their own, that is justice.
JUSTICE

Nork bere opilari ikatza
People always put the coals next to their own bread.
SELFISHNESS, EGOCENTRICITY

Nork dabilen bideak harrapatu ohi du
The road which each walks will usually catch him or her.
CONSEQUENCES

Nork nori, zartagina zaharrak pertzari: "Utikan, beltz hori!"
Look who's talking! The old frying pan said to the pot: "Get out of there, you black!"
DIFFERENCES, SIMILARITIES

Odolak, su gabe diraki
The blood, without fire, boils.
EMOTIONS, BLOOD

Ogi gogorrari, hortaz zorrotz
If the bread is hard, give it a sharp tooth.
PROBLEMS, ADVERSITY, NECESSITY, ADAPTATION

Ohakoan dena ikasten, ez da jagoiti ahatzen
What's learned in the cradle is never forgotten.
HOME, NURTURE

Ohitura gaiztoa, berandu ahaztua
Bad habits are not easily forgotten.
HABITS

Ohiturak lege ohi dakar
Custom usually becomes law.
CUSTOMS

Ohoin handiak urkarazten txikiak
Big thieves execute little ones.
POWER, CRIMES, THIEVES

Oihal txarra, merke dalarik, garesti da
Bad cloth, being cheap, is expensive.
BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

Oilo ibiltari, azerien janari
The nature, choices, adversity, consequences

Oiloari, oloa, astoari, lastoa
To the hen, oats, to the donkey, straw.
JUSTICE, NATURE

On egin dizuela janak eta kalterik ez edanak
May the food do you good and the drink do you no harm.
EATING, DRINKING

Onak on direla, hobek hobe
As good as the good ones are, the better ones are even better.
DIFFERENCES, COMPARISONS

Ohitu dena beretzat ez da aski bisterentzat
One who is too good to oneself is not good enough to others.
SELFISHNESS, EGOCENTRISM, SOCIETY

Ongi nahi hauenak negar eginaraziko
dauk/daun/dizu, gaizki nahi hauenak barre
eginaraziko dauk/daun/dizu
The one who loves you will make you cry, the one who hates you will make you laugh.
LOVE, HATE

Orain oraingo eta gero geroko
Now the present and later the future.
THE PRESENT, THE FUTURE

Ordu batean ezin dana, bitan egiten da
What can't be done in one hour, can be done in two.
TIME, PATIENCE, PERSISTENCE

Orratzak baino hariak luzeago izan behar du
The thread must always be longer than the needle.
TOLERANCE, PATIENCE

Osasuna, paregabeko ondasuna
Health is an asset without equal.
HEALTH

Otso gosea, ibiltari
A hungry wolf wanders.
HUNGER, NEEDS, RESTLESSNESS

Otsoak otoari gaitzik ez, eta lapurrak lapurrari
Wolves don't harm other wolves, and thieves give affection to other thieves.
ENEMIES, THIEVES, THREATS
Sabelak egitean gur-gur, barteko afariak agur  
When the stomach begins to growl, the previous night's dinner is saying good-bye.  
FOOD, EATING, SIGNS

Sasian jaioak, sasian nahii; gure mandoak ez du etxera nahii  
What's born in the bush, in the bush wants to be; our mule doesn't want to come home.  
HOME, PEOPLE AND PLACES

Senide urruna baino, auzo hurra hobe  
A nearby neighbor is preferable to a faraway relative.  
NEIGHBORS, RELATIVES

Su gaberik, ez da kerik  
Without fire, there is no smoke.  
FIRE, SMOKE, SIGNS

Sua eta ura, belaunetik behera  
Fire and water, from the knee down.  
FIRE, DANGER, WATER

Sugabeko etxea, gorputza odolgabea  
A house without a fire is a body without blood.  
HOME, FIRE

Tantaka-tantaka upela bete  
Drop by drop the barrel fills.  
TIME, PATIENCE, PERSISTENCE

Tresnak jabea dirudi  
The tool resembles its owner.  
APPEARANCES

Txakur zaunkaria, gutxitan ozkaria  
A dog who barks rarely bites.  
ANIMALS, BEHAVIOR, CHARACTER, AGGRESSION, DECEPTION, APPEARANCES

Txalupan nagusi asko daudenean, arrantza gutxi  
When there are many captains in the boat, the catch is always small.  
FISHING, WORK, SOCIETY

Txapel batekin bi buru ezin estali  
You can't cover two heads with one hat.  
OVEREXTENDEDNESS

Txintxarri mihigabea, sasian usteldu  
A bell without a clapper will rot in the bush.  
FUTILITY

Txori ttattarra, abesti ttattarra  
An insignificant bird sings an insignificant song.  
INEVITABILITY, ANIMALS, BEHAVIOR, CONSEQUENCES, EXPECTATIONS

Umeak! Isilik oiloak pixa egin arte  
Children! Be quiet until the chickens pee.  
CHILDHOOD

Umearen zentzuna, etxean entzuna  
What children learn is what they hear at home.  
CHILDHOOD, EDUCATION

Ur beroaz erre txakurra, epelaren beldur da  
A dog who got burned with hot water is afraid of warm water.  
FEAR

Ur handietan, arrain handiak  
In big waters, big fish.  
DIFFERENCES, RELATIVITY

Urak dakarrena, urak darama
What water brings, water takes away.
DESTINY, CHANGE, LUCK

Urde goseak, ezkurrak amets
_A hungry pig dreams about acorns._
NEED, NECESSITY

Urri, baina ongi
_Little, but good._
SIMPLICITY

Urrun helduko da, baratz doalarik, geratu gabe doana
_Far will reach, going slowly, one who goes without stopping._
PATIENCE, PERSISTENCE

Urrunago, gezurrak handiago
_The farther away, the bigger the lies._
LIES

Urruneko eltzea urrez, hara orduko lurrez
_That distant golden pot up close is clay._
(SELF-)DECEPTION, ILLUSIONS, APPEARANCES

Urrutiago, berriak handiago
_The farther away, the bigger the news._
NEWS

Urrutiko intxaurrak, hamalau; alderantzean, lau
_The fourteen distant walnuts turn out to be only four up close._
(SELF-)DECEPTION, APPEARANCES

Urte askotan, txapela kaskoan
_For many years, your hat on your head._
BIRTHDAYS

Urte euritsu, urte ogitsu
_A year full of rain is a year full of wheat._

WEATHER, BREAD

Ustea ez da jakitea
_Believing is not knowing._
BELIEF, OPINIONS

Usteak, alde erdia ustel
_Opinions are half rotten._
OPINIONS

Utseginaz, utsegiteak zuzentzen dira
_By making mistakes, mistakes are corrected._
ERROR, MISTAKES

Utzi ezan/ezak/ezazu ona hobeagatik
_Leave the good for the better._
DESIRE, AMBITION, ASPIRATION

Zahar eroa, gazte zoroa baino txarrago
_A crazy old person is worse than a foolish young person._
YOUTH, OLD AGE, STUPIDITY, MENTAL ILLNESS, INSANITY

Zahar-ele, zuhur-ele
_The old one's words are wise words._
TALKING, OLD AGE

Zaharrari azkar joateko eta haurrari geldi egoteko esatea, berdin da
_To tell the old person to hurry and the child to be still is the same thing._
OLD AGE, CHILDHOOD

Zakur handiak, zaunak handia
_A big dog has a big bark._
NATURE, CORRELATIONS

Zapatak zapata jagoten du, abarkak abarka ez
_The shoe takes care of the shoe, the clog doesn't the clog._
Esaera Zaharrak

**WEALTH, CLASS, POVERTY**

Zeinek bera nolako, besteak uste halako
Everyone believes that everyone else is like them.
BELIEF

Zenbat buru, hainbat aburu
How many heads, that many opinions.
OPINIONS

Zer egingo dugu? Hil arte bizi
What will we do? Live until death.
ACQUIESCENCE, SELF-RESIGNATION

Zer ikusi, hura ikasi
What one sees is what one learns.
LEARNING

Zeuen izenean eta neure gizenean
To your name and to my fattening.
DRINKING

Zeuen osasunerako eta neure onerako
To your health, and for my good.
DRINKING

Zor zaharra, izen txarra
An old debt is a bad name
DEBT, REPUTATION

Zor zaharra, zor txarra
An old debt is a bad debt.
DEBT

**Zorra, lorra**
* A debt is pain.
DEBT

**Zozoak beleari ipurbeltz**
The blackbird calling the crow: black ass
INSULTS, COMPLAINTS

**Zuharrari ez eska gari**
* From the elm tree don't ask for wheat.
NATURE, EXPECTATIONS

**Zura berago, harra barrenago**
The softer the wood, the deeper the worm goes.
TOLERANCE, PATIENCE, INDULGENCE

**Zuri guztiak ez dira irin**
* Everything white is not flour.
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