

**Title:** Wise Words: An Analysis of Pan-Mediterranean Classical Wisdom Literature  
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Our understanding of the world can be categorized in two ways: a priori and a posteriori knowledge (Kant). A posteriori knowledge is accessible through experience and experimentation. Elders offer a lifetime's worth of a posteriori knowledge; thus, many cultures value the wisdom of the aged (Keith). This research accepts Mieder's definition of a parable: "...a short, generally known sentence of the folk which contains wisdom, truth, morals, and traditional views in a metaphorical, fixed, and memorable form and which is handed down from generation to generation" (pg. 5).

Cultures utilize parables to instill values in impressionable youth. Through the examination of parables, cultural values can be found. To understand the classical world, linguistic analysis is necessary. This research seeks to examine classical thought through a holistic analysis of multiple religious, geopolitical, and ethnic cultures of the classical world. This research focuses on classical Greek, Jewish, Christian, Egyptian, Roman and Persian wisdom literature, allowing for a deeper understanding of the complex cultural relationships within the greater Mediterranean. This research suggests cultural commonalities in both symbolism and cultural values, potentially suggesting prolonged linguistic exchange.

Historically, cultures throughout the classical Mediterranean were arbitrarily distinguished as 'Western' or otherwise. This research dispels the use of these distinctions, suggesting more fluid relationships between the cultures of the classical Mediterranean. This research utilizes Dr. Daryae's translation of the Persian *Šahrestānīhā ī Ērānšahr*. The research utilizes original Latin translation to reduce potential translation biases. Translation is reviewed by professional Latin translators.

## Works Cited

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