

BASQUE PROVERBS

ESAERA ZAHARRAK

November 29, 1994

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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.

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BASQUE PROVERBS / ESAERA ZAHARRAK

A, zer parea! Karakola eta barea!

Oh, what a pair, a snail and a slug.

FRIENDS, RELATIONSHIPS, MISCHIEF,
CHARACTER, BEHAVIOR



Abadearen lapikoa, txikia baina gozoa

The priest's pot is small but tasty.

CLERGY, FOOD



Aberats izatea baino, izen ona hobe

It's better to have a good name than to be rich.

WEALTH, REPUTATION



Adiskide onekin, orduak labur

With a good friend the hours are short.

FRIENDSHIP, TIME



Adiskidegabeko bizitza, auzogabeko heriotza

Life without friends means death without neighbors.

FRIENDSHIP, DEATH, LIFE, LONELINESS



Aditu nahi ez duenak, ez du esan behar

He who doesn't want to hear, shouldn't say.

TALKING



Aditzaile onari, hitz gutxi

A good listener needs few words.

TALKING, CONVERSATION



Agindua zorra, esan ohi da

A promise is a debt, it's always been said.

DEBT, PROMISES



Aita biltzaileari, seme hondatzaile

A thrifty father begets a squandering son.

FAMILY, DIFFERENCES, FATHERS, SONS



Aldi luzeak, guztia ahaztu

With time, all things are forgotten.

TIME, FORGIVENESS, FORGETTING



Alfer egon eta alfer-lana egin, biak berdin

Doing nothing and doing useless work are the same thing.

LAZINESS, WORK



Alferkeria, askoren ondamendia

Laziness leads many people astray.

LAZINESS



Alferrak, beti lanez beterik

Lazy people are always busy.

LAZINESS



Alferrarendako lanik ez, eta astirik ez

The lazy person has no work and has no time.

LAZINESS, TIME



Alferrarentzat jana eta langilearentzat lana, ez da inoiz faltako

There is never a lack of food for the lazy person, nor of work for the industrious.

LAZINESS, WORK, FOOD



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



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



Aseak 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 begiraten ez duena, atzean dago
Those who don't look forward, stay behind.
EXCELLENCE, INDUSTRY



Azeri zaharrak ile zaharra uzten 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 errotak, irinik ez
An imaginary mill produces no flour.
ILLUSIONS



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



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



Begi bat aski du saldunak, ehun 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



Begietatik urruti, bihotzetik urruti
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, ezkurak 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 its own horse.
NEWS



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



Besteen faltak aurreko aldean, geureak bizkarrean

Other people carry their faults up front. We carry our own behind our backs.

FAULTS, DIFFERENCES



Besteren ama ona, norbera askoz hobea

Another's mother is good, but our own is much better.

MOTHERS



Beti on nahi duena, maiz gaizki

The one who wants everything perfect, often gets just the opposite.

AMBITION, PERFECTION



Beti ordu duena, beti berandu heldu dena

The one who has a lot of time to spare, is the one who always arrives late.

HABITS, TARDINESS, CONTRAST



Bi etxetako txakurra, goseak jan

A dog which belongs to two houses dies of hunger.

RESPONSIBILITY



Bihotzean dagoena, mihira irten

What is in the heart, comes to the tongue.

TALKING, FEELINGS, EMOTIONS



Bost sosen pupua, eta hamar sosen trapua

A ten cent bandage for a five cent booboo.

EXAGGERATION, COMPLAINING



Burdina berotan jo behar da

Iron must be hammered when it's hot.

OPPORTUNITIES, COURAGE, INDECISION, PROCRASTINATION



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 gutzia 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 zaitetz, ez dakizunaz bat ere

Say little about what you know, and don't say anything about what you don't know.

TALKING, IGNORANCE



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 badoa 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 hoberena eta nagusirik txarrena
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



Egizu 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



Esana da erraz eta egina garratz

Talking is easy, doing is hard.

TALKING, ACTION



Esana 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



Eskuko 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



Etxean 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



Etxean 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 gabarik

There is no bread without pain.

WORK, SUFFERING, DIFFICULTIES



Ez dakusan begik, ez nigarrrik

Eyes that don't see don't cry.

KNOWLEDGE, EMOTIONS, OBLIVIOUSNESS, AWARENESS



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



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



Ezkondtu 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, gaitzagoak 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, zaharrea lander
In youth, lazy; in old age, destitute.
LAZINESS, YOUTH, OLD AGE



Edukiago eta nahiago

The more one has the more one wants.

AMBITION, CONTENTMENT,
DISSATISFACTION, WEALTH



Gehiegi baino, aski hobe

Having just enough is better than having too much.

AMBITION, WEALTH, CONTENTMENT



Geroa, alferraren 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



Gezurrak 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, etzidamu
ahantziren**

*Tomorrow will kill you, the next day will bury you,
and the day after will forget you.*

DEATH



Gogo 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 beiak 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.

AMBITION, 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



Gutxiegi 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 jaiok, 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



Hartuak, 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 hasi

*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**

*A secret that has been through three ears is soon
found running all over the place.*

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 ezkurreen

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



Igaitea 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 kendu

*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 hartzen, ikas ezazu ematen

To know how to receive, learn to give.

GIFTS, GIVING, TAKING



Jan behar ba duk/n, lan egin beharko duk/n

If you must eat, then you must work.

WORK, EATING, SURVIVAL



Jan eta edan eta pakea eman

Eat and drink and be quiet.

EATING



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



Jaten duten santuekin, ez dago fidatzerik

Those who eat with saints cannot be trusted.

RELIGION, TRUST, DECEPTION,

APPEARANCES, SAINTLINESS



Jende ederra, jende alferra

Beautiful people are lazy people.

LAZINESS, BEAUTY



Kanpoan uso, etxean otso

A dove to the world, but a wolf at home.

HOME, RELATIONSHIPS



Katurik ez dagoen etxean, saguak dantzan

In a house without a cat, the mice are dancing.

FREEDOM, MISCHIEF



Etorkizuna, kontakizuna

The future has yet to be told.

FUTURE



Kontuak garbi, eta adiskide zahar

If your accounts are settled, your friendships will last.

DEBTS, FRIENDS



Lagun onak, ondu; gaiztoak, gaiztotu

A good friend makes one a better person, a bad

friend makes one worse.

FRIENDS



Lan baratza, lan aratza

A job done slowly, is a job done well.

WORK



Lan lasterra, lan alferra

Hasty work is useless work.

RUSHING



Lanik errazena, agintzea

The easiest of jobs is giving orders.

WORK, HIERARCHY



Lapiko txikiak, laster gainez

A small pot soon overflows.

NATURE, CONSEQUENCES, LIMITATIONS



Lastoaren sua, ez da luzaroko sua

Fire from straw is not long-lasting.

DECEPTION, LAZINESS, APPEARANCES



Lastozko isatsa duenak, atzera begira

Those who have tails made of straw are always

watching their backs.

FEAR, WEAKNESS



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



Lehenean barka, bigarrean urka

The first time, forgive; the second time, hang.

FORGIVENESS, PUNISHMENT, CRIMES,

FAULTS, CAPITAL PUNISHMENT



Lehenik jan, gero lan

First eat, then work.
EATING, WORK



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



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



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



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



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



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



**Mihiak ez du hezurrik hausten, baina bai
hautsarazten**
*The tongue cant' break bones, but it can cause them
to be broken.*
TALKING, PAIN



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



**Munduan nahi duenak luzaroan bizi, oiloekin
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



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



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



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



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



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



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



Nahiago dut behin to, eta ez hamabi 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 emalea, 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 dantza
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 gogoia, 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, hortzak zorrotz
If the bread is hard, give it a sharp tooth.
PROBLEMS, ADVERSITY, NECESSITY,
ADAPTATION



Ohakoan dena ikasten, ez da jagoiti ahazten

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 wandering hen will be food for the fox.

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, hobeak hobe

As good as the good ones are, the better ones are even better.

DIFFERENCES, COMPARISONS



Onegi dena beretzat ez da aski besterentzat
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 otsoari gaitzik ez, eta lapurrak lapurrari
laztan

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 nahi; gure mandoak ez du
etxera nahi**

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 gabarik, 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



Txintzarri 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, ezkurra 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.



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 hobegatik
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, zaunka 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.

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.
REALITY, APPEARANCES



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