

They that call you blessed lead you astray

Esaias, 3:12

Reprove not evil men, lest they hate thee;
rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Proverbs 9:8

Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you.

Luke 6:26

THE HUMBLE NEVER FALLS. Whence indeed could he fall, being lower than all? A proud mind is a great humiliation; a humble mind is a great exaltation and honour and dignity.

St Macarius the Great, *Fifty Spiritual Homilies*,
tr. Mason, Homily xix, §8, p. 161

INSULTS, HUMILIATIONS, and similar things are like the bitterness of wormwood to the soul of a novice; while praises, honours, and approbation are like honey, and give birth to all manner of sweetness in pleasure-lovers. But let us look at the nature of each: wormwood purifies all interior filth, while honey increases gall.

The Ladder of Divine Ascent, St. John Climacus, Step 4:103
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SOME PEOPLE WHEN PRAISED for their virtue are delighted, and attribute this pleasurable feeling of self-esteem to grace. Others when reproved for their sins are pained, and they mistake this beneficial pain for the action of sin.

St Mark the Ascetic, *Philokalia*, Faber & Faber,
Vol. I, p. 126, #10

THEY SAY THAT A CERTAIN OLD MAN dwelt by himself in silence, and that a son of the world used to minister unto him continually; and it happened that the son of that son of the world fell sick, and his father entreated the old man to go with him to his house and to pray over him, and, when he had entreated him to do so often, the old man went forth and departed with him. And the man went before him and entered the village, and he said unto the people thereof, "Come forth to meet the monk"; now when the old man saw the people from afar off, and perceived that they had come forth to meet him carrying lanterns, straightway he stripped off his garments, and dipped them in the river, and he began to wash them, being naked. And when the man who ministered unto him saw [this], he was ashamed, and he entreated the people of the village, saying, "Get ye back, for the old man hath certainly gone mad"; then he approached the old man, and said unto him, "Father, what is this which thou hast done? For all the people are saying that the old man hath a devil." And the old man said, "This is what I wished to hear."

Paradise of the Holy Fathers, tr. Budge,
Vol. II, p. 62, # 274

PEARLS FROM THE HOLY FATHERS

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