

## 6 -- FORBEARANCE

Lokman said to his son when he acceded to the throne :

—My son, if you possessed all the virtues except forbearance, you would still be a feather blown in the wind, a toy in the hands of your subjects. Forbearance means abundant patience for opposition of any sort it may be and from any source it may come, so as to have the possibility to straighten out your deviation, or to straighten out its own, if it were deviated and you were straight. But to try to exterminate every opposition, is a matter I appeal to you to avoid, my son, because it is beyond your capacity, and beyond anyone's capacity. Rid of opposition, you are a horse without reins, a boat without sails.

Beware, my son, beware of despising any human being. Foxes may turn into lions. And foxes, when they transform into lions, are more courageous and more violent than lions. And you do not actually know who of the human beings are foxes, and who are eagles and lions. That is why I advise you to be forbearing towards the strong and the weak alike.

**Mikhail Nuaimé**