

- ¹ Let us now praise famous men,
and our fathers in their generations.
- ² The Lord apportioned to them great glory,
his majesty from the beginning.
- ³ There were those who ruled in their kingdoms,
and were men renowned for their power,
giving counsel by their understanding,
and proclaiming prophecies;
- ⁴ leaders of the people in their deliberations
and in understanding of learning for the people,
wise in their words of instruction;
- ⁵ those who composed musical tunes,
and set forth verses in writing;
- ⁶ rich men furnished with resources,
living peaceably in their habitations --
- ⁷ all these were honored in their generations,
and were the glory of their times.
- ⁸ There are some of them who have left a name,
so that men declare their praise.
- ⁹ And there are some who have no memorial,
who have perished as though they had not lived;
they have become as though they had not been born,
and so have their children after them.
- ¹⁰ But these were men of mercy,
whose righteous deeds have not been forgotten;
- ¹³ Their posterity will continue for ever,
and their glory will not be blotted out.
- ¹⁴ Their bodies were buried in peace,
and their name lives to all generations.
- ¹⁵ Peoples will declare their wisdom,
and the congregation proclaims their praise.

Sirach 44:1-10, 13-15 (RSV)