

The Tongue

“The boneless tongue, so small and weak,
can crush and kill,” declared the Greek.

“The tongue destroys a greater horde,”
the Turk asserts, “than does the sword.”

A Persian proverb wisely saith,

“A lengthy tongue, an early death.”

Or sometimes takes this form instead,

“Don’t let your tongue cut off your head.”

“The tongue can speak a word whose speed,”
say the Chinese, “outstrips the steed.”

While Arab sages this impart:

“The tongue’s great storehouse is the heart.”

From Hebrew wit the maxim sprung,

“Though the feet should slip, ne’er let the
tongue.”

The sacred writer crowns the whole:

“Who keeps the tongue doth keep the soul.”

