

As they say in Zanzibar—Proverbial wisdom from around the world
by David Crystal. Collins 2006.

I love anthologies of quotations, both because they are such fun to read through and also because they are so useful for public speakers! As they say in Zanzibar is a wonderful collection of sayings from around the world, grouped under a series of 468 thematic headings; as that figure suggests this is a weighty book in every sense of the word, and contains a plentiful supply of quotes of all kinds, ranging from the profound to the obvious and the funny to the serious.

Some of the quotations seem incredibly obvious on first reading, others have a profundity which emerges as one considers them and realises that they express much more than their actual words mean.

David Crystal has collected his quotes in a wonderfully methodical and scholarly manner, and his introduction explains how to get the best from the anthology.

This book will make a wonderful gift for anyone interested in language, different modes of cultural expression, and damn fine quotations. Enjoy!

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh