

Quotes

collected by Marc H. Mehlman

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“De mortuis nil nisi bonum.” (Of the dead, nothing but good)

“The man who claims to be the boss in his own home will lie about other things as well.” – Amish saying

“Traditional human government consists of thieves and murderers. By adopting the electoral process, we have weeded out the murderers. This is actually about as good as it gets.” – Anonymous

“A politician is someone who can accuse his opponent of being duplicitous without appearing envious.” – Anonymous

“You step in the stream, but the water has moved on.” – Anonymous

“”Like a dog that returns to its vomit, is the fool who repeats his folly.” – Anonymous

“Pain is inevitable; suffering is optional.” – Anonymous

“The three stages of a man’s life: 1. He believes in Santa Claus; 2. He doesn’t believe in Santa Claus; 3. He is Santa Claus.” – Anonymous

“There is no wholly satisfactory substitute for brains, but silence does pretty well.” – Anonymous

“There are three kinds of philosophers, those who believe in the law of excluded middle, and those who don’t.” – Anonymous

“Experience is the hardest kind of teacher. It gives you the test first and the lesson afterward.” – Anonymous

“Only a fool tests the depth of the water with both feet.” – Anonymous

“Time is that quality of nature which keeps events from happening all at once. Lately it doesn’t seem to be working.” – Anonymous

“Don’t argue with an idiot; people watching may not be able to tell the difference.” – Anonymous

“A good friend will come and bail you out of jail···but, a true friend will be sitting next to you saying, “Damn···that was fun!”” –Anonymous

“A fanatic is the Devil’s plaything.” – Armenian proverb

“We cheat the other guy and pass the savings on to you.” – Used Car dealer’s sign

“If we aren’t supposed to eat animals, why are they made of meat?” – Bumper Sticker

“He that seeks trouble never misses.” – 17th-Century English Proverb.

“Some have been thought brave because they were afraid to run away.” – 18th-Century English Proverb.

“Only the wearer knows where a shoe pinches.” – English Proverb

“Because the Lord has sworn: the Lord will have war with Amalek from generation to generation.” – (Exodus 17:16)

“We have not succeeded in answering all our problems. The answers we have found only serve to raise a whole set of new questions. In some ways we feel we are as confused as ever, but we believe we are confused on a higher level and about more important things.” – Posted outside the mathematics reading room, Tromso University

“One of life’s greatest mysteries is how the boy who wasn’t good enough to marry your daughter can be the father of the smartest grandchild in the world.” – Jewish Proverb

“In order to maintain a well balanced perspective, the person who has a dog to worship him should also have a cat to ignore him.” – Unknown

“The schlemiel lands on his back and bruises his nose.” – Yiddish Proverb

“If the rich could hire other people to die for them, the Poor could make a wonderful living.” – Yiddish Proverb

“A wise man hears one word and understands two.” – Yiddish Proverb

“You can’t control the wind, but you can adjust your sails.” – Yiddish proverb

“Belief in the supernatural reflects a failure of the imagination.” – Edward Abbey

“There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer.” – Ansel Adams

“Three grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for.” – Joseph Addison

“You can take all the sincerity in Hollywood, place it in the navel of a fruit fly and still have room enough for three caraway seeds and a producer’s heart.” – Fred Allen

“It’s just a job. Grass grows, birds fly, waves pound the sand. I beat people up.” – Muhammad Ali

“Life is divided up into the horrible and the miserable.” – Woody Allen

“It’s not that I’m afraid to die – I just don’t want to be there when it happens.” – Woody Allen

“Money is better than poverty, if only for financial reasons.” – Woody Allen

“The difference between sex and love is that sex relieves tension and love causes it.” – Woody Allen

“More than any time in history mankind faces a crossroads. One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness, the other to total extinction. Let us pray that we have the wisdom to choose correctly.” – Woody Allen

“I triple guarantee you, there are no American soldiers in Baghdad!” – Muhammad Saeed al-Sahaf, Iraqi Information Minister under Saddam Hussein

“Why is it that you physicists always require so much expensive equipment? Now the Department of Mathematics requires nothing but money for paper, pencils, and erasers...and the Department of Philosophy is better still. It doesn’t even ask for erasers.” – Isaac Asimov

“If you let other people do it for you, they will do it to you.” – Robert Anthony

“No man loves the man he fears.” – Aristotle

“Three groups spend other people’s money: children, thieves, politicians. All three need supervision.” – Congressman Dick Armey

“If you make a deal with the devil, you are the junior partner.” – Congressman Dick Armey

“If you love peace more than freedom, you lose.” – Congressman Dick Armey

“A friend is one who sees through you and still enjoys the view.” – Wilma Askinas

“Don’t mistake personality for character” – Wilma Askinas

“Style is always in fashion.” – Wilma Askinas

“Love is a gift; friendship is an exchange.” – Wilma Askinas

“The main dangers in this life are the people who want to change everything – or nothing.”
– Lady Nancy Astor

“Fame is like a river, that beareth up things light and swollen, and drowns things weighty and solid.” – Francis Bacon

“You don’t get anything clean without getting something else dirty.” – Cecil Baxter

“Every man should have a fair-sized cemetery in which to bury the faults of his friends.” – Henry Ward Beecher

“A great deal of intelligence can be invested in ignorance when the need for illusion is deep.”
– Nobel Laureate Saul Bellow

“When a society has to resort to the lavatory for its humor, the writing is on the wall.” – Alan Bennett

“Hitchcock is a gentleman farmer who raises goose flesh.” – Ingrid Bergman

“My wife and I have a perfect understanding. I don’t try to run her life, and I don’t try to run mine.” – Milton Berle

“A committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours.” – Milton Berle

“Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils.” – Hector Berlioz

“You can observe a lot by just watching.” – Yogi Berra

“Always go to other people’s funerals, otherwise they won’t come to yours.” – Yogi Berra

“No wonder nobody comes here – it’s too crowded.” – Yogi Berra

“Baseball is 90 percent mental. The other half is physical.” – Yogi Berra

“We made too many wrong mistakes.” – Yogi Berra

“I usually take a two-hour nap from 1 to 4” – Yogi Berra

“Civil rights laws were *not* passed to give civil rights protection to *all* Americans.” – Mary Frances Berry (chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights)

“Absurdity. A statement or belief manifestly inconsistent with one’s own opinion.” – Ambrose Bierce

“Acquaintance. A person whom we know well enough to borrow from, but not well enough to lend to.” – Ambrose Bierce

“Alliance. In international politics, the union of two thieves who have their hands so deeply inserted in each other’s pockets that they cannot separately plunder a third.” – Ambrose Bierce

“The covers of this book are too far apart.” – Ambrose Bierce

“Abstainer. A weak man who yields to the temptation of denying himself a pleasure.” – Ambrose Bierce

“As scarce as truth is, the supply has always been in excess of the demand.” – Josh Billings

“The celebrity is a person who is known for his well-knownness.” – Daniel J. Boorstin

“Lord, if I could only have talked to Hitler, all this might have been avoided.” – Senator William Edgar Borah

“A poor surgeon hurts one person at a time. A poor teacher hurts 130”. – Ernest Boyer

“They were boys of common virtue. Called to duty, Brothers and Sons, Friends and neighbors. And Fathers. It was as simple as that.” – James Bradley

“Experience should teach us to be most on guard to protect liberty when the government’s purposes are *beneficent*. Men born to freedom are naturally alert to repel invasions of their liberty by evil-minded rulers. The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachments by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding.” – Justice Louis Brandeis

“Sunlight is the best disinfectant.” – Justice Louis Brandeis

“Tragedy is when I cut my finger. Comedy is when you fall into an open sewer and die.” – Mel Brooks

“Ignorance is not innocence but sin.” – Robert Browning

“Appeasers believe that if you keep on throwing steaks to a tiger, the tiger will become a vegetarian.” – Heywood Broun

“There is no safety for honest men but by believing all possible evil of evil men.” – Edmund Burke

“Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.” – George

Burns (1896 - 1996)

“I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.” – George Burns

“Life takes its own turns and makes its own demands, writes its own story. And along the way, we start to realize we are not the author. We begin to understand that life is ours to live, but not to waste, and that the greatest rewards are found in the commitments we make with our whole hearts to the people we love and to the causes that earn our sacrifice.” – George W. Bush, Jr.

“Every man is enthusiastic at times. One man has enthusiasm for thirty minutes, another for thirty days, but it is the man who has it for thirty years who makes a success of life.” – Edward B. Butler

“Man is the only animal that laughs and has a state legislature.” – Samuel Butler

“The amassing of wealth is one of the worst species of idolatry.” – Andrew Carnegie

“Men as a rule willingly believe what they want to believe.” – Julius Caesar in THE GALLIC WAR

“An honest politician is one who when he is bought will stay bought.” – Simon Cameron

“I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, “Where’s the self-help section?” She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.” – George Carlin

“People don’t watch enough. They think. It’s not the same thing.” – Henri Cartier-Bresson

“How horrible, fantastic, incredible it is that we should be digging trenches and trying on gas masks here because of a quarrel in a faraway country between people between people of whom we know nothing.” – Neville Chamberlain, British Prime Minister

“Everything would have worked out OK if Hitler hadn’t lied to me.” – Neville Chamberlain, British Prime Minister (to his son, when near death)

“The only way of catching a train is to miss the train before.” – C. K. Chesterton

“It’s so beautifully arranged on a plate – you know someone’s fingers have been all over it.” – Julia Child

“Dogs look up to you, cats look down on you. Give me a pig. He just looks you in the eye and treats you as an equal.” – Winston Churchill

“Never give in, never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honor and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.” – Winston Churchill

“You had your choice between war and shame – you chose shame but you will get war.”
– Winston Churchill to Chamberlain after he came back from Germany in 1939 with his famous “peace in our time” message

“Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others.” – Winston Churchill

“You have enemies? Good. It means you’ve stood up for something.” – Winston Churchill

“Victory has a hundred fathers but defeat is an orphan.” – Galeazzo Ciano

“To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child.” – Cicero

“The other thing we have to do is to take seriously the role in this problem of . . . older men who prey on underage women. . .there are consequences to decisions and . . . one way or another, people always wind up being held accountable.” – speech on teenage pregnancy, Bill Clinton, June 13, 1996

“Every improvement in communication makes the bore more terrible.” – Frank Moore Colby

“Hell hath no fury like a vested interest masquerading as a moral principle.” – Representative Barber Conable

“Society wastes entirely too much money policing crimes like burglary, fraud, and bank-robbing when it should be doing something about piracy instead. Our law enforcement resources are seriously misaligned. If you add up all the various kinds of property crimes in this country – everything from theft, to fraud, to burglary and bank robbing, all of it – it costs the country \$16 billion a year. But intellectual property crime runs to hundreds of billions a year.” – Rick Cotton, NBC Universal’s general counsel

“Manners are love in a cold climate.” – Quentin Crisp

“Women need a reason to have sex. Men just need a place.” – Billy Crystal

“It doesn’t matter if a cat is black or white. If it catches mice, it is a good cat.” – Deng Xiao-ping

“The really frightening thing about middle age is that you know you’ll grow out of it” – Doris Day

“Minor surgery is surgery someone else is having.” – J. Carl Cook

“Last night I dreamed I ate a 10-pound marshmallow, and when I woke up the pillow was gone.” – Tommy Cooper

“Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live.”

– Norman Cousins

“It is better to wear out than to rust out.” – Bishop Richard Cumberland

“My mother had morning sickness after I was born.” – Rodney Dangerfield

“A dancing nation, fickle and untrue:
Have oft undone themselves, and others too.” – Daniel Defoe on the French

“When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.” – Leonardo da Vinci

“Finance differs from physics in that no mathematical model can capture the multitude of mutating economic factors that cause major market perturbations In physics, you’re playing against God; in finance, you’re playing against people.” – Emanuel Derman, Goldman, Sachs, and Co.

“There are strings in the human heart that had better not be vibrated.” – Charles Dickens

“Minds, like bodies, will often fall into a pimpled, ill-conditioned state from mere excess of comfort.” – Charles Dickens

“Success isn’t permanent and failure isn’t fatal.” – Mike Ditka

“Suffering is the sole origin of consciousness.” – Fyodor Dostoyevsky

“Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself, but talent instantly recognizes genius.” – Arthur Conan Doyle

“Beware the fury of a patient man.” – John Dryden

“The important thing is this: To be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become.” – Charles du Bois

“Everything that can be invented has been invented.” – Charles H. Duell (Commissioner, U.S. Office of Patents, 1899)

“Adventure is worthwhile in itself.” – Amelia Earhart

“History teaches us that men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives.” – Abba Eban

“Perfection of means and confusion of goals seem – in my opinion – to characterize our age.” – Albert Einstein

“We should take care not to make the intellect our god; it has, of course, powerful muscles, but no personality.” – Albert Einstein

“Then I would have been sorry for the dear Lord – the theory *is* correct.” – Albert Einstein, when asked if what if empirical data did not confirm his theories

“Politics is for the moment. An equation is for eternity.” – Albert Einstein

“In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” – Albert Einstein

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.” – Albert Einstein

“Not everything that counts can be counted, and not everything that can be counted counts.” – Albert Einstein

“Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I’m not sure about the universe.” – Albert Einstein

“Half the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don’t mean to do harm– but the harm does not interest them. Or they do not see it, or they justify it because they are absorbed in the endless struggle to think well of themselves.” – T. S. Eliot

“Our moods do not believe in one another.” – Emerson

“Money is what people without talent use to keep score.” – Jeremy C. Epworth

“There is no royal road to geometry.” – Euclid

“Mathematics has no emotional impact. What physicists do challenge people’s notion of origins and creations. Mathematics doesn’t change any fundamental beliefs or what it means to be human.” – Rob Finer, former editor of the New York Times

“A scientific career is peculiar in some ways. Its *raison d’être* is the increase of natural knowledge. Occasionally, therefore, an increase of natural knowledge occurs. But this is tactless, and feelings are hurt. For in some small degree it is inevitable that views previously expounded are shown to be either obsolete or false. Most people, I think, can recognize this and take it in good part if what they have been teaching for ten years or so comes need a little revision; but some undoubtedly take it hard, as a blow to their *amour propre*, or even as an invasion of the territory they have come to think of as exclusively their own, and they must react with the same ferocity as we can see in the robins and chaffinches these spring days when they resent an intrusion into their little territories. I do not think anything can be done about it. It is inherent in the nature of our profession; but a young scientist may be warned and advised that when he has a jewel to offer for the enrichment of mankind some certainly will wish to turn and rend him.” – Sir Ronald A. Fisher 1947, BBC radio

“An idea ran back and forth in his head like a blind man, knocking over the solid furniture.”
– F. Scott Fitzgerald

“If there is any great secret of success in life it lies in the ability to put yourself in the other person’s place and to see things from his point of view – as well as your own.” – Henry Ford

“A learned blockhead is a greater blockhead than an ignorant one.” – Benjamin Franklin

“Chance greets the ready man.” – Benjamin Franklin

“If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in 5 years there’d be a shortage of sand.” – Milton Friedman

“He’s the type of guy I’d be proud to have as a son-in-law, just not with my daughter.” – Peter Fritsch

“Take care to sell your horse before he dies. The art of life is passing losses on.” – Robert Frost

“Happiness makes up in height for what it lacks in length.” – Robert Frost (1874 - 1963)

“I am a marvelous housekeeper. Every time I leave a man I keep his house.” – Zsa Zsa Gabor

“One of my theories is that men love with their eyes; women love with their ears.” – Zsa Zsa Gabor

“There are two classes of forecasters: Those who don’t know... and those who don’t know they don’t know.” – John Kenneth Galbraith

“Under capitalism, man exploits man. Under communism, it’s just the opposite.” – John Kenneth Galbraith

“It is unthinkable for a Frenchman to arrive at middle age without having syphilis and Cross of the Legion of Honor.” – André Gide

“The interesting thing about history is that it always repeats itself.” – Sir Martin Gilbert

“I’m proud to be paying taxes in the United States. The only thing is, I could be just as proud for half the money.” – Arthur Godfrey

“A useless life is an early death.” – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“Talent develops itself in solitude, character in life’s stream.” – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“All the knowledge I possess anyone else can acquire, but my heart is all my own.” – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“Anyone who possesses science and art has religion as well; anyone who possesses neither of these had better have religion.” – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“What you have inherited from your fathers, earn over again for yourselves or it will not be yours.” – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“We would rather do business with 1,000 terrorists than with one Jew.” – Goldstein’s Funeral Home

“Never make forecasts, especially about the future.” – Samuel Goldwyn

“The most important thing in acting is honesty. Once you’ve learned to fake that, you’re in.” – Samuel Goldwyn

“I don’t want any yes-men around me. I want everybody to tell me the truth even if it costs them their jobs.” – Sam Goldwyn

“No matter how hard the lose, defeat may serve as well as victory to the soul and let the glory out.” – Albert Gore Sr. (US Senator)

“I intend to plunder, and to do it thoroughly.” – Hermann Göring

“There’s no money in poetry, but then there’s no poetry in money either.” – Robert Graves

“A man will renounce any pleasures you like but he will not give up his suffering.” – Georges Gurdjieff

“Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I’ll waste no time reading it.” – Moses Hadas

“When you bet on a sure thing – hedge.” – Robert Half

“Wisdom gave the elderly the opportunity to become elderly.” – Robert Half

“When someone assures you not to worry – worry!” – Robert Half

“A ruler isn’t always straight.” – Robert Half

“Those who stand for nothing fall for anything.” – Alexander Hamilton

“The word ‘politics’ is derived from the word ‘poly’, meaning ‘many’, and the word ‘ticks’, meaning ‘blood sucking parasites’.” – Larry Hardiman

“The nice thing about egotists is that they don’t talk about other people.” – Lucille Harper

“Half the failures in life arise from pullin in one’s horse as he is leaping.” – J. C. and

A. W. Hare

“We may pretend that we’re basically moral people who make mistakes, but the whole of history proves otherwise.” – Terry Hands

“There’s always something suspect about an intellectual on the winning side.” – Vaclav Havel

“Only the little people pay taxes” – Leona Helmsley

“When I speak I put on a mask. When I act, I am forced to take it off.” – Helvetius

“Man’s character is his fate.” – Heraclitus

“I can not bring forgiveness with me, nor forgetfulness. The only ones who can forgive are dead; and the living have no right to forget.” – Chaim Herzog, President of Israel while visiting Auschwitz in 1987

“The person who can state his antagonist’s point of view to the satisfaction of the antagonist is more likely to be correct than the person who cannot.” – Paul Hewitt

“An old-fashion handshake is a good way to do business – unless the IRS demands a copy.” – Cullen Hightower

“The great mass of people . . . will more easily fall victim to a big lie than to a small one.” – Adolf Hitler

“The beginning of every war is like opening the door into a dark room. One never knows what is hidden in the darkness.” – Adolf Hitler (on invading Russia)

“Mankind has grown strong in eternal struggles and it will only perish through eternal peace.” – Adolf Hitler

“What luck for rulers that men do not think.” – Adolf Hitler

“Sacred cows make the best hamburger.” – Abbie Hoffman

“Hofstadter’s Law: It always takes longer than you expect, even when you take into account Hofstadter’s Law.”

“Three generations of imbeciles are enough.” – Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes (on *Buck v. Bell*, where a mentally retarded woman was forcibly sterilized by the state)

“Every idea is an incitement.” – US Supreme Court Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes

“He has all the characteristics of a dog except loyalty.” – Sam Houston

“The statistician says that “rare events do happen – but not to me!”” – Stuart Hunter

“Experience teaches only the teachable.” – Aldous Huxley

“Your beard is like an agent – it takes 10% of everything you eat.” – Richard Hyfler

“The trick is to make sure you don’t die waiting for prosperity to come.” – Lee Iacocca

“He is strongest who stands alone” – Henrik Ibsen

“To compel a man to furnish funds for the propagation of ideas he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.” – Thomas Jefferson

“The ordinary affairs of a nation offer little difficulty to a person of any experience.” – Thomas Jefferson

“The advertisement is the most truthful part of a newspaper.” – Thomas Jefferson (1743 - 1826)

“If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and what never will be.” – Thomas Jefferson (1743 - 1826)

“The natural progress of things is for government to gain ground and for liberty to yield.” – Thomas Jefferson

“To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. If we run into such debts, we (will then) be taxed in our meat and our drink, in our necessities and in our comforts, in our labor and in our amusements. If we can prevent the government from wasting the labor of the people under the pretense of caring for them, they (will) be happy.” – Thomas Jefferson 1791

“You slam a politician, you make out like he’s the devil, with horns and hoofs. But his wife loves him, and so did all his mistresses.” – Pamela Hansford Johnson

“If it had been possible to build the Tower of Babel without ascending it, the work would have been permitted.” – Franz Kafka

“We write our own destiny; we become what we do.” – Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek

“You are what you love, not what loves you.” – Donald Kaufman (fictitious brother of Charles Kaufman)

“We’re all one thing, Lieutenant. That is what I’ve come to realize. Like cells in a body. ‘Cept you can’t see the body. The way fish can’t see the ocean. And so we envy each other. Hurt each other. Hate each other. How silly is that? A heart cell hating a lung cell.” – Donald Kaufman (fictitious brother of Charles Kaufman) from (Cassie from “The Three”)

“I saw the play under adverse conditions. The curtain was up.” – George S. Kaufman

“Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.” – Helen Keller

“Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity” – Martin Luther King

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.” – Martin Luther King

“There is no subtler, no surer means of overturning the existing basis of society than to debauch the currency. The process engages all the hidden forces of economic law on the side of destruction, and does it in a manner which not one man in a million is able to diagnose.” – John Maynard Keynes

“Ninety percent of the politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation.” – Henry Kissinger

“When I bore people at a party, they think it is their fault.” – Henry Kissinger

”Anybody can jump a motorcycle. The trouble begins when you try to land it.” – Evel Knievel

“Smoking is one of the leading causes of statistics.” – Fletcher Knebel

“The history of ideas is filled with barren truths and fertile errors.” – Arthur Koestler

“All of the significant battles are waged within the self.” – Sheldon Kopp

“ ‘I think, therefore I am’ is the statement of an intellectual who underrates toothaches.” – Milan Kundera

“Whoever shows mercy to the cruel ultimately will be cruel to those deserving of mercy” – third century Rabbi Simeon ben Lakish (*Ecclesiastes Rabbah 7:16*)

“In crowds it is stupidity and not mother wit that is accumulated.” – Gustave Le Bon

“To make an omelet you have to break a few eggs.” – Vladimir Lenin

“The reason grandparents and grandchildren get along so well is that they have a common enemy.” – Sam Levenson

“People hate me because I am a multifaceted, talented, wealthy, internationally famous genius.” – Jerry Lewis

“No man is good enough to govern another man, without that other’s consent.” – Abraham Lincoln

“Military glory – the attractive rainbow that rises in showers of blood.” – Abraham Lincoln

“Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.” – Abraham Lincoln

“Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.” – Abraham Lincoln

“My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure.” – Abraham Lincoln

“Law without enforcement is only good advice.” – Abraham Lincoln

“Mathematics is very hard work, and dons tend to be above the average in health and vigor. Below a certain threshold a man cracks up, but above it hard mental work makes for health and vigor (also – on much historical evidence through the ages – for longevity).” – J. E. Littlewood:

“Platonic friendship: the interval between the introduction and the first kiss.” – Sophie Irene Loeb

“Après moi, le déluge.” – French King Louis XV

“A school without football is in danger of deteriorating into a medieval study hall.” – Vince Lombardi

“I would rather be ashes than dust!
I would rather that my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze
than it should be stifled by dryrot
I would rather be a superb meteor,
every atom of me in magnificent glow,
than a sleepy and permanent planet.
The proper function of man is to live, not to exist.
I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them.
I shall use my time.”
– Jack London (1876–1916)

“If you have the reputation of an early riser, you can sleep until noon.” – Huey Long

“The average person thinks he isn’t.” – Father Larry Lorenzoni

“Now is not the time for me to make new enemies” – Machiavelli, on his death bed when encouraged to denounce Satan before dying

“Men, it has been well said, think in herds. It will be seen that they go mad in herds, while they only recover their senses slowly, one by one.” – Charles Mackay

“Being blond is definitely a different state of mind.” – Madonna

“Art and business may be strange bedfellows, but an artist must make room in her bed for both.” – Eric Maisel

“You guys have been practicing discrimination for years. Now its our turn.” – Justice Thurgood Marshall

“I wasn’t kissing her, I was whispering in her mouth.” – Chico Marx

“A hospital bed is a parked taxi with the meter running” – Groucho Marx

“One morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas. How he got in my pajamas, I don’t know.” – Groucho Marx

”(O)nce war is forced upon us there is no other alternative than to apply every available means to bring it to a swift end. War’s very object is victory, not prolonged indecision. In war, there is no substitute for victory.” – Douglas MacAuthur

“The only thing that saves us from the bureaucracy is inefficiency. An efficient bureaucracy is the greatest threat to liberty.” – Eugene McCarthy

“Bureaucracy, the rule of no one, has become the modern form of despotism.” – Mary McCarthy

“Epitaph for a waiter: By and by, God caught his eye.” – David McCord

“You can either have lunch or be lunch.” – Scott McNealy (CEO of Sun Microsystems)

“When others derive vacarous pleasure from me, I am happy.” – Marc Mehlman

“One of the chief vulnerabilities of evil is that it is often overly principled.” – Marc Mehlman and Alexander Wilce

“Don’t be so humble – you are not that great.” – Golda Meir (1898-1978) to a visiting diplomat

“For every complex problem, there is a solution that is simple, neat, and wrong.” –H. L. Mencken

“A developer is someone who wants to build a house in the woods. An environmentalist is someone who already has a house in the woods.” – Dennis Miller

“Ineffective, unfocused violence leads to more violence. Limp, panicky half-measures lead

to more violence. However, complete, fully-thought-through, professional, well-executed violence never leads to more violence because, you see, afterwards, the other guys are all dead.” – Larry Miller

“Bores can be divided into two classes; those who have their particular subject, and those who do not need a subject.” – A. A. Milne

“Life’s a tough proposition and the first hundred years are the hardest.” – Wilson Mizner

“Being a hypocrite has marvelous advantages.” – Moliere

“Hollywood’s a place where they’ll pay you a thousand dollars for a kiss, and fifty cents for your soul.” – Marilyn Monroe

“The accomplice to the crime of corruption is frequently our own indifference.” – Bess Myerson

“When you win, nothing hurts.” – Joe Namath

“There is only one step from the sublime to the ridiculous.” – Napoleon

“Rascality has limits; stupidity has not.” – Napoleon

“There is no place in a fanatic’s head where reason can enter.” – Napoleon

“There are two levers for moving men – interest and fear.” – Napoleon

“You must not fight too often with one enemy, or you will teach him all your art of war.” – Napoleon

“France has more need of me than I have need of France.” – Napoleon

“A man becomes the creature of his uniform.” – Napoleon

“A man will fight harder for his interests than for his rights.” – Napoleon

“The moment of victory is much too short to live for that and nothing else.” – Martina Navratilova

“The irrationality of a thing is no argument against its existence, rather a condition of it.” – Friedrich Nietzsche

“He who fights with monsters might take care lest he thereby become a monster.” – Friedrich Nietzsche

“One ought to hold on to one’s heart; for if one lets go, one soon loses control of the head

too.” – Friedrich Nietzsche

“Idealism kills” – Friedrich Nietzsche

“To understand God’s thoughts, we must study statistics, for these are the measure of his purpose.” – Florence Nightingale

“We don’t see things as they are, we see things as we are.” – Anais Nin

“Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one’s courage.” – Anais Nin

“A graceful taunt is worth a thousand insults.” – Louis Nizer (trial lawyer)

“Defeat doesn’t finish a man – quit does. A man is not finished when he’s defeated. He’s finished when he quits.” – Richard Nixon

“There are certain things one has to be an intellectual to believe, since no ordinary man could be so stupid.” – George Orwell

“If thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought.” – George Orwell in his 1946 essay “Politics and the English Language”

“Only the dose makes a thing not a poison.” – Paracelsus, 16th century physician

“Brevity is the soul of lingerie.” – Dorothy Parker

“Scratch a lover, and find a foe.” – Dorothy Parker

“Never trust a dog to watch your food.” – Patrick, age 12

“This isn’t right. It’s not even wrong.” – Wolfgang Pauli (reviewing a paper)

“The silence of those infinite spaces terrifies me.” – Blaise Pascal, 1623-1662

“You’ll find in no park or city
A monument to a committee.” – Victoria Pasternak

“Much reading is an oppression of the mind, and extinguishes the natural candle, which is the reason of so many senseless scholars in the world.” – William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania

“I sought to impress her by reading to her, sometimes by the light of the moon, selected passages from Marx’s *Das Kapital*.” – Shimon Peres on charming his beloved Sonia

“It is a great mistake to learn from history. There is nothing to learn from history.” – Shimon Peres, interview in Maariv, May 23, 1996

“When a man opens the car door for his wife, it’s either a new car or a new wife.” – Prince

Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

“Blessed are they who see beautiful things in humble places where other people see nothing.”
– Camille Pissarro

“We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid to the light.” – Plato

“Life is good for only two things: to study mathematics and to teach it.” – Siméon-Denis Poisson

“Three people can keep a secret if two of them are dead.” – Poor Richard’s Almanack

“Nihilism is best done by professionals.” – Iggy Pop

“A little learning is a dangerous thing.” – Alexander Pope

“Give a man fire and he’s warm for a day. Set a man on fire and he’s warm for the rest of his life.” – Terry Pratchett

“Marriage is really tough because you have to deal with feelings . . . and lawyers.” – Richard Pryor

“You want to know my philosophy? One day a peacock. The next day a feather duster.” – Pat Quinn, the governor of Illinois, on his turn in the spotlight

“To every statistician there is an equivalent and opposite statistician. If two statisticians agree that would be a conspiracy.” – C.R. Rao

“Mathematics is like a mistress; you either love her or she will leave you.” – M. M. Rao

“I am an applied mathematician. I applied this theorem to prove that one.” – M. M. Rao

“An economist is someone who sees something happen and wonders whether it would work in theory.” – Ronald Reagan

“Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction.” – Ronald Reagan

“Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But, the Marines don’t have that problem.” – Ronald Reagan

“Orthodox medicine has not found an answer to your complaint. However, luckily for you, I happen to be a quack.” – Misha Richter Cartoon

“All men make mistakes, but married men find out about them sooner.” – Red Skelton

“I find that when I tell lawyer jokes to a mixed audience, the lawyers don’t think they’re funny and the nonlawyers don’t think they’re jokes.” – Chief Justice Roberts

“The head does not know how to play the part of the heart for too long.” – La Rochefoucauld

“Concentration and mental toughness are the margins of victory.” – Bill Russell

“The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people are so full of doubts.” – Bertrand Russell

“Men fear thought as they fear nothing else on earth – more than ruin, more even than death.” – Bertrand Russell “Selected Papers”

“A stupid man’s report of what a clever man says can never be accurate, because he unconsciously translates what he hears into something he can understand.” – Bertrand Russell

“War does not determine who is right – only who is left.” – Bertrand Russell

“Never underestimate an editor’s intelligence and never overestimate a publisher’s morality.” – Edward Sachs

“Defeat is a thing of weariness, of incoherence, of boredom. And above all futility.” – Antoine De Saint-Exupery

“More children from the fit, less from the unfit.” – Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood

“We do not want word to get out that we want to exterminate the Negro population.” – Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood

“Our dignity is not in what we do but what we understand.” – George Santayana

“Alas, how many have been persecuted for the wrong of having been right?” – Jean-Baptiste Say

“But what is anti-semitism to lead to if not acts of violence? Is it so difficult to imagine that?” – Arnold Schoenberg

“I love mankind; its people I can’t stand.” – Charles Schultz

“I believe that forgiving them is God’s function. Our job is simply to arrange the meeting.” – General Norman Schwartzkopf, asked if he didn’t think there was room for forgiveness toward the people who have harbored and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the 9/11 attacks on America

“The tragedy of life is what dies within a man while he still lives.” – Albert Schweitzer

“Against stupidity, the very gods contend in vain.” – Friedrich von Schiller

“Immature artists imitate. Mature artists steal.” – Charles Scribner, Jr.

“Our plans miscarry because they have no aim. When a man does not know what harbor he is making for, no wind is the right wind.” – Seneca (4 B.C. - 65 A.D.)

The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils.
The motions of his spirit are dull as night,
And his affections dark as Erebus.
Let no such man be trusted.

–William Shakespeare (1564-1616), Lorenzo, in *The Merchant of Venice*, act 5, sc. 1, responding to Jessica’s remark, “I am never merry when I hear sweet music.”

“O God, that men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains! That we should with joy, pleasance, revel, and applause transform ourselves into beasts!” –William Shakespeare (1564-1616), Cassio, in *Othello*, act 2, sc. 3.

“Is it not strange that desire should so many years outlive performance?” – William Shakespeare

“Better well hanged than ill wed.” – William Shakespeare

“In converting Jews to Christians, you raise the price of pork.” – William Shakespeare

“The length of a meeting rises with the square of the number of people present.” – Eileen Shanahan

“A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always count on Paul’s support.” – George Bernard Shaw

“There is no satisfaction in hanging a man who does not object to it.” – George Bernard Shaw

“The reasonable man adapts himself to the world;
the unreasonable man persists in trying to adapt the world to himself.
Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man.” – George Bernard Shaw

“Insisting on perfect safety is for people who don’t have the balls to live in the real world.”
– Mary Shafer

“I don’t mind sleeping on an empty stomach provided it isn’t my own.” – Phillip Simborg

“It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest.” – Adam Smith (Wealth of Nations 1776)

“... mercy to the guilty is cruelty to the innocent...” – Adam Smith

“Examine the records of history, recollect what has happened within the circle of your own experience, consider with attention what has been the conduct of almost all the greatly unfortunate, either in private or public life, whom you may have either read of, or hear of, or remember, and you will find that the misfortunes of by far the greater part of them have arisen from their not knowing when they were well, when it was proper for them to set still and to be contented.” – Adam Smith

“If a nation or individual values anything more than freedom, it will lose it’s freedom; and the irony is that if it is comfort or money it values more, it will lose that too.” – W. Somerset Maugham

“I envy paranoids; they actually feel people are paying attention to them.” – Susan Sontag

“Gratitude . . . is a sickness suffered by dogs.” – Josef Stalin

“One death is a tragedy, but a million deaths are a statistic.” – Josef Stalin

“Those who cast the votes decide nothing; those who count the votes decide everything.” – Joseph Stalin

“After age 70 it’s patch, patch, patch.” – Jimmy Stewart

“Men never cling to their dreams with such tenacity as at the moment when they are losing faith in them, and know it, but do not dare yet to confess it to themselves.” – W. G. Sumner

“Man’s capacity for self-deception is unlimited.” – George H. Tausch

“When the sun comes up, I have morals again.” – Elizabeth Taylor

“In a world of thieves, the only final sin is stupidity.” – Hunter S. Thompson

“That man is richest whose pleasures are cheapest.” – Thoreau

“Fame creates earlier friends.” – James Thorpe

“After two years in Washington, I often long for the realism and sincerity of Hollywood.” – Fred Thompson

“Insurrection is an art, and like all arts has its own laws.” – Leon Trotsky

“You may not be interested in war, but war is interested in you.” – Leon Trotsky

“We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it, lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will not sit down on a hot stove-lid again – but also she will not sit down on a cold one either.” – Mark Twain

“By trying we can easily learn to endure adversity. Another man’s, I mean.” – Mark Twain

“There comes a time in every rightly constructed boy’s life when he has a raging desire to go somewhere and dig for hidden treasure.” – Mark Twain

“If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.” – Mark Twain

“Mankind lies somewhere between the angels and the French.” – Mark Twain

“Golf is a good walk spoiled.” – Mark Twain

“To be good is noble, but to teach others how to be good is nobler – and no trouble.” – Mark Twain

“In the first place God made idiots. This was for practice. Then He made School Boards.” – Mark Twain

“There are two times in a man’s life when he should not speculate: when he can’t afford it, and when he can.” – Mark Twain

“There are several good protections against temptations but the surest is cowardice.” – Mark Twain

“What is the difference between a taxidermist and a tax collector? The taxidermist takes only your skin.” – Mark Twain

“I didn’t attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it.” – Mark Twain

“I knew a man who grabbed a cat by the tail and learned 40% more about cats than the man who didn’t.” – Mark Twain

“History tells us that the truth is not hard to kill, but a lie told well is immortal.” – Mark Twain

“It seems a great pity they allowed her to die a natural death,” – Mark Twain said of Jane Austen after reading *Pride and Prejudice*

“You can’t depend on your eyes if your imagination is out of focus.” – Mark Twain

“Great minds tend to run in the same gutter.” Jim Uebelacker

“We take our bearings, daily, from others. To be sane is, to a great extent, to be sociable.”
– John Updike

“Sex is like money: only too much is enough.” – John Updike

“A narcissist is someone better looking than you are.” – Gore Vidal

“Take it from me, marriage isn’t a word – it’s a sentence” – King Vidor

“Strange as it may seem, no amount of learning can cure stupidity, and formal education positively fortifies it.” – Stephen Vizinczey

“To succeed in the world it is not enough to be stupid, you must also be well-mannered.” –
Voltaire

“We owe respect to the living; to the dead we owe only truth.” – Voltaire

“Of all the words of mice and men, the saddest are ‘It might have been.’” – Kurt Vonnegut,
Jr.

“An artist is not paid for his labor but for his vision.” – Andy Warhol

“We can lick gravity, but sometimes the paperwork is overwhelming.” – Wernher von Braun

“Government is not reason; it is not eloquence. It is power. Like fire, it is a dangerous
servant and a fearsome master.” – George Washington

“I think there is a world market for maybe five computers.” – Thomas Watson (chairman of
IBM, 1943)

“Character is doing what’s right when nobody’s looking.” – J.C. Watts

“Courage is being scared to death – but saddling up anyway.” – John Wayne

“I have never met a man more candid, fair and honest. Everybody trusts him.” – H. G. Wells
on meeting Josef Stalin

“Always give wrong directions to a contrarian.” – Dave Weinbaum

“Contrarians drink to remember.” – Dave Weinbaum

“Motherhood is the strangest thing, it can be like being one’s own Trojan horse.” – Rebecca
West

“I have found that all ugly things are made by those who strive to make something beautiful,

and that all beautiful things are made by those who strive to make something useful.” – Oscar Wilde

“It would be more impressive if it ran the other way.” – Oscar Wilde on seeing Niagara Falls

“Anyone can sympathize with the sufferings of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathize with a friend’s success.” – Oscar Wilde

“Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.” – Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900)

“A man can be happy with any woman as long as he does not love her.” – Oscar Wilde

“An audience is never wrong. An individual member of it may be an imbecile, but a thousand imbeciles together in the dark – that is critical genius.” – Billy Wilder

“Ah, yes, divorce. . . , from the Latin word meaning to rip out a man’s genitals through his wallet.” – Robin Williams

“Courage is the art of being the only one who knows you’re scared to death.” – Harold Wilson

“We have slain a large dragon, but we now live in a jungle filled with a bewildering variety of poisonous snakes. And in many ways, the dragon was easier to keep track of.” – CIA director James Woolsey in the wake of the Soviet Union’s demise in 1991.

“Bureaucrats: they are dead at 30 and buried at 60.” – Frank Lloyd Wright

“Beautiful indeed/is the source of truth./To measure the changes of time and space/the smartest are nothing.” – Shing-Tung Yau

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” – William Butler Yeats

“In Russia all tyrants believe poets to be their worst enemies.” – Yevgeny Yevtushenko

“My wife dresses to kill. She cooks the same way.” – Benny Youngman

“When God sneezed – I didn’t know what to say.” – Benny Youngman

“Some Scientists claim that hydrogen, because it is so plentiful, is the basic building block of the universe. I dispute that. I say there is more stupidity than hydrogen, and that is the basic building block of the universe.” – Frank Zappa

REPLY OF DUKE OF WELLINGTON
TO HIS SECRETARY FOR WAR IN 1810

MY LORD, IF I ATTEMPTED TO ANSWER THE MASS OF FUTILE CORRESPONDANCE

THAT SURROUNDS ME, I SHOULD BE DEBARRED FROM ALL SERIOUS BUSINESS OF
CAMPAIGNING. I MUST REMIND YOUR LORDSHIP--FOR THE LAST TIME -- THAT SO LONG
AS I RETAIN AN INDEPENDENT POSITION, I SHALL SEE TO IT THAT NO OFFICER
UNDER MY COMMAD IS DEBBARRED, BY ATTENDING TO THE FUTILE DRIVELLING OF MERE
QUILL-DRIVING IN YLORDSHIPSHIPS'S OFFICE, FROM ATTENDING TO HIS FIRST DUTY -
WHICH IS, AS ALWAYS, TO TRAIN THE PRIVATE MEN UNDER HIS COMMAND THAT THEY
MAY WITHOUT QUESTION BEAT ANY FORCE OPPOSED TO THEM IN THE FIELD.