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Quotes by Euripides

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Euripides, the youngest of the three great Athenian playwrights, was born around 485 BC of a family of good standing. He first competed in the dramatic festivals in 455 BC, coming only third; his record of success in the tragic competitions is lower than that of either Aeschylus or Sophocles. There is a tradition that he was unpopular, even a recluse; we are told that he composed poetry in a cave by the sea, near Salamis. What is clear from contemporary evidence, however, is that audiences were fascinated by his innovative and often disturbing dramas. His work was controversial already in his lifetime, and he himself was regarded as a 'clever' poet, associated with philosophers and other intellectuals. Towards the end of his life he went to live at the court of Archelaus, King of Macedon. It was during his time there that he wrote what many consider his greatest work, the *Bacchae*. When news of his death reached Athens in early 406 BC, Sophocles appeared publicly in mourning for him. Euripides is thought to have written about ninety-two plays, of which seventeen tragedies and one satyr-play known to be his survive; the other play which is attributed to him, the *Rhesus*, may in fact be by a later hand.

Know first who you are; and then adorn yourself accordingly.

- Euripides

Much effort, much prosperity.

- Euripides

When a good man is hurt all who would be called good must suffer with him.

- Euripides

There is nothing like the sight of an old enemy down on his luck.

- Euripides

Every man is like the company he is wont to keep.

- Euripides

Noble fathers have noble children.

- Euripides

To a father growing old nothing is dearer than a daughter.

- Euripides

When a man's stomach is full it makes no difference whether he is rich or poor.

- Euripides

Forgive, son; men are men; they needs must err.

- Euripides

Fortune truly helps those who are of good judgment.

- Euripides

No one is truly free, they are a slave to wealth, fortune, the law, or other people restraining them from acting according to their will.

- Euripides

No one who lives in error is free.

- Euripides

One loyal friend is worth ten thousand relatives.

- Euripides

Life has no blessing like a prudent friend.

- Euripides

Friends show their love in times of trouble...

- Euripides

I hate it in friends when they come too late to help.

- Euripides

To generous souls every task is noble.

- Euripides

Slight not what's near through aiming at what's far.

- Euripides

In goodness there are all kinds of wisdom.

- Euripides

That glittering hope is immemorial and beckons many men to their undoing.

- Euripides

Often a noble face hides filthy ways.

- Euripides

Ignorance of one's misfortunes is clear gain.

- Euripides

Impudence is the worst of all human diseases.

- Euripides

Some wisdom you must learn from one who's wise.

- Euripides

The language of truth is simple.

- Euripides

People that seem so glorious are all show; underneath they are like everyone else.

- Euripides

Reason can wrestle and overthrow terror.

- Euripides

Love is all we have, the only way that each can help the other.

- Euripides

He is not a lover who does not love forever.

- Euripides

The wavering mind is but a base possession.

- Euripides

I love the old way best, the simple way of poison, where we too are strong as men.

- Euripides

Nothing has more strength than dire necessity.

- Euripides

To persevere, trusting in what hopes he has, is courage in a man.

- Euripides

Do not plan for ventures before finishing what's at hand.

- Euripides

Joint undertakings stand a better chance when they benefit both sides.

- Euripides

Events will take their course, it is no good of being angry at them; he is happiest who wisely turns them to the best account.

- Euripides

Authority is never without hate.

- Euripides

The bold are helpless without cleverness.

- Euripides

The good and the wise lead quiet lives.

- Euripides

Chance fights ever on the side of the prudent.

- Euripides

It is change; all yields its place and goes.

- Euripides

Wealth stays with us a little moment if at all: only our characters are steadfast, not our gold.

- Euripides

'Twas but my tongue, 'twas not my soul that swore.

- Euripides

Time will explain it all. He is a talker, and needs no questioning before he speaks.

- Euripides

Among mortals second thoughts are wisest.

- Euripides

Of all things upon earth that bleed and grow, a herb most bruised is woman.

- Euripides

Youth holds no society with grief.

- Euripides

Youth is the best time to be rich, and the best time to be poor.

- Euripides

Cleverness is not wisdom.

- Euripides

The best prophet is common sense, our native wit.

- Euripides

There is one thing alone that stands the brunt of life throughout its length: a quiet conscience.

- Euripides

There is the sky, which is all men's together.

- Euripides

But learn that to die is a debt we must all pay.

- Euripides

But this is slavery, not to speak ones thought.

- Euripides

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