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Quotes by Gibran, Kahlil

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Gibran Khalil Gibran (January 6, 1883 – April 10, 1931) was a Lebanese poet and artist. His poetry is notable for its use of formal language and insights on topics of life using spiritual terms. He emigrated to Boston, USA in 1895 with his mother, sisters and half-brother. He studied art in Boston, and French and Arabic in Lebanon. The spelling "Kahlil Gibran" is the result of an error when he first entered school in Boston.

One may not reach the dawn save by the path of the night.

- Gibran, Kahlil

March on. Do not tarry. To go forward is to move toward perfection. March on, and fear not the thorns, or the sharp stones on life's path.

- Gibran, Kahlil

When we turn to one another for counsel we reduce the number of our enemies.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Seek ye counsel of the aged for their eyes have looked on the faces of the years and their ears have hardened to the voices of Life. Even if their counsel is displeasing to you, pay heed to them.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Verily the kindness that gazes upon itself in a mirror turns to stone, and a good deed that calls itself by tender names becomes the parent to a curse.

- Gibran, Kahlil

The significance of a man is not in what he attains, but rather what he longs to attain.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother.

- Gibran, Kahlil

To understand the heart and mind of a person, look not at what he has already achieved, but at what he aspires to do.

- Gibran, Kahlil

An exaggeration is a truth that has lost its temper.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Faith is an oasis in the heart which will never be reached by the caravan of thinking.

- Gibran, Kahlil

If the other person injures you, you may forget the injury; but if you injure him you will always remember.

- Gibran, Kahlil

You can muffle the drum, and you can loosen the strings of the lyre, but who shall command the skylark not to sing?

- Gibran, Kahlil

Your friend is your needs answered.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Your friend is your field which you sow with love and reap with thanksgiving.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Let your best be for your friend...

- Gibran, Kahlil

Let there be no purpose in friendship save the deepening of the spirit.

- Gibran, Kahlil

In the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Friendship is always a sweet responsibility, never an opportunity.

- Gibran, Kahlil

If you cannot work with love but only with distaste, it is better that you should leave your work.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Life is indeed darkness save when there is urge, and all urge is blind save when there is knowledge, and all knowledge is vain save when there is work, and all work is empty save when there is love.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Yesterday is but today's memory, and tomorrow is today's dream.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need.

- Gibran, Kahlil

You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

- Gibran, Kahlil

The lights of stars that were extinguished ages ago still reaches us. So it is with great men who died centuries ago, but still reach us with the radiations of their personalities.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Tenderness and kindness are not signs of weakness and despair, but manifestations of strength and resolutions.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Perplexity is the beginning of knowledge.

- Gibran, Kahlil

No man can reveal to you nothing but that which already lies half-asleep in the dawning of your knowledge.

- Gibran, Kahlil

A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle.

- Gibran, Kahlil

The chemist who can extract from his heart's elements, compassion, respect, longing, patience, regret, surprise, and forgiveness and compound them into one can create that atom which is called love.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Love gives naught but itself and takes naught but from itself. Love possesses not nor would it be possessed; For love is sufficient unto love.

- Gibran, Kahlil

It is wrong to think that love comes from long companionship and persevering courtship. Love is the offspring of spiritual affinity and unless that affinity is created in a moment, it will not be created for years or even generations.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Ever has it been that love knows not its own depth until the hour of separation.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Love possesses not nor will it be possessed, for love is sufficient unto love.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Much of your pain is the bitter potion by which the physician within you heals your sick self.

- Gibran, Kahlil

I prefer to be a dreamer among the humblest, with visions to be realized, than lord among those without dreams and desires.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Money is like love; it kills slowly and painfully the one who withholds it, and enlivens the other who turns it on his fellow man.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding.

- Gibran, Kahlil

For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun? And what is it to cease breathing but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?

- Gibran, Kahlil

Your hearts know in silence the secrets of the days and the nights.

- Gibran, Kahlil

The obvious is that which is never seen until someone expresses it simply.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Beauty is not in the face; beauty is a light in the heart.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Beauty is eternity gazing at itself in a mirror.

- Gibran, Kahlil

The teacher gives not of his wisdom, but rather of his faith and lovingness.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Say not, I have found the truth, but rather, I have found a truth.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Keep me away from the wisdom which does not cry, the philosophy which does not laugh,
and the greatness which does not bow before children.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Work is love made visible. And if you can't work with love but only with distaste, it is better
that you should leave your work and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of the
people who work with joy.

- Gibran, Kahlil

You may give them your love but not your thoughts. For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of

tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

- Gibran, Kahlil

The lust for comfort, that stealthy thing that enters the house as a guest, and then becomes a host, and then a master.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Yes, there is a Nirvanah; it is leading your sheep to a green pasture, and in putting your child to sleep, and in writing the last line of your poem.

- Gibran, Kahlil

And let the winds of the heavens dance between you.

- Gibran, Kahlil

My Soul is Heavy Laden with Its Fruits:

Would that I were a dry well, and that the people tossed stones into me, for that would be easier than to be a spring of flowing water that the thirsty pass by, and from which they avoid drinking

- Gibran, Kahlil



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