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Quotes by Ovid

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Engraved frontispiece of George Sandys's 1632 London edition of Ovids
Metamorphosis Englished.

A short absence is the safest.

- Ovid

We are ever striving after what is forbidden, and coveting what is denied us.

- Ovid

Time is generally the best doctor.

- Ovid

In an easy matter. Anybody can be eloquent.

- Ovid

The spirited horse, which will try to win the race of its own accord, will run even faster if
encouraged.

- Ovid

Bear patiently with a rival.

- Ovid

Envy feeds on the living, after death it rests, then the honor of a man protects him.

- Ovid

Envy aims very high.

- Ovid

The love of glory gives an immense stimulus.

- Ovid

Chance is always powerful. Let your hook be always cast; in the pool where you least expect it, there will be a fish.

- Ovid

I am above being injured by fortune, though she steals away much, more will remain with me. The blessing I now enjoy transcend fear.

- Ovid

Luck affects everything. Let your hook always be cast; in the stream where you least expect it there will be a fish.

- Ovid

As the yellow gold is tried in fire, so the faith of friendship must be seen in adversity.

- Ovid

Gifts, believe me, captivate both men and Gods, Jupiter himself was won over and appeased by gifts.

- Ovid

I attempt an arduous task; but there is no worth in that which is not a difficult achievement.

- Ovid

It is a kingly act to assist the fallen.

- Ovid

The sharp thorn often produces delicate roses.

- Ovid

Forbear to lay the guilt of a few on the many.

- Ovid

Habits change into character.

- Ovid

Like fragile ice anger passes away in time.

- Ovid

Why should I go into details, we have nothing that is not perishable except what our hearts and our intellects endows us with.

- Ovid

Whether you call my heart affectionate, or you call it womanish: I confess, that to my misfortune, it is soft.

- Ovid

A man is sorry to be honest for nothing.

- Ovid

It is annoying to be honest to no purpose.

- Ovid

My hopes are not always realized, but I always hope.

- Ovid

A prince should be slow to punish, and quick to reward.

- Ovid

In our leisure we reveal what kind of people we are.

- Ovid

This also -- that I live, I consider a gift of God.

- Ovid

There is no such thing as pure pleasure; some anxiety always goes with it.

- Ovid

Love is full of anxious fears.

- Ovid

Neglect of appearance becomes men.

- Ovid

When disposition wins us, the features please.

- Ovid

The time will come when it will disgust you to look in the mirror.

- Ovid

If any person wish to be idle, let them fall in love.

- Ovid

There is something in omens.

- Ovid

Quarrels are the dowry which married folk bring one another.

- Ovid

If you wish to marry suitably, marry your equal.

- Ovid

Keep a mid course between two extremes.

- Ovid

You will go most safely in the middle.

- Ovid

Nowadays nothing but money counts: a fortune brings honors, friendships, the poor man everywhere lies low.

- Ovid

Blemishes are hid by night and every fault forgiven; darkness makes any woman fair.

- Ovid

Always have your hook baited, in the pool you least think, there will be a fish.

- Ovid

The good of other times let people state; I think it lucky I was born so late.

- Ovid

That you may please others you must be forgetful of yourself.

- Ovid

Endure and persist; this pain will turn to good by and by.

- Ovid

Everyone's a millionaire where promises are concerned.

- Ovid

It is no less a feat to keep what you have, than to increase it. In one there is chance, the other will be a work of art.

- Ovid

Minds that are ill at ease are agitated by both hope and fear.

- Ovid

Make the workmanship surpass the materials.

- Ovid

What is now reason was formerly impulse or instinct.

- Ovid

What is without periods of rest will not endure.

- Ovid

Happy are those who dare courageously to defend what they love.

- Ovid

Daring is not safe against daring men.

- Ovid

Majesty and love do not consort well together, nor do they dwell in the same place.

- Ovid

All things human hang by a slender thread; and that which seemed to stand strong suddenly falls and sinks in ruins.

- Ovid

Skill makes love unending.

- Ovid

'Tis best to be silent in a bad cause.

- Ovid

Had I not sinned what would there be for you to pardon. My fate has given you the opportunity for mercy.

- Ovid

Well has he lived who has lived well in obscurity.

- Ovid

Bear and endure: This sorrow will one day prove to be for your good.

- Ovid

We are slow to believe that which if believed would hurt our feelings.

- Ovid

People are slow to believe that, which if believed would work them harm.

- Ovid

Let love give way to business; give attention to business and you will be safe.

- Ovid

All things change, nothing is extinguished. There is nothing in the whole world which is permanent. Everything flows onward; all things are brought into being with a changing nature; the ages themselves glide by in constant movement.

- Ovid

To give requires good sense.

- Ovid

Remove the temptation of idleness and cupid's bow is useless.

- Ovid

Time glides away and as we get older through the noiseless years; the days flee and are restrained by no reign.

- Ovid

Neither can the wave that has passed by be recalled, nor the hour which has passed return again.

- Ovid

Nothing is swifter than our years.

- Ovid

Time is the devourer of all things.

- Ovid

Although they possess enough, and more than enough still they yearn for more.

- Ovid

The will is commendable though the ability may be wanting.

- Ovid

Happy is the man who has broken the chains which hurt the mind, and has given up worrying once and for all.

- Ovid

Let your hook always be cast. In the pool where you least expect it, will be a fish.

- Ovid

Men do not value a good deed unless it brings a reward.

- Ovid

How little is the promise of the child fulfilled in the man.

- Ovid

A horse never runs so fast as when he has other horses to catch up and outpace.

- Ovid

People are slow to claim confidence in undertakings of magnitude.

- Ovid

The burden which is well borne becomes light.

- Ovid

Courage conquers all things: it even gives strength to the body.

- Ovid

Fortune and love favor the brave.

- Ovid

Nothing is more powerful than custom or habit.

- Ovid

An evil life is a kind of death.

- Ovid



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