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Quotes by Shakespeare, William

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Born ca. 1564 and died ca. 1616 during the Renaissance period (1450-1599). One of the greatest writers of all time, Shakespeare, the peerless poet of the Sonnets and the creator of such dramatic masterpieces as Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, and King Lear, is a playwright of paradigmatic originality. In his discussion of the Western literary canon, critic Harold Bloom declared: "Shakespeare and Dante are the center of the Canon because they excel all other Western writer in cognitive acuity, linguistic energy, and power of invention." However, one could go a step further and suggest that Shakespeare defines the Western canon because he transcends it. If Shakespeare, as Ben Jonson declared, "was not of an age, but for all time," the great dramatist, one could argue, spoke to the ultimate concerns of humankind, regardless of period or cultural tradition.

How like a winter hath my absence been. From thee, the pleasure of the fleeting year!
What freezings have I felt, what dark days seen, What old December's bareness
everywhere!

- Shakespeare, William

Parting is such sweet sorrow.

- Shakespeare, William

Through tattered clothes, small vices do appear. Robes and furred gowns hide all.

- Shakespeare, William

Sweet are the uses of adversity which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel in his head.

- Shakespeare, William

I shall the effect of this good lesson keeps as watchman to my heart.

- Shakespeare, William

With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come. [Merchant Of Venice]

- Shakespeare, William

Youth is full of sport, age's breath is short; youth is nimble, age is lame; Youth is hot and bold, age is weak and cold; Youth is wild, and age is tame.

- Shakespeare, William

Though I look old, yet I am strong and lusty; for in my youth I never did apply hot and rebellious liquors in my blood; and did not, with unbashful forehead, woo the means of weakness and debility: therefore my age is as a lusty winter, frosty but kindly.

- Shakespeare, William

Have you not a moist eye, a dry hand, a yellow cheek, a white beard, a decreasing leg, an

increasing belly? Is not your voice broken, your wind short, your chin double, your wit single, and every part about you blasted with antiquity?

- Shakespeare, William

I have lived long enough. My way of life is to fall into the sere, the yellow leaf, and that which should accompany old age, as honor, love, obedience, troops of friends I must not look to have.

- Shakespeare, William

I wasted time, and now time doth waste me.

- Shakespeare, William

Lord, Lord, how subject we old men are to this vice of lying!

- Shakespeare, William

I care not, a man can die but once; we owe God and death.

- Shakespeare, William

But I will be a bridegroom in my death, and run into a lover's bed.

- Shakespeare, William

All that live must die, passing through nature to eternity.

- Shakespeare, William

After life's fitful fever he sleeps well. Treason has done his worst. Nor steel nor poison,
malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing can touch him further.

- Shakespeare, William

I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him. The evil that men do lives after them; the good
is oft interred with their bones.

- Shakespeare, William

Our remedies oft in ourselves do lie, which we ascribe to heaven.

- Shakespeare, William

Nothing in his life became him like the leaving it.

- Shakespeare, William

Men must endure, their going hence even as their coming hither. Ripeness is all.

- Shakespeare, William

The weariest and most loathed worldly life, that age, ache, penury and imprisonment can
lay on nature is a paradise, to what we fear of death.

- Shakespeare, William

The undiscovered country from whose bow no traveler returns. [Hamlet]

- Shakespeare, William

I can get no remedy against this consumption of the purse: borrowing only lingers and lingers it out, but the disease is incurable.

- Shakespeare, William

Words pay no debts.

- Shakespeare, William

He that dies pays all his debts.

- Shakespeare, William

'Tis but an hour ago since it was nine, and after one hour more twill be eleven. And so from hour to hour we ripe and ripe, and then from hour to hour we rot and rot. and thereby hangs a tale.

- Shakespeare, William

For I have sworn thee fair, and thought thee bright, who art as black as hell, as dark as night.

- Shakespeare, William

Now, neighbor confines, purge you of your scum! Have you a ruffian that will swear, drink, dance, revel the night, rob, murder, and commit the oldest sins the newest kind of ways?

- Shakespeare, William

Now, God be praised, that to believing souls gives light in darkness, comfort in despair.

- Shakespeare, William

O God, O God, how weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable seem to me all the uses of this world!

- Shakespeare, William

Such as we are made of, such we be.

- Shakespeare, William

The devil can cite scripture for his own purpose! An evil soul producing holy witness is like a villain with a smiling cheek. [Merchant Of Venice]

- Shakespeare, William

The devil has the power to assume a pleasing shape.

- Shakespeare, William

That which ordinary men are fit for, I am qualified in. and the best of me is diligence.

- Shakespeare, William

Modest doubt is called the beacon of the wise.

- Shakespeare, William

Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we might win, by fearing to attempt.[Measure For Measure]

- Shakespeare, William

I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream past the wit of man to say what dream it was. Man is but an ass if he go about to expound this dream.

- Shakespeare, William

We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life, is rounded with a sleep.

[The Tempest]

- Shakespeare, William

That, if then I had waked after a long sleep, will make me sleep again; and then, in dreaming, the clouds me thought would open and show riches ready to drop upon me; that, when I waked I cried to dream again.

- Shakespeare, William

Thought are but dreams till their effects are tried.

- Shakespeare, William

The apparel oft proclaims the man.

- Shakespeare, William

Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy, but not expressed in fancy; rich not gaudy; for the apparel oft proclaims the man.

- Shakespeare, William

Nothing can come of nothing.

- Shakespeare, William

Many can brook the weather that love not the wind.

- Shakespeare, William

No sooner met but they looked; no sooner looked but they loved; no sooner loved but they sighed; no sooner sighed but they asked one another the reason; no sooner knew the reason but they sought the remedy; and in these degrees have they made a pair of stairs to marriage, which they will climb incontinent, or else be incontinent before marriage.

- Shakespeare, William

For 'Tis the sport to have the engineer hoisted with his own petard.

- Shakespeare, William

Oh, what a bitter thing it is to look into happiness through another man's eyes.

- Shakespeare, William

There's small choice in rotten apples.

- Shakespeare, William

Then to Silvia let us sing that Silvia is excelling. She excels each mortal thing upon the dull earth dwelling.

- Shakespeare, William

When workmen strive to do better than well, they do confound their skill in covetousness.

- Shakespeare, William

And oftentimes excusing of a fault doth make the fault the worse by the excuse.

- Shakespeare, William

Good counselors lack no clients.

- Shakespeare, William

There is occasions and causes why and wherefore in all things.

- Shakespeare, William

The tartness of his face sours ripe grapes.

- Shakespeare, William

Thus is his cheek the map of days outworn.

- Shakespeare, William

God had given you one face, and you make yourself another. [Hamlet]

- Shakespeare, William

Glory is like a circle in the water, which never ceaseth to enlarge itself, till, by broad spreading, it disperse to naught.

- Shakespeare, William

Celebrity is never more admired than by the negligent.

- Shakespeare, William

Death makes no conquest of this conqueror: For now he lives in fame, though not in life.

- Shakespeare, William

Time hath a wallet at his back, wherein he puts. Alms for oblivion, a great-sized monster of ingratiitudes.

- Shakespeare, William

Sweets grown common lose their dear delight.

- Shakespeare, William

The voice of parents is the voice of gods, for to their children they are heaven's lieutenants.

- Shakespeare, William

Come, let's have one other gaudy night. Call to me. All my sad captains. Fill our bowls once more. Let's mock the midnight bell.

- Shakespeare, William

Fashion wears out more clothes than the man.

- Shakespeare, William

Men at sometime are the masters of their fate.

- Shakespeare, William

It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves; we are underlings.

- Shakespeare, William

There is tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries; on such a full sea we are now afloat; and we must take the current the clouds folding and unfolding beyond the horizon. when it serves, or lose our ventures.

- Shakespeare, William

It is a wise father that knows his own child.

- Shakespeare, William

They say men are molded out of faults, and for the most, become much more the better;
for being a little bad. [Measure For Measure]

- Shakespeare, William

Men's faults to themselves seldom appear.

- Shakespeare, William

Love to faults is always blind, always is to joy inclined. Lawless, winged, and unconfined,
and breaks all chains from every mind.

- Shakespeare, William

O how wretched is that poor man that hangs on princes favors! There is betwixt that smile
we would aspire to, that sweet aspect of princes, and their ruin, more pangs and fears
than wars or women have, and when he falls, he falls like Lucifer, never to hope again.

- Shakespeare, William

Things done well and with a care, exempt themselves from fear.

- Shakespeare, William

The best safety lies in fear.

- Shakespeare, William

Fearless minds climb soonest into crowns.

- Shakespeare, William

In time we hate that which we often fear.

- Shakespeare, William

Of all base passions, fear is the most accursed.

- Shakespeare, William

I will praise any man that will praise me.

- Shakespeare, William

He that loves to be flattered is worthy of the flatterer.

- Shakespeare, William

Lord, what fools these mortals be.

- Shakespeare, William

The fool thinks himself to be wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.

[Measure For Measure]

- Shakespeare, William

The dullness of the fool is the whetstone of the wits.

- Shakespeare, William

He uses his folly like a stalking-horse, and under the presentation of that he shoots his wit.

- Shakespeare, William

There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound by shallows and in misery. [Julius Caesar]

- Shakespeare, William

We defy augury. There's a special providence in the fall of a sparrow. If it be now, 'Tis not to come. If it be not to come, it will be now. If it be not now, yet it will come. The readiness is all.

- Shakespeare, William

Friendship is constant in all other things, Save in the office and affairs of love.

- Shakespeare, William

Words are easy, like the wind; Faithful friends are hard to find.

- Shakespeare, William

A friend should bear a friend's infirmities, But Brutus makes mine greater than they are.

- Shakespeare, William

A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow.

- Shakespeare, William

The friends thou hast, and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel, but do not dull thy palm with entertainment of each new-hatched unfledged comrade.

- Shakespeare, William

A walking shadow, a poor player, that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more.

- Shakespeare, William

We know what we are, but know not what we may be.

- Shakespeare, William

Rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind.

- Shakespeare, William

My age is as a lusty winter, frosty but kindly.

- Shakespeare, William

Let every eye negotiate for itself and trust no agent.

- Shakespeare, William

O world, world! thus is the poor agent despised. O traitors and bawds, how earnestly are you set a-work, and how ill requited! Why should our endeavor be so loved, and the performance so loathed?

- Shakespeare, William

I told you, sir, they were red-hot with drinking; so full of valor that they smote the air, for breathing in their faces, beat the ground for kissing of their feet.

- Shakespeare, William

Macduff: What three things does drink especially provoke? Porter: Marry, sir, nose-painting, sleep, and urine.

- Shakespeare, William

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!

- Shakespeare, William

O thou invisible spirit of wine, if thou hast no name to be known by, let us call thee devil.

- Shakespeare, William

It provokes the desire but it takes away the performance. Therefore much drink may be said to be an equivocator with lechery: it makes him and it mars him; it sets him on and it takes him off.

- Shakespeare, William

The very substance of the ambitious is merely the shadow of a dream.

- Shakespeare, William

As he was valiant, I honor him. But as he was ambitious, I slew him.

- Shakespeare, William

Ambition should be made of sterner stuff.

- Shakespeare, William

Your tale, sir, would cure deafness.

- Shakespeare, William

I have touched the highest point of all my greatness, and from that full meridian of my glory I haste now to my setting.

- Shakespeare, William

The web of our life is of a mingled yarn, good and ill together.

- Shakespeare, William

How far that little candle throws its beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world.

- Shakespeare, William

I hate ingratitude more in a person; than lying, vainness, babbling, drunkenness, or, any taint of vice whose strong corruption inhabits our frail blood. [Twelfth Night]

- Shakespeare, William

He receives comfort like cold porridge.

- Shakespeare, William

He is not great who is not greatly good.

- Shakespeare, William

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them. [Twelfth Night]

- Shakespeare, William

In my stars I am above thee, but be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness ;thrust upon em.

- Shakespeare, William

The abuse of greatness is when it disjoins remorse from power.

- Shakespeare, William

Be not afraid of greatness; some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them.

- Shakespeare, William

Let me tell you, Cassius, you yourself are much condemned to have an itching palm.

- Shakespeare, William

Patch grief with proverbs.

- Shakespeare, William

Grief fills the room up of my absent child, lies in his bed, walks up and down with me, puts on his pretty looks, repeats his words.

- Shakespeare, William

Suspicion always haunts the guilty mind; the thief doth fear each bush an officer.

- Shakespeare, William

How use doth breed a habit in man!

- Shakespeare, William

I had rather have a fool make me merry, than experience make me sad.

- Shakespeare, William

But O, how bitter a thing it is to look into happiness through another man's eyes.

- Shakespeare, William

Oppose not rage while rage is in its force, but give it way a while and let it waste.

- Shakespeare, William

Wisely, and slow. They stumble that run fast.

- Shakespeare, William

What stronger breastplate than a heart untainted. [Henry Iv]

- Shakespeare, William

If we are marked to die, we are enough to do our country loss; and if to live, the fewer men, the greater share of honor.

- Shakespeare, William

There is a history in all men's lives.

- Shakespeare, William

People usually are the happiest at home.

- Shakespeare, William

Though I am not naturally honest, I am so sometimes by chance.

- Shakespeare, William

Honesty is the best policy. If I lose mine honor, I lose myself.

- Shakespeare, William

Why should honor outlive honesty? [Orthello]

- Shakespeare, William

The miserable have no other medicine but only hope.

- Shakespeare, William

We'll teach you to drink deep ere you depart.

- Shakespeare, William

My nature is subdued to what it works in, like the dyer's hand.

- Shakespeare, William

What a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason, how infinite in faculty, in form and moving how express and admirable, in action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a god -- the beauty of the world, the paragon of animals!

- Shakespeare, William

'Tis mad idolatry To make the service greater than the god.

- Shakespeare, William

There is no darkness, but ignorance.

- Shakespeare, William

But thy eternal summer shall not fade.

- Shakespeare, William

Much Ado About Nothing,

- Shakespeare, William

I stalk about her door like a strange soul upon the Stygian banks staying for wattage.

- Shakespeare, William

No legacy is so rich as honestly.

- Shakespeare, William

Though this be madness, yet there is method in it. [Hamlet]

- Shakespeare, William

O sleep, O gentle sleep, nature's soft nurse, how have I frightened thee, that thou no more wilt weigh my eye-lids down and steep my senses in forgetfulness?

- Shakespeare, William

It is the mind that makes the body rich; and as the sun breaks through the darkest clouds, so honor peereth in the meanest habit.

- Shakespeare, William

I had rather be a toad, and live upon the vapor of a dungeon than keep a corner in the thing I love for others uses.

- Shakespeare, William

He jests at scars that never felt a wound.

- Shakespeare, William

Alas, poor Yorick! I knew him, Horatio: a fellow of infinite jest, of most excellent fancy. Where be your jibes now, your gambols, your songs, your flashes of merriment that were wont to set the table on a roar?

- Shakespeare, William

My salad days, when I was green in judgment.

- Shakespeare, William

Speak of me as I am. Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice.

- Shakespeare, William

The jury, passing on the prisoner's life, may have in the sworn twelve a thief or two guiltier than him they try.

- Shakespeare, William

Time is the justice that examines all offenders. [As You Like It]

- Shakespeare, William

He took the bride about the neck and kissed her lips with such a clamorous smack that at the parting all the church did echo.

- Shakespeare, William

Own more than thou showest, speak less than thou knowest.

- Shakespeare, William

It was Greek to me.

- Shakespeare, William

Present mirth hath present laughter. What's to come is still unsure.

- Shakespeare, William

The first thing we do, lets kill the lawyers. [Henry Iv]

- Shakespeare, William

My library was dukedom large enough.

- Shakespeare, William

As flies to wanton boys, are we to the gods; They kill us for their sport.

- Shakespeare, William

Life It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury; signifying nothing.

- Shakespeare, William

Simply the thing I am shall make me live.

- Shakespeare, William

Life is as tedious as a twice-told tale.

- Shakespeare, William

Some men there are love not a gaping pig, some that are mad if they behold a cat, and others when the bagpipe sings I the nose cannot contain their urine.

- Shakespeare, William

Thou art all ice. Thy kindness freezes.

- Shakespeare, William

Let never day nor night unhallowed pass, but still remember what the Lord hath done.

- Shakespeare, William

The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose.

- Shakespeare, William

In a false quarrel there is no true valor.

- Shakespeare, William

I will name you the degrees. The first, the Retort Courteous; the second, the Quip Modest; the third, the Reply Churlish; the fourth, the Reproof Valiant; the fifth, the Countercheck Quarrelsome; the sixth, the Lie with Circumstance; the seventh, the Lie Direct.

- Shakespeare, William

'Tis the soldier's life to have their balmy slumbers waked with strife.

- Shakespeare, William

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers. For he today that sheds his blood with me

shall be my brother; be never so vile. This day shall gentle his condition. And gentlemen in England now abed shall think themselves accursed they were not here, and hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks that fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

- Shakespeare, William

Give every man your ear, but few thy voice. Take each man's censure, but reserve thy judgment. [Hamlet]

- Shakespeare, William

Wise men never sit and wail their loss, but cheerily seek how to redress their harms.

- Shakespeare, William

Love sought is good, but given unsought is better.

- Shakespeare, William

When love begins to sicken and decay it uses an enforced ceremony. [Julius Caesar]

- Shakespeare, William

To say the truth, reason and love keep little company together now-a-days.

- Shakespeare, William

They do not love that do not show their love. The course of true love never did run

smooth. Love is a familiar. Love is a devil. There is no evil angel but Love.

- Shakespeare, William

Love is too young to know what conscience is.

- Shakespeare, William

Love is a smoke made with the fume of sighs. Being purged, a fire sparkling in lovers eyes. Being vexed, a sea nourished with lovers tears. What is it else? A madness most discreet, a choking gall and a preserving sweet.

- Shakespeare, William

Men have died from time to time, and worms have eaten them, but not for love.

- Shakespeare, William

But love is blind, and lovers cannot see What petty follies they themselves commit

- Shakespeare, William

Love bears it out even to the edge of doom.

- Shakespeare, William

She's gone. I am abused, and my relief must be to loathe her.

- Shakespeare, William

Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety. Other women cloy the appetites they feed, but she makes hungry where most she satisfies.

- Shakespeare, William

We that are true lovers run into strange capers.

- Shakespeare, William

Had I but served my God with half the zeal I served my King, He would not in mine age have left me naked to mine enemies.

- Shakespeare, William

This is the monstrosity in love, lady, that the will is infinite and the execution confined; that the desire is boundless, and the act a slave to limit.

- Shakespeare, William

O, let me not be mad, not mad, sweet heaven! Keep me in temper. I would not be mad.

- Shakespeare, William

Manhood is melted into courtesies, valor into compliment, and men are only turned into tongue, and trim ones, too.

- Shakespeare, William

The world must be peopled. When I said I would die a bachelor, I did not think I should

live till I were married.

- Shakespeare, William

Your lordship, though not clean past your youth, have yet some smack of age in you,
some relish of the saltiness of time.

- Shakespeare, William

Report me and my cause aright.

- Shakespeare, William

By medicine life may be prolonged, yet death will seize the doctor too.

- Shakespeare, William

When to the sessions of sweet silent thought I summon up remembrance of things past, I
sigh the lack of many a thing I sought And with old woes new wail my dear time's waste.
Then can I drown an eye (unused to flow) For precious friends hid in death's dateless
night, and weep afresh love's long since cancelled woe, and moan the expense of many
a vanished sight. Then can I grieve at grievances foregone, and heavily from woe to woe
tell over the sad account of fore-bemoaned moan, Which I new pay as if not paid before.
But if the while I think on thee, dear friend, all losses are restored and sorrows end.

- Shakespeare, William

He is half of a blessed man. Left to be finished by such as she; and she a fair divided
excellence, whose fullness of perfection lies in him.

- Shakespeare, William

'Tis the mind that makes the body rich.

- Shakespeare, William

Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments. Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds, or bends with the remover to remove.

- Shakespeare, William

Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows.

- Shakespeare, William

To mourn a mischief that is past and gone is the next way to draw new mischief on.

- Shakespeare, William

Affliction is enamoured of thy parts, and thou art wedded to calamity.

- Shakespeare, William

For we which now behold these present days have eyes to wonder, but lack tongues to praise.

- Shakespeare, William

Lord Bacon told Sir Edward Coke when he was boasting, The less you speak of your

greatness, the more shall I think of it.

- Shakespeare, William

We wound our modesty and make foul the clearness of our deservings, when of ourselves we publish them.

- Shakespeare, William

A miser grows rich by seeming poor. An extravagant man grows poor by seeming rich.

- Shakespeare, William

Dost thou think because thou art virtuous there shall be no more cakes and ale?

- Shakespeare, William

Yet who would have thought the old man to have had so much blood in him?

- Shakespeare, William

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.

- Shakespeare, William

Is it not strange that sheep's guts should hale souls out of men's bodies?

- Shakespeare, William

If music be the food of love; play on.

- Shakespeare, William

What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

- Shakespeare, William

Nature must obey necessity. [Julius Caesar]

- Shakespeare, William

We were not born to sue, but to command.

- Shakespeare, William

O comfort-killing night, image of hell, dim register and notary of shame, black stage for tragedies and murders fell, vast sin-concealing chaos, nurse of blame!

- Shakespeare, William

Remembrance of things past.

- Shakespeare, William

Every good servant does not all commands.

- Shakespeare, William

Thou seest I have more flesh than another man, and therefore more frailty.

- Shakespeare, William

Let me have men about me that are fat, sleek-headed men and such as sleep a-nights.
Yon Cassius has a lean and hungry look. He thinks too much. Such men are dangerous.

- Shakespeare, William

How oft the sight of means to do ill deeds makes deeds ill done!

- Shakespeare, William

One pain is lessened by another's anguish.

- Shakespeare, William

Pain pays the income of each precious thing.

- Shakespeare, William

Things without remedy, should be without regard; what is done, is done.

- Shakespeare, William

We have seen better days.

- Shakespeare, William

What is past is prologue.

- Shakespeare, William

Who can be patient in extremes? [Henry Vi]

- Shakespeare, William

Though patience be a tired mare, yet she will plod.

- Shakespeare, William

That which in mean men we entitle patience is pale cold cowardice in noble breasts.

- Shakespeare, William

How poor are they that have not patience. What wound did ever heal but by degrees?

- Shakespeare, William

A peace above all earthly dignities, a still and quiet conscience.

- Shakespeare, William

Striving to better, oft we mar what's well.

- Shakespeare, William

I am a kind of burr; I shall stick.

- Shakespeare, William

For there was never yet philosopher that could endure the toothache patiently.

- Shakespeare, William

There are more things in Heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophies.

- Shakespeare, William

Soft pity enters an iron gate.

- Shakespeare, William

If all the year were playing holidays, to sport would be as tedious as to work.

- Shakespeare, William

You are thought here to be the most senseless and fit man for the constable of the watch, therefore bear you the lantern.

- Shakespeare, William

The object of art is to give life a shape. [Midsummer Nights Dream]

- Shakespeare, William

O, had I but followed the arts!

- Shakespeare, William

This is the excellent foppery of the world: that when we are sick in fortune -- often the surfeits of our own behavior -- we make guilty of our disasters the sun, the moon, and stars, as if we were villains on necessity, fools by heavenly compulsion, knaves, thieves, and treachers by spherical predominance, drunkards, liars, and adulterers by an enforced obedience of planetary influence. An admirable evasion of whoremaster man, to lay his goatish disposition on the charge of a star!

- Shakespeare, William

These earthly godfathers of Heaven's lights, that give a name to every fixed star, have no more profit of their shining nights than those that walk and know not what they are.

- Shakespeare, William

The teeming Autumn big with rich increase, bearing the wanton burden of the prime like widowed wombs after their lords decease.

- Shakespeare, William

He that hath a beard is more than a youth, and he that hath no beard is less than a man.

- Shakespeare, William

Get thee glass eyes, and like a scurvy politician, seem to see the things thou dost not.

- Shakespeare, William

A politician is one that would circumvent God.

- Shakespeare, William

There have been many great men that have flattered the people who never loved them.

- Shakespeare, William

I durst not laugh for fear of opening my lips and receiving the bad air.

- Shakespeare, William

My bounty is as boundless as the sea, my love as deep. The more I give thee, the more I have, For both are infinite

- Shakespeare, William

For he was likely, had he been put on, to have proved most royally.

- Shakespeare, William

Lord we may know what we are, but know not what we may be.

- Shakespeare, William

O world, how apt the poor are to be proud!

- Shakespeare, William

Madness in great ones must not unwatched go.

- Shakespeare, William

There's not one wise man among twenty will praise himself.

- Shakespeare, William

Bow, stubborn knees!

- Shakespeare, William

But, good my brother, do not, as some ungracious pastors do. Show me the steep and thorny way to heaven whilst like a puffed and reckless libertine himself the primrose path of dalliance treads and recks not his own rede.

- Shakespeare, William

Man, proud man, drest in a little brief authority, most ignorant of what he's most assured, glassy essence, like an angry ape, plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven, as make the angels weep.

- Shakespeare, William

Defer no time, delays have dangerous ends.

- Shakespeare, William

In delay there lies no plenty.

- Shakespeare, William

He plough'd her, and she cropp'd.

- Shakespeare, William

Beware of the ides of March.

- Shakespeare, William

The proverb is something musty.

- Shakespeare, William

Canst thou not minister to a mind diseased, pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow, raze out the written troubles of the brain, and with some sweet oblivious antidote cleanse the fraught bosom of that perilous stuff which weighs upon the heart?

- Shakespeare, William

I have bought golden opinions from all sorts of people.

- Shakespeare, William

Better three hours too soon than a minute too late.

- Shakespeare, William

And where the offence is, let the great axe fall.

- Shakespeare, William

Every why has a wherefore.

- Shakespeare, William

What we determine we often break. Purpose is but the slave to memory.

- Shakespeare, William

The course of true love never did run smooth.

- Shakespeare, William

To be or not to be that is the question. Whether it is nobler in the mind to suffer the stings and arrows of outrageous fortune, or take up arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing them, end them. 'Hamlet';

- Shakespeare, William

What is a man, If his chief good and market of his time Be but to sleep and feed? a beast, no more. Sure, he that made us with such large discourse, Looking before and after, gave us not That capability and god-like reason To fust in us unused.

- Shakespeare, William

Strong reasons make strong actions.

- Shakespeare, William

Let's not burden our remembrance with a heaviness that's gone.

- Shakespeare, William

Reputation, reputation, reputation! O, I ha lost my reputation, I ha lost the immortal part of myself, and what remains is bestial!

- Shakespeare, William

For I am full of spirit and resolve to meet all perils very constantly.

- Shakespeare, William

Who is so firm that can't be seduced?

- Shakespeare, William

Nothing will come of nothing.

- Shakespeare, William

Fear no more the heat o the sun, nor the furious winter's rages. Thou thy worldly task hast done, home art gone and taken thy wages.

- Shakespeare, William

Our life, exempt from public haunt, finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,

sermons in stones, and good in everything.

- Shakespeare, William

Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot that it do singe yourself.

- Shakespeare, William

If you prick us do we not bleed? If you tickle us do we not laugh? If you poison us do we not die? And if you wrong us shall we not revenge?

- Shakespeare, William

O, what a world of vile ill-favored faults, looks handsome in three hundred pounds a year!

- Shakespeare, William

The path is smooth that leadeth on to danger.

- Shakespeare, William

Virtue is bold and goodness never fearful.

- Shakespeare, William

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.

- Shakespeare, William

Security is the chief enemy of mortals.

- Shakespeare, William

She's beautiful, and therefore to be wooed; She is a woman, therefore to be won.

- Shakespeare, William

O, it is excellent to have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant.

- Shakespeare, William

Self-love, is not so vile a sin as self-neglecting.

- Shakespeare, William

This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man.

- Shakespeare, William

A gentleman that loves to hear himself talk, will speak more in a minute than he will stand to in a month.

- Shakespeare, William

Silence is the perfect herald of joy. I were but little happy if I could say how much.

- Shakespeare, William

I am a man more sinned against than sinning.

- Shakespeare, William

Few love to hear the sins they love to act.

- Shakespeare, William

Some rise by sin, and some by virtue fall.

- Shakespeare, William

Be thou as chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thou shalt not escape calumny.

- Shakespeare, William

The rankest compound of villainous smell that ever offended nostril.

- Shakespeare, William

A smile cures the wounding of a frown.

- Shakespeare, William

One may smile, and smile, and be a villain. [Hamlet]

- Shakespeare, William

When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions.

- Shakespeare, William

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May.

- Shakespeare, William

I do desire we may be better strangers.

- Shakespeare, William

How excellent it is to have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous to use like a giant.

- Shakespeare, William

I do not much dislike the matter, but the manner of his speech.

- Shakespeare, William

To climb steep hills requires slow pace at first.

- Shakespeare, William

Oh! it offends me to the soul to hear a robust periwig-pated fellow, tear a passion to tatters, to very rags, to split the ears of the groundlings.

- Shakespeare, William

Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounced it to you -- tripping on the tongue; but if you mouth it, as many of your players do, I had as Leif the town-crier spoke my lines. Nor do not saw the air too much with your hand, thus, but use all gently; for in the very torrent,

tempest, and as I may say, the whirlwind of your passion, you must acquire and beget a temperance that may give it smoothness.

- Shakespeare, William

To me, fair friend, you never can be old. For as you were when first your eye I eyed. Such seems your beauty still.

- Shakespeare, William

Beauty is but a vain and doubtful good; a shining gloss that fadeth suddenly; a flower that dies when it begins to bud; a doubtful good, a gloss, a glass, a flower, lost, faded, broken, dead within an hour. -

- Shakespeare, William

What angel wakes me from my flowery bed?

- Shakespeare, William

For precious friends hid in death's dateless night.

- Shakespeare, William

I did send to you for certain sums of gold, which you denied me.

- Shakespeare, William

When we are born we cry that we are come.. to this great stage of fools.

- Shakespeare, William

O, let my books be then the eloquence and dumb presages of my speaking breast.

- Shakespeare, William

For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth, action nor utterance, nor the power of speech, to stir men's blood. I only speak right on. I tell you that which you yourselves do know.

- Shakespeare, William

Brevity is the soul of wit, and tediousness the limbs and outward flourishes.

- Shakespeare, William

To business that we love we rise betime, and go to't with delight.

- Shakespeare, William

It is the bright day that brings forth the adder, and that craves wary walking.

- Shakespeare, William

To fear the worst oft cures the worse.

- Shakespeare, William

Art made tongue-tied by authority.

- Shakespeare, William

Ceremony was but devised at first to set a gloss on faint deeds, hollow welcomes, recanting goodness, sorry ere 'Tis shown; but where there is true friendship, there needs none.

- Shakespeare, William

Life every man holds dear; but the dear man holds honor far more precious dear than life.

- Shakespeare, William

The empty vessel makes the loudest sound.

- Shakespeare, William

I am bewitched with the rogue's company. If the rascal have not given me medicines to make me love him, I'll be hanged.

- Shakespeare, William

Your old virginity is like one of our French withered pears: it looks ill, it eats dryly.

- Shakespeare, William

For nothing can seem foul to those that win.

- Shakespeare, William

The voluntary path to cheerfulness, if our spontaneous be lost, is to sit up cheerfully, and act and speak as if cheerfulness were already there. To feel brave, act as if we were brave, use all our will to that end, and courage will very likely replace fear. If we act as if from some better feeling, the bad feeling soon folds its tent like an Arab and silently steals away

- Shakespeare, William

Then is it sin to rush into the secret house of death. Ere death dare come to us?

- Shakespeare, William

A whoreson jackanapes must take me up for swearing; as if I borrowed mine oaths of him and might not spend them at my pleasure. When a gentleman is disposed to swear, it is not for any standers-by to curtail his oaths, ha?

- Shakespeare, William

It comes to pass oft that a terrible oath, with a swaggering accent sharply twanged off, gives manhood more approbation than ever proof itself would have earned him.

- Shakespeare, William

Give thy thoughts no tongue, nor any unproportioned thought his act. Be thou familiar but by no means vulgar.

- Shakespeare, William

A good old man, sir. He will be talking. As they say, when the age is in, the wit is out.

- Shakespeare, William

Most dangerous is that temptation that doth good us on to sin to loving virtue.

- Shakespeare, William

O mischief, thou art swift to enter in the thoughts of desperate men!

- Shakespeare, William

Make not your thoughts you prisons.

- Shakespeare, William

There is nothing good or bad, but thinking makes it so.

- Shakespeare, William

Thought is free.

- Shakespeare, William

And thus the whirligig of time brings in his revenges.

- Shakespeare, William

O, call back yesterday, bid time return.

- Shakespeare, William

Journeys end in lovers meeting.

- Shakespeare, William

Don't trust the person who has broken faith once.

- Shakespeare, William

Love all, but trust a few.

- Shakespeare, William

While you live tell the truth and shame the devil.

- Shakespeare, William

You take my life when you do take the means whereby I live.

- Shakespeare, William

When valor preys on reason, it eats the sword it fights with.

- Shakespeare, William

There was never yet fair woman but she made mouths in a glass.

- Shakespeare, William

Assume a virtue if you have it not.

- Shakespeare, William

Men's evil manners live in brass, their virtues we write in water.

- Shakespeare, William

Nimble thought can jump both sea and land.

- Shakespeare, William

It is the purpose that makes strong the vow; But vows to every purpose must not hold.

- Shakespeare, William

Men's vows are women's traitors!

- Shakespeare, William

'Tis not the many oaths that make the truth; But the plain single vow, that is vow'd true.

- Shakespeare, William

We go to gain a little patch of ground that hath in it no profit but the name.

- Shakespeare, William

Cry havoc! and let loose the dogs of war, that this foul deed shall smell above the earth
with carrion men, groaning for burial.

- Shakespeare, William

We waste our lights in vain, like lamps by day.

- Shakespeare, William

'Tis not enough to help the feeble up, but to support him after.

- Shakespeare, William

The will is deaf and hears no heedful friends.

- Shakespeare, William

Our bodies are our gardens... our wills are our gardeners.

- Shakespeare, William

Nothing can seem foul to those who win.

- Shakespeare, William

To be wise and love exceeds man's might.

- Shakespeare, William

So wise so young, they say, do never live long.

- Shakespeare, William

He's winding up the watch of his wit. By and by it will strike.

- Shakespeare, William

To suckle fools, and chronicle small beer.

- Shakespeare, William

It is a kind of good deed to say well; and yet words are not deeds.

- Shakespeare, William

All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players: they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts. His acts being seven ages.

- Shakespeare, William

Present fears are less than horrible imaginings.

- Shakespeare, William

A man loves the meat in his youth that he cannot endure in his age.

- Shakespeare, William

Do you set down your name in the scroll of youth, that are written down old with all the characters of age?

- Shakespeare, William

Be great in act, as you have been in thought.

- Shakespeare, William

If it were done when 'tis done, then t'were well. It were done quickly.

- Shakespeare, William

Suit the action to the world, the world to the action, with this special observance, that you overstep not the modesty of nature.

- Shakespeare, William

Things won are done, joy's soul lies in the doing.

- Shakespeare, William

Action is eloquence.

- Shakespeare, William

I would there were no age between ten and three-and-twenty, or that youth would sleep out the rest; for there is nothing in the between but getting wenches with child, wronging the anciently, stealing, fighting.

- Shakespeare, William

O curse of marriage that we can call these delicate creatures ours and not their appetites!

- Shakespeare, William

Children wish fathers looked but with their eyes; fathers that children with their judgment looked; and either may be wrong.

- Shakespeare, William

How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child.

- Shakespeare, William

Though it make the unskillful laugh, cannot but make the judicious grieve.

- Shakespeare, William

And I did laugh sans intermission an hour by his dial. O noble fool, a worthy fool --
motley's the only wear.

- Shakespeare, William

Company, villainous company, hath been the spoil of me.

- Shakespeare, William

Mercy but murders, pardoning those that kill.

- Shakespeare, William

Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends.

- Shakespeare, William

When you fear a foe, fear crushes your strength; and this weakness gives strength to your opponents.

- Shakespeare, William

Conceit, more rich in matter than in words, brags of his substance: they are but beggars who can count their worth.

- Shakespeare, William

Conceit in weakest bodies works the strongest.

- Shakespeare, William

Conscience does make cowards of us all.

- Shakespeare, William

My conscience hath a thousand several tongues, and every tongue brings in a several tale, and every tale condemns me for a villain.

- Shakespeare, William

He that is well paid is well satisfied.

- Shakespeare, William

My crown is in my heart, not on my head, Nor decked with diamonds and Indian stones,
Nor to be seen: My crown is called content: A crown it is, that seldom kings enjoy.

- Shakespeare, William

Conversation should be pleasant without scurrility, witty without affection, free without
indecency, learned without conceitedness, novel without falsehood.

- Shakespeare, William

'Tis an ill cook that cannot lick his own fingers.

- Shakespeare, William

Now join your hands, and with your hands your hearts.

- Shakespeare, William

When rich villains have need of poor ones, poor ones may make what price they will.

- Shakespeare, William

God hath given you one face, and you make yourselves another.

- Shakespeare, William

Why so large a cost, having so short a lease, does thou upon your fading mansion
spend?

- Shakespeare, William

But screw your courage to the sticking-place and we'll not fail.

- Shakespeare, William

That's a valiant flea that dares eat his breakfast on the lip of a lion.

- Shakespeare, William

I dare to do all that may become a man: who dares do more is none.

- Shakespeare, William

Cowards die many times before their deaths; The valiant never taste of death but once.

- Shakespeare, William

Cowards die a thousand deaths. The valiant taste of death but once.

- Shakespeare, William

I have full cause of weeping, but this heart shall break into a hundred thousand flaws or ere I'll weep.

- Shakespeare, William

He that is robbed, not wanting what is stolen, him not know t, and he's not robbed at all.

- Shakespeare, William

The time is out of joint. O cursed spite that ever I was born to set it right!

- Shakespeare, William

Out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety.

- Shakespeare, William

Send danger from the east unto the west, so honor cross it from the north to south.

- Shakespeare, William

Yon Cassius has a lean and hungry look; He thinks too much; such men are dangerous.

[Julius Caesar]

- Shakespeare, William

Had I but servd my God with half the zeall servd my king, He would not in mine ageHave left me naked to mine enemies.

- Shakespeare, William

Glendower:I can call spirits from the vasty deep. Hotspur:Why, so can I, or so can any man;But will they come when you do call for them?

- Shakespeare, William

Whereof whats past is prologue, what to comeIn yours and my discharge.

- Shakespeare, William

Things won are done, joys soul lies in the doing.

- Shakespeare, William

man, proud man, Dressd in a little brief authority,

- Shakespeare, William

This was the noblest Roman of them all. All the conspirators, save only he, Did that they did in envy of Caesar; He only, in a general honest thought And common good to all, made one of them. His life was gentle, and the elements So mixd in him that Nature might stand up And say to all the world, This was a man!

- Shakespeare, William

All the worlds a stage, And all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances, And one man in his time plays many parts, His acts being seven ages. At first the infant, Mewling and puking in the nurses arms. Then the whining school-boy, with his satchel And shining morning face, creeping like snail Unwillingly to school. And then the lover, Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad Made to his mistress eyebrow. Then a soldier, Full of strange oaths, and bearded like the pard, Jealous in honour, sudden, and quick in quarrel, Seeking the bubble reputation Even in the cannons mouth. And then the justice, In fair round belly with good capon lind, With eyes severe and beard of formal cut, Full of wise saws and modern instances; And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts Into the lean and slipperd pantaloon [dotard], With spectacles on nose and pouch on

side, His youthful hose, well savd, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank; and his big manly
voice, Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
And whistles in his sound. Last scene of
all, That ends this strange eventful history,
Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans every thing.

- Shakespeare, William

I am in blood
Steppd in so far that, should I wade no more,
Returning were as tedious as
go oer.

- Shakespeare, William

So farewell to the little good you bear me. Farewell! a long farewell, to all my
greatness! This is the state of man: to-day he puts forth
The tender leaves of hopes;
to-morrow blossoms,
And bears his blushing honours thick upon him;
The third day comes
a frost, a killing frost,
And, when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
His greatness is
a-ripening, nips his root,
And then he falls, as I do. I have venturd,
Like little wanton boys
that swim on bladders,
This many summers in a sea of glory,
But far beyond my depth. My
high-blown pride
At length broke under me, and now has left me,
Weary and old with
service, to the mercy
Of a rude stream that must for ever hide me. Vain pomp and glory of
this world, I hate ye! I feel my heart new open'd. O, how wretched
Is that poor man that
hangs on princes favours!
There is, betwixt that smile we would aspire to,
That sweet
aspect of princes, and their ruin,
More pangs and fears than wars or women have;
And
when he falls, he falls like Lucifer,
Never to hope again.

- Shakespeare, William

The first thing we do, lets kill all the lawyers.

- Shakespeare, William

When words are scarce they are seldom spent in vain

- Shakespeare, William

I have immortal longings in me

- Shakespeare, William

I have drunk, and seen the spider

- Shakespeare, William

For there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.

- Shakespeare, William

O, but man, proud man! Drest in a little brief authority;
Most ignorant of what he's most
assur'd, His glassy essence,-like an angry ape,
Plays such fantastic tricks before high
heaven, As make the angels weep;

- Shakespeare, William

The evil that men do, lives on; the good, often interred with their bones.

- Shakespeare, William

My soul is in the sky.

- Shakespeare, William

hope

- Shakespeare, William

"Of all the needs (there are none imaginary) a lonely child has, the one that must be satisfied, if there is going to be hope and a hope of wholeness, is the unshaken need for an unshakable God."

- Shakespeare, William



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