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# Quotes by Shaw, George Bernard

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George Bernard Shaw (July 26, 1856 – November 2, 1950) was an Irish playwright and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1925.

I'm not a teacher: only a fellow-traveler of whom you asked the way. I pointed ahead -- ahead of myself as well as you.

- Shaw, George Bernard

If you value a man's regard, strive with him. As to liking, you like your newspaper -- and despise it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Dying is a troublesome business: there is pain to be suffered, and it wrings one's heart; but death is a splendid thing --a warfare accomplished, a beginning all over again, a triumph. You can always see that in their faces.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I want to be all used up when I die.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Life levels all men. Death reveals the eminent.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The government who robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Democracy substitutes election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I talk democracy to these men and women. I tell them that they have the vote, and that theirs is the kingdom and the power and the glory. I say to them You are supreme: exercise your power. They say, That's right: tell us what to do; and I tell them. I say Exercise our vote intelligently by voting for me. And they do. That's democracy; and a splendid thing it is too for putting the right men in the right place.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Our necessities are few, but our wants are endless.

- Shaw, George Bernard

As long as I have a want, I have a reason for living. Satisfaction is death.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The doctor learns that if he gets ahead of the superstitions of his patients he is a ruined

man; and the result is that he instinctively takes care not to get ahead of them.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Every doctor will allow a colleague to decimate a whole countryside sooner than violate the bond of professional etiquette by giving him away.

- Shaw, George Bernard

When a stupid man is doing something he is ashamed of, he always declares that it is his duty.

- Shaw, George Bernard

If all the economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion.

- Shaw, George Bernard

What we call education and culture is for the most part nothing but the substitution of reading for experience, of literature for life, of the obsolete fictitious for the contemporary real.

- Shaw, George Bernard

An election is a moral horror, as bad as a battle except for the blood; a mud bath for every soul concerned in it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Clever and attractive women do not want to vote; they are willing to let men govern as long as they govern men.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Between persons of equal income there is no social distinction except the distinction of merit. Money is nothing: character, conduct, and capacity are everything. There would be great people and ordinary people and little people, but the great would always be those who had done great things, and never the idiots whose mothers had spoiled them and whose fathers had left them a hundred thousand a year; and the little would be persons of small minds and mean characters, and not poor persons who had never had a chance. That is why idiots are always in favor of inequality of income (their only chance of eminence), and the really great in favor of equality.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I can forgive Alfred Nobel for having invented dynamite, but only a fiend in human form could have invented the Nobel Prize.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Love is a gross exaggeration of the difference between one person and everybody else.

- Shaw, George Bernard

If you must hold yourself up to your children as an object lesson, hold yourself up as a warning and not an example.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Men are wise in proportion, not to their experience, but to their capacity for experience.

- Shaw, George Bernard

If history repeats itself, and the unexpected always happens, how incapable must Man be of learning from experience!

- Shaw, George Bernard

Everything happens to everybody sooner or later if there is time enough.

- Shaw, George Bernard

No man can be a pure specialist without being in the strict sense an idiot.

- Shaw, George Bernard

We have not lost faith, but we have transferred it from God to the medical profession.

- Shaw, George Bernard

He didn't dare to, because his father had a weak heart and habitually threatened to drop dead if anybody hurt his feelings. You may have noticed that people with weak hearts are the tyrants of English married life.

- Shaw, George Bernard

When our relatives are at home, we have to think of all their good points or it would be

impossible to endure them. But when they are away, we console ourselves for their absence by dwelling on their vices.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Fashions, after all, are only induced epidemics.

- Shaw, George Bernard

My father must have had some elementary education for he could read and write and keep accounts inaccurately

- Shaw, George Bernard

A gentleman is one who puts more into the world than he takes out.

- Shaw, George Bernard

That is the whole secret of successful fighting. Get your enemy at a disadvantage; and never, on any account, fight him on equal terms.

- Shaw, George Bernard

What really flatters a man is that you think him worth flattering.

- Shaw, George Bernard

There is no love sincerer than the love of food.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Build a system that even a fool can use, and only a fool will want to use it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The secret of forgiving everything is to understand nothing.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Forgive him, for he believes that the customs of his tribe are the laws of nature!

- Shaw, George Bernard

The only service a friend can really render is to keep up your courage by holding up to you a mirror in which you can see a noble image of yourself.

- Shaw, George Bernard

But a lifetime of happiness! No man alive could bear it: it would be hell on earth.

- Shaw, George Bernard

We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Gambling promises the poor what property performs for the rich, something for nothing.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The best place to seek God is in a garden. You can dig for him there.

- Shaw, George Bernard

It's all that the young can do for the old, to shock them and keep them up to date.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Do not do unto others as you would that they should do unto you. Their tastes may not be the same.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Old men are dangerous: it doesn't matter to them what is going to happen to the world.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Every man over forty is a scoundrel.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I'm only a beer teetotaler, not a champagne teetotaler.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Life would be tolerable but for its amusements.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The ordinary man is an anarchist. He wants to do as he likes. He may want his neighbor to be governed, but he himself doesn't want to be governed. He is mortally afraid of government officials and policemen.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Englishmen hate Liberty and Equality too much to understand them. But every Englishman loves a pedigree.

- Shaw, George Bernard

To me the sole hope of human salvation lies in teaching Man to regard himself as an experiment in the realization of God, to regard his hands as God's hand, his brain as God's brain, his purpose as God's purpose. He must regard God as a helpless Longing, which longed him into existence by its desperate need for an executive organ.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The things most people want to know about are usually none of their business.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The art of government is the organization of idolatry. The bureaucracy consists of functionaries; the aristocracy, of idols; the democracy, of idolaters. The populace cannot understand the bureaucracy: it can only worship the national idols.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Men are not governed by justice, but by law or persuasion. When they refuse to be governed by law or persuasion, they have to be governed by force or fraud, or both.

- Shaw, George Bernard

You don't learn to hold your own in the world by standing on guard, but by attacking and getting well hammered yourself.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Life at its noblest leaves mere happiness far behind; and indeed cannot endure it.

Happiness is not the object of life: life has no object: it is an end in itself; and courage consists in the readiness to sacrifice happiness for an intenser quality of life.

- Shaw, George Bernard

We have no more right to consume happiness without producing it than to consume wealth without producing it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A lifetime of happiness? No man alive could bear it; it would be hell on earth.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Give a man health and a course to steer; and he'll never stop to trouble about whether he's happy or not.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Hatred is the coward's revenge for being intimidated.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Of all the anti-social vested interests the worst is the vested interest in ill-health.

- Shaw, George Bernard

It is a curious sensation: the sort of pain that goes mercifully beyond our powers of feeling. When your heart is broken, your boats are burned: nothing matters any more. It is the end of happiness and the beginning of peace.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A broken heart is a very pleasant complaint for a man in London if he has a comfortable income.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A perpetual holiday is a good working definition of hell.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Here there is no hope, and consequently no duty, no work, nothing to be gained by praying, nothing to be lost by doing what you like. Hell, in short, is a place where you have nothing to do but amuse yourself.

- Shaw, George Bernard

You cannot be a hero without being a coward.

- Shaw, George Bernard

We must make the world honest before we can honestly say to our children that honesty is the best policy.

- Shaw, George Bernard

He who has never hoped can never despair.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Go anywhere in England where there are natural, wholesome, contented, and really nice English people; and what do you always find? That the stables are the real center of the household.

- Shaw, George Bernard

There is nothing that can be changed more completely than human nature when the job is taken in hand early enough.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Human beings are the only animals of which I am thoroughly and cravenly afraid.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Physically there is nothing to distinguish human society from the farm-yard except that children are more troublesome and costly than chickens and calves and that men and women are not so completely enslaved as farm stock.

- Shaw, George Bernard

When a man wants to murder a tiger he calls it sport; when a tiger wants to murder him he calls it ferocity.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I tell you that as long as I can conceive something better than myself I cannot be easy unless I am striving to bring it into existence or clearing the way for it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The savage bows down to idols of wood and stone: the civilized man to idols of flesh and blood.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire; you will what you imagine; and at last you create what you will.

- Shaw, George Bernard

As long as I can conceive something better than myself I cannot be easy unless I am

striving to bring it into existence or clearing the way for it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The worst sin... is... to be indifferent.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of inhumanity.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Hell is paved with good intentions, not with bad ones. All men mean well.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A man's interest in the world is only an overflow from his interest in himself.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Never waste jealousy on a real man: it is the imaginary man that supplants us all in the long run.

- Shaw, George Bernard

My way of joking is to tell the truth. It's the funniest joke in the world.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Suppose the world were only one of God's jokes, would you work any the less to make it a good joke instead of a bad one?

- Shaw, George Bernard

The joy in life is to be used for a purpose. I want to be used up when I die.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The Jews generally give value. They make you pay; but they deliver the goods. In my experience the men who want something for nothing are invariably Christians.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Kings are not born: they are made by artificial hallucination.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The English have no respect for their language, and will not teach their children to speak it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

If the announcer can produce the impression that he is a gentlemen, he may pronounce as he pleases.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Whenever you wish to do anything against the law, Cicely, always consult a good solicitor

first.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Leisure may be defined as free activity, labor as compulsory activity. Leisure does what it likes, labor does what it must, the compulsion being that of Nature, which in these latitudes leaves men no choice between labor and starvation.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The liar's punishment is not in the least that he is not believed, but that he cannot believe anyone else.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Life is a disease; and the only difference between one man and another is the stage of the disease at which he lives. You are always at the crisis: I am always in the convalescent stage.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Life does not cease to be funny when people die any more than it ceases to be serious when people laugh.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got a hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Man can climb to the highest summits, but he cannot dwell there long.

- Shaw, George Bernard

In Heaven an angel is nobody in particular.

- Shaw, George Bernard

In literature the ambition of the novice is to acquire the literary language: the struggle of the adept is to get rid of it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The fickleness of the women I love is only equaled by the infernal constancy of the women who love me.

- Shaw, George Bernard

First love is only a little foolishness and a lot of curiosity: no really self-respecting woman would take advantage of it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

We want a few mad people now. See where the sane ones have landed us!

- Shaw, George Bernard

The great secret, Eliza, is not having bad manners or good manners or any other particular sort of manners, but having the same manner for all human souls: in short, behaving as if you were in Heaven, where there are no third-class carriages, and one soul is as good as another.

- Shaw, George Bernard

There is no subject on which more dangerous nonsense is talked and thought than marriage.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Marriage is popular because it combines the maximum of temptation with the maximum of opportunity.

- Shaw, George Bernard

It is a woman's business to get married as soon as possible, and a man's to keep unmarried as long as he can.

- Shaw, George Bernard

When two people are under the influence of the most violent, most insane, most delusive,

and most transient of passions, they are required to swear that they will remain in that excited, abnormal, and exhausting condition continuously until death do them part.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Reminiscences make one feel so deliciously aged and sad.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Man is the only animal of which I am thoroughly and cravenly afraid of.

- Shaw, George Bernard

If women were as fastidious as men, morally or physically, there would be an end of the race.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I have to live for others and not for myself: that's middle-class morality.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A miracle is an event which creates faith. That is the purpose and nature of miracles.

Frauds deceive. An event which creates faith does not deceive: therefore it is not a fraud, but a miracle.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The only way to avoid being miserable is not to have enough leisure to wonder whether

you are happy or not.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Lack of money is the root of all evil.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Money is indeed the most important thing in the world; and all sound and successful personal and national morality should have this fact for its basis.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Money is the most important thing in the world. It represents health, strength, honor, generosity, and beauty as conspicuously as the want of it represents illness, weakness, disgrace, meanness, and ugliness.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The universal regard for money is the one hopeful fact in our civilization. Money is the most important thing in the world. It represents health, strength, honor, generosity and beauty. Not the least of its virtues is that it destroys base people as certainly as it fortifies and dignifies noble people.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Morality is suspecting other people of not being legally married.

- Shaw, George Bernard

An Englishman thinks he is moral when he is only uncomfortable.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The more things a man is ashamed of, the more respectable he is.

- Shaw, George Bernard

He never does a proper thing without giving an improper reason for it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Hell is full of musical amateurs: music is the brandy of the damned.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Put an Irishman on the spit and you can always get another Irishman to turn him.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I showed my appreciation of my native land in the usual Irish way: by getting out of it as soon as I possibly could.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Man is the only animal which esteems itself rich in proportion to the number and voracity of its parasites.

- Shaw, George Bernard

You will never have a quiet world until you knock the patriotism out of the human race.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Patriotism is a pernicious, psychopathic form of idiocy.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Patriotism is your conviction that this country is superior to all other countries because you were born in it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Better see rightly on a pound a week than squint on a million.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Peace is not only better than war, but infinitely more arduous

- Shaw, George Bernard

If there was nothing wrong in the world there wouldn't be anything for us to do.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A pessimist is a man who thinks everybody is as nasty as himself.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The philosopher is Nature's pilot. And there you have our difference: to be n hell is to drift:  
to be in heaven is to steer.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The camera can represent flesh so superbly that, if I dared, I would never photograph a  
figure without asking that figure to take its clothes off.

- Shaw, George Bernard

My method is to take the utmost trouble to find the right thing to say, and then to say it  
with the utmost levity.

- Shaw, George Bernard

In order to fully realize how bad a popular play can be, it is necessary to see it twice.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Great art is never produced for its own sake. It is too difficult to be worth the effort.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Assassination is the extreme form of censorship.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I'm an atheist and I thank God for it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

In a battle all you need to make you fight is a little hot blood and the knowledge that it's more dangerous to lose than to win.

- Shaw, George Bernard

We mustn't be stiff and stand-off, you know. We must be thoroughly democratic, and patronize everybody without distinction of class.

- Shaw, George Bernard

He knows nothing; and he thinks he knows everything. That points clearly to a political career.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The world is populated in the main by people who should not exist.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The seven deadly sins... food, clothing, firing, rent, taxes, respectability and children.

Nothing can lift those seven millstones from Man's neck but money; and the spirit cannot soar until the millstones are lifted.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The greatest evils and the worst of crimes is poverty; our first duty, a duty to which every other consideration should be sacrificed, is not to be poor.

- Shaw, George Bernard

You cannot have power for good without having power for evil too. Even mother's milk nourishes murderers as well as heroes.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Power does not corrupt men; fools, however, if they get into a position of power, corrupt power.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Common people do not pray; they only beg.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The most anxious man in a prison is the governor.

- Shaw, George Bernard

All problems are finally scientific problems.

- Shaw, George Bernard

All professions are conspiracies against the laity.

- Shaw, George Bernard

All progress means war with society.

- Shaw, George Bernard

All progress is initiated by challenging current conceptions, and executed by supplanting existing institutions.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Property is organized robbery.

- Shaw, George Bernard

It has taken me nearly twenty years of studied self-restraint, aided by the natural decay of my faculties, to make myself dull enough to be accepted as a serious person by the British public; and I am not sure that I am not still regarded as a suspicious character in some quarters.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Better never than late.

- Shaw, George Bernard

This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; the being thoroughly worn out before you are thrown on the scrap heap; the being a force of nature instead of a feverish selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

- Shaw, George Bernard

We know there is intention and purpose in the universe, because there is intention and purpose in us.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The test of a man or woman's breeding is how they behave in a quarrel.

- Shaw, George Bernard

No question is so difficult to answer as that which the answer is obvious.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I often quote myself. It adds spice to my conversation.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Nothing is ever accomplished by a reasonable man.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Reasonable people adapt themselves to the world. Unreasonable people attempt to adapt the world to themselves. All progress, therefore, depends on unreasonable people.

- Shaw, George Bernard

There is only one religion, though there are a hundred versions of it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

My religion? Well, my dear, I am a Millionaire. That is my religion.

- Shaw, George Bernard

All the sweetness of religion is conveyed to the world by the hands of story-tellers and image-makers. Without their fictions the truths of religion would for the multitude be neither intelligible nor even apprehensible; and the prophets would prophesy and the teachers teach in vain.

- Shaw, George Bernard

My reputation grew with every failure.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Well, dearie, men have to do some awfully mean things to keep up their respectability. But you can't blame them for that, can you?

- Shaw, George Bernard

I feel nothing but the accursed happiness I have dreaded all my life long: the happiness that comes as life goes, the happiness of yielding and dreaming instead of resisting and doing, the sweetness of the fruit that is going rotten.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Revolutions have never lightened the burden of tyranny: they have only shifted it to another shoulder.

- Shaw, George Bernard

What is the matter with the poor is poverty; what is the matter with the rich is uselessness.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The more I see of the moneyed classes, the more I understand the guillotine.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The golden rule is that there are no golden rules.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Vulgarity in a king flatters the majority of the nation.

- Shaw, George Bernard

An asylum for the sane would be empty in America.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Science becomes dangerous only when it imagines that it has reached its goal.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Science is always wrong, it never solves a problem without creating ten more.

- Shaw, George Bernard

There are no secrets better kept than the secrets everybody guesses.

- Shaw, George Bernard

It is easy -- terribly easy -- to shake a man's faith in himself. To take advantage of that to break a man's spirit is devil's work.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A Native American elder once described his own inner struggles in this manner: Inside of me there are two dogs. One of the dogs is mean and evil. The other dog is good. The mean dog fights the good dog all the time. When asked which dog wins, he reflected for a moment and replied, The one I feed the most. On Other Peoples Expectations: The only man who behaved sensibly was my tailor; he took my measurement anew every time he saw me, while all the rest went on with their old measurements and expected them to fit me.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Self-denial is not a virtue, it is only the effect of prudence on rascality.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Self-sacrifice enables us to sacrifice other people without blushing.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Ladies and gentleman are permitted to have friends in the kennel, but not in the kitchen.

- Shaw, George Bernard

We live in an atmosphere of shame. We are ashamed of everything that is real about us; ashamed of ourselves, of our relatives, of our incomes, of our accents, of our opinions, of our experience, just as we are ashamed of our naked skins.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Silence is the most perfect expression of scorn.

- Shaw, George Bernard

It is dangerous to be sincere unless you are also stupid.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A nap, my friend, is a brief period of sleep which overtakes superannuated persons when they endeavor to entertain unwelcome visitors or to listen to scientific lectures.

- Shaw, George Bernard

When Satan makes impure verses, Allah sends a divine tune to cleanse them.

- Shaw, George Bernard

We know now that the soul is the body, and the body the soul. They tell us they are different because they want to persuade us that we can keep our souls if we let them make slaves of our bodies.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I don't want to talk grammar. I want to talk like a lady.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Success covers a multitude of blunders.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I dread success. To have succeeded is to have finished one's business on earth, like the male spider, who is killed by the female the moment he has succeeded in his courtship. I like a state of continual becoming, with a goal in front and not behind.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Martyrdom is the only way a man can become famous without ability.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Why, except as a means of livelihood, a man should desire to act on the stage when he has the whole world to act in, is not clear to me.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Beauty is all very well at first sight; but whoever looks at it when it has been in the house three days?

- Shaw, George Bernard

In your Salvation shelter I saw poverty, misery, cold and hunger. You gave them bread and treacle and dreams of heaven. I give from thirty shillings a week to twelve thousand a year. They find their own dreams; but I look after the drainage.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Don't order any black things. Rejoice in his memory; and be radiant: leave grief to the children. Wear violet and purple. Be patient with the poor people who will snivel: they don't know; and they think they will live for ever, which makes death a division instead of a bond.

- Shaw, George Bernard

You are all fundamentalists with a top dressing of science. That is why you are the stupidest of conservatives and reactionists in politics and the most bigoted of obstructionists in science itself. When it comes to getting a move on you are all of the same opinion: stop it, flog it, hang it, dynamite it, stamp it out.

- Shaw, George Bernard

How can you dare teach a man to read until you've taught him everything else first?

- Shaw, George Bernard

Censorship ends in logical completeness when nobody is allowed to read any books except the books nobody reads.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.

- Shaw, George Bernard

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.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A man of great common sense and good taste -- meaning thereby a man without originality or moral courage.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

- Shaw, George Bernard

What we want is to see the child in pursuit of knowledge, and not knowledge in pursuit of the child.

- Shaw, George Bernard

He who can, does. He who cannot, teaches.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I was a freethinker before I knew how to think.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Few people think more than two or three times a year. I have made an international reputation for myself thinking once or twice a week.

- Shaw, George Bernard

It is difficult, if not impossible, for most people to think otherwise than in the fashion of their own period.

- Shaw, George Bernard

No king on earth is as safe in his job as a Trade Union official. There is only one thing that can get him sacked; and that is drink. Not even that, as long as he doesn't actually fall down.

- Shaw, George Bernard

There are two tragedies in life. One is not to get your heart's desire. The other is to get it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Life on board a pleasure steamer violates every moral and physical condition of healthy life except fresh air. It is a guzzling, lounging, gambling, dog's life. The only alternative to excitement is irritability.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Though I can make my extravaganzas appear credible, I cannot make the truth appear so.

- Shaw, George Bernard

All great truths begin as blasphemies.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A man who has no office to go to -- I don't care who he is -- is a trial of which you can have no conception.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The secret of being miserable is to have leisure to bother about whether you are happy or not. The cure for it is occupation.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A man of my spiritual intensity does not eat corpses.

- Shaw, George Bernard

When it comes to the point, really bad men are just as rare as really good ones.

- Shaw, George Bernard

If you strike a child, take care that you strike it in anger, even at the risk of maiming it for life. A blow in cold blood neither can nor should be forgiven.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Better keep yourself clean and bright. You are the window through which you must see the world.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Virtue consists, not in abstaining from vice, but in not desiring it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

What is virtue but the Trade Unionism of the married?

- Shaw, George Bernard

Some men see things as they are and say, Why? I of dream things that never were, and say, Why not?

- Shaw, George Bernard

Democracy is a form of government that substitutes election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few.

- Shaw, George Bernard

In the arts of life man invents nothing; but in the arts of death he outdoes Nature herself, and produces by chemistry and machinery all the slaughter of plague, pestilence, and famine.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The only man I know who behaves sensibly is my tailor; he takes my measurements anew each time he sees me. The rest go on with their old measurements and expect me to fit them.

- Shaw, George Bernard

This comes of James teaching me to think for myself, and never to hold back out of fear of what other people may think of me. It works beautifully as long as I think the same things as he does.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The only way for a woman to provide for herself decently is for her to be good to some man that can afford to be good to her.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Nothing makes a man so selfish as work.

- Shaw, George Bernard

When I was a young man I observed that nine out of ten things I did were failures. I didn't want to be a failure, so I did ten times more work.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The man who writes about himself and his own time is the only man who writes about all people and about all time.

- Shaw, George Bernard

You must not suppose, because I am a man of letters, that I never tried to earn an honest living.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Youth, which is forgiven everything, forgives itself nothing: age, which forgives itself everything, is forgiven nothing.

- Shaw, George Bernard

It is all that the young can do for the old, to shock them and keep them up to date.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Even the youngest of us may be wrong sometimes.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Youth is such a wonderful thing. What a crime to waste it on children.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The early Christian rules of life were not made to last, because the early Christians did not believe that the world itself was going to last.

- Shaw, George Bernard

We sing in a church, why can we not dance there?

- Shaw, George Bernard

What is wrong with priests and popes is that instead of being apostles and saints, they are nothing but empirics who say I know instead of I am learning, and pray for credulity and inertia as wise men pray for skepticism and activity.

- Shaw, George Bernard

People are always blaming their circumstances for what they are. I don't believe in circumstances. The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and if they can't find them, make them.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Find enough clever things to say, and you're a Prime Minister; write them down and you're a Shakespeare.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Nothing is worth doing unless the consequences may be serious.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The American Constitution, one of the few modern political documents drawn up by men who were forced by the sternest circumstances to think out what they really had to face, instead of chopping logic in a university classroom.

- Shaw, George Bernard

How can what an Englishman believes be hearsay? It is a contradiction in terms.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I enjoy convalescence. It is the part that makes the illness worth while.

- Shaw, George Bernard

She has lost the art of conversation, but not, unfortunately, the power of speech.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The great danger of conversion in all ages has been that when the religion of the high mind is offered to the lower mind, the lower mind, feeling its fascination without

understanding it, and being incapable of rising to it, drags it down to its level by degrading it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

We are all dependent on one another, every soul of us on earth.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I never thought much of the courage of a lion tamer. Inside the cage he is at least safe from people.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Man gives every reason for his conduct save one, every excuse for his crimes save one, every plea for his safety save one; and that one is his cowardice.

- Shaw, George Bernard

No man who is occupied in doing a very difficult thing, and doing it very well, ever loses his self-respect.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The fact that a believer is happier than a skeptic is no more to the point than the fact that a drunken man is happier than a sober one. The happiness of credulity is a cheap and dangerous quality.

- Shaw, George Bernard

I believe in Michelangelo, Velasquez, and Rembrandt; in the might of design, the mystery of color, the redemption of all things by Beauty everlasting, and the message of Art that has made these hands blessed. Amen. Amen.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The faults of the burglar are the qualities of the financier.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The power of accurate observation is commonly called cynicism by those who have not got it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

A perpendicular expression of a horizontal desire.

- Shaw, George Bernard

In this world there is always danger for those who are afraid of it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

England and America are two countries separated by the same language.

- Shaw, George Bernard

There is nothing so bad or so good that you will not find an Englishman doing it; but you

will never find an Englishman in the wrong. He does everything on principle. He fights you on patriotic principles; he robs you on business principles; he enslaves you on imperial principles.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Majesty: when a stupid man is doing something he is ashamed of, he always declares that it is his duty.

- Shaw, George Bernard

You see things; and you say Why? But I dream things that never were; and I say Why not?

- Shaw, George Bernard

Youth is a wonderful thing. What a crime to waste it on children.

- Shaw, George Bernard

You have set up in New York Harbor a monstrous idol which you call Liberty. The only thing that remains to complete that monument is to put on its pedestal the inscription written by Dante on the gate of hell: All hope abandon ye who enter here.

- Shaw, George Bernard

You have to choose between trusting to the natural stability of gold and the natural stability of the honesty and intelligence of the members of the Government. And, with due respect for these gentlemen, I advise you, as long as the Capitalist system lasts, to vote

for gold.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The best reformers the world has ever seen are those who commence on themselves.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The fact that a believer is happier than a sceptic is no more to the point than the fact that a drunken man is happier than a sober one. The happiness of credulity is a cheap and dangerous quality.

- Shaw, George Bernard





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