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# Quotes by Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

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Gaius Cornelius Tacitus

Greater things are believed of those who are absent.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

We see many who are struggling against adversity who are happy, and more although abounding in wealth, who are wretched.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Many who seem to be struggling with adversity are happy; many, amid great affluence, are utterly miserable.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

To plunder, to slaughter, to steal, these things they misname empire; and where they make a wilderness, they call it peace.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Custom adapts itself to expediency.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

The love of fame is the last weakness which even the wise resign.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

The hatred of relatives is the most violent.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Even the bravest men are frightened by sudden terrors.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Old things are always in good repute, present things in disfavor.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Seek to make a person blush for their guilt rather than shed their blood.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

It is a weakness of your human nature to hate those whom you have wronged.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

All bodies are slow in growth but rapid in decay.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Those in supreme power always suspect and hate their next heir.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

In a state where corruption abounds, laws must be very numerous.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

The more corrupt the state, the more laws.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Reason and judgment are the qualities of a leader.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

No one would have doubted his ability to reign had he never been emperor.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

It is less difficult to bear misfortunes than to remain uncorrupted by pleasure.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Prosperity is the measure or touchstone of virtue, for it is less difficult to bear misfortune than to remain uncorrupted by pleasure.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Candor and generosity, unless tempered by due moderation, leads to ruin.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

When a woman has lost her chastity she will shrink from nothing.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Things are not to be judged good or bad merely because the public think so.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Posterity will pay everyone their due.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

They make a wilderness and call it peace.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

A shocking crime was committed on the unscrupulous initiative of few individuals, with the blessing of more, and amid the passive acquiescence of all.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Posterity gives every man his true value.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

All enterprises that are entered into with indiscreet zeal may be pursued with great vigor at first, but are sure to collapse in the end.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Forbidden things have a secret charm.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

So, as you go into battle, remember your ancestors and remember your descendants.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Noble character is best appreciated in those ages in which it can most readily develop.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Things forbidden have a secret charm.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

The repose of nations cannot be secure without arms. Armies cannot be maintained without pay, nor can the pay be produced without taxes.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Valor is of no service, chance rules all, and the bravest often fall by the hands of cowards.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

All things atrocious and shameless flock from all parts to Rome.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

The brave and bold persist even against fortune; the timid and cowardly rush to despair though fear alone.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

If we must fall, we should boldly meet the danger.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

Abuse if you slight it, will gradually die away; but if you show yourself irritated, you will be thought to have deserved it.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

In all things there is a law of cycles.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

As for myself, may the sweet Muses, as Virgil says, bear me away to their holy places where sacred streams do flow, beyond the reach of anxiety and care, and free from the obligation of performing each day some task that goes against the grain. May I no longer have anything to do with the mad racket and the hazards of the forum, or tremble as I try a fall with white-faced Fame. I do not want to be roused from sleep by the clatter of

morning callers or by some breathless messenger from the palace; I do not care, in drawing my will, to give a money-pledge for its safe execution through anxiety as to what is to happen afterwards; I wish for no larger estate than I can leave to the heir of my own free choice. Some day or other the last hour will strike also for me, and my prayer is that my effigy may be set up beside my grave, not grim and scowling, but all smiles and garlands, and that no one shall seek to honour my memory either by a motion in the senate or by a petition to the Emperor.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius

To plunder, slaughter and rape they give the false name of empire, and where they make a solitude they call it peace. Tacitus Tacitus Agricola 30.

- Tacitus, Publius Cornelius





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