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Why not seize the pleasure at once? How often is happiness destroyed by preparation, foolish preparation.

- Austen, Jane

A daydream is a meal at which images are eaten. Some of us are gourmets, some gourmands, and a good many take their images precooked out of a can and swallow them down whole, absent-mindedly and with little relish.

- Auden, W. H.

Evil is unspectacular and always human, and shares our bed and eats at our own table.

- Auden, W. H.

The ear tends to be lazy, craves the familiar and is shocked by the unexpected; the eye, on the other hand, tends to be impatient, craves the novel and is bored by repetition.

- Auden, W. H.

Between friends differences in taste or opinion are irritating in direct proportion to their triviality.

- Auden, W. H.

Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator, but among those whom I love, I can: all of them make me laugh.

- Auden, W. H.

We must love one another or die.

- Auden, W. H.

We are not commanded (or forbidden) to love our mates, our children, our friends, our country because such affections come naturally to us and are good in themselves, although we may corrupt them. We are commanded to love our neighbor because our natural attitude toward the other is one of either indifference or hostility.

- Auden, W. H.

A false enchantment can all too easily last a lifetime.

- Auden, W. H.

The only way to spend New Year's Eve is either quietly with friends or in a brothel. Otherwise when the evening ends and people pair off, someone is bound to be left in tears.

- Auden, W. H.

No good opera plot can be sensible, for people do not sing when they are feeling sensible.

- Auden, W. H.

Perhaps there is only one cardinal sin: impatience. Because of impatience we were driven out of Paradise, because of impatience we cannot return.

- Auden, W. H.

My deepest feeling about politicians is that they are dangerous lunatics to be avoided when possible and carefully humored; people, above all, to whom one must never tell the truth.

- Auden, W. H.

You must go to bed with friends or whores, where money makes up the difference in beauty or desire.

- Auden, W. H.

It is... axiomatic that we should all think of ourselves as being more sensitive than other people because, when we are insensitive in our dealings with others, we cannot be aware of it at the time: conscious insensitivity is a self-contradiction.

- Auden, W. H.

We are here on earth to do good to others. What the others are here for, I don't know.

- Auden, W. H.

It takes little talent to see clearly what lies under one's nose, a good deal of it to know in

which direction to point that organ.

- Auden, W. H.

A professor is one who talks in someone else's sleep.

- Auden, W. H.

Funeral Blues

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,

Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,

Silence the pianos and with muffled drum

Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead

Scribbling on the sky the message He Is Dead,

Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,

Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,

My working week and my Sunday rest,

My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song;

I thought that love would last for ever: I was wrong.

The stars are not wanted now: put out every one;

Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun;

Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood.

For nothing now can ever come to any good.

- Auden, W. H.

Patience. A minor form of despair disguised as a virtue.

- Bierce, Ambrose

Energy and persistence alter all things.

- Franklin, Benjamin

Failure is the path of least persistence

- Unknown, Source

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

- Ovid

By persisting in your path, though you forfeit the little, you gain the great.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Vitality shows not only in the ability to persist, but in the ability to start over.

- Unknown, Source

At bottom every man knows well enough that he is a unique being, only once on this

earth; and by no extraordinary chance will such a marvelously picturesque piece of diversity in unity as he is, ever be put together a second time.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

Chance happens to all, but to turn chance to account is the gift of few.

- Bulwer-Lytton, Edward G.

The learned fool writes his nonsense in better language than the unlearned, but it is still nonsense.

- Franklin, Benjamin

Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.

- Franklin, Benjamin

Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity.

- Brown Jr., H. Jackson

Be ready when opportunity comes. Luck is the time when preparation and opportunity meet.

- Chapin Jr., Roy D.

Not knowing when the dawn will come, I open every door.

- Dickinson, Emily

Opportunity is missed by most people because it comes dressed in overalls and looks like work.

- Edison, Thomas A.

The golden opportunity you are seeking is in yourself. It is not in your environment; it is not in luck or chance, or the help of others; it is in yourself alone.

- Marden, Orison Swett

Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities. Seize common occasions and make them great. Weak men wait for opportunities; strong men make them.

- Marden, Orison Swett

A lost battle is a battle one thinks one has lost.

- Foch, Ferdinand

You can't blame gravity for falling in love.

- Einstein, Albert

He who falls in love with himself will have no rivals.

- Franklin, Benjamin

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

- Ovid

My great hope is to laugh as much as I cry; to get my work done and try to love somebody and have the courage to accept the love in return.

- Angelou, Maya

The darkest day, If you live till tomorrow will have past away.

- Cowper, William

Whatever is done for love always occurs beyond good and evil.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

He who fights with monsters might take care lest he thereby become a monster. And if you gaze for long into an abyss, the abyss gazes also into you.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

Love is a state in which a man sees things most decidedly as they are not.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

The true man wants two things: danger and play. For that reason he wants woman, as the most dangerous plaything.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

He who has a strong enough why can bear almost any how.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

The man loves danger and sport. That is why he loves woman, the most dangerous of all sports.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

Loneliness is never more cruel than when it is felt in close propinquity with someone who has ceased to communicate.

- Greer, Germaine

Life begins on the other side of despair.

- Sartre, Jean-Paul

Hell is other people.

- Sartre, Jean-Paul

If you are lonely when you are alone, you are in bad company.

- Sartre, Jean-Paul

Everything comes to us from others. To Be is to belong to someone.

- Sartre, Jean-Paul

We must act out passion before we can feel it.

- Sartre, Jean-Paul

When an individual is kept in a situation of inferiority, the fact is that he does become inferior.

- Beauvoir, Simone De

Change your life today. Don't gamble on the future, act now, without delay.

- Beauvoir, Simone De

Let me tell you I am better acquainted with you for a long absence, as men are with themselves for a long affliction: absence does but hold off a friend, to make one see him the truer.

- Pope, Alexander

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

Absence diminishes little passions and increases great ones, as wind extinguishes candles and fans a fire.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

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

- Ovid

Like fragile ice anger passes away in time.

- Ovid

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

- Ovid

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

- Ovid

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

- Ovid

Remove the temptation of idleness and cupids bow is useless.

- Ovid

Mountains cannot be surmounted except by winding paths.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

No wind favors him who has no destined port.

- Montaigne, Michel Eyquem De

The difference between an optimist and a pessimist? An optimist laughs to forget, but a pessimist forgets to laugh.

- Bodett, Tom

We cannot direct the wind but we can adjust the sails.

- Unknown, Source

No wind serves him who addresses his voyage to no certain port.

- Montaigne, Michel Eyquem De

The earth laughs in flowers.

- Cummings, E.E. (Edward. E.)

A wind has blown the rain away and blown the sky away and all the leaves away, and the trees stand. I think, I too, have known autumn too long.

- Cummings, E.E. (Edward. E.)

Always the beautiful answer who asks a more beautiful question.

- Cummings, E.E. (Edward. E.)

I no doubt deserved my enemies, but I don't believe I deserved my friends.

- Whitman, Walt

I celebrate myself, and sing myself.

- Whitman, Walt

Come to the edge, He said. They said, We are afraid. Come to the edge, He said. They came. He pushed them... and they flew.

- Apollinaire, Guillaume

Conservatives are not necessarily stupid, but most stupid people are conservatives.

- Mill, John Stuart

Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former.

- Einstein, Albert

We are all born ignorant, but one must work hard to remain stupid.

- Franklin, Benjamin

The road to perseverance lies by doubt.

- Quarles, Francis

The greater the knowledge, the greater the doubt.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

Too often the opportunity knocks, but by the time you push back the chain, push back the bolt, unhook the locks and shut off the burglar alarm, it's too late.

- Coolidge, Rita

Action may not always bring happiness; but there is no happiness without action.

- Disraeli, Benjamin

The good life, as I conceive it, is a happy life. I do not mean that if you are good you will be happy; I mean that if you are happy you will be good.

- Russell, Bertrand

As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well spent brings happy death.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy.

- Apollinaire, Guillaume

We exaggerate misfortune and happiness alike. We are never as bad off or as happy as we say we are.

- Balzac, Honore De

Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude.

- Waitley, Denis

Happy the man, and happy he alone, he who can call today his own; he who, secure within, can say, tomorrow do thy worst, for I have lived today.

- Dryden, John

To be happy with a man you must understand him a lot and love him a little. To be happy with a woman you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all.

- Rowland, Helen

It is always incomprehensible to a man that a woman should ever refuse an offer of marriage.

- Austen, Jane

A woman, especially, if she have the misfortune of knowing anything, should conceal it as well as she can.

- Austen, Jane

But then they danced down the street like dingledodies, and I shambled after as I've been doing all my life after people who interest me, because the only people for me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn, like fabulous yellow roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars and in the middle you see the blue centerlight pop and everybody goes "Awww!"

- Kerouac, Jack

Happiness is like those palaces in fairy tales whose gates are guarded by dragons: we must fight in order to conquer it.

- Dumas, Alexandre

It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.

- Saint-Exupery, Antoine De

Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.

- Saint-Exupery, Antoine De

Everyone is more or less mad on one point.

- Kipling, Rudyard

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew to serve your turn long after they have gone, and so hold on when there is nothing in you. Except the Will which says to them; Hold on!

- Kipling, Rudyard

A woman's guess is much more accurate than a man's certainty.

- Kipling, Rudyard

'Tis beauty, so to speak, nor good talk necessarily. It's just IT. Some women will stay in a man's memory if they once walked down a street.

- Kipling, Rudyard

Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind.

- Kipling, Rudyard

And the first rude sketch that the world had seen was joy to his mighty heart, till the Devil whispered behind the leaves It's pretty, but is it Art?

- Kipling, Rudyard

The center that I cannot find is known to my unconscious mind.

- Auden, W. H.

A real book is not one that we read, but one that reads us.

- Auden, W. H.

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

- Gibran, Kahlil

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

- Twain, Mark

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

- Shaw, George Bernard

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

- Aesop

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

- Gibran, Kahlil

A part of kindness consists in loving people more than they deserve.

- Joubert, Joseph

So many gods, so many creeds, So many paths that wind and wind, While just the art of being kind is all the sad world needs.

- Wilcox, Ella Wheeler

The best portion of a good man's life is in his little nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love.

- Wordsworth, William

Life is neither good or evil, but only a place for good and evil.

- Aurelius, Marcus

Let not your mind run on what you lack as much as on what you have already.

- Aurelius, Marcus

A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.

- Einstein, Albert

The pages are still blank, but there is a miraculous feeling of the words being there, written in invisible ink and clamoring to become visible

- Nabakov, Vladimir

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