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The expectations of life depend upon diligence; the mechanic that would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools.

- Confucius

What you do not want others to do to you, do not do to others.

- Confucius

To go too far is as bad as to fall short.

- Confucius

Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

- Confucius

A man who has committed a mistake and doesn't correct it is committing another mistake.

- Confucius

Faithfulness and sincerity are the highest things.

- Confucius

I am not concerned that I am not known, I seek to be worthy to be known.

- Confucius

It is not possible for one to teach others who cannot teach his own family.

- Confucius

The strength of a nation derives from the integrity of the home.

- Confucius

The father who does not teach his son his duties is equally guilty with the son who neglects them.

- Confucius

The wheel of fortune turns round incessantly, and who can say to himself, I shall today be uppermost.

- Confucius

Death and life have their determined appointments; riches and honors depend upon heaven.

- Confucius

The real fault is to have faults and not amend them.

- Confucius

The parents age must be remembered, both for joy and anxiety.

- Confucius

The faults of a superior person are like the sun and moon. They have their faults, and everyone sees them; they change and everyone looks up to them.

- Confucius

When you have faults, do not fear to abandon them.

- Confucius

A fool despises good counsel, but a wise man takes it to heart.

- Confucius

Love thy neighbor as thyself: Do not to others what thou wouldn't not wish be done to thyself: Forgive injuries. Forgive thy enemy, be reconciled to him, give him assistance, invoke God in his behalf.

- Confucius

Have no friends not equal to yourself.

- Confucius

The perfecting of one's self is the fundamental base of all progress and all moral

development.

- Confucius

Ignorance is the night of the mind, but a night without moon or star.

- Confucius

Recompense injury with justice, and recompense kindness with kindness.

- Confucius

With coarse rice to eat, with water to drink, and my bent arm for a pillow -- I have still joy in the midst of all these things.

- Confucius

Man who stand on hill with mouth open will wait long time for roast duck to drop in.

- Confucius

Acquire new knowledge whilst thinking over the old, and you may become a teacher of others.

- Confucius

To know is to know that you know nothing. That is the meaning of true knowledge.

- Confucius

The essence of knowledge is, having it, to apply it; not having it, to confess your ignorance.

- Confucius

When you know a thing, to hold that you know it; and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it--this is knowledge.

- Confucius

If you lead the people with correctness, who will dare not be correct?

- Confucius

Learn as though you would never be able to master it; hold it as though you would be in fear of losing it.

- Confucius

To love a thing means wanting it to live.

- Confucius

Can there be a love which does not make demands on its object?

- Confucius

I want you to be everything that's you, deep at the center of your being.

- Confucius

Consideration for others is the basic of a good life, a good society.

- Confucius

When anger rises, think of the consequences.

- Confucius

Of neighborhoods, benevolence is the most beautiful. How can the man be considered wise who when he had the choice does not settle in benevolence.

- Confucius

Study the past if you would divine the future.

- Confucius

To see what is right, and not do it, is want of courage, or of principle.

- Confucius

In a country well governed poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed wealth is something to be ashamed of.

- Confucius

Virtue is not left to stand alone. He who practices it will have neighbors.

- Confucius

A man who does not think and plan long ahead will find trouble right at his door.

- Confucius

Without feelings of respect, what is there to distinguish men from beasts?

- Confucius

Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves.

- Confucius

When prosperity comes, do not use all of it.

- Confucius

He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own.

- Confucius

The superior man understands what is right; the inferior man understands what will sell.

- Confucius

Boldness, without the rules of propriety, becomes insubordination.

- Confucius

When nature exceeds culture, we have the rustic. When culture exceeds nature then we the pedant.

- Confucius

He who conquers himself is the mightiest warrior.

- Confucius

When you see a worthy person, endeavor to emulate him. When you see an unworthy person, then examine your inner self.

- Confucius

The more man meditates upon good thoughts, the better will be his world and the world at large.

- Confucius

Silence is the true friend that never betrays.

- Confucius

Life is really simple, but men insist on making it complicated.

- Confucius

Sincerity and truth are the basis of every virtue.

- Confucius

We should feel sorrow, but not sink under its oppression.

- Confucius

The superior man acts before he speaks, and afterwards speaks according to his action.

- Confucius

The superior man is modest in his speech but exceeds in his actions.

- Confucius

Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.

- Confucius

They must change who would be constant in happiness and wisdom.

- Confucius

To put the world in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must cultivate our personal life; and to cultivate our personal life, we must first set our hearts right.

- Confucius

Only the wisest and the stupidest of men never change.

- Confucius

The superior man is firm in the right way, and not merely firm.

- Confucius

To be fond of learning is near to wisdom; to practice with vigor is near to benevolence; and to be conscious of shame is near to fortitude. He who knows these three things

- Confucius

When we see men of a contrary character, we should turn inwards and examine ourselves.

- Confucius

The way of the superior person is threefold; virtuous, they are free from anxieties; wise, they are free from perplexities; and bold, they are free from fear.

- Confucius

What the superior person seeks is in themselves. What the mean person seeks is in others.

- Confucius

If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people.

- Confucius

Learning without thought is labor lost. Thought without learning is perilous.

- Confucius

Think no vice so small that you may commit it, and no virtue so small that you may over look it.

- Confucius

To be able under all circumstances to practice five things constitutes perfect virtue; these five things are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness and kindness.

- Confucius

The superior man thinks always of virtue; the common man thinks of comfort.

- Confucius

To see and listen to the wicked is already the beginning of wickedness.

- Confucius

By trying we can easily learn to endure adversity. Another man's, I mean.

- Twain, Mark

Annihilation has no terrors for me, because I have already tried it before I was born --a hundred million years --and I have suffered more in an hour, in this life, than I remember

to have suffered in the whole hundred million years put together. There was a peace, a serenity, an absence of all sense of responsibility, an absence of worry, an absence of care, grief, perplexity; and the presence of a deep content and unbroken satisfaction in that hundred million years of holiday which I look back upon with a tender longing and with a grateful desire to resume, when the opportunity comes.

- Twain, Mark

Why is it that we rejoice at birth and grieve at a funeral? It is because we are not the person involved.

- Twain, Mark

Whoever has lived long enough to find out what life is, knows how deep a debt of gratitude we owe to Adam, the first great benefactor of our race. He brought death into the world.

- Twain, Mark

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Adam, the first great benefactor of the human race: he brought death into the world.

- Twain, Mark

We never become really and genuinely our entire and honest selves until we are dead -- and not then until we have been dead years and years. People ought to start dead and then they would be honest so much earlier.

- Twain, Mark

Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry.

- Twain, Mark

All say, How hard it is that we have to die -- a strange complaint to come from the mouths of people who have had to live.

- Twain, Mark

Don't part with your illusions. When they are gone you may still exist, but you have ceased to live.

- Twain, Mark

When a person cannot deceive himself the chances are against his being able to deceive other people.

- Twain, Mark

I am a democrat only on principle, not by instinct -- nobody is that. Doubtless some people say they are, but this world is grievously given to lying.

- Twain, Mark

Denial ain't just a river in Egypt.

- Frank, Al

It is a time when one's spirit is subdued and sad, one knows not why; when the past seems a storm-swept desolation, life a vanity and a burden, and the future but a way to death.

- Twain, Mark

I can teach anybody how to get what they want out of life. The problem is that I can't find anybody who can tell me what they want.

- Twain, Mark

What is there that confers the noblest delight? What is that which swells a man's breast with pride above that which any other experience can bring to him? Discovery! To know that you are walking where none others have walked; that you are beholding what human eye has not seen before; that you are breathing a virgin atmosphere. To give birth to an idea, to discover a great thought -- an intellectual nugget, right under the dust of a field that many a brain-plough had gone over before. To find a new planet, to invent a new hinge, to find a way to make the lightning carry your messages. To be the first -- that is the idea.

- Twain, Mark

The rule is perfect: in all matters of opinion our adversaries are insane.

- Twain, Mark

He has been a doctor a year now and has had two patients, no, three, I think -- yes, it was three; I attended their funerals.

- Twain, Mark

Be careless in your dress if you must, but keep a tidy soul.

- Twain, Mark

Duties are not performed for duty's sake, but because their neglect would make the man uncomfortable. A man performs but one duty --the duty of contenting his spirit, the duty of making himself agreeable to himself.

- Twain, Mark

Do something every day that you don't want to do. This is the golden rule for acquiring the habit of doing your duty without pain.

- Twain, Mark

Soap and education are not as sudden as a massacre, but they are more deadly in the long run. Training is everything. The peach was once a bitter almond; cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education.

- Twain, Mark

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.

- Twain, Mark

We must annex those people. We can afflict them with our wise and beneficent

government. We can introduce the novelty of thieves, all the way up from street-car pickpockets to municipal robbers and Government defaulters, and show them how amusing it is to arrest them and try them and then turn them loose -- some for cash and some for political influence. We can make them ashamed of their simple and primitive justice. We can make that little bunch of sleepy islands the hottest corner on earth, and array it in the moral splendor of our high and holy civilization. Annexation is what the poor islanders need. Shall we to men benighted, the lamp of life deny?

- Twain, Mark

The first half of life consists of the capacity to enjoy without the chance; the last half consists of the chance without the capacity.

- Twain, Mark

We are all alike, on the inside.

- Twain, Mark

Evolution is the law of policies: Darwin said it, Socrates endorsed it, Cuvier proved it and established it for all time in his paper on The Survival of the Fittest. These are illustrious names, this is a mighty doctrine: nothing can ever remove it from its firm base, nothing dissolve it, but evolution.

- Twain, Mark

I believe that our Heavenly Father invented man because he was disappointed in the monkey.

- Twain, Mark

Man will do many things to get himself loved; he will do all things to get himself envied.

- Twain, Mark

Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.

- Twain, Mark

There is nothing so annoying as a good example!!

- Twain, Mark

I have never taken any exercise except sleeping and resting.

- Twain, Mark

We should be careful to get out of an experience only the wisdom that is in it -- and stop there; lest we be like the cat that sits down on a hot stove-lid. She will never sit down on a hot stove-lid again -- and that is well; but also she will never sit down on a cold one anymore.

- Twain, Mark

The cat, having sat upon a hot stove lid, will not sit upon a hot stove lid again. But he won't sit upon a cold stove lid, either.

- Twain, Mark

Familiarity breeds contempt; and children.

- Twain, Mark

Get your facts first, and then you can distort them as much as you please.

- Twain, Mark

We are always too busy for our children; we never give them the time or interest they deserve. We lavish gifts upon them; but the most precious gift, our personal association, which means so much to them, we give grudgingly.

- Twain, Mark

Adam was the luckiest man; he had no mother-in-law.

- Twain, Mark

Persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished; persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot.

- Twain, Mark

He does not care for flowers. Calls them rubbish, and cannot tell one from another, and thinks it is superior to feel like that.

- Twain, Mark

When one has tasted it [Watermelon] he knows what the angels eat.

- Twain, Mark

Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it.

- Twain, Mark

Fortune knocks at every man's door once in a life, but in a good many cases the man is in a neighboring saloon and does not hear her.

- Twain, Mark

Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life. The conviction of the rich that the poor are happier is no more foolish than the conviction of the poor that the rich are.

- Twain, Mark

Grief can take care of itself; but to get the full value of a joy you must have somebody to divide it with.

- Twain, Mark

The holy passion of friendship is of so sweet and steady and loyal and enduring a nature that it will last through a whole lifetime, if not asked to lend money.

- Twain, Mark

I did not attend his funeral; but I wrote a nice letter saying I approved of it. [About a politician who had recently died]

- Twain, Mark

Where a blood relation sobs, an intimate friend should choke up, a distant acquaintance should sigh, a stranger should merely fumble sympathetically with his handkerchief.

- Twain, Mark

He is useless on top of the ground; he ought to be under it, inspiring the cabbages.

- Twain, Mark

Let us not be too particular; it is better to have old secondhand diamonds than none at all.

- Twain, Mark

Methuselah lived to be 969 years old . You boys and girls will see more in the next fifty years than Methuselah saw in his whole lifetime.

- Twain, Mark

When your friends begin to flatter you on how young you look, it's a sure sign you're getting old.

- Twain, Mark

A man cannot be made comfortable without his own approval.

- Twain, Mark

Water, taken in moderation, cannot hurt anybody.

- Twain, Mark

There isn't a single human characteristic that can be safely labeled as American.

- Twain, Mark

Keep away from small people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.

- Twain, Mark

Good breeding consists in concealing how much we think of ourselves and how little we think of the other person.

- Twain, Mark

The older we grow the greater becomes our wonder at how much ignorance one can contain without bursting one's clothes.

- Twain, Mark

We have the best government that money can buy.

- Twain, Mark

Damn the subjunctive. It brings all our writers to shame.

- Twain, Mark

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man.

- Twain, Mark

What is the most rigorous law of our being? Growth. No smallest atom of our moral, mental, or physical structure can stand still a year. It grows -- it must grow; nothing can prevent it.

- Twain, Mark

A habit cannot be tossed out the window; it must be coaxed down the stairs a step at a time.

- Twain, Mark

Habit is habit, and not to be flung out of the window by any man, but coaxed downstairs a step at a time.

- Twain, Mark

To stop smoking is the easiest thing I ever did. I ought to know; I've done it a thousand times.

- Twain, Mark

Happiness ain't a thing in itself --it's only a contrast with something that ain't pleasant. And so, as soon as the novelty is over and the force of the contrast dulled, it ain't happiness any longer, and you have to get something fresh.

- Twain, Mark

Faith is believing what you know ain't so.

- Twain, Mark

It was the schoolboy who said, Faith is believing what you know ain't so.

- Twain, Mark

I was young and foolish then; now I am old and foolisher.

- Twain, Mark

It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt.

- Twain, Mark

Forget and forgive. This is not difficult when properly understood. It means forget inconvenient duties, then forgive yourself for forgetting. By rigid practice and stern determination, it comes easy.

- Twain, Mark

Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it

- Twain, Mark

It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either.

- Twain, Mark

Thousands of geniuses live and die undiscovered -- either by themselves or by others.

- Twain, Mark

I am admonished in many ways that time is pushing me inexorably along. I am approaching the threshold of age; in 1977 I shall be 142. This is no time to be flitting about the earth. I must cease from the activities proper to youth and begin to take on the dignities and gravities and inertia proper to that season of honorable senility which is on its way.

- Twain, Mark

Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach eighteen.

- Twain, Mark

In Boston they ask, How much does he know? In New York, How much is he worth? In Philadelphia, Who were his parents?

- Twain, Mark

It was wonderful to find America, but it would have been more wonderful to miss it.

- Twain, Mark

Golf is a good walk spoiled.

- Twain, Mark

It could probably be shown by facts and figures that there is no distinctly native American criminal class except Congress.

- Twain, Mark

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