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The more books we read, the clearer it becomes that the true function of a writer is to produce a masterpiece and that no other task is of any consequence.

- Connolly, Cyril

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

- Ovid

We build statues out of snow, and weep to see them melt.

- Scott, Sir Walter

Life is filigree work. What is written clearly is not worth much, it's the transparency that counts.

- Celine, Louis-Ferdinand

No one ever lacks a good reason for suicide.

- Pavese, Cesare

Hastiness and superficiality are the psychic diseases of the twentieth century, and more than anywhere else this disease is reflected in the press.

- Solzhenitsyn, Alexander

Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

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

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

- Twain, Mark

The greatest destroyer of peace is abortion because if a mother can kill her own child, what is left for me to kill you and you to kill me? There is nothing between.

- Mother Teresa

Newsmen believe that news is a tacitly acknowledged fourth branch of the federal system. This is why most news about government sounds as if it were federally mandated -- serious, bulky and blandly worthwhile, like a high-fiber diet set in type.

- O'Rourke, P. J.

What is government itself but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.

- Madison, James

Governments, like clocks, go from the motion men give them, and as governments are made and moved by men, so by them they are ruined too. Wherefore governments rather depend upon men, than men upon governments. Let men be good, and the government cannot be bad; if it be ill, they will cure it. But if men be bad, let the government be never so good, they will endeavour to warp and spoil it to their turn.

- Penn, William

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

The American Dream has run out of gas. The car has stopped. It no longer supplies the world with its images, its dreams, its fantasies. No more. It's over. It supplies the world with its nightmares now: the Kennedy assassination, Watergate, Vietnam...

- Ballard, J. G.

The government is huge, stupid, greedy and makes nosy, officious and dangerous

intrusions into the smallest corners of life -- this much we can stand. But the real problem is that government is boring. We could cure or mitigate the other ills Washington visits on us if we could only bring ourselves to pay attention to Washington itself. But we cannot.

- O'Rourke, P. J.

A special kind of beauty exists which is born in language, of language, and for language.

- Bachelard, Gaston

Welcome, O life! I go to encounter for the millionth time the reality of experience and to forge in the smithy of my soul the uncreated conscience of my race.

- Joyce, James

It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them.

- Twain, Mark

But I, being poor, have only my dreams; I have spread my dreams under your feet; Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.

- Yeats, William Butler

I carry from my mother's womb a fanatic's heart.

- Yeats, William Butler

Mysticism has been in the past and probably ever will be one of the great powers of the

world and it is bad scholarship to pretend the contrary. You may argue against it but you should no more treat it with disrespect than a perfectly cultivated writer would treat (say) the Catholic Church or the Church of Luther no matter how much he disliked them.

- Yeats, William Butler

The intellect of man is forced to choose perfection of the life, or of the work, and if it take the second must refuse a heavenly mansion, raging in the dark.

- Yeats, William Butler

When you are old and gray and full of sleep, and nodding by the fire, take down this book and slowly read, and dream of the soft look your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep.

- Yeats, William Butler

The years like great black oxen tread the world, and God the herdsman treads them on behind, and I am broken by their passing feet.

- Yeats, William Butler

I am deliberate and afraid of nothing.

- Lorde, Audre

This life of separateness may be compared to a dream, a phantasm, a bubble, a shadow, a drop of dew, a flash of lightning.

- Buddha

The whole secret of existence is to have no fear. Never fear what will become of you, depend on no one. Only the moment you reject all help are you freed.

- Vivekananda, Swami

Let the wise guard their thoughts, which are difficult to perceive, extremely subtle, and wander at will. Thought which is well guarded is the bearer of happiness.

- Buddha

No one asks you to throw Mozart out of the window. Keep Mozart. Cherish him. Keep Moses too, and Buddha and Lao Tzu and Christ. Keep them in your heart. But make room for the others, the coming ones, the ones who are already scratching on the window-panes.

- Miller, Henry

Hatred does not cease through hatred at any time. Hatred ceases through love. This is an unalterable law.

- Buddha

On life's journey faith is nourishment, virtuous deeds are a shelter, wisdom is the light by day and right mindfulness is the protection by night. If a man lives a pure life, nothing can destroy him.

- Buddha

The style of an author should be the image of his mind, but the choice and command of language is the fruit of exercise.

- Gibbon, Edward

The priesthood in many ways is the ultimate closet in Western civilization, where gay people particularly have hidden for the past two thousand years.

- Spong, John

We have meet the enemy; and he is us.

- Kelly, Walt

For books are more than books, they are the life, the very heart and core of ages past, the reason why men lived and worked and died, the essence and quintessence of their lives.

- Lowell, Amy

All books are either dreams or swords.

- Lowell, Amy

I count religion but a childish toy, and hold there is no sin but innocence.

- Marlowe, Christopher

Hell hath no limits, nor is circumscrib'd one self place; for where we are is Hell, and where

Hell is, there must we ever be.

- Marlowe, Christopher

Nothing is too high for the daring of mortals: we storm heaven itself in our folly.

- Horace

When we start deceiving ourselves into thinking not that we want something or need something, not that it is a pragmatic necessity for us to have it, but that it is a moral imperative that we have it, then is when we join the fashionable madmen, and then is when the thin whine of hysteria is heard in the land, and then is when we are in bad trouble.

- Didion, Joan

Many people I know in Los Angeles believe that the Sixties ended abruptly on August 9, 1969, ended at the exact moment when word of the murders on Cielo Drive traveled like brushfire through the community, and in a sense this is true. The tension broke that day. The paranoia was fulfilled.

- Didion, Joan

We were that generation called silent, but we were silent neither, as some thought, because we shared the period's official optimism nor, as others thought, because we feared its official repression. We were silent because the exhilaration of social action seemed to many of us just one more way of escaping the personal, of masking for a while that dread of the meaningless which was man's fate.

- Didion, Joan

I know what I am fleeing from, but not what I am in search of.

- Montaigne, Michel Eyquem De

We are all sentenced to solitary confinement inside our own skins, for life.

- Williams, Tennessee

Now, on the road to freedom, I was pausing for a moment near Temuco and could hear the voice of the water that had taught me to sing.

- Neruda, Pablo

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