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An angry man is again angry with himself when he returns to reason.

- Syrus, Publilius

The angry man will defeat himself in battle as well as in life.

- Maxim, Samurai

The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug.

- Twain, Mark

Bring in the bottled lightning, a clean tumbler, and a corkscrew.

- Dickens, Charles

The best lightning rod for your protection is your own spine.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Lightning is the shorthand of a storm, and tells of chaos.

- Mackay, Eric

I'd rather be a lightning rod than a seismograph.

- Kesey, Ken

Thunder is impressive, but it is lightning that does the work.

- Twain, Mark

If you pray for rain, don't be surprised if you're struck by lightning.

- Cannon, Damien

At the moment of death there will appear to you, swifter than lightning, the luminous splendor of the colorless light of emptiness, and that will surround you on all sides. Terrified, you will flee from the radiance. Try to submerge it is an obstacle blocking the path of liberation. yourself in that light, giving up all belief in a separate self, all attachment to your illusory ego. Recognize that the boundless light of this true reality is your own true self, and you shall be saved!

- Tibetan

Help others achieve their dreams and you will achieve yours.

- Brown, Les

Our salvation is in striving to achieve what we know we'll never achieve.

- Kapuscinski, Ryszard

The end is never as satisfying as the journey. To have achieved everything but to have done so without integrity and excitement is to have achieved nothing.

- Unknown, Source

Sex is the most fun you can have without laughing.

- Allen, Woody

Any idiot can get laid when they're famous. That's easy. It's getting laid when you're not famous that takes some talent.

- Bacon, Kevin

Love and sex can go together and sex and unlove can go together and love and unsex can go together. But personal love and personal sex is bad.

- Warhol, Andy

Sex is. There is nothing more to be done about it. Sex builds no roads, writes no novels and sex certainly gives no meaning to anything in life but itself.

- Vidal, Gore

Whenever a friend succeeds, a little something in me dies.

- Vidal, Gore

Writing fiction has become a priestly business in countries that have lost their faith.

- Vidal, Gore

On 16 September 1985, when the Commerce Department announced that the United States had become a debtor nation, the American Empire died.

- Vidal, Gore

As societies grow decadent, the language grows decadent, too. Words are used to disguise, not to illuminate, action: you liberate a city by destroying it. Words are to confuse, so that at election time people will solemnly vote against their own interests

- Vidal, Gore

I find in most novels no imagination at all. They seem to think the highest form of the novel is to write about marriage, because that's the most important thing there is for middle-class people.

- Vidal, Gore

It is the spirit of the age to believe that any fact, no matter how suspect, is superior to any imaginative exercise, no matter how true.

- Vidal, Gore

The corporate grip on opinion in the United States is one of the wonders of the Western World. No First World country has ever managed to eliminate so entirely from its media all objectivity -- much less dissent.

- Vidal, Gore

There is hardly an American male of my generation who has not at one time or another tried to master the victory cry of the great ape as it issued from the androgynous chest of Johnny Weissmuller, to the accompaniment of thousands of arms and legs snapping during attempts to swing from tree to tree in the backyards of the Republic.

- Vidal, Gore

Never miss a chance to have sex or appear on television.

- Vidal, Gore

Laughing at someone else is an excellent way of learning how to laugh at oneself; and questioning what seem to be the absurd beliefs of another group is a good way of recognizing the potential absurdity of many of one's own cherished beliefs.

- Vidal, Gore

I'm all for bringing back the birch, but only between consenting adults.

- Vidal, Gore

In America, the race goes to the loud, the solemn, the hustler. If you think you're a great writer, you must say that you are.

- Vidal, Gore

As individuals and as a nation, we now suffer from social narcissism. The beloved Echo of

our ancestors, the virgin America, has been abandoned. We have fallen in love with our own image, with images of our making, which turn out to be images of ourselves.

- Boorstin, Daniel J.

Among all the emotions, the rich have the least talent for love. It is possible to love one's dog, dress or duck-shooting hat, but a human being presents a more difficult problem. The rich might wish to experience feelings of affection, but it is almost impossible to chip away the enamel of their narcissism. They take up all the space in all the mirrors in the house. Their children, who represent the most present and therefore the most annoying claim on their attention, usually receive the brunt of their irritation.

- Lapham, Lewis H.

A narcissist is someone better looking than you are.

- Vidal, Gore

There is no such thing as a homosexual or a heterosexual person. There are only homo -- or heterosexual acts. Most people are a mixture of impulses if not practices.

- Vidal, Gore

A talent for drama is not a talent for writing, but is an ability to articulate human relationships.

- Vidal, Gore

The theater needs continual reminders that there is nothing more debasing than the work

of those who do well what is not worth doing at all.

- Vidal, Gore

All in all, I would not have missed this century for the world.

- Vidal, Gore

Apparently, a democracy is a place where numerous elections are held at great cost without issues and with interchangeable candidates.

- Vidal, Gore

Democracy is supposed to give you the feeling of choice, like Painkiller X and Painkiller Y. But they're both just aspirin.

- Vidal, Gore

We need a new kind of feminism, one that stresses personal responsibility and is open to art and sex in all their dark, unconsoling mysteries. The feminist of the fin de si?cle will be bawdy, streetwise, and on-the-spot confrontational, in the prankish Sixties way.

- Paglia, Camille

In the theory of gender I began from zero. There is no masculine power or privilege I did not covet. But slowly, step by step, decade by decade, I was forced to acknowledge that even a woman of abnormal will cannot escape her hormonal identity.

- Paglia, Camille

My thinking tends to be libertarian. That is, I oppose intrusions of the state into the private realm -- as in abortion, sodomy, prostitution, pornography, drug use, or suicide, all of which I would strongly defend as matters of free choice in a representative democracy.

- Paglia, Camille

The typical metrosexual is a young man with money to spend, living in or within easy reach of a metropolis - because thatâ€™s where all the best shops, clubs, gyms and hairdressers are. He might be officially gay, straight or bisexual, but this is utterly immaterial because he has clearly taken himself as his own love object and pleasure as his sexual preference. Particular professions, such as modeling, waiting tables, media, pop music and, nowadays, sport, seem to attract them but, truth be told, like male vanity products and herpes, theyâ€™re pretty much everywhere.

- Simpson, Mark

Itâ€™s a straightforward matter of equality: itâ€™s outrageously unfair that heterosexuals shoulder alone the burden of keeping divorce lawyers in Italian sports cars

- Simpson, Mark

Gays have become the unpaid secretaries of desire, filing and cataloguing human weakness. Promiscuity is now a form of bureaucracy. Tedious, eye-straining, number-crunching slave work

- Simpson, Mark

Every man would suck his own penis if he could, but thatâ€™s why God gave every man except Jeff Stryker a penis shorter than his backbone - to make sure they expended an awful lot of energy doing other things to get blow jobs. Things that might seem to some rather daft and pointless otherwise, but without which the world would be a duller place - things such as rock â€˜nâ€™ roll, politics, cunnilingus, religion, and odd-jobs around the home.

- Simpson, Mark

Every night was wet jockstrap night (without the jockstrap) at the Roman baths, and especially well-endowed bathers were likely to be greeted with a round of applause. During the reign of notorious size-queen Emperor Elagabalus, those who hung low at the baths were promoted to high office

- Simpson, Mark

It is marvelous indeed to watch on television the rings of Saturn close; and to speculate on what we may yet find at galaxy's edge. But in the process, we have lost the human element; not to mention the high hope of those quaint days when flight would create one world. Instead of one world, we have star wars, and a future in which dumb dented human toys will drift mindlessly about the cosmos long after our small planet's dead.

- Vidal, Gore

Style is knowing who you are, what to say, and not giving a damn.

- Vidal, Gore

To a man, ornithologists are tall, slender, and bearded so that they can stand motionless for hours, imitating kindly trees, as they watch for birds.

- Vidal, Gore

There is something about a bureaucrat that does not like a poem.

- Vidal, Gore

If most men and women were forced to rely upon physical charm to attract lovers, their sexual lives would be not only meager but in a youth-worshiping country like America painfully brief.

- Vidal, Gore

The last best hope of earth, two trillion dollars in debt, is spinning out of control, and all we can do is stare at a flickering cathode-ray tube as Ollie answers questions on TV while the press, resolutely irrelevant as ever, asks politicians if they have committed adultery. From V-J Day 1945 to this has been, my fellow countrymen, a perfect nightmare.

- Vidal, Gore

It makes no difference whom you vote for -- the two parties are really one party representing four percent of the people.

- Vidal, Gore

Half of the American people never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half.

- Vidal, Gore

Many writers who choose to be active in the world lose not virtue but time, and that stillness without which literature cannot be made.

- Vidal, Gore

Each writer is born with a repertory company in his head. Shakespeare has perhaps 20 players, and Tennessee Williams has about 5, and Samuel Beckett one -- and maybe a clone of that one. I have 10 or so, and that's a lot. As you get older, you become more skillful at casting them.

- Vidal, Gore

Never have children, only grand children.

- Vidal, Gore

Some writers take to drink, others take to audiences.

- Vidal, Gore

Think of the earth as a living organism that is being attacked by billions of bacteria whose numbers double every forty years. Either the host dies, or the virus dies, or both die.

- Vidal, Gore

It is difficult to find a reputable American historian who will acknowledge the crude fact

that a Franklin Roosevelt, say, wanted to be President merely to wield power, to be famed and to be feared. To learn this simple fact one must wade through a sea of

- Vidal, Gore

I never miss a chance to have sex or appear on television.

- Vidal, Gore

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