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Honest criticism means nothing: what one wants is unrestrained passion, fire for fire.

- Miller, Henry

Civilization is drugs, alcohol, engines of war, prostitution, machines and machine slaves, low wages, bad food, bad taste, prisons, reformatories, lunatic asylums, divorce, perversion, brutal sports, suicides, infanticide, cinema, quackery, demagogy, strikes, lockouts, revolutions, putsches, colonization, electric chairs, guillotines, sabotage, floods, famine, disease, gangsters, money barons, horse racing, fashion shows, poodle dogs, chow dogs, Siamese cats, condoms, peccaries, syphilis, gonorrhea, insanity, neuroses, etc., etc.

- Miller, Henry

There is the happiness which comes from creative effort. The joy of dreaming, creating, building, whether in painting a picture, writing an epic, singing a song, composing a symphony, devising new invention, creating a vast industry.

- Miller, Henry

Whenever a taboo is broken, something good happens, something vitalizing. Taboos after all are only hangovers, the product of diseased minds, you might say, of fearsome people who hadn't the courage to live and who under the guise of morality and religion have imposed these things upon us.

- Miller, Henry

The American white man (not to speak of the Indian, the Negro, the Mexican) hasn't a ghost of a chance. If he has any talent he's doomed to have it crushed one way or another. The American way is to seduce a man by bribery and make a prostitute of him. Or else to ignore him, starve him into submission and make a hack of him.

- Miller, Henry

If we are always arriving and departing, it is also true that we are eternally anchored. One's destination is never a place but rather a new way of looking at things.

- Miller, Henry

Nine-tenths of our sickness can be prevented by right thinking plus right hygiene -- nine-tenths of it!

- Miller, Henry

Instead of asking -- How much damage will the work in question bring about? why not ask -- How much good? How much joy?

- Miller, Henry

Life has to be given a meaning because of the obvious fact that it has no meaning.

- Miller, Henry

An artist is always alone -- if he is an artist. No, what the artist needs is loneliness.

- Miller, Henry

The prisoner is not the one who has committed a crime, but the one who clings to his crime and lives it over and over.

- Miller, Henry

Develop interest in life as you see it; in people, things, literature, music -- the world is so rich, simply throbbing with rich treasures, beautiful souls and interesting people. Forget yourself.

- Miller, Henry

The artist is the opposite of the politically minded individual, the opposite of the reformer, the opposite of the idealist. The artist does not tinker with the universe; he recreates it out of his own experience and understanding of life.

- Miller, Henry

Art teaches nothing, except the significance of life.

- Miller, Henry

One's destination is never a place, but rather a new way of looking at things.

- Miller, Henry

It isn't the oceans which cut us off from the world -- it's the American way of looking at things.

- Miller, Henry

Sin, guilt, neurosis --they are one and the same, the fruit of the tree of knowledge.

- Miller, Henry

Topographically the country is magnificent -- and terrifying. Why terrifying? Because nowhere else in the world is the divorce between man and nature so complete. Nowhere have I encountered such a dull, monotonous fabric of life as here in America. Here boredom reaches its peak.

- Miller, Henry

One can be absolutely truthful and sincere even though admittedly the most outrageous liar. Fiction and invention are of the very fabric of life.

- Miller, Henry

I have never been able to look upon America as young and vital but rather as prematurely old, as a fruit which rotted before it had a chance to ripen.

- Miller, Henry

The world isn't kept running because it's a paying proposition. (God doesn't make a cent on the deal.) The world goes on because a few men in every generation believe in it utterly, accept it unquestioningly; they underwrite it with their lives.

- Miller, Henry

Hope is a bad thing. It means that you are not what you want to be. It means that part of you is dead, if not all of you. It means that you entertain illusions. It's a sort of spiritual clap, I should say.

- Miller, Henry

Imagination is the voice of daring. If there is anything Godlike about God it is that. He dared to imagine everything.

- Miller, Henry

I see America spreading disaster. I see America as a black curse upon the world. I see a long night settling in and that mushroom which has poisoned the world withering at the roots.

- Miller, Henry

Life has no other discipline to impose, if we would but realize it, than to accept life unquestioningly. Everything we shut our eyes to, everything we run away from, everything we deny, denigrate or despise, serves to defeat us in the end. What seems nasty, painful, evil, can become a source of beauty, joy and strength, if faced with an open mind. Every moment is a golden one for him who has the vision to recognize it as such.

- Miller, Henry

The real enemy can always be met and conquered, or won over. Real antagonism is

based on love, a love which has not recognized itself.

- Miller, Henry

The world itself is pregnant with failure, is the perfect manifestation of imperfection, of the consciousness of failure.

- Miller, Henry

The love of liberty is the love of others; the love of power is the love of ourselves. We cannot force love.

- Hazlitt, William

They do not love that do not show their love. The course of true love never did run smooth. Love is a familiar. Love is a devil. There is no evil angel but Love.

- Shakespeare, William

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

- Shaw, George Bernard

Everything changes, nothing remains without change.

- Buddha

Loss is nothing else but change, and change is Nature's delight.

- Aurelius, Marcus

To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly

- Bergson, Henri L.

There comes a time when suddenly you realize that laughter is something you remember and that you were the one laughing.

- Dietrich, Marlene

To be completely woman you need a master, and in him a compass for your life. You need a man you can look up to and respect. If you dethrone him it's no wonder that you are discontented, and discontented women are not loved for long.

- Dietrich, Marlene

Sex. In America an obsession. In other parts of the world a fact.

- Dietrich, Marlene

Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibly not born until they arrive, and it is only by this meeting that a new world is born.

- Nin, Anais

Love never dies a natural death. It dies because we don't know how to replenish it's

source. It dies of blindness and errors and betrayals. It dies of illness and wounds; it dies of weariness, of withering, of tarnishing.

- Nin, Anais

We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are.

- Nin, Anais

All happy families resemble one another; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.

- Tolstoy, Count Leo

He never chooses an opinion, he just wears whatever happens to be in style.

- Tolstoy, Count Leo

We lost because we told ourselves we lost.

- Tolstoy, Count Leo

Without knowing what I am and why I am here, life is impossible.

- Tolstoy, Count Leo

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.

- Tolstoy, Count Leo

It is not I who become addicted, it is my body.

- Cocteau, Jean

Age is whatever you think it is. You are as old as you think you are.

- Ali, Muhammad

I'm not interested in age. People who tell me their age are silly. You're as old as you feel.

- Arden, Elizabeth

Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you've got to start young.

- Astaire, Fred

Old wood best to burn, old wine to drink, old friends to trust, and old authors to read.

- Bacon, Francis

When women love us, they forgive us everything, even our crimes; when they do not love us, they give us credit for nothing, not even out virtues.

- Balzac, Honore De

The cradle rocks above an abyss, and common sense tells us that our existence is but a brief crack of light between two eternities of darkness.

- Nabokov, Vladimir

Life is a great surprise. I don't see why death should not be an even greater one.

- Nabokov, Vladimir

Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions.

- Dalai Lama

Sloth is the key to poverty.

- Proverb

Towards evening the lazy person begins to get busy.

- Proverb, German

The lazier a man is, the more he plans to do tomorrow.

- Proverb, Norwegian

The curse which lies upon marriage is that too often the individuals are joined in their weakness rather than in their strength --each asking from the other instead of finding pleasure in giving. It is even more deceptive to dream of gaining through the child a plenitude, a warmth, a value, which one is unable to create for oneself; the child brings joy only to the woman who is capable of disinterestedly desiring the happiness of another, to one who without being wrapped up in self seeks to transcend her own existence.

- Beauvoir, Simone De

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