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Were I called on to define, very briefly, the term Art, I should call it the reproduction of what the Senses perceive in Nature through the veil of the soul. The mere imitation, however accurate, of what is in Nature, entitles no man to the sacred name of Artist.

- Poe, Edgar Allan

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

- 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

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

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

- Twain, Mark

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

- Twain, Mark

There is nothing so annoying as a good example!!

- Twain, Mark

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

- Twain, Mark

I have never taken any exercise except sleeping and resting.

- Twain, Mark

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

- Twain, Mark

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

- Whitman, Walt

Produce great men, the rest follows.

- Whitman, Walt

A morning glory at my window satisfies me more than the metaphysics of books.

- Whitman, Walt

Henceforth I ask not good fortune. I myself am good fortune.

- Whitman, Walt

All faults may be forgiven of him who has perfect candor.

- Whitman, Walt

Camerado, I give you my hand, I give you my love more precious than money, I give you myself before preaching or law; Will you give me yourself?

- Whitman, Walt

When I give I give myself.

- Whitman, Walt

Be curious, not judgmental.

- Whitman, Walt

This is what you shall do: love the earth and sun, and animals, despise riches, give alms to every one that asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence towards the people, take off your hat to nothing known or unknown, or to any man or number of men; go freely with the powerful uneducated persons, and with the young, and mothers, of families: read these leaves in the open air every season of every year of your life: re-examine all you have been told at school or church, or in any books, and dismiss whatever insults your soul.

- Whitman, Walt

They do not sweat and whine about their condition, they do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins, they do not make me sick discussing their duty to God, not one is dissatisfied, not one is demented with the mania of owning things, not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that lived thousands of years ago.

- Whitman, Walt

How beggarly appear arguments before a defiant deed!

- Whitman, Walt

I celebrate myself, and sing myself.

- Whitman, Walt

Our leading men are not of much account and never have been, but the average of the

people is immense, beyond all history. Sometimes I think in all departments, literature and art included, that will be the way our superiority will exhibit itself. We will not have great individuals or great leaders, but a great average bulk, unprecedentedly great.

- Whitman, Walt

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