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Cynicism is the intellectual cripple's substitute for intelligence.

- Lynes, Russell

I have never developed indigestion from eating my words.

- Churchill, Winston

If power is for sale, sell your mother to buy it. You can always buy her back again.

- Proverb, Arabian

Most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in one's own sunshine

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

We do not count a man's years until he has nothing else to count.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

I pay the schoolmaster, but it is the school boys who educate my son.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

There is a time in every man's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is

ignorance; that imitation is suicide.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

The eloquent man is he who is no eloquent speaker, but who is inwardly drunk with a certain belief.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Weak eyes are fondest of glittering objects.

- Carlyle, Thomas

You can't cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water. Don't let yourself indulge in vain wishes.

- Tagore, Rabindranath

Democracy means simply the bludgeoning of the people by the people for the people.

- Wilde, Oscar

One should either be a work of art, or wear a work of art.

- Wilde, Oscar

Dullness is the coming of age of seriousness.

- Wilde, Oscar

Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.

- Wilde, Oscar

A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies.

- Wilde, Oscar

I have the simplest tastes. I am always satisfied with the best.

- Wilde, Oscar

A man's face is his autobiography. A woman's face is her work of fiction.

- Wilde, Oscar

An ordinary man away from home giving advice.

- Wilde, Oscar

And now, I am dying beyond my means. [Sipping champagne on his deathbed]

- Wilde, Oscar

Fashion is a form of ugliness so intolerable that we have to alter it every six months.

- Wilde, Oscar

People who love only once in their lives are shallow people. What they call their loyalty, and their fidelity, I call either the lethargy of custom or their lack of imagination. Faithfulness is to the emotional life what consistency is to the life of the intellect -- simply a confession of failures.

- Wilde, Oscar

The amount of women in London who flirt with their own husbands is perfectly scandalous. It looks so bad. It is simply washing one's clean linen in public.

- Wilde, Oscar

Only dull people are brilliant at breakfast.

- Wilde, Oscar

Always forgive your enemies -- nothing annoys them so much.

- Wilde, Oscar

One should always play fair when one has the winning cards.

- Wilde, Oscar

We can forgive a man for making a useful thing as long as he does not admire it. The only excuse for making a useless thing is that one admires it intensely.

- Wilde, Oscar

A true gentleman is one who is never unintentionally rude.

- Wilde, Oscar

America is the only country that went from barbarism to decadence without civilization in between.

- Wilde, Oscar

The youth of America is their oldest tradition. It has been going on now for three hundred years.

- Wilde, Oscar

We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.

- Wilde, Oscar

If you pretend to be good, the world takes you very seriously. If you pretend to be bad, it doesn't. Such is the astounding stupidity of optimism.

- Wilde, Oscar

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.

- Wilde, Oscar

How clever you are, my dear! You never mean a single word you say.

- Wilde, Oscar

Plain women are always jealous of their husbands. Beautiful women never are. They are always so occupied with being jealous of other women's husbands.

- Wilde, Oscar

As one knows the poet by his fine music, so one can recognize the liar by his rich rhythmic utterance, and in neither case will the casual inspiration of the moment suffice. Here, as elsewhere, practice must precede perfection.

- Wilde, Oscar

I never approve, or disapprove, of anything now. It is an absurd attitude to take towards life. We are not sent into the world to air our moral prejudices. I never take any notice of what common people say, and I never interfere with what charming people do.

- Wilde, Oscar

Lord Illingworth: All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy. Mrs. Allonby: No man does. That is his.

- Wilde, Oscar

Whenever a man does a thoroughly stupid thing, it is always from the noblest motives.

- Wilde, Oscar

Every portrait that is painted with feeling is a portrait of the artist, not of the sitter.

- Wilde, Oscar

The more one analyses people, the more all reasons for analysis disappear. Sooner or later one comes to that dreadful universal thing called human nature.

- Wilde, Oscar

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