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Quotes about Exile

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Voyagers discover that the world can never be larger than the person that is in the world; but it is impossible to foresee this, it is impossible to be warned.

- Baldwin, James

It would be enough for me to have the system of a jury of twelve versus the system of one judge as a basis for preferring the U.S. to the Soviet Union. I would prefer the country you can leave to the country you cannot.

- Brodsky, Joseph

The ideal place for me is the one in which it is most natural to live as a foreigner.

- Calvino, Italo

It is a mistake to expect good work from expatriates for it is not what they do that matters but what they are not doing.

- Connolly, Cyril

Excluded by my birth and tastes from the social order, I was not aware of its diversity. Nothing in the world was irrelevant: the stars on a general's sleeve, the stock-market quotations, the olive harvest, the style of the judiciary, the wheat exchange, flower-beds. Nothing. This order, fearful and feared, whose details were all inter-related, had a

meaning: my exile.

- Genet, Jean

Exile as a mode of genius no longer exists; in place of Joyce we have the fragments of work appearing in Index on Censorship.

- Gordimer, Nadine

You're an expatriate. You've lost touch with the soil. You get precious. Fake European standards have ruined you. You drink yourself to death. You become obsessed by sex. You spend all your time talking, not working. You are an expatriate, see? You hang around caf?s.

- Hemingway, Ernest

If I were to live my life over again, I would be an American. I would steep myself in America, I would know no other land.

- James, Henry

When the Irishman is found outside of Ireland in another environment, he very often becomes a respected man. The economic and intellectual conditions that prevail in his own country do not permit the development of individuality. No one who has any self-respect stays in Ireland, but flees afar as though from a country that has undergone the visitation of an angered Jove.

- Joyce, James

We make a mistake forsaking England and moving out into the periphery of life. After all, Taormina, Ceylon, Africa, America -- as far as we go, they are only the negation of what we ourselves stand for and are: and we're rather like Jonahs running away from the place we belong.

- Lawrence, D. H.

Let those who desire a secure homeland conquer it. Let those who do not conquer it live under the whip and in exile, watched over like wild animals, cast from one country to another, concealing the death of their souls with a beggar's smile from the scorn of free men.

- Marti, Jose

I have loved justice and hated iniquity: therefore I die in exile.

- Pope Gregory VII

I dunno what my 23 infantile years in America signify. I left as soon as motion was autarchic -- I mean my motion.

- Pound, Ezra

Such is the miraculous nature of the future of exiles: what is first uttered in the impotence of an overheated apartment becomes the fate of nations.

- Rushdie, Salman

The realization that he is white in a black country, and respected for it, is the turning point

in the expatriate's career. He can either forget it, or capitalize on it. Most choose the latter.

- Theroux, Paul

My first few weeks in America are always miserable, because the tastes I am cursed with are all of a kind that cannot be gratified here, and I am not enough in sympathy with our gross public to make up for the lack on the aesthetic side. One's friends are delightful; but we are none of us Americans, we don't think or feel as the Americans do, we are the wretched exotics produced in a European glass-house, the most displaced and useless class on earth!

- Wharton, Edith



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