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Quotes about Greatness

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You will become as small as your controlling desire; as great as your dominant aspiration.

- Allen, James

Great men are true men, the men in whom nature has succeeded. They are not extraordinary -- they are in the true order. It is the other species of men who are not what they ought to be.

- Amiel, Henri Frederic

Greatness is a spiritual condition.

- Arnold, Matthew

The first element of greatness is fundamental humbleness (this should not be confused with servility); the second is freedom from self; the third is intrepid courage, which, taken in its widest interpretation, generally goes with truth; and the fourth --the power to love --although I have put it last, is the rarest.

- Asquith, Margot

We shall never resolve the enigma of the relation between the negative foundations of greatness and that greatness itself.

- Baudrillard, Jean

Because you are a great lord, you believe yourself to be a great genius. You took the trouble to be born, but no more.

- Beaumarchais, Pierre De

The dullard's envy of brilliant men is always assuaged by the suspicion that they will come to a bad end.

- Beerbohm, Sir Max

Great men are not always wise.

- Bible

The herd seek out the great, not for their sake but for their influence; and the great welcome them out of vanity or need.

- Bonaparte, Napoleon

Great people are meteors designed to burn so that the earth may be lighted.

- Bonaparte, Napoleon

Greatness be nothing unless it be lasting.

- Bonaparte, Napoleon

The greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender.

- Booth, William

All your youth you want to have your greatness taken for granted; when you find it taken for granted, you are unnerved.

- Bowen, Elizabeth

No one who has come to true greatness has not felt in some degree that his life belongs to the people, and what God has given them he gives it for mankind.

- Brooks, Phillips

False greatness is unsociable and remote: conscious of its own frailty, it hides, or at least averts its face, and reveals itself only enough to create an illusion and not be recognized as the meanness that it really is. True greatness is free, kind, familiar and popular; it lets itself be touched and handled, it loses nothing by being seen at close quarters; the better one knows it, the more one admires it.

- Bruyere, Jean De La

The great must submit to the dominion of prudence and of virtue, or none will long submit to the dominion of the great.

- Burke, Edmund

Great men are the guideposts and landmarks in the state.

- Burke, Edmund

Sighing that Nature formed but one such man, and broke the die.

- Byron, Lord

What millions died that Caesar might be great?

- Campell, Joseph

All great deeds and all great thoughts have a ridiculous beginning.

- Camus, Albert

The difference between Socrates and Jesus? The great conscious and the immeasurably great unconscious.

- Carlyle, Thomas

No great man lives in vain. The history of the world is but the biography of great men.

- Carlyle, Thomas

All great men are gifted with intuition. They know without reasoning or analysis, what they need to know.

- Carrel, Alexis

I never wanted to be famous. I only wanted to be great.

- Charles, Ray

Great merit, or great failings, will make you respected or despised; but trifles, little attentions, mere nothings, either done or neglected, will make you either liked or disliked in the general run of the world.

- Chesterfield, Lord

There is a great man who makes every man feel small. But the real great man is the man who makes every man feel great.

- Chesterton, Gilbert K.

Great and good are seldom the same man.

- Fuller, Thomas

The price of greatness is responsibility.

- Churchill, Winston

Greatness and goodness are not means, but ends.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

Some have greatness thrust upon them, but not lately.

- Dane, Frank

He's the greatest man who ever came out of Plymouth, Vermont. [On Calvin

Coolidge]

- Darrow, Clarence

It is a melancholy truth that even great men have their poor relations.

- Dickens, Charles

Man is only truly great when he acts from his passions.

- Disraeli, Benjamin

A great person is one who affects the mind of their generation.

- Disraeli, Benjamin

At most, the greatest persons are but great wens, and excrescences; men of wit and delightful conversation, but as morals for ornament, except they be so incorporated into the body of the world that they contribute something to the sustentation of the whole.

- Donne, John

I can write good songs. I can sing 'em, and I mean it, I mean it deeply, and I pour everything into that. Other than that, I suck.

- Duritz, Adam

Despite everybody who has been born and has died, the world has just gone on. I mean, look at Napoleon --but we went right on. Look at Harpo Marx --the world went around, it

didn't stop for a second. It's sad but true. John Kennedy, right?

- Dylan, Bob

No great man ever complains of want of opportunity.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Not he is great who can alter matter, but he who can alter my state of mind.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

The essence of greatness is the perception that virtue is enough.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

The measure of a master is his success in bringing all men around to his opinion twenty years later.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

The search after the great men is the dream of youth, and the most serious occupation of manhood.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

To be great is to be misunderstood.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

A great man stands on God. A small man on a great man.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Great people are they who see that spiritual is stronger than any material force, that thoughts rule the world.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

He is great who is what he is from nature, and who never reminds us of others.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

No great thing is created suddenly.

- Epictetus

I distrust Great Men. They produce a desert of uniformity around them and often a pool of blood too, and I always feel a little man's pleasure when they come a cropper.

- Forster, Edward M.

There never was a truly great man that was not at the same time truly virtuous.

- Franklin, Benjamin

The essence of greatness is neglect of the self.

- Froude, James A.

It's not what you take but what you leave behind that defines greatness.

- Gardner, Edward

The lights of stars that were extinguished ages ago still reaches us. So it is with great men who died centuries ago, but still reach us with the radiations of their personalities.

- Gibran, Kahlil

There are no great men, only great challenges that ordinary men are forced by circumstances to meet.

- Halsey, William F.

No man is truly great who is great only in his lifetime. The test of greatness is the page of history.

- Hazlitt, William

There would be no great men if there were no little ones.

- Herbert, George

Great men are rarely isolated mountain-peaks; they are the summits of ranges.

- Higginson, Thomas Wentworth

Greatness does not approach him who is forever looking down.

- Hitopadesa

A great man's greatest good luck is to die at the right time.

- Hoffer, Eric

To have a great man for a friend seems pleasant to those who have never tried it; those who have, fear it.

- Horace

After a fellow gets famous it does not take long for someone to bob up that used to sit next to him in school.

- Hubbard, Kin

There is a sacred horror about everything grand. It is easy to admire mediocrity and hills; but whatever is too lofty, a genius as well as a mountain, an assembly as well as a masterpiece, seen too near, is appalling.

- Hugo, Victor

Great woman belong to history and to self sacrifice.

- Hunt, Leigh

He was dull in a new way, and that made many think him great.

- Johnson, Samuel

No one ever became great by imitation.

- Johnson, Samuel

The superiority of some men is merely local. They are great because their associates are little.

- Johnson, Samuel

Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. you only need a heart full of grace. a soul generated by love.

- King Jr. Martin Luther

A position of eminence makes a great person greater and a small person less.

- La Bruyere, Jean De

Neither wealth or greatness render us happy.

- La Fontaine, Jean De

To achieve greatness one should live as if they will never die.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

Great men always pay deference to greater.

- Landor, Walter Savage

I want to be great, something special.

- Leonard, Sugar Ray

There are people who possess not so much genius as a certain talent for perceiving the desires of the century, or even of the decade, before it has done so itself.

- Lichtenberg, Georg C.

Traditionally the great men of our country have sprung from poor environments; that being so, it would appear we have long suffered from a severe lack of poverty.

- Lieberman, Gerald F.

Whatever you are, be a good one.

- Lincoln, Abraham

In our society those who are in reality superior in intelligence can be accepted by their fellows only if they pretend they are not.

- Mannes, Marya

You know, sometimes, when they say you're ahead of your time, it's just a polite way of saying you have a real bad sense of timing.

- Mcgovern, George

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

It is always the adventurers who do great things, not the sovereigns of great empires.

- Montesquieu, Charles De

Let us never forget that the greatest man is never more than an animal disguised as a god.

- Picabia, Francis

Those who intend on becoming great should love neither themselves or their own things, but only what is just, whether it happens to be done by themselves or others.

- Plato

Nobody's ever the greatest anything.

- Polak, Maralyn

The first step toward greatness is to be honest.

- Proverb

The greatest men of a nation are those it puts to death.

- Renan, Ernest

Greatness, in order to gain recognition, must all too often consent to ape greatness.

- Rostand, Jean

Great men never make bad use of their superiority. They see it and feel it and are not less modest. The more they have, the more they know their own deficiencies.

- Rousseau, Jean Jacques

A great thing can only be done by a great person; and they do it without effort.

- Ruskin, John

Great men are like eagles, and build their nest on some lofty solitude.

- Schopenhauer, Arthur

It is true greatness to have in one the frailty of a man and the security of a god.

- Seneca

He is not great who is not greatly good.

- Shakespeare, William

Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them. [Twelfth Night]

- Shakespeare, William

In my stars I am above thee, but be not afraid of greatness. Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon em.

- Shakespeare, William

The abuse of greatness is when it disjoins remorse from power.

- Shakespeare, William

Be not afraid of greatness; some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them.

- Shakespeare, William

Great men hallow a whole people, and lift up all who live in their time.

- Smith, Sydney

I never knew a man come to greatness or eminence who lay abed late in the morning.

- Swift, Jonathan

Do not despise the bottom rungs in the ascent to greatness.

- Syrus, Publilius

In my opinion, most of the great men of the past were only there for the beer --the wealth,

prestige and grandeur that went with the power.

- Taylor, A. J. P.

In historic events, the so-called great men are labels giving names to events, and like labels they have but the smallest connection with the event itself. Every act of theirs, which appears to them an act of their own will, is in an historical sense involuntary and is related to the whole course of history and predestined from eternity.

- Tolstoy, Count Leo

There is no greatness where there is not simplicity, goodness and truth.

- Tolstoy, Count Leo

Being too good is apt to be uninteresting.

- Truman, Harry S

Well, I wouldn't say that I was in the great class, but I had a great time while I was trying to be great.

- Truman, Harry S

It is not difficult to get away into retirement; and there live upon your own convictions; nor is it difficult to mix with men and follow their convictions; but to enter into the world; and there live firmly and fearlessly according to your own conscience; that is Christian greatness.

- Unknown, Source

If you would attain greatness, think no little thoughts.

- Unknown, Source

It is necessary to be slightly under employed if you are to do something significant.

- Watson, James

All my life I have always known I was born to greatness.

- Winfrey, Oprah

A good man, is a good man, whether in this church, or out of it.

- Young, Brigham

None think the great unhappy, but the great.

- Young, Edward

Selflessness = Greatness

- Ogunlela Olu



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