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Quotes about Sarcasm

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What I claim is to live to the full the contradiction of my time, which may well make sarcasm the condition of truth.

- Barthes, Roland

Satire is tragedy plus time. You give it enough time, the public, the reviewers will allow you to satirize it. Which is rather ridiculous, when you think about it.

- Bruce, Lenny

Fools are my theme, let satire be my song.

- Byron, Lord

The satirist is prevented by repulsion from gaining a better knowledge of the world he is attracted to, yet he is forced by attraction to concern himself with the world that repels him.

- Calvino, Italo

Sarcasm I now see to be, in general, the language of the devil; for which reason I have long since as good as renounced it.

- Carlyle, Thomas

What arouses the indignation of the honest satirist is not, unless the man is a prig, the fact that people in positions of power or influence behave idiotically, or even that they behave wickedly. It is that they conspire successfully to impose upon the public a picture of themselves as so very sagacious, honest and well-intentioned.

- Cockburn, Claud

By rights, satire is a lonely and introspective occupation, for nobody can describe a fool to the life without much patient self-inspection.

- Colby, Frank Moore

I believe no satirist could breathe this air. If another Juvenal or Swift could rise up among us tomorrow, he would be hunted down. If you have any knowledge of our literature, and can give me the name of any man, American born and bred, who has anatomized our follies as a people, and not as this or that party; and who has escaped the foulest and most brutal slander, the most inveterate hatred and intolerant pursuit; it will be a strange name in my ears, believe me.

- Dickens, Charles

Sarcasm: the last refuge of modest and chaste-souled people when the privacy of their soul is coarsely and intrusively invaded.

- Dostoevsky, Fyodor

Blows are sarcasm's turned stupid.

- Eliot, George

Satirists gain the applause of others through fear, not through love.

- Hazlitt, William

It is difficult not to write satire.

- Juvenal, (Decimus Junius Juvenalis)

Satire must not be a kind of superfluous ill will, but ill will from a higher point of view.

Ridiculous man, divine God. Or else, hatred against the bogged-down vileness of average man as against the possible heights that humanity might attain.

- Klee, Paul

It is said that truth comes from the mouths of fools and children: I wish every good mind which feels an inclination for satire would reflect that the finest satirist always has something of both in him.

- Lichtenberg, Georg C.

Satire is focused bitterness.

- Rosten, Leo

Satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own; which is the chief reason for that kind of reception it meets in the world, and that so very few are offended with it.

- Swift, Jonathan

The satirist who writes nothing but satire should write but little -- or it will seem that his satire springs rather from his own caustic nature than from the sins of the world in which he lives.

- Trollope, Anthony

Out of the unconscious lips of babes and sucklings are we satirized.

- Twain, Mark

I refused to attend his funeral. But I wrote a very nice letter explaining that I approved of it.

- Twain, Mark

Nothing is more discouraging than unappreciated sarcasm.

- Unknown, Source

Laughing at someone else is an excellent way of learning how to laugh at oneself; and questioning what seem to be the absurd beliefs of another group is a good way of recognizing the potential absurdity of many of one's own cherished beliefs.

- Vidal, Gore



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