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# Quotes about Slavery

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Slavery is so intolerable a condition that the slave can hardly escape deluding himself into thinking that he is choosing to obey his master's commands when, in fact, he is obliged to. Most slaves of habit suffer from this delusion and so do some writers, enslaved by an all too personal style.

- Auden, W. H.

Men would rather be starving and free than fed in bonds.

- Buck, Pearl S.

Slavery is a weed that grows on every soil.

- Burke, Edmund

Captivity is the greatest of all evils that can befall one.

- Cervantes, Miguel De

Slavery can only be abolished by raising the character of the people who compose the nation; and that can be done only by showing them a higher one.

- Chapman, Maria Weston

It cannot in the opinion of His Majesty's Government be classified as slavery in the

extreme acceptance of the word without some risk of terminological inexactitude.

- Churchill, Winston

Slavery is no more sinful, by the Christian code, than it is sinful to wear a whole coat, while another is in tatters, to eat a better meal than a neighbor, or otherwise to enjoy ease and plenty, while our fellow creatures are suffering and in want.

- Cooper, James F.

Forced from home, and all its pleasures, afric coast I left forlorn; to increase a stranger's treasures, o the raging billows borne. Men from England bought and sold me, paid my price in paltry gold; but, though theirs they have enroll'd me, minds are never to be sold.

- Cowper, William

I pity them greatly, but I must be mum, for how could we do without sugar and rum?

- Cowper, William

The art of being a slave is to rule one's master.

- Diogenes of Sinope

The genius of any slave system is found in the dynamics which isolate slaves from each other, obscure the reality of a common condition, and make united rebellion against the oppressor inconceivable.

- Dworkin, Andrea

If you are living out of a sense of obligation you are slave.

- Dyer, Wayne

Most people seek after what they do not possess and are enslaved by the very things they want to acquire.

- El-Sadat, Anwar

Slavery is an institution for converting men into monkeys.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Do not quench your inspiration and your imagination; do not become the slave of your model.

- Gogh, Vincent Van

Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?

Forbid it, Almighty God!

- Henry, Patrick

Slavery is the first step towards civilization. In order to develop it is necessary that things should be much better for some and much worse for others, then those who are better off can develop at the expense of others.

- Herzen, Alexander

To relive the relationship between owner and slave we can consider how we treat our cars and dogs -- a dog exercising a somewhat similar leverage on our mercies and an automobile being comparable in value to a slave in those days.

- Hoagland, Edward

You can be up to your boobies in white satin, with gardenias in your hair and no sugar cane for miles, but you can still be working on a plantation.

- Holiday, Billie

The whole commerce between master and slave is a perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions, the most unremitting despotism on the one part, and degrading submissions on the other. Our children see this, and learn to imitate it.

- Jefferson, Thomas

The man who has no inner life is the slave of his surroundings.

- La Mance, Thomas

Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.

- Lincoln, Abraham

Slavery is founded on the selfishness of man's nature -- opposition to it on his love of

justice. These principles are in eternal antagonism; and when brought into collision so fiercely as slavery extension brings them, shocks and throes and convulsions must ceaselessly follow.

- Lincoln, Abraham

In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free -- honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve.

- Lincoln, Abraham

Today the large organization is lord and master, and most of its employees have been desensitized much as were the medieval peasants who never knew they were serfs.

- Nader, Ralph

Slaves lose everything in their chains, even the desire of escaping from them.

- Rousseau, Jean Jacques

The distinguishing sign of slavery is to have a price, and to be bought for it.

- Ruskin, John

Some slaves are scourged to their work by whips, others by their restlessness and ambition.

- Ruskin, John

The slave is doomed to worship time and fate and death, because they are greater than anything he finds in himself, and because all his thoughts are of things which they devour.

- Russell, Bertrand

Slavery may, perhaps, be best compared to the infantile disease of measles; a complaint which so commonly attacks the young of humanity in their infancy, and when gone through at that period leaves behind it so few fatal marks; but which when it normally attacks the fully developed adult becomes one of the most virulent and toxic of diseases, often permanently poisoning the constitution where it does not end in death.

- Schreiner, Olive

Slavery takes hold of few, but many take hold of slavery.

- Seneca

A man is no less a slave because he is allowed to choose a new master once in a term of years.

- Spooner, Lysander

Nobody had ever instructed him that a slave-ship, with a procession of expectant sharks in its wake, is a missionary institution, by which closely-packed heathen are brought over to enjoy the light of the Gospel.

- Stowe, Harriet Beecher

So long as the law considers all these human beings, with beating hearts and living

affections, only as so many things belonging to the master -- so long as the failure, or misfortune, or imprudence, or death of the kindest owner, may cause them any day to exchange a life of kind protection and indulgence for one of hopeless misery and toil -- so long it is impossible to make anything beautiful or desirable in the best-regulated administration of slavery.

- Stowe, Harriet Beecher

Talk about slavery! It is not the peculiar institution of the South. It exists wherever men are bought and sold, wherever a man allows himself to be made a mere thing or a tool, and surrenders his inalienable rights of reason and conscience. Indeed, this slavery is more complete than that which enslaves the body alone... I never yet met with, or heard of, a judge who was not a slave of this kind, and so the finest and most unfailing weapon of injustice. He fetches a slightly higher price than the black men only because he is a more valuable slave.

- Thoreau, Henry David

I cannot be fired. Slaves have to be sold.

- Unknown, Source

The fact is, that civilization requires slaves. Human slavery is wrong, insecure, and demoralizing. On mechanical slavery, on the slavery of the machine, the future of the world depends.

- Wilde, Oscar





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