

Porter's Quotations

They (the Negroes) will endure. They are better than we are. Stronger than we are. Their vices are vices aped from white men or that white men and bondage have taught them: improvidence and intemperance and evasion—not laziness: evasion: of what white men had set them to, not for their aggrandizement or even comfort but his own. . . . And their virtues . . . endurance . . . and pity and tolerance and forbearance and fidelity and love of children . . . whether their own or not or black or not. William Faulkner, from *The Bear*, 1932, part IV

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free. Wendell Berry (1934–)

You can't know where life will take you, but you can commit to a direction.
Wendell Berry (1934–)

And the world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles, no matter how long,
but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch, very arduous and
humbling and joyful, by which we arrive at the ground at our feet, and learn to
be at home. Wendell Berry (1934–)

Works of imagination should be written in very plain language; the more purely
imaginative they are the more necessary it is to be plain. Samuel Taylor
Coleridge, poet and philosopher (1772–1834)

Easy reading is damned hard writing. Nathaniel Hawthorne, writer (1804–1864)

Happiness is a butterfly which when pursued, is always just beyond our grasp,
but which if you sit down quietly, may alight upon you. Nathaniel Hawthorne
(1804–1864)

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No man can wear one face to himself and another to the multitude without finally getting bewildered as to which may be true. Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–1864)

Every reader finds himself. The writer's work is merely a kind of optical instrument that makes it possible for the reader to discern what, without this book, he would perhaps never have seen in himself. Marcel Proust, novelist (1871–1922)

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes. Marcel Proust, novelist (1871–1922)

To speak is to act; anything which one names is already not quite the same; it has lost its innocence. Jean-Paul Sartre, philosopher (1905–1980)

True ease in writing comes from art, not chance, as those move easiest who have learned to dance. Alexander Pope (1688–1744), *An Essay on Criticism*

Proper words in proper places make the true definition of a style. Jonathan Swift (1667–1745), Letter from January 9, 1720

And every great and original writer . . . must himself create the taste by which he is to be relished. William Wordsworth (1770–1850), Letter of May 21, 1807

Read over your compositions, and when you meet a passage which you think is particularly fine, strike it out. Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709–1784)

Most of the basic material a writer works with is acquired before the age of fifteen. Willa Sibert Cather (1873–1947)

If we had to say what writing is, we would define it essentially as an act of courage. Cynthia Ozick (1928–)

The most perfect technique is that which is not noticed at all. Pablo Casals (1876–1973)

I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work. Thomas Edison (1847–1931)

I know this world is ruled by infinite intelligence. Everything that surrounds us—everything that exists—proves that there are infinite laws behind it. There can

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be no denying this fact. It is mathematical in its precision. Thomas Edison (1847–1931)

A writer is someone for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people. Thomas Mann (1875–1955)

A professional writer is an amateur who didn't quit. Richard Bach (1936–)

If a writer could write the truth about one Chicago street, that would be a good life's work. Nelson Algren (1909–1981)

Short words are best and the old words when short are best of all. Winston Churchill (1874–1965)

The fewer the words used, the more concentrated the attention; and the greater the concentration, the greater the power. David Lambuth

Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end; then stop. Lewis Carroll (1832–1898)

The United States is a nation of sheep run by zombies and owned by pigs. Anonymous

Nothing contributes so much to tranquilizing the mind as a steady purpose, a point on which the soul may fix its intellectual eye. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, author (1797–1851)

A committee is a cul-de-sac down which ideas are lured and then quietly strangled. Barnett Cocks (1907–1989)

God, to me, it seems, is a verb, not a noun, proper or improper. R. Buckminster Fuller, engineer, designer, and architect (1895–1983)

Don't fight forces; use them. R. Buckminster Fuller, designer, inventor (1895–1983)

Speech is conveniently located midway between thought and action, where it often substitutes for both. John Andrew Holmes

The mountain remains unmoved at seeming defeat by the mist. Rabindranath Tagore, poet, philosopher, author, songwriter, painter, educator, composer, Nobel Laureate (1861–1941)

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I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy. Rabindranath Tagore, poet, philosopher, author, songwriter, painter, educator, composer, Nobel Laureate (1861–1941)

Faith is the bird that feels the light and sings when the dawn is still dark. Rabindranath Tagore, poet, philosopher, author, songwriter, painter, educator, composer, Nobel Laureate (1861–1941)

Vision without action is a daydream and action without vision is a nightmare. Japanese proverb

Compassion is not a relationship between the healer and the wounded. It's a covenant between equals. Gregory Boyle (1954–)

For things to reveal themselves to us, we need to be ready to abandon our views about them. Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk (1926–)

Compassion is a verb. Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk (1926–)

Drink your tea slowly and reverently, as if it is the axis on which the whole earth revolves slowly, evenly, without rushing toward the future. Only this actual moment is life. Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk (1926–)

Each thought, each action, in the sunlight of awareness becomes sacred. Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk (1926–)

The problem is whether we are determined to go in the direction of compassion or not. If we are, then can we reduce the suffering to a minimum? If I lose my direction, I have to look for the North Star, and I go to the north. That does not mean I expect to arrive at the North Star. I just want to go in that direction. Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk (1926–)

People have a hard time letting go of their suffering. Out of a fear of the unknown, they prefer suffering that is familiar. Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk (1926–)

The primary roots of our anger are in ourselves. Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk (1926–)

The present moment is filled with joy and happiness. If you are attentive, you will see it. Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk (1926–)

To look deeply is to understand. Anyone who has made us suffer is undoubtedly suffering too. Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk (1926–)

Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy. Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk (1926–)

Breath is the bridge which connects life to consciousness, which unites your body to your thoughts. Thich Nhat Hanh, Buddhist monk (1926–)

Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one getting burned. Siddhartha Gautama (c. 566–480 bce)

Believe nothing, no matter where you read it or who has said it, not even if I have said it, unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense. Siddhartha Gautama (c. 566–480 BCE)

All that we are is the result of what we have thought. Siddhartha Gautama (c. 566–480 BCE)

Rather than continuing to seek the truth, simply let go of your views. Siddhartha Gautama (c. 566–480 BCE)

Develop the mind of equilibrium. You will always be getting praise and blame, but do not let either affect the poise of the mind: follow the calmness, the absence of pride. Siddhartha Gautama (c. 566–480 BCE)

No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path. Siddhartha Gautama (c. 566–480 BCE)

Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

You may never know what results come from your action, but if you do nothing, there will be no results. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the Act depriving a whole nation of arms, as the blackest. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

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My imperfections and failures are as much a blessing from God as my successes and my talents and I lay them both at his feet. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

True art takes note not merely of form but also of what lies behind. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

It is unwise to be too sure of one's own wisdom. It is healthy to be reminded that the strongest might weaken and the wisest might err. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

You must be the change you want to see in the world. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

It is easy enough to be friendly to one's friends. But to befriend the one who regards himself as your enemy is the quintessence of true religion. The other is mere business. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

When I despair, I remember that all through history the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants, and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall. Think of it—always. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

Fearlessness is the first prerequisite to a spiritual life. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

A coward is incapable of exhibiting love; it is the prerogative of the brave. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion. The Fourteenth Dalai Lama (1935–)

Moving to a more grateful state of mind is a choice that can become a habit. The Fourteenth Dalai Lama (1935–)

Not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck. The Fourteenth Dalai Lama (1935–)

I try to treat whoever I meet as an old friend. This gives me a genuine feeling of happiness. It is the practice of compassion. The Fourteenth Dalai Lama (1935–)

Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are. Chinese proverb

We are so fond of being out among nature because it has no opinions about us. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, philosopher (1844–1900)

To forget one's purpose is the commonest form of stupidity. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844–1900)

The individual has always had to struggle to keep from being overwhelmed by the tribe. If you try it, you will be lonely often, and sometimes frightened. But no price is too high to pay for the privilege of owning yourself. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844–1900)

I distrust all systematizers, and avoid them. The will to a system shows a lack of honesty. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844–1900), *Gotzen-Dammerung* [The Twilight of the Idols] (1888). "Maxims and Missiles" No. 26

Insanity in individuals is something rare, but in groups, parties, nations, and epochs, it is the rule. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844–1900)

Distrust everyone in whom the impulse to punish is powerful. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844–1900)

Everything I did in my life that was worthwhile I caught hell for. Earl Warren (1891–1974)

How is it that little children are so intelligent, and men so stupid? It must be education that does it. Alexandre Dumas (fils), writer (1824–1895)

Never underestimate the power of very stupid people in large groups. John Kenneth Galbraith (1908–2006)

Money tends to make you stupid. Ross Perot

In obedience there is always fear, and fear darkens the mind. Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895–1986)

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There is great happiness in not wanting, in not being something, in not going somewhere. Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895–1986)

Religion is the frozen thought of man out of which they build temples. Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895–1986)

Observing without evaluating is the highest form of human intelligence. Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895–1986)

Your belief in God is merely an escape from your monotonous, stupid, and cruel life. Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895–1986)

There are more fools in the world than there are people. Heinrich Heine (1797–1856)

Ordinarily he was insane, but he had lucid moments when he was merely stupid. Heinrich Heine (1797–1856)

Obedience is not a virtue. It is an evasion of our responsibility. Rita Nakashima Brock and Rebecca Ann Parker, *Proverbs of Ashes; Violence, Redemptive Suffering and the Search for What Saves Us*

My faith is that the only soul a man must save is his own. William Orville Douglas, U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1898–1980)

I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library. Jorge Luis Borges, writer (1899–1986)

Art evokes the mystery without which the world would not exist. Rene Magritte (1898–1967)

Enlightenment is like the moon reflected on the water. The moon does not get wet, nor is the water broken. Although its light is wide and great, the moon is reflected even in a puddle an inch wide. The whole moon and the entire sky are reflected in dewdrops on the grass, or even in one drop of water. Enlightenment does not divide you, just as the moon does not break the water. You cannot hinder enlightenment, just as a drop of water does not hinder the moon in the sky. The depth of the drop is the height of the moon. Each reflection, however long or short its duration, manifests the vastness of the dewdrop, and realizes the limitlessness of the moonlight in the sky. Dogen

The truth is rarely pure, and never simple. Oscar Wilde, writer (1854–1900)

No great artist ever sees things as they really are. If he did he would cease to be an artist. Oscar Wilde, writer (1854–1900)

Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken. Oscar Wilde, writer (1854–1900)

The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible. Oscar Wilde, writer (1854–1900)

Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live, it is asking others to live as one wishes to live. Oscar Wilde, writer (1854–1900)

The big thieves hang the little ones. Czech proverb

No two persons ever read the same book. Edmund Wilson, critic (1895–1972)

To see a world in a grain of sand, / And a heaven in a wild flower, / Hold infinity in the palm of your hand, / And eternity in an hour. William Blake, poet, engraver, and painter (1757–1827)

I felt angry toward my friend.

I told my wrath. My wrath did end.

I felt angry toward my foe.

I told him not. My wrath did grow. William Blake, poet, engraver, and painter (1757–1827)

When nations grow old, the arts grow cold and commerce settles on every tree. William Blake, poet, engraver, and painter (1757–1827)

If the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would appear as it is— infinite. William Blake, poet, engraver, and painter (1757–1827)

He who binds to himself a joy
Does the winged life destroy;
But he who kisses the joy as it flies
Lives in eternity's sunrise.

William Blake, poet, engraver, and painter (1757–1827)

Truth can never be told so as to be understood and not be believed. William Blake, poet, engraver, and painter (1757–1827)

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While we are asleep in this world, we are awake in another one. Salvador Dali, painter (1904–1989)

There are some days when I think I am going to die from an overdose of satisfaction. Salvador Dali, painter (1904–1989)

The desire to survive and the fear of death are artistic sentiments. Salvador Dali (1904–1989)

One day it will have to be officially admitted that what we have christened reality is an even greater illusion than the world of dreams. Salvador Dali, painter (1904–1989)

There is always a heavy demand for fresh mediocrity. In every generation the least cultivated taste has the largest appetite. Paul Gauguin, painter (1848–1903)

Your life is the manifestation of your dream; it is an art. And you can change your life anytime if you aren't enjoying the dream. Dream masters create a masterpiece of life; they control the dream by making choices. Don Miguel Ruiz (1952–)

A smile will gain you ten more years of life. Chinese proverb

More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809–1892)

Stillness is the language God speaks. Everything else is a bad translation. Anonymous

If you want to be happy, be. Leo Tolstoy

We can know only that we know nothing. And that is the highest degree of human wisdom. Leo Tolstoy

If you limit your choices only to what seems possible or reasonable, you disconnect yourself from what you truly want, and all that is left is a compromise. Robert Fritz

Always go with your passions. Never ask yourself if it's realistic or not. Deepak Chopra (1946–)

In the universal “I,” everything already exists and simply requires intent to collapse it into a reality in the physical world. Deepak Chopra (1946–)

There are no extra pieces in the universe. Everyone is here because he or she has a place to fill, and every piece must fit itself into the big jigsaw puzzle. Deepak Chopra (1946–)

Just as appetite comes by eating, so work brings inspiration. Igor Stravinsky, composer (1882–1971)

Reading is seeing by proxy. Herbert Spencer, philosopher (1820–1903)

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle. Plato (427–347 bce)

You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of discussion. Plato (427–347 bce)

Let early education be a sort of amusement; you will then better be able to find out the natural bent of the child. Plato (427–347 bce)

To do great work a man must be very idle as well as very industrious. Samuel Butler, writer (1612–1680)

Art is a house that tries to be haunted. Emily Dickinson, poet (1830–1886)

We have art in order not to die of the truth. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche (1844–1900)

A casual stroll through the lunatic asylum shows that faith does not prove anything. Friedrich Nietzsche (1844–1900)

What is art? Nature concentrated. Honore de Balzac, novelist (1799–1850)

Talking about art is like dancing about architecture. T. Monk

The only gift is giving to the poor;/ All else is exchange. Thiruvalluvar, poet (c. 30 bce)

Not only does the English Language borrow words from other languages, it sometimes chases them down dark alleys, hits them over the head, and goes through their pockets. Eddy Peters

Compassion is the basis of morality. Arthur Schopenhauer (1788–1860)

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We forfeit three-fourths of ourselves in order to be like other people. Arthur Schopenhauer (1788–1860)

Every person takes the limits of their own field of vision for the limits of the world. Arthur Schopenhauer (1788–1860)

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident. Arthur Schopenhauer (1788–1860)

We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. They may have been few in number, but they offer sufficient proof that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms — to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way. Viktor Frankl, author, physician, Holocaust survivor (1905–1997)

A good heart is better than all the heads in the world. Edward Bulwer-Lytton, writer (1803–1873)

I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude. Henry David Thoreau, naturalist and author (1817–1862)

Beware the fury of the patient man. John Dryden, poet and dramatist (1631–1700)

It is with words as with sunbeams, the more they are condensed, the deeper they burn. Robert Southey (1774–1843)

A poem begins with a lump in the throat. Robert Frost, poet (1874–1963)

Without darkness there are no dreams. Karla Kuban, novelist

No one should drive a hard bargain with an artist. Ludwig Van Beethoven, composer (1770–1827)

An ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy. Spanish proverb

Art is not a luxury. Maya Angelou (1928–)

. . . [I]t may be imperative that you encounter defeat so you can know who you are. Maya Angelou (1928–)

Love is an act of endless forgiveness, a tender look which becomes a habit. Peter Ustinov, actor, writer, and director (1921–)

No one has ever become poor by giving. Anne Frank, Holocaust diarist (1929–1945)

You have reached the pinnacle of success as soon as you become uninterested in money, compliments, or publicity. Thomas Wolfe, novelist (1900–1938)

I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in. John Muir, naturalist, explorer, and writer (1838–1914)

When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dewdrop, striped and dotted with continents and islands, flying through space with other stars all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty. John Muir, naturalist, explorer, and writer (1838–1914)

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world. John Muir, naturalist, explorer, and writer (1838–1914)

This grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor ever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on seas and continents and islands, each in its turn, as the round earth rolls. John Muir, naturalist, explorer, and writer (1838–1914)

May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. Edward Abbey, naturalist and author (1927–1989)

Danger and delight grow on one stalk. English Proverb

What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset. Crowfoot, Native American warrior and orator (1821–1890)

Although gold dust is precious, when it gets in your eyes, it obstructs your vision. Hsi-Tang (735–814)

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Everywhere I go, I find a poet has been there before me. Sigmund Freud, physician (1856–1939)

I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand. Chinese proverb

Courage is fear that has said its prayers. Dorothy Bernard

Swords and guns have no eyes. Chinese proverb

There are 1011 stars in the galaxy. That used to be a huge number. But it's only a hundred billion. It's less than the national deficit! We used to call them astronomical numbers. Now we should call them economical numbers. Richard Feynman (1918–1988)

"It doesn't matter how beautiful your guess is or how smart you are or what your name is. If it disagrees with experience, it's wrong. That's all there is to it."
Richard Feynman (1918–1988)

It is easier to exclude harmful passions than to rule them, and to deny them admittance than to control them after they have been admitted. Lucius Annaeus Seneca, philosopher and writer (c. 3 BCE–65CE)

A man's as miserable as he thinks he is. Lucius Annaeus Seneca, writer and philosopher (3 BCE–65 CE)

Sometimes even to live is an act of courage. Lucius Annaeus Seneca, writer and philosopher (3 BCE–65 CE)

It's a poor sort of memory that only works backward. Lewis Carroll, mathematician and writer (1832–1898)

There would be no society if living together depended upon understanding each other. Eric Hoffer, philosopher and author (1902–1983)

In all of us, even in good men, there is a lawless wild-beast nature, which peers out in sleep. Socrates, philosopher (469?–399 BCE)

He who is not contented with what he has, would not be contented with what he would like to have. Socrates, philosopher (469?–399 BCE)

All I know is that I know nothing. Socrates, philosopher (469?–399 BCE)

By trying to make things easier for their children parents can make things much harder for them. Mardy Grothe, psychologist and author (1942–)

A good cook is like a sorceress who dispenses happiness. Elsa Schiaparelli, fashion designer (1890–1973)

Life is mostly froth and bubble, / Two things stand like stone, / Kindness in another's trouble, / Courage in your own. Adam Lindsay Gordon, poet (1833–1870)

To know how to hide one's ability is a great skill. François de La Rochefoucauld, writer (1613–1680)

Self-esteem is the reputation we acquire with ourselves. Nathaniel Branden, psychotherapist (1930–)

A scholar knows no boredom. Jean Paul Richter, writer (1763–1825)

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art. Eleanor Roosevelt, diplomat and writer (1884–1962)

You wouldn't worry so much about what others think of you if you realized how seldom they do. Eleanor Roosevelt, diplomat and writer (1884–1962)

Nature uses as little as possible of anything. Johannes Kepler, astronomer (1571–1630)

Once you have decided to keep a certain pile, it is no longer yours; for you can't spend it. Michel de Montaigne, essayist (1533–1592)

Every creature is better alive than dead, men and moose and pine trees, and he who understands it aright will rather preserve its life than destroy it. Henry David Thoreau, naturalist and author (1817–1862)

Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep. Scott Adams, cartoonist (1957–)

Poetry is the clear expression of mixed feelings. Wystan Hugh Auden, poet (1907–1973)

Every reader finds himself. The writer's work is merely a kind of optical instrument that makes it possible for the reader to discern what, without this

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book, he would perhaps never have seen in himself. Marcel Proust, novelist (1871–1922)

The violets in the mountains have broken the rocks. Tennessee Williams, dramatist (1911–1983)

I don't need time. What I need is a deadline. Duke Ellington, jazz pianist, composer, and conductor (1899–1974)

We have met the enemy and he is us. Walt Kelly, cartoonist (1913–1973)

Take rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop. Ovid, poet (43 BCE–17 CE)

Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding. Kahlil Gibran, mystic, poet, and artist (1883–1931)

In one atom are found all the elements of the earth; in one motion of the mind are found all the motions of existence; in one drop of water are found all the secrets of the endless oceans; in one aspect of you are found all the aspects of life. Kahlil Gibran, mystic, poet, and artist (1883–1931)

The end of the human race will be that it will eventually die of civilization. Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer and philosopher (1803–1882)

All great masters are chiefly distinguished by the power of adding a second, a third, and perhaps a fourth step in a continuous line. Many a man has taken the first step. With each additional step you enhance immensely the value of your first. Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer and philosopher (1803–1882)

Earth laughs in flowers. Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer and philosopher (1803–1882)

I think over again my small adventures,
My fears,
Those small ones that seemed so big,
For all the vital things
I had to get and reach;
And yet there is only one great thing,
The only thing,
To live to see the great day that dawns
And the light that fills the world. 19th century Inuit Native American

Silence will save me from being wrong (and foolish), but it will also deprive me of the possibility of being right. Igor Stravinsky, composer (1882–1971)

Naturally, the common people don't want war, but after all, it is the leaders of a country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in every country.

Hermann Goering, Nazi (1893–1946)

I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909–12. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras "right" for American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested. . . . Looking back on it, I feel I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three city districts.

We Marines operated on three continents. U.S. Marine Corps General Smedley D. Butler (1881–1940)

I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity. Dwight D. Eisenhower, U.S. general and 34th president (1890–1969)

I like to believe that people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our governments. Indeed, I think that people want peace so much that one of these days governments had better get out of the way and let them have it. Dwight D. Eisenhower, U.S. general and 34th president (1890–1969)

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. Dwight D. Eisenhower, U.S. general and 34th president (1890–1969)

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Writers, like teeth, are divided into incisors and grinders. Walter Bagehot, economist and journalist (1826–1877)

A man's style in any art should be like his dress—it should attract as little attention as possible. Samuel Butler, writer (1835–1902)

Few people think more than two or three times a year. I've made an international reputation for myself by thinking once or twice a week. George Bernard Shaw, writer, Nobel laureate (1856–1950)

When a thing is funny, search it carefully for a hidden truth. George Bernard Shaw, writer, Nobel laureate (1856–1950)

The only man I know who behaves sensibly is my tailor; he takes my measurements anew each time he sees me. The rest go on with their old measurements and expect me to fit them. George Bernard Shaw, writer, Nobel laureate (1856–1950)

If you're going to tell people the truth, you better make them laugh; otherwise they'll kill you. George Bernard Shaw, writer, Nobel laureate (1856–1950)

Democracy is a form of government that substitutes election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few. George Bernard Shaw, writer, Nobel laureate (1856–1950)

The liar's punishment is not in the least that he is not believed, but that he cannot believe anyone else. George Bernard Shaw, writer, Nobel laureate (1856–1950)

Better keep yourself clean and bright; you are the window through which you must see the world. George Bernard Shaw, writer, Nobel laureate (1856–1950)

He who has imagination without learning has wings and no feet. Joseph Joubert, essayist (1754–1824)

Oh, we have a home. We just need a house to put it in. an anonymous child

Children enter school as question marks and leave as periods. Neil Postman, professor and author (1931–)

Moral certainty is always a sign of cultural inferiority. The more uncivilized the man, the surer he is that he knows precisely what is right and what is wrong. All human progress, even in morals, has been the work of men who have doubted

the current moral values, not of men who have whooped them up and tried to enforce them. The truly civilized man is always skeptical and tolerant, in this field as in all others. His culture is based on "I am not too sure." Henry Louis Mencken, journalist, editor, critic (1880–1956)

Always remember that strange editors are not interested in your personality, but only in your work. If you tell them that you are down with leprosy, or about to be hanged it only harrows their feelings without helping them in the slightest to do their jobs. Thus they resent it. When you send manuscripts to editors you don't know, say nothing whatever. Simply put your name and address in the upper left hand corner of the first page, insert your stamped and addressed return envelope, and let it go at that. Henry Louis Mencken, journalist, editor, critic (1880–1956)

There are no dull subjects. There are only dull writers. Henry Louis Mencken, journalist, editor, critic (1880–1956)

As democracy is perfected, the office of president represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron. Henry Louis Mencken, journalist, editor, critic (1880–1956)

The aim of public education is not to spread enlightenment at all; it is simply to reduce as many individuals as possible to the same safe level, to breed and train a standardized citizenry, to put down dissent and originality. That is its aim in the United States, whatever the pretensions of politicians, pedagogues, and other such mountebanks, and that is its aim everywhere else. Henry Louis Mencken, journalist, editor, critic (1880–1956)

Every teacher should realize he is a social servant set apart for the maintenance of the proper social order and the securing of the right social growth. John Dewey (1859–1952)

Poetry, whether avowedly so or not, is always religious; it is akin to prayer, an act of love. Vassar Miller (1924–1998)

It is when we all play safe that we create a world of the utmost insecurity. Dag Hammarskjöld (1905–1961)

Porter's Quotations

A single rose can be my garden . . . a single friend, my world. Leo Buscaglia, author, speaker, and professor (1924–1998)

Have your being outside this body of birth and death, and all your problems will be solved. They exist because you believe yourself born to die. Undeceive yourself and be free. You are not a person. Sri Nisargatatta Maharaj

The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not. Thomas Jefferson, author and architect (1743–1826)

No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms. Thomas Jefferson, author and architect (1743–1826)

When governments fear the people there is liberty. When the people fear the government there is tyranny. Thomas Jefferson, author and architect (1743–1826)

The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government. Thomas Jefferson, author and architect (1743–1826)

I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just. Thomas Jefferson, author and architect (1743–1826)

It does me no injury for my neighbor to say there are twenty gods, or no God. It neither picks my pocket nor breaks my leg. Thomas Jefferson, author and architect (1743–1826)

I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered. Thomas Jefferson, author and architect (1743–1826)

If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be. Thomas Jefferson, writer and architect (1743–1826), to Col. C. Yancey, 1816

A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against its government.
Edward Abbey, naturalist and author (1927–1989)

It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the
environment. Ansel Adams, photographer (1902–1984)

It is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong. François-Marie
Arouet (Voltaire), philosopher and writer (1694–1778)

I've decided to be happy, because it is good for my health. François-Marie
Arouet (Voltaire), philosopher and writer (1694–1778)

As long as people believe in absurdities, they will continue to commit atrocities.
François-Marie Arouet (Voltaire), philosopher and writer (1694–1778)

It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers are punished unless they kill in
large numbers and to the sound of trumpets. François-Marie Arouet (Voltaire),
philosopher and writer (1694–1778)

Marriage is the only adventure open to the cowardly. François Marie-Arouet
(Voltaire), philosopher and writer (1694–1778)

God is a comedian playing to an audience too afraid to laugh. François-Marie
Arouet (Voltaire), philosopher and writer (1694–1778)

There is no history, only fictions of various degrees of plausibility. François-
Marie Arouet (Voltaire), philosopher and writer (1694–1778)

I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us with
sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use. Galileo Galilei,
physicist and astronomer (1564–1642)

Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them? Abraham
Lincoln (1809–1865)

When I do good, I feel good; when I do bad, I feel bad, and that is my religion.
Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865)

His words, like so many nimble and airy servitors, trip about him at command.
John Milton, poet (1608–1674)

Porter's Quotations

When you have only two pennies left in the world, buy a loaf of bread with one, and a lily with the other. Chinese proverb

The true civilization is where every man gives to every other every right that he claims for himself. Robert Green Ingersoll, lawyer and orator (1833–1899)

The principal contributor to loneliness in this country is television. What happens is that the family “gets together” alone. Ashley Montagu, anthropologist and writer (1905–1999)

He who would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from oppression; for if he violates this duty he establishes a precedent that will reach to himself. Thomas Paine, philosopher and writer (1737–1809)

Politics, n. Strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles. Ambrose Bierce, writer (1842–1914)

To confront a person with his own shadow is to show him his own light. Carl G. Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961)

What happens after death is so unspeakably glorious that our imaginations and feelings do not suffice to form an approximate conception of it. Carl G. Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961)

Please remember, it is what you are that heals, not what you know. Carl G. Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961)

Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to a better understanding of ourselves. Carl G. Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961)

It all depends on how we look at things, and not how they are in themselves. Carl G. Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961)

Observance of customs and laws can very easily be a cloak for a lie so subtle that our fellow human beings are unable to detect it. It may help us to escape all criticism, we may even be able to deceive ourselves in the belief of our obvious righteousness. But deep down, below the surface of the average man's conscience, he hears a voice whispering, “There is something not right,” no matter how much his rightness is supported by public opinion or by the moral code. Carl G. Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961), in the introduction to Frances G. Wickes's “Analysis der Kinderseele” (The Inner World of Childhood), 1931

In studying the history of the human mind one is impressed again and again by the fact that the growth of the mind is the widening of the range of consciousness, and that each step forward has been a most painful and laborious achievement. One could almost say that nothing is more hateful to man than to give up even a particle of his unconsciousness. Ask those who have tried to introduce a new idea! Carl G. Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961)

Religion is a defense against the experience of God. Carl G. Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961)

The dream is the small hidden door in the deepest and most intimate sanctum of the soul, which opens to that primeval cosmic night that was soul long before there was conscious ego and will be soul far beyond what a conscious ego could ever reach. Carl Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961), *The Meaning of Psychology for Modern Man* (1934)

The shoe that fits one person pinches another; there is no recipe for living that suits all cases. Carl G. Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961)

We cannot change anything until we accept it. Condemnation does not liberate, it oppresses. Carl G. Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961)

Nothing has a more disturbing influence psychologically on children than the un-lived life of the parent. Carl G. Jung, psychiatrist (1875–1961)

Poets are born old. With the passing of the years, we make ourselves into children. Humberto Ak'abal

When intellectuals and artists withdraw from the fray, politicians feel safer. Salman Rushdie (1947–)

A book is a version of the world. If you do not like it, ignore it; or offer your own version in return. Salman Rushdie writer, (1947–)

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, spiritual leader (1869–1948)

To give pleasure to a single heart by a single act is better than a thousand heads bowing in prayer. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869–1948)

Porter's Quotations

The innocent and the beautiful have no enemy but time. William Butler Yeats, writer, Nobel laureate (1865–1939)

Sleep after toil, port after stormy seas, ease after war, death after life does greatly please. Edmund Spenser, poet (1552–1599)

We call them dumb animals, and so they are, for they cannot tell us how they feel, but they do not suffer less because they have no words. Anna Sewall, writer (1820–1878)

Let early education be a sort of amusement; you will then better be able to find out the natural bent of the child. Plato, philosopher (427–347 BCE)

After two years in Washington, I often long for the realism and sincerity of Hollywood. Fred Thompson, actor, U.S. senator (1942–)

It is probable that both in life and in art the values of a woman are not the values of a man. Virginia Woolf (1882–1941)

Brigands demand your money or your life; women require both. Samuel Butler (1835–1902)

He who does not enjoy solitude will not love freedom. Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher (1788–1860)

Only men who are not interested in women are interested in women's clothes; men who like women never notice what they wear. Anatole France, writer (1844–1924)

Wisdom is not bought. Akan proverb

When a just man dies / Lamentation and praise / Sorrow and joy, are one. Wystan Hugh Auden, writer (1907–1973)

The prayer of the chicken hawk does not get him the chicken. Swahili proverb

Men are men, but Man is a woman. Gilbert Keith Chesterton, writer (1874–1936)

Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of a readiness to die. Gilbert Keith Chesterton, writer (1874–1936)

Nine times out of ten, the coarse word is the word that condemns an evil and the refined word the word that excuses it. Gilbert Keith Chesterton, writer (1874–1936)

Angels can fly because they take themselves lightly. Gilbert Keith Chesterton, writer (1874–1936)

The final test of fame is to have a crazy person imagine he is you. Anonymous

The universe is the language of God. Lorenz Oken (1779–1851)

Only God helps the badly dressed. Spanish proverb

Prudery is a form of avarice. Marie-Henri Beyle Stendahl (1783–1842)

When you reread a classic you do not see more in the book than you did before; you see more in you than was there before. Clifton Fadiman, editor, essayist (1904–)

The world is too much with us; late and soon. Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers. William Wordsworth, poet (1770–1850)

Love is a sense of dependency freely entered into and mutually maintained. Fred Hapgood

Scoundrels are always sociable. Arthur Schopenhauer, philosopher (1788–1860)

Who has once the fame to be an early riser may sleep till noon. James Howell

Your public servants serve you right. Adlai Ewing Stevenson (1900–1965)

A beauty is a woman you notice, a charmer is a one who notices you. Adlai Ewing Stevenson (1900–1965)

My definition of a free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular. Adlai Ewing Stevenson (1900–1965), speech, Detroit, 1952

Life shrinks or expands in proportion to one's courage. Anaïs Nin, writer (1903–1977)

We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are. Anaïs Nin, writer (1903–1977)

Porter's Quotations

Throw your dreams into space like a kite, and you do not know what it will bring back, a new life, a new friend, a new love, a new country. Anaïs Nin, writer (1903–1977)

One is not in bondage to the past, which has shaped our feelings, to race, inheritance, background. All this can be altered if we have the courage to examine how it formed us. We can alter the chemistry provided we have the courage to dissect the elements. Anaïs Nin, writer (1903–1977)

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered. Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer, orator, philosopher (1803–1882)

You don't have to suffer to be a poet. Adolescence is enough suffering for anyone. John Ciardi, poet (1916–1986)

It is a mistake to think that books have come to stay. The human race did without them for thousands of years and may decide to do without them again. Edward Morgan Forster, novelist (1879–1970)

Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

Don't say the old lady screamed. Bring her on and let her scream. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

Nothing that grieves us can be called little: by the eternal laws of proportion a child's loss of a doll and king's loss of a crown are events of the same size. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

It is better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than to open it and remove all doubt. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything. Mark Twain (1835–1910)

Most of the basic material a writer works with is acquired before the age of fifteen. Willa Sibert Cather (1873–1947)

Man's many desires are like the small metal coins he carries about in his pocket. The more he has, the more they weigh him down. Sathya Sai Baba (1926–)

Before you speak, ask yourself, is it kind, is it necessary, is it true, does it improve on the silence? Satya Sai Baba

If the building of a bridge does not enrich the awareness of those who work on it, then that bridge ought not to be built. Frantz Fanon (1925–1961)

If we had to say what writing is, we would define it essentially as an act of courage. Cynthia Ozick (1928–)

To name something is to wait for it in the place you think it will pass. Amiri Baraka (1934–)

Porter's Quotations

A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic, and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess. A. Philip Randolph (1889–1961)

The cost of liberty is less than the cost of repression. William Edward Burkhardt DuBois (1868–1963)

Men who are in earnest are not afraid of consequences. Marcus Mozhiah Garvey (1887–1940)

We are almost a nation of dancers, musicians, and poets. Olaudah Equiano

They see themselves as others had seen them. They had been formed by the images made of them by those who had had the deepest necessity to despise them. James Baldwin, writer (1924–1987)

It is hard to imitate a people whose existence appears, mainly, to be made tolerable by their bottomless gratitude that they are not, thank heaven, you. James Baldwin, writer (1924–1987)

Experience, which destroys innocence, also leads one back to it. James Baldwin, writer (1924–1987)

Trust life, and it will teach you, in joy and sorrow, all you need to know. James Baldwin, writer (1924–1987)

You think your pains and heartbreaks are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or who have ever been alive. James Baldwin, writer (1924–1987)

We are responsible for the world in which we find ourselves, if only because we are the only sentient force that can change it. James Baldwin, writer (1924–1987)

You cannot fix what you will not face. James Baldwin, writer (1924–1987)

The primary distinction of the artist is that he must actively cultivate that state which most men, necessarily, must avoid: the state of being alone. James Baldwin, writer (1924–1987)

There is never a time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment, the time is always now. James Baldwin, writer (1924–1987)

Please, try to remember that what they believe, as well as what they do and cause you to endure, does not testify to your inferiority but to their inhumanity and fear. James Baldwin, writer (1924–1987)

It is impossible to enjoy idling thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do. Jerome Klapka Jerome (1859–1927)

A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams. John Barrymore, actor (1882–1942)

While there's life, there's hope. Publius Terentius Afer (Terence) (190?–159? bce)

I am a human being. Nothing human can be alien to me. Publius Terentius Afer (Terence) (190?–159? bce)

No one can give you better advice than yourself. Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–43bce)

Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others. Marcus Tullius Cicero (106–43bce)

O, Lord! Despite a great many prayers to You we are continually losing our wars. Tomorrow we shall again be fighting a battle that is truly great. With all our might we need Your help, and that is why I must tell You something: This battle tomorrow is going to a serious affair. There will be no place in for children. Therefore I must ask You not to send Your Son to help us. Come yourself. The prayer of Koq, leader of the Griquas tribe, before a battle with the Afrikaners in 1876

Word has somehow got around that the split infinitive is always wrong. That is a piece with the outworn notion that it is always wrong to strike a lady. James Thurber (1894–1961)

All human beings should try to learn before they die what they are running from, and to, and why. James Thurber (1894–1961)

Don't get it right, get it written. James Thurber (1894–1961)

Porter's Quotations

When elephants fight it is the grass that suffers. Kikuyu proverb

It is never the shallower for the calmness. The Sea is a deeper, there is as much water in the Sea in a calm as in a storm. John Donne, poet (1573–1631)

No man is an Island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee. John Donne (1573–1631)

No, no, you're not thinking, you're just being logical. Niels Bohr, physicist (1885–1962)

The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement. But the opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth. Niels Bohr, physicist (1885–1962)

Be yourself and do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Max Ehrmann, writer and lawyer (1872–1945)

The fetters imposed on liberty at home have ever been forged out of the weapons provided for defence against real, pretended, or imaginary dangers from abroad. James Madison, 4th US president (1751–1836)

They wrote in the old days that it is sweet and fitting to die for one's country. But in modern war, there is nothing sweet nor fitting in our dying. You will die like a dog for no good reason. Ernest Hemingway, writer (1899–1961)

Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right. Sir Laurens van der Post, author, philosopher, conservationist (1906–1996)

He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. Martin Luther King, Jr., anti-war activist, civil rights leader (1929–1968)

A man who won't die for something is not fit to live. Martin Luther King, Jr., anti-war activist, civil rights leader (1929–1968)

The reformatory effect of punishment is a belief that dies hard, chiefly, I think, because it is so satisfying to our sadistic impulses. Bertrand Russell, philosopher and mathematician (1872–1970)

One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important. Bertrand Russell, philosopher and mathematician (1872–1970)

So far as I can remember, there is not one word in the Gospels in praise of intelligence; and in this respect ministers of religion follow gospel authority more closely than in some others. Bertrand Russell, philosopher and mathematician (1872–1970), *Education and the Social Order* (1932)

The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt. Bertrand Russell, philosopher and mathematician (1872–1970)

True ease in writing comes from art, not chance, as those move easiest who have learned to dance. Alexander Pope (1688–1744), "An Essay on Criticism"

Proper words in proper places make the true definition of a style. Jonathan Swift (1667–1745), Letter from January 9, 1720

And every great and original writer . . . must himself create the taste by which he is to be relished. William Wordsworth (1770–1850), Letter of May 21, 1807

We should have a great many fewer disputes in the world if words were taken for what they are, the signs of our ideas, and not for things themselves. John Locke, philosopher (1632–1704)

So difficult it is to show the various meanings and imperfections of words when we have nothing else but words to do it with. John Locke, philosopher (1632–1704)

My feeling is that there is nothing in life but refraining from hurting others, and comforting those who are sad. Olive Schreiner, author (1855–1920)

Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons. It is to grow in the open air and to eat and sleep with the earth. Walt Whitman, poet (1819–1892)

People change and forget to tell each other. Lillian Hellman, playwright (1905–1984)

Porter's Quotations

He will always be a slave who does not know how to live upon a little. Horace, poet and satirist (65–8 BCE)

I am not one of those who believe that a great army is the means of maintaining peace, because if you build up a great profession those who form parts of it want to exercise their profession. Woodrow Wilson, 28th US president, Nobel laureate (1856–1924)

Our great industrial nation is controlled by its system of credit. Our system of credit is privately concentrated. The growth of the nation, therefore, and all our activities are in the hands of a few men . . . who necessarily, by very reason of their own limitations, chill and check and destroy genuine economic freedom.

We have come to be one of the worst ruled, one of the most completely controlled and dominated governments in the civilized world—no government by free opinion, no longer a government by conviction and the vote of the majority, but a government by the opinion and the duress of small groups of dominant men. Woodrow Wilson, 28th US president, Nobel laureate (1856–1924)

Rewards and punishments are the lowest form of education. Chuang-Tzu, philosopher (4th century BCE)

The secret of joy is the mastery of pain. Anaïs Nin, writer (1903–1977)

We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are. Anaïs Nin, writer (1903–1977)

A society gets all the criminals it deserves. Emma Goldman, activist, publisher (1869–1940)

A truly great book should be read in youth, again in maturity and once more in old age, as a fine building should be seen by morning light, at noon, and by moonlight. Robertson Davies, writer (1913–1995)

Assumptions are the termites of relationships. Henry Winkler, actor (1945–)

If you believe the doctors, nothing is wholesome; if you believe the theologians, nothing is innocent; if you believe the military, nothing is safe. Lord Salisbury, British prime minister (1830–1903)

A book is a story for the mind. A song is a story for the soul. Eric Pio, poet

To sit alone in the lamplight with a book spread out before you, and hold intimate converse with men of unseen generations—such is a pleasure beyond compare. Kenko Yoshida, essayist (1283–1352)

Not one man in a million is fit for [bossing other men], and least of all those who seek the opportunity. J. R. R. Tolkien, writer, lexicographer (1892–1973)

He who joyfully marches in rank and file has already earned my contempt. He has been given a large brain by mistake, since for him the spinal cord would suffice. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

A human being is a part of a whole, called by us ‘universe,’ a part limited in time and space. We experience ourselves, our thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest . . . a kind of optical delusion of our consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

Nationalism is an infantile sickness. It is the measles of the human race. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

It is not that I’m so smart. But I stay with the questions much longer. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

Everything is energy and that’s all there is to it. Match the frequency of the reality you want and you cannot help but get that reality. It can be no other way. This is not philosophy. This is physics.. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life’s coming attractions. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

I live in that solitude which is painful in youth, but delicious in the years of maturity. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all art and science. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

Porter's Quotations

The distinction between past, present, and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion. Albert Einstein

The only real valuable thing is intuition. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

Technological progress is like an axe in the hands of a pathological criminal. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

Never do anything against conscience, even if the state demands it. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

Strange is our situation here upon earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to a divine purpose. From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: That we are here for the sake of others, for the countless unknown souls to whose fate we are connected by a bond of compassion. Many times a day, I realize how much my outer and inner life is built upon the labors of others, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

All marriages are dangerous. Marriage is the unsuccessful attempt to make something lasting out of an incident. Albert Einstein, peace activist (1879–1955)

God Himself, sir, does not propose to judge a man until his life is over. Why should you and I? Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709–1784)

Kindness is in our power, even when fondness is not. Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709–1784)

The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good. Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709–1784)

Read over your compositions, and when you meet a passage which you think is particularly fine, strike it out. Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709–1784)

Poetry is the art of uniting pleasure with truth. Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709–1784)

All envy would be extinguished, if it were universally known that there are none to be envied. Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709–1784)

Dictionaries are like watches: The worst is better than none, and the best cannot be expected to go quite true. Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709–1784)

Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must be first overcome. Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709–1784)

Nature has given women so much power that the law has very wisely given them little. Samuel Johnson, lexicographer (1709–1784)

The tears of strangers are only water. Russian proverb

In order for something to become clean, something else must become dirty.
Imbesi's Law of Conservation of Filth

The radio is nothing but a conduit through which prefabricated din can flow into our homes. And this din goes far deeper, of course, than the eardrums. It penetrates the mind, filling it with a babble of distractions, blasts of corybantic or sentimental music, continually repeated doses of drama that bring no catharsis, but usually create a craving for daily or even hourly emotional enemas. Aldous Huxley, writer (1894–1963); *On Silence*, 1946

It is often forgotten that [dictionaries] are artificial repositories, put together well after the languages they define. The roots of language are irrational and of a magical nature. Jorge Luis Borges, writer (1899–1986)

Language is a virus from outer space. William S. Burroughs, novelist (1914–1997)

As regards intellectual work, it remains a fact, indeed, that great decisions in the realms of thought and momentous discoveries and solutions of problems are

Porter's Quotations

only possible to an individual working in solitude. Sigmund Freud, neurologist, founder of psychoanalysis (1856–1939)

Life is an adventure in forgiveness. Norman Cousins, author and editor (1915–1990)

You may call God love, you may call God goodness. But the best name for God is compassion. Meister Eckhart, theologian (c. 1260–1327)

Only the hand that erases can write the true thing. Meister Eckhart, theologian (c. 1260–1327)

If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is “thank you,” that would suffice. Meister Eckhart, theologian (c. 1260–1327)

The Peter Principle: In a hierarchy, every employee tends to rise to his level of incompetence. Laurence J. Peter, educator and author (1919–1990)

Why does no one confess his sins? Because he is yet in them. It is for a man who has awoke from sleep to tell his dreams. Lucius Annaeus Seneca, writer and philosopher (3 bce–65 ce)

I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free. Michelangelo Buonarroti, sculptor, painter, architect, and poet (1475–1564)

If all are equal, none can be precious. Wendell Berry (1934–)

A successful man is one who makes more money than a wife can spend. A successful woman is one who can find such a man. Lana Turner, actress (1921–1995)

Permit me to issue and control the money of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws. Amschel Mayer Rothschild, banker (1743–1812)

Remember that there is nothing stable in human affairs; therefore avoid undue elation in prosperity, or undue depression in adversity. Socrates, philosopher (469?–399 bce)

Art is a lie that makes us realize the truth. Pablo Picasso, artist (1881–1973)

I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it. Pablo Picasso, artist (1881–1973)

Everything you can imagine is real. Pablo Picasso, artist (1881–1973)

Art is not the application of a canon of beauty but what the instinct and the brain can conceive beyond any canon. When we love a woman we don't start measuring her limbs. Pablo Picasso, artist (1881–1973)

There are painters who transform the sun into a yellow spot, but there are others who, thanks to their art and intelligence, transform a yellow spot into the sun. Pablo Picasso, artist (1881–1973)

I've never believed in God, but I believe in Picasso. Diego Rivera (1886–1957)

Everyone discusses my art and pretends to understand, as if it were necessary to understand, when it is simply necessary to love. Claude Monet (1840–1926)

Always aim at complete harmony of thought and word and deed. Always aim at purifying your thoughts and everything will be well. Mahatma Gandhi (1869–1948)

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Aesop (620 bce)

I didn't want to be told I was terrific. I had the sense that if I was so terrific at [painting], it wasn't worth doing. Diane Arbus, photographer (1913–1971)

When women love us, they forgive us everything, even our crimes; when they do not love us, they give us credit for nothing, not even our virtues. Honoré de Balzac, novelist (1799–1850)

Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation. D. Elton Trueblood (1900–1994)

Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our deeds. George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans), novelist (1819–1880)

The mind, ever the willing servant, will respond to boldness, for boldness, in effect, is a command to deliver mental resources. Norman Vincent Peale (1898–1993), pastor, speaker, and author

You are man, You are woman; You are youth and maiden too.
You are an old man who totters along leaning on a stick.
You are without beginning and beyond all space and time.
The Upanishads

Porter's Quotations

The only real security is not insurance or money or a job, not a house and furniture paid for, or a retirement fund, and never is it another person. It is the skill and humor and courage within, the ability to build your own fires and find your own peace. Audrey Sutherland

We are the mirror as well as the face in it.

We are tasting the taste this minute of eternity.

We are pain and what cures pain.

We are the sweet, cold water and the jar that pours.

Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

This silence, this moment, every moment, if it's genuinely inside you, brings what you need. There's nothing to believe. Only when I stopped believing in myself did I come into this beauty. Sit quietly, and listen for a voice that will say, 'Be more silent.' Die and be quiet. Quietness is the surest sign that you've died. Your old life was a frantic running from silence. Move outside the tangle of fear-thinking. Live in silence. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

The way of love is not a subtle argument.

The door there

is devastation.

Birds make great sky-circles

of their freedom.

How do they learn it? They fall, and falling,

they're given wings.

Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Let the beauty of what you love be what you do. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Try something different. Surrender. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

I want this music and this dawn and the warmth of your cheek against mine.

Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Try not to resist the changes that come your way. Instead let life live through you. And do not worry that your life is turning upside down. How do you

know that the side you are used to is better than the one to come? Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Grief can be the garden of compassion. If you keep your heart open through everything, your pain can become your greatest ally in your life's search for love and wisdom. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Let yourself be silently drawn
by the strange pull of what you really love.
It will not lead you astray. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

I, you, he, she, we.
In the garden of mystic lovers,
these are not true distinctions.
Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

This is how I would die into the love I have for you: as pieces of clouds dissolve in sunlight. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Don't grieve. Anything you lose comes round in another form. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Everyone has been made for some particular work, and
the desire for that work has been put in every heart.
Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Conventional opinion is the ruin of our souls. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Sit down and be quiet. You are drunk, and this is the edge of the roof. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me. I love you for the part of me that you bring out. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Porter's Quotations

The universe and the light of the stars come through me. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

May the blessings of love be upon you,
May its peace abide with you,
May its essence illuminate your heart,
Now and forevermore. Sufi blessing

As water given sugar sweetens, given salt grows salty,
we become our choices.

Each yes, each no continues,
this one a ladder, that one an anvil or cup.
Jane Hirshfield (1953–)

Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing. Albert Schweitzer (1875–1965)

Action is the foundational key to all success. Pablo Picasso (1881–1973)

Civility buys everything and costs nothing. Charles-Louis de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu (1689–1755)

Common sense is as rare as genius. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)

If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters. Alan Simpson

Today I bent the truth to be kind, and I have no regret, for I am far surer of what is kind than I am of what is true. Robert Brault

Make yourself an honest man, and then you may be sure there is one less rascal in the world. Thomas Carlyle, writer (1795–1881)

We do not err because truth is difficult to see. It is visible at a glance. We err because this is more comfortable. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, writer (1918–)

Much sheer effort goes into avoiding the truth: left to itself, it sweeps in like the tide. Fay Weldon (née Franklin Birkenshaw), writer (1931–)

Don't be yourself. Be someone a little nicer. Mignon McLaughlin

The most delusional fantasies can be made to masquerade as sanity if you've got the political power to reinforce them. Penny Skillman

Our children's minds are being sucked out through their eyeballs. Ruby Dee, actress

The greatest discovery of my generation is that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind. William James (1842–1910)

Believe that life is worth living and your belief will help create the fact. William James (1842–1910)

There is a continuum of cosmic consciousness against which our individuality builds but accidental fences and into which our several minds plunge as if into a mother sea. William James (1842–1910)

Common sense and a sense of humor are the same thing moving at different speeds. A sense of humor is just common sense dancing. William James (1842–1910)

I have no doubt whatever that most people live, whether physically, intellectually, or morally, in a very restricted circle of their potential being. They make use of a very small portion of their possible consciousness . . . much like a man who, out of his whole body organism, should get into the habit of using and moving only his little finger. . . . We all have reservoirs of life to draw upon, of which we do not dream. William James (1842–1910)

We must let go of the life we have planned, so as to accept the one that is waiting for us. Joseph Campbell (1904–1987)

It is by going down into the abyss that we recover the treasures of life. Where you stumble, there lies your treasure. Joseph Campbell (1904–1987)

The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction. Rachel Carson (1907–1964)

Never seem wiser, nor more learned than the people you are with. Lord Chesterfield (1694–1773)

Porter's Quotations

Oh yes, I've learned from my mistakes. And I'm sure I could repeat them exactly. Peter Cook (1937–1995)

From the ego's point of view, spiritual progress is "one insult after another."
Lama Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, Tibetan Buddhist master (1939–1987)

The bad news is you're falling through the air, nothing to hang on to, no parachute. The good news is, there's no ground. Lama Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, Tibetan Buddhist master (1939–1987)

As you develop your love for your true nature, your oneness with God, you simultaneously find the will to do what is most difficult. Lama Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, Tibetan Buddhist master (1939–1987)

The bad news is you're falling through the air, nothing to hang on to, no parachute. The good news is there's no ground. Lama Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, Tibetan Buddhist master (1939–1987)

We must continue to open in the face of tremendous opposition. No one is encouraging us to open, and still we must peel away the layers of the heart. Lama Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, Tibetan Buddhist master (1939–1987)

We ought to think that we are one of the leaves of a tree, and the tree is all humanity. We cannot live without the others, without the tree. Pablo Casals (1876–1973)

Now and then I go about pitying myself, and all the while my soul is being blown by great winds across the sky. Anishinaabe poem

The blood relatives of compassion are kindness, sympathy, courtesy, and amity, and the reward for exercising them is to feel good about having done so. Norman Corwin, Message for the Millennium

Art is the stored honey of the human soul, gathered on wings of misery and travail. Theodore Dreiser, novelist (1871–1945)

The first step toward change is awareness. The second step is acceptance. Nathaniel Branden

I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank

boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909–12. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras “right” for American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested. . . . Looking back on it, I feel I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three city districts. We Marines operated on three continents. U.S. Marine Corps General Smedley D. Butler, in 1935

Naturally, the common people don't want war, but after all, it is the leaders of a country who determine the policy, and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in every country. Hermann Goering (1893–1946)

If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the state can shield the people from the political, economic and or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the state. Joseph Goebbels (1897–1945), minister of propaganda in Nazi Germany, 1933–1945

If my soldiers began to think, not one of them would remain in the ranks. Frederick the Great (1712–1786)

Governments lie. I. F. Stone, journalist (1907–1989)

There are no warlike peoples, just warlike leaders. Ralph Johnson Bunche, diplomat (1904–1971)

If you give me the power to nominate, you can vote for whomever you please. Benito Mussolini (1883–1945)

Porter's Quotations

Fascism should more appropriately be called Corporatism because it is a merger of state and corporate power. Benito Mussolini (1883–1945)

Continuous, calm, powerful use of the will shakes the forces of creation and brings a response from the Infinite. Paramhansa Yogananda, yoga master (1893–1952)

One who truly trusts in God has no right to be anxious about anything. Paramhansa Yogananda, yoga master (1893–1952)

Only a mediocre writer is always at his best. W. Somerset Maugham (1874–1965)

The most valuable thing I have learned from life is to regret nothing. W. Somerset Maugham (1874–1965)

An editor should have a pimp for a brother, so he'd have somebody to look up to. Gene Fowler, writer (1890–1960)

All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called Huckleberry Finn. American writing comes from that. There was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since. Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961)

A writer is someone for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people. Thomas Mann (1875–1955)

As soon as you trust yourself, you will know how to live. Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749–1832)

Few people have the imagination for reality. Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749–1832)

One ought, every day at least, to hear a little song, read a good poem, see a fine picture, and, if it were possible, to speak a few reasonable words. Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749–1832)

None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free. Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749–1832)

All intelligent thoughts have already been thought; what is necessary is only to try to think them again. Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749–1832)

Nothing is worth more than this day. Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749–1832)

If I love you, what business is it of yours? Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749–1832)

If I accept you as you are, I will make you worse. However, if I treat you as though you are what you are capable of becoming, I help you become that. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832)

I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. I possess tremendous power to make life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration, I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis is escalated or de-escalated, and a person is humanized or de-humanized. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832)

A person hears only what they understand. Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749–1832)

Each morning when I open my eyes I say to myself: I, not events, have the power to make me happy or unhappy today. I can choose which it shall be. Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'm going to be happy in it. Groucho Marx (1890–1977)

It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are. e. e. cummings

People only see what they are prepared to see. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Don't waste yourself in rejection, nor bark against the bad, but chant the beauty of the good. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Nothing can bring you peace but yourself. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Sometimes a scream is better than a thesis. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Always do what you are afraid to do. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

We become what we think about all day long. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Porter's Quotations

The less government we have the better. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

I want to stay as close to the edge as I can without going over. Out on the edge you see all kinds of things you can't see from the center. Kurt Vonnegut (1922–2007)

A purpose of human life, no matter who is controlling it, is to love whoever is around to be loved. Kurt Vonnegut (1922–2007)

Men are jerks. Women are psychotic. Kurt Vonnegut (1922–2007)

Whenever you feel an impulse to perpetrate a piece of exceptionally fine writing, obey it wholeheartedly and delete it before sending your manuscript to press. Murder your darlings. Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch (1863–1944)

I can't go on flying apart just for those who want the benefit of a few verbal kicks. My God, do you know what poems like that cost? They're not written vicariously: they come out of actual suffering, real madness. Theodore Roethke (1908–1963)

May I die like a dog rather than hasten the ripening of a sentence by a single second! Gustave Flaubert (1821–1880)

Poetry is a subject as precise as geometry. Gustave Flaubert, novelist (1821–80)

In the dark time will there also be singing?

Yes, there will be singing about the dark time. Bertolt Brecht (1898–1956)

He insisted on a single trade secret: that you had to survive, find some quiet, and work hard every day. Jay McInerney (1955–) about Raymond Carver (1938–1988)

The only certainty about writing and trying to be a writer is that it has to be done, not dreamed of or planned and never written, or talked about (the ego eventually falls apart like a soaked sponge), but simply written; it's a dreadful, awful fact that writing is like any other work. Janet Frame, writer (1924–2004)

The one who tells the stories rules the world. Hopi proverb

If I exorcise my devils, all my angels may go, too. Tom Waits

Good writers are almost never dangerous. John Gardner

I must go home periodically to renew my sense of horror. Carson McCullers (1917–1967)

Writing is not necessarily something to be ashamed of, but do it in private and wash your hands afterwards. Robert Heinlein (1907–1988)

A professional writer is an amateur who didn't quit. Richard Bach

Remember you are just an extra in everyone else's play. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, politician (1882–1945)

The real truth of the matter is that a financial element in the large centers has owned the government since the days of Andrew Jackson. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, politician (1882–1945)

Men are not prisoners of fate, but only prisoners of their own minds. They have within themselves the power to become free at any moment. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, politician (1882–1945)

Let unconquerable gladness dwell. Sign on FDR's desk

The mind is a superb instrument if used rightly. Used wrongly, however, it becomes very destructive. To put it more accurately, it is not so much that you use your mind wrongly—you usually don't use it at all. It uses you. This is the disease. You believe that you are your mind. This is the delusion. The instrument has taken you over. Eckhart Tolle (1948–), from *The Power of Now*

Nothing ever happened in the past; it happened in the Now. Nothing will ever happen in the future; it will happen in the Now. Eckhart Tolle (1948–), from *The Power of Now*

The moment you completely accept your non-peace, your non-peace becomes transmuted into peace. Anything you accept fully will take you into peace. This is the miracle of surrender. Eckhart Tolle (1948–)

We learn only when it is too late that the marvel is the passing moment. Francois Maurice Mitterand, politician (1916–1996)

It isn't so much that time seems mysterious to me as that I wonder if it is necessary. William Maxwell, writer and editor (1908–2000)

A good deal of tyranny goes by the name of protection. Crystal Eastman

Porter's Quotations

A free people ought not only to be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government. George Washington (1732–1799)

Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action. George Washington (1732–1799)

At best I have only been an instrument in the hands of Providence, to effect, with the aid of France and many virtuous fellow Citizens of America, a revolution which is interesting to the general liberties of mankind, and to the emancipation of a country which may afford an Asylum, if we are wise enough to pursue the paths which lead to virtue and happiness, to the oppressed and needy of the Earth. Our region is extensive, our plains are productive, and if they are cultivated with liberality and good sense, we may be happy ourselves, and diffuse happiness to all who wish to participate. George Washington, letter to Lucretia Wilhemina Van Winter, Mount Vernon, March 30, 1785; Fitzpatrick 28:120

If the jury feels the law is unjust, we recognize the undisputed power of the jury to acquit, even if its verdict is contrary to the law as given by a judge, and contrary to the evidence. This power of the jury is not always contrary to the interests of justice. *United States v. Moylan*, 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, 1969, 417 F.2d 1002.

[T]he whole business of legislation, which has now grown to such gigantic proportions, had its origin in the conspiracies, which have always existed among the few, for the purpose of holding the many in subjection, and extorting from them their labour, and all the profits of their labour. Lysander Spooner, lawyer, abolitionist, legal theorist (1808–1887)

Our constitutions purport to be established by 'the people,' and, in theory, 'all the people' consent to such government as the constitutions authorize. But this consent of 'the people' exists only in theory. It has no existence in fact. Government is in reality established by the few; and these few assume the consent of all the rest, without any such consent being actually given. Lysander Spooner, lawyer, abolitionist, legal theorist (1808–1887)

And the men who loan money to governments, so called, for the purpose of enabling the latter to rob, enslave, and murder their people, are among the greatest villains that the world has ever seen. And they as much deserve to be hunted and killed (if they cannot otherwise be got rid of) as any slave traders, robbers, or pirates that ever lived. Lysander Spooner, lawyer, abolitionist, legal theorist (1808–1887)

A man is none the less a slave because he is allowed to choose a new master once in a term of years. Lysander Spooner, lawyer, abolitionist, legal theorist (1808–1887)

If the jury have no right to judge of the justice of a law of the government, they plainly can do nothing to protect the people against the oppressions of the government; for there are no oppressions which the government may not authorize by law. Lysander Spooner, lawyer, abolitionist, legal theorist (1808–1887)

That no government, so called, can reasonably be trusted, or reasonably be supposed to have honest purposes in view, any longer than it depends wholly upon voluntary support. Lysander Spooner, lawyer, abolitionist, legal theorist (1808–1887)

A government which takes your money by force like a common thief will use this stolen money to further enslave you and to prevent any rebellion on your part. Olga Struthio

Constitutions are utterly worthless to restrain the tyranny of governments, unless it be understood that the people will by force compel the government to remain within constitutional limits. Practically speaking, no government knows any limits to its power except the endurance of the people. Lysander Spooner, lawyer, abolitionist, legal theorist (1808–1887)

For more than six hundred years—that is, since Magna Carta, in 1215—there has been no clearer principle of English or American constitutional law, than that, in criminal cases, it is not only the right and duty of juries to judge what are the facts, what is the law, and what was the moral intent of the accused; but that it is also their right, and their primary and paramount duty, to judge the justice of the law, and to hold all laws invalid, that are, in their opinion, unjust or oppressive, and all persons guiltless in violating, or resisting the execution of,

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such law. Lysander Spooner, lawyer, abolitionist, legal theorist (1808–1887) *The Right of Juries*

It is not only the juror's right, but his duty to find the verdict according to his own best understanding, judgement and conscience, though in direct opposition to the instruction of the court. John Adams, 1771.

Jurors should acquit even against the judge's instruction "... if exercising their judgment with discretion and honesty they have a clear conviction that the charge of the court is wrong." Alexander Hamilton, political philosopher, economist (1757–1804) Quoted in Joseph Sax, *Yale Review* 57 June 1968): 481-494.

The jury has the power to bring in a verdict in the teeth of both the law and the facts. Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, *Homing v. District of Columbia*, 138 (1920)

Breaking men to military discipline is breaking their spirits to principles of passive obedience. Thomas Jefferson to John Jay, 1788. ME 7:19

None but an armed nation can dispense with a standing army. To keep ours armed and disciplined is therefore at all times important, but especially so at a moment when rights the most essential to our welfare have been violated. Thomas Jefferson, 1803. ME 10:365

The truth is that all men having power ought to be mistrusted. James Madison (1751–1836)

Trying to determine what is going on in the world by reading newspapers is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock. Ben Hecht playwright and novelist (1894–1964)

Why do we have a mind, if not to get our own way? Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky, writer (1821–1881)

The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen. Frank Lloyd Wright (1869–1959)

Faith is to believe what you do not yet see; the reward for this faith is to see what you believe. St. Augustine (354–430)

From the living fountain of instinct flows everything that is creative; hence the unconscious is not merely conditioned by history, but is the very source of the creative impulse. Carl Gustav Jung (1875–1961)

To know how to think is to know how to live. Ernest Holmes (1887–1960)

Every day, every moment, every second, there is a choice. If it were not so, we would not be individuals. Ernest Holmes (1887–1960)

Man's mind should swing from inspiration to action, from contemplation to accomplishment, from prayer to performance. This would be a well-balanced existence. Ernest Holmes (1887–1960)

There is no way to gain all without first giving all. There is no compromise; the Universe does not bargain with us. Ernest Holmes (1887–1960)

You shall know the truth, and it will make you odd. Flannery O'Connor (1925–1964)

One person can't get everything right. Flannery O'Connor (1925–1964)

One may have a blazing hearth in one's soul and yet no one ever came to sit by it. Passers-by see only a wisp of smoke from the chimney and continue on their way. Vincent Van Gogh, painter (1853–1890)

An artist needn't be a clergyman or a churchwarden, but he certainly must have a warm heart for his fellow men. Vincent van Gogh, painter (1853–1890)

If you hear a voice within you say "You cannot paint," then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced. Vincent van Gogh, painter (1853–1890)

Love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is done well. Vincent van Gogh, painter (1853–1890)

I have always been an attorney for the defense. I can think of nothing, not even war, that has brought so much misery to the human race as prisons. Clarence Seward Darrow, lawyer (1857–1938)

I like limber, lashing, fierce words . . . strong, cutting, beautiful, rude words. Walt Whitman, poet (1819–1892)

Porter's Quotations

Don't try to protect people from life; just let them have their experience while you focus upon your own experience. Abraham-Hicks

A happy life is just a string of happy moments. But most people don't allow the happy moment, because they're so busy trying to get a happy life. Abraham-Hicks

Since you are Eternal Beings, then there's no point in rushing, because there's never going to be a time when you don't exist. Abraham-Hicks

There are as many different worlds as there are perceivers or Beings or individuals. You are not here to create one world where everyone is the same, wanting and getting the same. You are here to be that which you want to be, while you allow all others to be that which they want to be. Abraham-Hicks

Everything that you see is illusionary anyway, and the illusion can be whatever you choose it to be. Abraham-Hicks

Is complacency bad? What is the definition of complacency? Could it be making peace with what is? Abraham-Hicks

Anything that can be perceived must be reality. . . . Your reality depends upon what you are willing to imagine and allow. Abraham-Hicks

Whatever you're thinking about is literally like planning a future event.
Abraham-Hicks

Don't worry about this world; it is not broken. And don't worry about others. You worry more about them than they do. There are people waging war; there are people on the battlefield who are more alive than they've ever been before. Don't try to protect people from life; just let them have their experience while you focus upon your own experience. Abraham-Hicks

You're always on your way somewhere . . . It does not matter where you are; where you are is shifting constantly—but you must turn your attention to where you want to go. And that's the difference between making the best of something and making the worst of something. Abraham-Hicks

No matter what it is, if you really want it, and if you get out of the way of it, it will happen. It must be. It is Law. It can be no other way. It's the way this

Universe is established. If you want it and you relax, it will happen. Abraham-Hicks

It is the mind that makes the body. Sojourner Truth (1797–1893)

We are disturbed not by what happens to us, but by our thoughts about what happens [People are not disturbed by things, but by the view they take of them.]. Epictetus (c.55–c.135 c.e.)

If you are going to add visual stimuli to the world, let them be attractive stimuli. Ugly pictures—no matter how packed with pieties and insights—stir me about as much as bad food: I don't care what the vitamin content is, I want it out of my way. Cristina Nehrning

Whenever a friend succeeds, a little something in me dies. Gore Vidal (1925–)

A portrait is not a likeness. The moment an emotion or fact is transformed into a photograph it is no longer a fact but an opinion. There is no such thing as inaccuracy in a photograph. All photographs are accurate. None of them is the truth. Richard Avedon (1923–2004)

The artist is extremely lucky who is presented with the worst possible ordeal which will not actually kill him. At that point, he's in business. John Berryman (1914–1972)

I am always doing that which I cannot do, in order that I may learn how to do it. Pablo Picasso (1881–1973)

Art is the attention we pay to the wholeness of the world. Guy Davenport (1927–)

All paid jobs absorb and degrade the mind. Aristotle (384 bce–322 BCE)

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit. Aristotle (384 bce–322 BCE)

Art doesn't save souls, but the best of it does have a cathartic effect, as Aristotle said, that makes us conscious of unconscious fantasy by way of a complex process of symbolization and identification. Donald Kuspit, art critic

No amount of skillful invention can replace the essential element of imagination. Edward Hopper (1882–1967)

Porter's Quotations

Time is what you have left . . . you just march with it and use it the best you can.
Frank Stella (1936–)

Censorship reflects a society's lack of confidence in itself. It is a hallmark of an authoritarian regime. Potter Stewart (1915–1985)

I arise every morning torn between the desire to save the world and the desire to savor the world. It makes it hard to plan the day. E. B. White (1899–1985)

I don't believe in art. I believe in artists. Marcel Duchamp (1887–1968)

This is how I would die into the love I have for you: as pieces of clouds dissolve in sunlight. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Like a thief reason sneaked in and sat amongst the lovers eager to give them advice. They were unwilling to listen, so reason kissed their feet and went on its way. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

If you are irritated by every rub, how will you be polished? Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

If the foot of the trees were not tied to earth, they would be pursuing me. For I have blossomed so much, I am the envy of the gardens. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

The universe and the light of the stars come through me. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy.
Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Thinking gives off smoke to prove the existence of fire. A mystic sits inside the burning. Mevlana Jalal-e-Din Mevlavi Rumi (1207–1273)

Is not a matter of whether the war is not real or if it is. Victory is not possible. The war is not meant to be won. It is meant to be continuous. A hierarchical society is only possible on the basis of poverty and ignorance. This new version is the past. And no different past can ever have existed. In principle, the war effort is always planned to keep society on the brink of starvation. The war is waged by the ruling group against its own subjects. And its object is not the

victory over either Eurasia or Eastasia, but to keep the very structure of society intact. George Orwell, 1984 (1903–1950)

If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear. George Orwell, 1984 (1903–1950)

In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act. George Orwell, 1984 (1903–1950)

I would like to beg you to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a very foreign language. Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer. Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926)

Our deepest fears are like dragons guarding our deepest treasure. Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926)

Perhaps all the dragons in our lives are only princesses waiting for us to act, just once, with beauty and courage. Perhaps everything that frightens us is, in its deepest essence something that wants our love. Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926)

Why do you want to shut out of your life any uneasiness, any miseries, or any depressions? For after all, you do not know what work these conditions are doing inside you. Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926)

Any idiot can face a crisis; it is this day-to-day living that wears you out. Anton Chekhov (1860–1937)

There is science, logic, reason; there is thought verified by experience. And then there is California. Edward Abbey (1927–1989)

Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. Those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their own conscience. C. S. Lewis (1898–1963)

Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither. C. S. Lewis (1898–1963)

Porter's Quotations

The less conscious one is of being "a writer," the better the writing. And though reading is the best school of writing, school is the worst place for reading. Writing should . . . be as spontaneous and urgent as a letter to a lover, or a message to a friend who has just lost a parent . . . and writing is, in the end, that oddest of anomalies: an intimate letter to a stranger. Pico Iyer (1957–)

The sign said "Breakfast Anytime," so I said, "Okay! I'll have French toast in the 17th century."

Ignorance of certain subjects is a great part of wisdom. Hugh De Groot (1583–1645)

The first and great commandment is: Don't let them scare you. Elmer Davis (1890–1958)

The truth is that our finest moments are most likely to occur when we are feeling deeply uncomfortable, unhappy, or unfulfilled. For it is only in such moments, propelled by our discomfort, that we are likely to step out of our ruts and start searching for different ways or truer answers. M. Scott Peck (1936–2005)

If you are depressed, you are living in the past.

If you are anxious, you are living in the future.

If you are at peace, you are living in the present. Lao-tzu (c. 6th Century BCE)

At the center of your being you have the answer;

You know who you are and you know what you want. Lao-tzu (c. 6th Century BCE)

Treat those who are good with goodness, and also treat those who are not good with goodness. Thus goodness is attained. Be honest to those who are honest, and be also honest to those who are not honest. Thus honesty is attained.

Lao-tzu (c. 6th Century BCE)

Knowing others is intelligence; knowing yourself is true wisdom. Mastering others is strength; mastering yourself is true power. If you realize that you have enough, you are truly rich. Lao-tzu (c. 6th Century BCE)

A good traveler has no fixed plans, and is not intent on arriving. Lao-tzu (c. 6th Century BCE)

Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage. Lao-tzu (c. 6th Century BCE)

To become learned, each day add something. To become enlightened, each day drop something. Lao-tzu (c. 6th Century BCE)

If there is to be peace in the world,
there must be peace in the nations.

If there is to be peace in the nations,
there must be peace in the cities.

If there is to be peace in the cities,
there must be peace between neighbors.

If there is to be peace between neighbors,
there must be peace in the home.

If there is to be peace in the home,
there must be peace in the heart. Lao-tzu (c. 6th Century BCE)

Truly, the greatest gift you have to give is that of your own self-transformation.
Lao-tzu (c. 6th Century BCE)

The only thing you have to offer another human being, ever, is your own state of being. Ram Dass (1931–)

It is important to expect nothing, to take every experience, including the negative ones, as merely steps on the path, and to proceed. Ram Dass (1931–)

We are all affecting the world every moment, whether we mean to or not. Our actions and states of mind matter, because we are so deeply interconnected with one another. Working on our own consciousness is the most important thing that we are doing at any moment, and being love is the supreme creative act. Ram Dass (1930–)

I have no knowledge of myself as I am, but merely as I appear to myself.
Immanuel Kant (1724–1804)

That luminous part of you that exists beyond personality, your soul, if you will, is as bright and shining as any that has ever been, bright as Shakespeare's, bright as Gandhi's, and bright as Mother Teresa's. Clear away everything that keeps

Porter's Quotations

you separate from this secret luminous place. Believe it exists, come to know it better, nurture it, share its fruits tirelessly.

- George Saunders All mankind's inner feelings eventually manifest themselves as an outer reality. Stuart Wilde (1946–)

The blood relatives of compassion are kindness, sympathy, courtesy, and amity, and the reward for exercising them is to feel good about having done so.

Norman Corwin (1910–2011), "Message for the Millennium"

One day it will have to be officially admitted that what we have christened reality is an even greater illusion than the world of dreams. Salvador Dali (1904–1989)

Poetry is about slowing down. You sit and you read something, you read it again, and it reveals a little bit more, and things come to light you never could have predicted. Mark Strand (1934–)

Short words are best and the old words when short are best of all. Winston Churchill (1874–1965)

The fewer the words used, the more concentrated the attention; and the greater the concentration, the greater the power. David Lambuth

You will know you have spoken the truth when you are angrily denounced; and you will know you have spoken both truly and well when you are visited by the police. J. B. R. Yant

Nature is not only all that is visible to the eye. It also includes the inner pictures of the soul. Edvard Munch

The habit of ignoring Nature is deeply implanted in our times. This attitude reminds me of people who never look you in the eye. I find them disturbing and always have to look away. Marc Chagall

You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it. Robin Williams

The secret of health for both mind and body is not to mourn for the past, worry about the future, or anticipate troubles but to live in the present moment wisely and earnestly. Siddhārtha Gautama Buddha (c. 563 BCE to 483 BCE)

There are only two mistakes one can make along the road to truth: not going all the way, and not starting. Siddhārtha Gautama Buddha (c. 563 BCE to 483 BCE)

If you propose to speak, always ask yourself, is it true, is it necessary, is it kind. Siddhārtha Gautama Buddha (c. 563 BCE to 483 BCE)

You can search throughout the entire universe for someone who is more deserving of your love and affection than you are yourself, and that person is not to be found anywhere. You, yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection. Siddhārtha Gautama Buddha (c. 563 BCE to 483 BCE)

Everything changes, nothing remains without change. Siddhārtha Gautama Buddha (c. 563 BCE to 483 BCE)

An act of meditation is actually an act of faith—of faith in your spirit, in your own potential. Faith is the basis of meditation. Not of faith in something outside you—a metaphysical buddha, an unattainable ideal, or someone else’s words. The faith is in yourself, in your own “buddha-nature.” You too can be a buddha, an awakened being that lives and responds in a wise, creative, and compassionate way. Martine Batchelor

Life is one, said the Buddha, and the Middle Way to the end of suffering in all its forms is that which leads to the end of the illusion of separation, which enables man to see, as a fact, as clear as sunlight, that all mankind, and all other forms in manifestation are one unit, the infinitely variable appearances of an indivisible Whole. Travers Christmas Humphreys (1901–1983)

You can dream it, you can do it. Walt Disney

Your life is the manifestation of your dream; it is an art. And you can change your life anytime if you aren’t enjoying the dream. Dream masters create a masterpiece of life; they control the dream by making choices. Don Miguel Ruiz (1952–)

Every human is an artist. And this is the main art that we have: the creation of our story. Don Miguel Ruiz (1952–)

It is a great piece of skill to know how to guide your luck even while waiting for it. Balthasar Gracian

Porter's Quotations

Giving is the secret of a healthy life, not necessarily money, sympathy, compassion. John D. Rockefeller

The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident. Charles Lamb

Figuring out our gifts in life is part of our journey to becoming enlightened human beings. Allison Dubois

Art is not so much talent as character. It's what you are, the qualities of the person. John Olsen

Nothing good in the world has ever been done by well-rounded people. The good work is done by people with jagged, broken edges, because those edges cut things and leave an imprint, a design. Harry Crews (1935–)

Love is when the desire to be desired takes you so badly that you feel you could die of it. Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

When we love something it is of value to us, and when something is of value to us we spend time with it, time enjoying it and time taking care of it. M. Scott Peck

A work of art is a world in itself reflecting senses and emotions of the artist's world. Hans Hofmann

What I want in my life is compassion, a flow between myself and others based on a mutual giving from the heart. Marshall Rosenberg

It is by universal misunderstanding that all agree. For if, by ill luck, people understood each other, they would never agree. Charles Baudelaire

We [humans] are the species that clamors to be lied to. Joyce Carol Oates (1938–)

A painting is not a picture of an experience, but is the experience. Mark Rothko

I don't listen to what art critics say. I don't know anybody who needs a critic to find out what art is. Jean Michel Basquiat (1960–1988)

There are very few professions in which people just sit down and think hard for five or six hours a day all by themselves. [If you become a writer] you have the

liberty to do that, but once you have the liberty you also have the obligation to do it. Tobias Wolff (1945–)

We remember feeling as we believe we must have felt. . . . Memory does not store a feature-length film of our experience but instead stores an idiosyncratic synopsis. . . . and among memories' idiosyncrasies, is its obsession with final scenes. Dan Gilbert (1957–)

When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro. Hunter S. Thompson (1937–2005)

Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end; then stop. Lewis Carroll (1832–1898)

I have always tried to hide my own efforts and wished my works to have the lightness and joyousness of a springtime which never lets anyone suspect the labours it cost. Henri Matisse

The position of the artist is humble. He is essentially a channel. Piet Mondrian

No great artist ever sees things as they really are. If he did he would cease to be an artist. Oscar Wilde

Be yourself. Everyone else is taken. Oscar Wilde

Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.

He said, "My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all."

"One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego."

"The other is Good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather:

"Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Surely the strange beauty of the world must somewhere rest on pure joy. Louise Boga, poet (1897–)

Why do people think artists are special? It's just another job. Andy Warhol

Porter's Quotations

Repetition is the mother of all skill. Tony Robbins

What people are ashamed of usually makes a good story. F. Scott Fitzgerald

It's very weird to succeed at thirty-nine years old and realize that in the midst of your failure, you were slowly building the life that you wanted anyway. Alice Sebold (1963–)

There are significant moments in everyone's day that can make literature.
Raymond Carver

I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Borrow money from pessimists; they don't expect it back.

99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

42.7% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

All those who believe in psychokinetics, raise my hand.

Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.

Hard work pays off in the future, laziness pays off now.

Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

I'm addicted to placebos. I could quit but it wouldn't matter.

The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard.

I intend to live forever; so far, so good.

A friend of mine has a trophy wife but apparently it wasn't first place.

Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time.

We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.

I'm writing a book. I've got the page numbers done. Steven Wright (1955–)

It was when I realized I could make mistakes that I decided I was really onto something. Ornette Coleman, musician (1930–)

Barn's burnt down, now I can see the moon. Mizuta Masahide (1657?–1723)

In order to be free you simply have to be so, without asking permission of anyone. You have to have your own hypothesis about what we are called to do, and follow it, not giving in to circumstances or complying with them. But that sort of freedom demands powerful inner resources, a high degree of self-awareness, a consciousness of your responsibility to yourself and therefore to other people. Andrey Tarkovsky, *Sculpting Time*

Worship people. People are God's manifestation. Praveen Gupta.

I don't want to be a product of my environment; I want my environment to be a product of me. Frank Costello, Jack Nicholson's character in *The Departed*.

Three things to remember when you get older—never pass up a bathroom, never waste a hard-on, and never trust a fart. Jack Nicholson's character in *The Bucket List*.

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome. Booker Taliaferro Washington (1856–1915)

To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else. Emily Dickinson, poet (1830–1886)

I don't want to make money, I just want to be wonderful. Marilyn Monroe (1926–1962)

Perfection is achieved, not when there is nothing more to add, but when there is nothing left to take away. Antoine de Saint-Exupery

The true meaning of love one's neighbor is not that it is a command from God which we are to fulfill, but that through it and in it we meet God. Martin Buber (1878–1965)

The creative process is a cocktail of instinct, skill, culture, and a highly creative feverishness. It is not like a drug; it is a particular state when everything happens very quickly, a mixture of consciousness and unconsciousness, of fear and pleasure; it's a little like making love, the physical act of love. Francis Bacon

Love has no fear and no vengeance.

Porter's Quotations

By definition, a government has no conscience. Sometimes it has a policy, but nothing more. Albert Camus (1913–1960)

If you are seeking closeness to the Beloved, love everyone. Whether in their presence or absence, see only their good. If you want to be as clear and refreshing as the breath of the morning breeze, like the sun, have nothing but warmth and light for everyone. Shaikh Abu-Said Abil-Khair

The world is not a machine. Everything in it is force, life, thought. G. W. Von Leibnitz (1646–1716)

. . . [I]f we were able to understand sufficiently well the order of the universe, we should find that it surpasses all the desires of the wisest of us, and that it is impossible to render it better than it is, not only for all in general, but also for each one of us in particular... (from *The Monadology*, 1714) G. W. Von Leibnitz (1646–1716)

The essential feature of quantum interconnectedness is that the whole universe is enfolded in everything, and that each thing is enfolded in the whole. David Bohm, physicist (1917–1992)

If I wasn't hitting, I'd figure that I just wasn't hitting, not that I couldn't hit. Yogi Berra (1925–)

If you don't know where you're going, chances are you will end up somewhere else. Yogi Berra (1925–)

It's not too far, it just seems like it is. Yogi Berra (1925–)

If you come to a fork in the road, take it. Yogi Berra (1925–)

We're lost, but we're making great time! Yogi Berra (1925–)

If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else. Yogi Berra (1925–)

There comes a time in every man's life, and it usually does. Yogi Berra (1925–)

You can observe a lot by just watching. Yogi Berra (1925–)

No matter how rich you become, how famous or powerful, when you die the size of your funeral will still pretty much depend on the weather. Michael Pritchard

The freethinking of one age is the common sense of the next. Matthew Arnold (1822–1888)

We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office. Aesop (620 bce–560 bce)

Peace of mind is that mental condition in which you have accepted the worst. Lin Yutang (1895–1976)

Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of nonessentials. Lin Yutang (1895–1976)

There are no whole truths; all truths are half- truths. It is trying to treat them as whole truths that plays the devil. Alfred North Whitehead (1861–1947)

I love deadlines. I like the whooshing sound they make as they fly by. Douglas Adams (1952–2001)

I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I intended to be. Douglas Adams (1952–2001)

A mother is not a person to lean on but a person to make leaning unnecessary. Dorothy C. Fisher (1879–1958), quoted in *O Magazine*, May 2003

Forgiveness is one of the many horrible side effects of loving someone. Randy K. Milholland, *Something Positive*, 12-29-05

Sometimes I go about in pity for myself, and all the while a great wind carries me across the sky. Ojibwe saying

The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work. Emile Zola (1840–1902)

Civilization will not attain perfection until the last stone from the last church falls on the last priest. Emile Zola (1840–1902)

The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers. *Henry VI*, William Shakespeare.

There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so. William Shakespeare

Porter's Quotations

The depressing thing about tennis is that no matter how good I get, I'll never be as good as a wall. Mitch Hedberg (1968–2005)

If you make people think they're thinking, they'll love you; but if you really make them think, they'll hate you. Don Marquis (1878–1937)

We shall not cease from exploration and the end of our exploring shall be to return where we started and know the place for the first time. Thomas Stearns Eliot (1888–1965)

There's no limit to what man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit. Robert Woodruff (said to be on Ronald Reagan's desk)

Do not fear mistakes. There are none. Miles Davis (1926–1991)

If you meet the Buddha in the lane, feed him the ball. Phil Jackson (1945–)

From a tea bag tag: A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.

I have been no more than a medium, as it were. Henri Matisse (1869–1954)

Parents, school is almost out, which means it's time to make those summer vacation plans, load up the family car and take off, quickly, before the kids get home. Dave Barry (1947–)

The higher Christian churches—where, if anywhere, I belong—come at God with an unwarranted air of professionalism, with authority and pomp, as though they knew what they were doing, as though people in themselves were an appropriate set of creatures to have dealings with God. I often think of the set pieces of liturgy as certain words which people have successfully addressed to God without their getting killed. In the high churches they saunter through the liturgy like Mohawks along a strand of scaffolding who have long since forgotten their danger. If God were to blast such a service to bits, the congregation would be, I believe, genuinely shocked. But in the low churches you expect it any minute. This is the beginning of wisdom. Annie Dillard (1945–)

Spend the afternoon. You can't take it with you. Annie Dillard (1945–)

How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives. What we do with this hour and that one is what we are doing. A schedule defends from chaos and whim; it is a net for catching days. Annie Dillard (1945–)

A loving person lives in a loving world. A hostile person lives in a hostile world. Everyone you meet is your mirror. Ken Keyes, Jr. (1921–1995)

Have compassion for everyone you meet, even if they don't want it. What appears bad manners, an ill temper, or cynicism is always a sign of things no ears have heard, no eyes have seen. You do not know what wars are going on down there where the spirit meets the bone. Miller Williams (1930–)

Life is a handful of short stories, pretending to be a novel. Anonymous

When I tend to my own garden, everyone else's looks better. Anonymous

If the mind is happy, not only the body but the whole world will be happy. So one must find out how to become happy oneself. Wanting to transform the world without discovering one's true self is like trying to cover the whole world with leather to avoid the pain of walking on stones and thorns. It is much simpler to wear shoes. Ramana Maharshi (1879–1950)

We try to be formed and held and kept by Christ; instead he offers us freedom. And now when I try to know his will, his kindness floods me, his great love overwhelms me, and I hear him whisper, "Surprise me!" John J. McNeil

When everybody on earth was dead and waiting to enter Paradise, God appeared and said, "First, I want all the women to report to St. Peter. Then I want the men to make two lines: one line for the men who were true heads of their household, and the other line for the men who were dominated by their women."

Soon, the women were gone, and there were two lines of men. The line of the men who were dominated by their wives was 100 miles long, and in the line of men who truly were heads of their household, there was only one man.

God said, "You men should be ashamed of yourselves, I created you to be the head of your household. You have been disobedient and have not fulfilled your purpose. Only one of you obeyed. Learn from him."

God turned to the lone man, "How did you manage to be the only one in this

Porter's Quotations

line?"

The man said, "My wife told me to stand here."

Only he who has measured the dominion of force, and knows how not to respect it, is capable of love and justice. Simone Weil (1909–1943)

As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so life well used brings happy death. Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)

One can have no smaller or greater mastery than mastery of oneself. Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)

Where the spirit does not work with the hand, there is no art. Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519)

I have been asked many questions in my life about poetry, religion, life, and I have given precisely the same number of answers, but I have never, I repeat, never, satisfied a single interlocutor. Why? Because all questioning is a way of avoiding the real answer, which, as Zen tells us, is really known already. Every man is enlightened, but wishes he wasn't. Every man knows he must love his enemies, and sell all he has and give to the poor, but he doesn't wish to know it, so he asks questions. R. H. Blyth (1898–1964)

Let everything happen to you
Beauty and terror
Just keep going
No feeling is final
Rainer Maria Rilke (1875–1926)

All human conflicts can be solved because they originate in the human mind, which is the real battleground we should be focusing on. Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Laureate 2008 (1940–)

Life is what you make it. Always has been. Always will be. Anna Mary Robertson Moses (1860–1961)

I am somehow less interested in the weight and convolutions of Einstein's brain than in the near certainty that people of equal talent have lived and died in cotton fields and sweatshops. Stephen Jay Gould, evolutionary biologist (1941–2002)

Attachment to an idea of ourselves as a constant, permanent entity causes us to resist change, to resist Life, and to resist what we actually are. Ashwini Narayanan and Cheri Huber from *I Don't Want to I Don't Feel Like It - How Resistance Controls Your Life and What to Do About It*

We practice presence to receive the information we need to live fully. Ashwini Narayanan and Cheri Huber from *I Don't Want to I Don't Feel Like It - How Resistance Controls Your Life and What to Do About It*

Attachment to an idea of ourselves as a constant, permanent entity causes us to resist change, to resist Life, and to resist what we actually are. Ashwini Narayanan and Cheri Huber from *I Don't Want to I Don't Feel Like It - How Resistance Controls Your Life and What to Do About It*

Fear is ALWAYS ego. Life doesn't fear. Feeling fear is how egocentric karmic conditioning/self-hate controls human attention. Cheri Huber (1944-)

Focus on what there is to be grateful for and let that gratitude create the portal through which all you need can come to you. Cheri Huber (1944-)

Joy is what's there when you stop doing everything else. Cheri Huber (1944-)

The present moment lacks nothing. The present moment is all that is. Cheri Huber (1944-)

Few things open the heart as successfully as not taking anything personally. Cheri Huber (1944-)

No matter how much anyone loves us, they cannot fulfill our needs. Just doesn't work that way. Ending our suffering is our job and only we can do it. Cheri Huber (1944-)

A heart that is completely surrounded by love cannot be harmed. Cheri Huber (1944-)

You, each moment, contain all that is, everything you seek. When you know that, you see perfection and complete adequacy all around you. Cheri Huber (1944-)

What most of us think of as fear is primarily a mental process of imagining situations that do not exist in the moment. Cheri Huber (1944-)

Porter's Quotations

Holding an idea of something is resistance, because an idea of what is, is not what is. Cheri Huber (1944-)

It can be helpful to remind yourself about who you truly are. You are not your body. You are not your mind. You are not your emotions. You are not your ego. Your true nature is goodness, and it is eternal. Cheri Huber (1944-)

If you find something unacceptable, draw a bigger circle of acceptance. Just keep drawing a bigger circle until nothing is excluded. Cheri Huber (1944-)

When we drop the idea that we're supposed to be having a certain kind of experience and open ourselves to the experience we are having, then we avoid nothing, and we fear nothing, because we are right here with ourselves. Cheri Huber (1944-)

Being happy does not depend on content or circumstances. Cheri Huber (1944-)

The work is to develop the same relationship with yourself that you would be willing to have with someone you love. Cheri Huber (1944-)

Whatever it is that I'm doing, if I pay attention to it, I'm going to benefit. I'm going to learn something. Cheri Huber (1944-)

Nothing can happen to you that is worse than living in fear that something could happen to you. Cheri Huber (1944-)

One of ego's threats is, "If you don't do exactly as I say, something awful is going to happen to you." If you believe this threat, the worst thing that can happen to you has already happened. Cheri Huber (1944-)

Without awareness of our unconscious practices we have little chance of freeing ourselves from the suffering they cause. Cheri Huber (1944-)

We have what we give our attention to! And when we give our attention to Life, we have to fall on our knees in intense gratitude for all that Life is. Cheri Huber (1944-)

We don't hate people because of their bad character, we hate people because of our bad character. We hate people who interfere with our view of ourselves.
Tom Rosshirt

If you have everything under control, you're not moving fast enough. Mario Andretti (1940–)

No thought, no reflection, no analysis, no cultivation, no intention . . . let it settle itself. Tilopa

Think enough and you won't know anything. Kenneth Patchen (1911–1972)

Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare. Japanese proverb

Nothing is permanent:

The sun and the moon rise and then set,

The bright clear day is followed by the deep, dark night.

From hour to hour, everything changes. Kalu Rinpoche

God comes to us disguised as our lives. Paula D'Arcy

As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool returns to his folly. Proverbs 26:11

Everything will be okay in the end. If it's not okay, it's not the end. Anonymous

Love is so exquisitely elusive. It cannot be bought, cannot be badgered, cannot be hijacked. It is available only in one rare form: as the natural response of a healthy mind and healthy heart. Eknath Easwaran, author and spiritual teacher (1910–1999)

The old dreams were good dreams. They didn't work out but I'm still glad I had them. Robert Kincaid, a character in *The Bridges of Madison County*

Do not depend on the hope of results. You may have to face the fact that your work will be apparently worthless and achieve no result at all, if not, perhaps, bring about its opposite. And as you get used to this idea you start more and more to concentrate not on the results but on the value, the rightness, the truth of the work itself. Thomas Merton (1915–1968)

There is in all things an inexhaustible sweetness and purity, a silence that is a fount of action and joy. It rises up in wordless gentleness and flows out to me from the unseen roots of all created being, welcoming me tenderly, saluting me with indescribable humility. Thomas Merton (1915–1968)

Porter's Quotations

The life of contemplation in action and purity of heart is, then, a life of great simplicity and inner liberty. One is not seeking anything special or demanding any particular satisfaction. One is content with what is. One does what is to be done, and the more concrete it is, the better. One is not worried about the results of what is done. One is content to have good motives and not be too anxious about making mistakes. In this way one can swim with the living stream of life and remain at every moment in contact with God, in the hiddenness and ordinariness of the present moment with its obvious task. Thomas Merton (1915–1968)

Your life is shaped by the end you live for. You are made in the image of what you desire. Thomas Merton (1915–1968)

We are already one. But we imagine that we are not. And what we have to recover is our original unity. What we have to be is what we are. Thomas Merton (1915–1968)

The only real security is not insurance or money or a job, not a house and furniture paid for, or a retirement fund, and never is it another person. It is the skill and humor and courage within, the ability to build your own fires and find your own peace. Audrey Sutherland (1922–)

I've been absolutely terrified every moment of my life, and I've never let it keep me from doing a single thing that I've wanted to do. Georgia O'Keefe (1887–1986)

Voyages are accomplished inwardly, and the most hazardous ones, needless to say, are made without moving from the spot. Henry Miller (1891–1980)

All growth is a leap in the dark, a spontaneous unpremeditated act without the benefit of experience. Henry Miller (1891–1980)

When fascism comes to America, it will come wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross. Sinclair Lewis (1885–1951)

I wish I could show you when you are lonely or in darkness the astonishing light of your own being. Hāfez-e Šīrāzī (1315–1390)

Now is the time to know
That all that you do is sacred.

Now, why not consider
A lasting truce with yourself and God.
Now is the time to understand
That all your ideas of right and wrong
Were just a child's training wheels
To be laid aside
When you finally live
With veracity
And love. Hāfez-e Šīrāzī (1315–1390)

One regret, dear world, that I am determined not to have when I am lying on my deathbed is that I did not kiss you enough. Hāfez-e Šīrāzī (1315–1390)

I am a hole in a flute that the Christ's breath moves through. Listen to this music.
Hāfez-e Šīrāzī (1315–1390)

Even after all this time, the sun never says to the earth, "You owe me." Look what happens with a love like that. It lights the whole sky. Hāfez-e Šīrāzī (1315–1390)

Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it.
Helen Keller (1880–1968)

While they were saying among themselves it cannot be done, it was done.
Helen Keller (1880–1968)

When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace. Jimi Hendrix (1942–1970)

Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens. Jimi Hendrix (1942–1970)

Listen—are you breathing just a little, and calling it a life? Mary Oliver (1935–)

Instructions for living a life:

Pay attention.

Be astonished.

Tell about it. Mary Oliver (1935–)

This is the first, the wildest and the wisest thing I know: that the soul exists and is built entirely out of attentiveness. Mary Oliver (1935–)

Porter's Quotations

All things are inventions of holiness—some more rascally than others. Mary Oliver (1935–)

I tell you this
to break your heart,
by which I mean only
that it break open and never close again
to the rest of the world. Mary Oliver (1935–)

To live in this world
You must be able
to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold it
against your bones knowing
your own life depends on it;
and, when the time comes to let it go,
to let it go. Mary Oliver (1935–)

Am I no longer young, and still not half-perfect? Let me
keep my mind on what matters, which is my work,
which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished. Mary Oliver (1935–)

There is a vitality, a life force, a quickening that is translated through you into action, and there is only one of you in all time, this expression is unique, and if you block it, it will never exist through any other medium; and be lost. The world will not have it. It is not your business to determine how good it is, nor how it compares with other expression. It is your business to keep it yours clearly and directly, to keep the channel open. You do not even have to believe in yourself or your work. You have to keep open and aware directly to the urges that motivate you. Keep the channel open. No artist is pleased. There is no satisfaction whatever at any time. There is only a queer, divine dissatisfaction, a blessed unrest that keeps us marching and makes us more alive than the others."

Martha Graham (1894–1991)

Question everything. Every stripe, every star, every word spoken. Everything. Ernest J. Gaines (1933–)

Favor the question, always question. Do not accept answers as definitive.
Answers change. Questions don't. Elie Wiesel (1928–)

When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth. Billy, age 4

When you have that “magic, love to be together, it's all exciting” relationship with yourself, you won't have any difficulty at all having it with someone else. Cheri Huber (1944–)

Once you realize that the road is the goal and that you are always on the road, not to reach a goal, but to enjoy its beauty and its wisdom, life ceases to be a task and becomes natural and simple, in itself an ecstasy. Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj (1897–1981)

In letting go of wanting something special to occur, maybe we can realize that something special is already occurring. Jon Kabat-Zinn (1944–)

Only the liberation of the natural capacity for love in human beings can master their sadistic destructiveness. Wilhelm Reich (1897–1957)

Scientific theory is a contrived foothold in the chaos of living phenomena. Wilhelm Reich (1897–1957)

There's no such thing as death, life is only a dream, and we're the imagination of ourselves. Bill Hicks (1961–1994)

If everything seems under control, you're just not going fast enough. Mario Andretti (1940–)

Love is like dew that falls on both nettles and lilies. Swedish Proverb

How much more grievous are the consequences of anger than the causes of it. Marcus Aurelius (121–180)

The first rule is to keep an untroubled spirit. The second is to look things in the face and know them for what they are. Marcus Aurelius (121–180)

All that is harmony for you, my Universe, is in harmony with me as well. Nothing that comes at the right time for you is too early or too late for me. Everything is fruit to me that your seasons bring, Nature. All things come of you, have their being in you, and return to you. Marcus Aurelius (121–180)

Porter's Quotations

If you are distressed by anything external, the pain is not due to the thing itself, but to your estimate of it; and this you have the power to revoke at any moment.

Marcus Aurelius (121–180)

He who has seen present things has seen all, both everything which has taken place from all eternity and everything which will be for time without end; for all things are of one kin and of one form. Marcus Aurelius (121–180)

Peace is a natural innate state of mind waiting for us to come back to it.

It is like archers. If they start out competing, they'll never become marksmen. It is only long after practice, with no thought of winning or losing, that they can hit the target. Same with the study of the Way. If even a single thought of winning or losing appears, you will be chained by winning and losing. Ying-An

I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me. Isaac Newton (1642–1727)

People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway. Mother Teresa (1910–1997)

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one. Mother Teresa (1910–1997)

"What day is it?" asked Pooh.

"It's today," squeaked Piglet.

"My favorite day," said Pooh. A. A. Milne (1892–1956)

I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game winning shot . . . and

missed. I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is precisely why I succeed. Michael Jordan (1963–)

When I was young, I admired clever people. Now that I am old, I admire kind people. Abraham Heschel (1907–1972)

We cannot put off living until we are ready. The most salient characteristic of life is its urgency, “here and now,” without any possible postponement. Life is fired at us point-blank. José Ortega y Gasset (1883–1955)

Do not search for the truth; only cease to cherish opinions. Seng-Ts’an (? –606)

Stop talking, stop thinking, and there is nothing you will not understand. Seng-Ts’an (? –606)

A smooth sea never made a skillful mariner. English proverb

No one saves us but ourselves. No one can and no one may. We ourselves must walk the path. Siddhartha Gautama (c. 566–480 BCE)

Believe nothing, no matter where you read it or who has said it, not even if I have said it, unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense. Siddhartha Gautama (c. 566–480 BCE)

Art’s purpose is to sober and quiet the mind so that it is in accord with what happens. John Cage (1912–1992)

I have learned not to worry about love;
but to honor its coming
with all my heart. Alice Walker (1944–)

We do not “come into” this world; we come out of it, as leaves from a tree. As the ocean “waves” the universe “peoples.” Every individual is an expression of the whole realm of nature, a unique action of the total universe. Alan Watts (1915–1973)

People imagine that letting themselves go would have disastrous results; trusting neither circumstances nor themselves, which together make up life, they are forever interfering and trying to make their own souls and the world conform to preconceived patterns. This interference is simply the attempt of the ego to dominate life. But when you see that all such attempts are fruitless, and when

Porter's Quotations

you relax the fear born resistance to life in yourself and around you, which is called egoism, you realize the freedom of union with Brahman [Life]. Alan Watts (1915–1973)

This—the immediate, everyday, and present experience—is IT, the entire and ultimate point for the existence of a Universe. Alan Watts (1915–1973)

Happiness is a how, not a what; a talent, not an object. Hermann Hesse (1877–1962)

What we are doing here is so important, that we should not take it too seriously. Shunryu Suzuki Roshi (1904–1971)

Many sensations come, many thoughts or images arise, but they are just waves of your own mind. Nothing comes from outside your mind. Shunryu Suzuki Roshi (1904–1971)

If you make your best effort just to continue your practice with your whole mind and body, without gaining ideas, then whatever you do will be true practice. Shunryu Suzuki Roshi (1904–1971)

The awareness that you are here, right now, is the ultimate fact. Shunryu Suzuki Roshi (1904–1971)

As soon as you see something, you already start to intellectualize it. As soon as you intellectualize something, it is no longer what you saw. Shunryu Suzuki Roshi (1904–1971)

You can't believe one thing and do another. What you believe and what you do are the same thing. Leonard Peltier (1944–)

As spiritual practitioners, we should be open to being a failure. We can take heart in the fact that Siddhartha found enlightenment not through his great success at religious practices, but through his failures. Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche (1965–)

In difficult times you should always carry something beautiful in your mind. Blaise Pascal (1623–1662)

If you do not love too much, you do not love enough. Blaise Pascal (1623–1662)

We are not retreating; we're advancing in another direction. George Smith Patton (1885–1945)

Government works best under the glare of public scrutiny. Absent such scrutiny, abuses occur. Stephen W. Hawking (1942–)

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses. Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865)

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power. Abraham Lincoln, (1809–1865)

Labor is prior to, and independent of, capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration. Abraham Lincoln, (1809–1865)

If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies. Moshe Dayan (1915–1981)

The spiritual path is simply the journey of living our lives. Everyone is on a spiritual path; most people just don't know it. Marianne Williamson (1952–)

Joy is what happens to us when we allow ourselves to recognize how good things really are. Marianne Williamson (1952–)

The truth knocks on the door and you say, "Go away, I'm looking for the truth," and so it goes away." Robert Pirsig, author (1928–)

We can't plan life. All we can do is be available for it. Lauryn Hill (1975–)

The truth will set you free, but not until it is finished with you. David Foster Wallace (1962–2008)

We are never more discontented with others than when we are discontented with ourselves. Henri Frederic Arnier

The trick is in what one emphasizes. We either make ourselves miserable, or we make ourselves happy. The amount of work is the same. Carlos Castaneda (1925–1998)

Porter's Quotations

I freed thousands of slaves. I could have freed thousands more, if they had known they were slaves. Harriet Tubman (1822–1913)

My own suspicion is that the universe is not only queerer than we suppose, but queerer than we *can* suppose. J.B. S. Haldane (1892–1964)

There is no art except by and for others. Jean-Paul Sartre (1905–1980)

The only real prison is fear, and the only real freedom is freedom from fear.
Aung San Suu Kyi

At some point in life the world's beauty becomes enough. You don't need to photograph, paint or even remember it. It is enough. No record of it needs to be kept and you don't need someone to share it with or tell it to. When that happens—that letting go—you let go because you can. Toni Morrison (1931–)

Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong. Ella Fitzgerald (1917–1996)

I have written so many books on God, but after all that, what do I really know? I think, in the end, God is the person you're talking to, the one right in front of you. Leon Dufour

There is no need for you to leave the house. Stay at your table and listen. Don't even listen, just wait. Don't even wait, be completely quiet and alone. The world will offer itself to you to be unmasked, it can't do otherwise; in raptures it will writhe before you. Franz Kafka (1883–1924)

If you want the truth to stand clear before you, never be for or against. The struggle between “for” and “against” is the mind's worst disease. Sent-ts'an, c. 700 CE

Historically, the most terrible things—war, genocide, and slavery—have resulted not from disobedience, but from obedience. Howard Zinn (1922–2010)

Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths. Etty Hillesum

Everyone is responsible and no one is to blame. Will Schutz (1925–2002)

Intellectual inspection is the function of the head. Therefore, whatever understanding we may have of nature from this source is an abstraction or a representation of nature and not nature itself. D. T. Suzuki (1870–1966)

To those who awake, there is one world in common, but to those who are asleep, each is withdrawn to a private world of his own. Heraclitus (535-475 BCE)

Who sees all beings in his own Self and his own Self in all beings, loses all fear.
The Isha Upanishad

We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned so as to have the life that's waiting for us. Joseph Campbell (1904–1987)

Love yourself first, and the rest of your life will fall into place. Lucille Ball (1911–1989)

A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.
Winston Churchill (1874–1965)

If you are seeking closeness to the Beloved, love everyone.
Whether in their presence or absence, see only their good.
If you want to be as clear and refreshing as the breath of the morning breeze, like the sun, have nothing but warmth and light for everyone. Shaikh Abu-Said Abil-Khair

Live each day as fully and joyfully as possible. Imagine the best possible results of any plan or projects. Above all, do not concentrate upon past unfavorable events or imagined future ones. Seth

When you can look at yourself the same way you do a sunset, or a puppy, you are seeing clearly. Seth

If others seem deceitful to you, it is because you deceive yourself, and then project this outward upon others. Seth

You are not your emotions. They flow through you. You feel them. And then they disappear. Seth

Everything does not have to be reasoned out, even to be understood. Seth

You get what you concentrate upon. There is no other main rule. Seth

Porter's Quotations

Everything we imagine and know is inside. There is no outside. Jane Roberts (1929–1984)

The treasure house within you contains everything, and you are free to use it. You don't need to seek outside. Zen Master Dazhu

Courage is the essence of faith. Only the brave can have faith. A wise person is willing to fight his battles within himself. He eventually becomes established in a higher state of mind. Swami Asho Kananda

The temple bell stops, but the sound keeps coming out of the flowers. Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694)

May the door of this home be wide enough
to receive all who hunger for love,
all who are lonely for friendship.
May it welcome all who have cares to unburden,
thanks to express, hopes to nurture.
May the door of this house be narrow enough
to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.
May its threshold be no stumbling block
to young or strained feet.
May it be too high to admit to complacency,
selfishness, and harshness.
May this home be for all who enter,
the doorway to richness and a more meaningful life. The Siddur of Shir
Chadash

It isn't the mountain ahead that wears you out; it's the grain of sand in your shoe. Robert Service (1874–1958)

In order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles. David Ben-Gurion (1886–1973)

Occasionally in life there are those moments of unutterable fulfillment which cannot be completely explained by those symbols called words. Their meanings can only be articulated by the inaudible language of the heart. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1939–1968)

All I'm saying is simply this, that all life is interrelated, that somehow we're caught in an inescapable network of mutuality tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason, I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. You can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the interrelated structure of reality. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1939–1968)

There is no place on Earth to spit. Zen saying

Each and every thing in the world can reveal the dharma, if you give it your utmost respect. This is especially true of anything you have abandoned or rejected—those things that you do not think deserve your utmost respect. Tenshin Reb Anderson (1943–)

Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else. Margaret Mead (1901–1978)

To be wronged is nothing unless you continue to remember it. Confucius (551 BCE–479 BCE)

Forgiveness is giving up all hope of having had a better past. Anne Lamott (1954–)

We begin to find and become ourselves when we notice how we are already found, already truly, entirely, wildly, messily, marvelously who we were born to be. Anne Lamott (1954–)

Lighthouses don't go running all over an island looking for boats to save; they just stand there shining. Anne Lamott (1954–)

Giving Rise to Forgiveness

Our suffering was not caused by our parents or grandparents. It was merely passed down. We are social animals. We grow through modeling. We teach what we have learned. We act as we have been acted upon. A person who is not loving has not experienced love. It is not his fault. Realizing this gives rise to forgiveness. And in Chan we vow that suffering will stop with us. We will not pass it down. Guo Jun, "A Special Transmission"

The function of prayer is not to influence God but rather to change the nature of the one who prays. Søren Aabye Kierkegaard (1813–1855)

Porter's Quotations

The only reason we don't open our hearts and minds to other people is that they trigger confusion in us that we don't feel brave enough or sane enough to deal with. To the degree that we look clearly and compassionately at ourselves, we feel confident and fearless about looking into someone else's eyes. Pema Chodron (1936–)

Meditation is about seeing clearly the body that we have, the mind that we have, the domestic situation that we have, the job that we have, and the people who are in our lives. It's about seeing how we react to all these things. It's seeing our emotions and thoughts just as they are right now, in this very moment, in this very room, on this very seat. It's about not trying to make them go away, not trying to become better than we are, but just seeing clearly with precision and gentleness. Pema Chodron (1936–)

God and I are like / two giant / fat people / living in a tiny boat. We keep bumping / into each other / and laughing. Hāfez (1325/1326 – 1389/1390)

Admit something: Everyone you see, you say to them, "Love me."
Of course you do not do this out loud, otherwise someone would call the cops.
Hāfez (1325/1326–1389/1390)

Still though, think about this, this great pull in us to connect. Why not become the one who lives with a full moon in each eye that is always saying, with that sweet moon language, what every other eye in this world is dying to hear?
Hāfez (1325/1326–1389/1390)

If your love letters are true, dear God, I will surrender myself to Who You keep saying I am. Hāfez (1325/1326 – 1389/1390)

Even after all this time, the sun never says to the earth, "You owe me." Look what happens with a love like that. It lights the whole sky. Hāfez (1325/1326–1389/1390)

If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. African proverb

Fear is excitement without the breath. Fritz Perls (1893–1970)

Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else. J. M. Barrie (1860–1937)

It is often thought that the Buddha's doctrine teaches us that suffering will disappear if one has meditated long enough, or if one sees everything differently. It is not that at all. Suffering isn't going to go away; the one who suffers is going to go away. Ayya Khema (1923–1997)

Warriors are not what you think of as warriors. The warrior is not someone who fights, because no one has the right to take another life. The warrior, for us, is one who sacrifices himself for the good of others. His task is to take care of the elderly, the defenseless, those who can not provide for themselves, and above all, the children, the future of humanity. Sitting Bull (1831–1890)

The opposite of fear is not dauntlessness, it's relaxation. The ability to remain open and mindful under all circumstances, no matter how uncomfortable, is a sign of amazing courage. Susan Piver

Pronoia is the antidote for paranoia. It's the understanding that the universe is fundamentally friendly. It's a mode of training your senses and intellect so you're able to perceive the fact that life always gives you exactly what you need, exactly when you need it. Mr. Brezny

The country is governed for the richest, for the corporations, the bankers, the land speculators, and the exploiters of labor. The majority of mankind are working people. So long as their fair demands—the ownership and control of their livelihoods—are set at naught, we can have neither men's rights nor women's rights. The majority of mankind is ground down by industrial oppression in order that the small remnant may live in ease. Helen Keller (1880–1968)

What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love becomes a part of us. Helen Keller (1880–1968)

When confusion or pain seems to tighten what is possible, when sadness or frustration shrinks your sense of well-being, when worry or fear agitates the peace right out of you, try lending your attention to the nearest thing. . . . Give your full attention over to the nearest patch of life—to how an apple peels and juices—and after a while each thing attended will reveal yet another way back to the center. Mark Nepo (1951–)

Porter's Quotations

Transformation always involves the falling away of things we have relied on, and we are left with a feeling that the world as we know it is coming to an end, because it is. Mark Nepo (1951–)

How easy it is to be cruel when afraid, and how difficult it is to accept that we are all capable of terrible things, and how cleansing it is to realize that true kindness breathes just beneath this acceptance. Mark Nepo (1951–)

Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway. John Wayne (1907–1979)

Another name for God is surprise. Brother David Steindl-Rast

Whenever people say, "We mustn't be sentimental," you can take it they're about to do something cruel, and if they add, "We must be realistic," they mean they're going to make money out of it. Brigit Brophy (1929–)

If you're still following your likes and dislikes you haven't even begun to practice Buddhism. Ajahn Chah (1918–1992)

If it isn't good, let it die. If it doesn't die, make it good. Ajahn Chah (1918–1992)

If you can learn to make the mind still, it will be the greatest help to the world. Ajahn Chah (1918–1992)

If you see certainty in that which is uncertain, you are bound to suffer. Ajahn Chah (1918–1992)

I'm not afraid of storms for I'm learning to sail my ship. Louisa May Alcott (1832–1888)

Every person that you meet knows something you don't; learn from them. H. Jackson Brown

We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations. Charles Swindoll (1934–)

Life begins at the end of your comfort zone. Neale Donald Walsch (1943–)

Peace is the result of retraining your mind to process life as it is, rather than as you think it should be. Wayne W. Dyer (1940–)

If we cannot give up our lives to something larger than ourselves—to something larger than the conditioned mind that we imagine is who we are—then we cannot be free. Justin McKay

The aim of all religions ... is recovery of our real nature by awakening from the living-dream. Wei Wu Wei (1895–1986)

Thoughts are manifestation, phenomenal, part of the dream, and are in relation with the psycho-somatic apparatus that we regard as ours, if not as us. Thoughts arising in the conditioned aspect of consciousness are related to the dream-figure with which we are erroneously identified in the dream of living. Intuition, on the other hand is our impersonal “self”, and when we recognize this we become it for the duration of the apprehension. Wei Wu Wei (1895–1986)

Why are you unhappy?

Because 99.9 per cent

Of everything you think,

And of everything you do,

Is for yourself —

And there isn't one. Wei Wu Wei (1895–1986) from *Ask The Awakened*

Love is all we have, the only way that each can help the other. Euripides (480–406 BCE)

Wherever we are there are voices saying: “Go here, go there, buy this, buy that, get to know him, get to know her, don't miss this, don't miss that,” and so on and on. These voices keep pulling us away from that soft gentle voice that speaks in the center of our being: “You are my beloved, on you my favor rests.” Prayer is the discipline of listening to that voice of love. Henri Nouwen (1932–1996)

If you want to learn how to pray, go to sea. Portuguese proverb

Do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly, we are being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16

Peace requires us to surrender our illusions of control. We can love and care for others but we cannot possess our children, lovers, family, or friends. We can assist them, pray for them, and wish them well, yet in the end their happiness and suffering depend on their thoughts and actions, not on our wishes. Jack Kornfield (1945–)

Porter's Quotations

Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream.
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream. English Nursery Rhyme

Truth is within ourselves; it takes no rise from outward things, whate'er you may believe. There is an inmost centre in us all, where truth abides in fullness.
Robert Browning (1812–1889)

A randy young man from St. Lou
Was giving his sister a screw
Said he, with aplomb,
"You're much better than mom!"
Said she, "That's what dad told me, too!"

There once was a man from Nantucket,
Whose dick was so long he could suck it.
He said with a grin,
As he wiped off his chin,
"If my ear was a cunt, I would fuck it."

O God, help me to believe the truth about myself no matter how beautiful it is!
Macrina Weiderkher, a Benedictine nun

Forgiving is not forgetting, it's letting go of the hurt. Mary McLeod Bethune
(1875–1955)

Life always gives us exactly the teacher we need at every moment. . . . Every moment is the guru. Charlotte Joko Beck (1917–2011)

For that which is born death is certain, and for the dead birth is certain.
Therefore grieve not over that which is unavoidable. Bhagavad Gita

Love says I am everything. Wisdom says I am nothing. Between the two my life flows. Nisagardatta

Life is not a problem to be solved; it is a mystery to be lived. Osho

Old and young, we are all on our last cruise. Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894)

Don't change. Change is impossible, and even if it were possible, it is undesirable. Stay as you are. Love yourself as you are. And change, if it is at all possible, will take place by itself if and when it wants. Leave yourselves alone. The only growth-promoting change is that which comes from self-acceptance. Anthony de Mello

Enlightenment is absolute cooperation with the inevitable. Anthony de Mello

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect. Chief Seattle (1780–1866)

By being yourself you put something wonderful in the world that was not there before. Edwin Elliot

Giving is not
An obligation.
Giving is
Self-expansion. Sri Chinmoy

Life is a garden,
not a road
we enter and exit
through the same gate
wandering.
Where we go matters less
than what we notice. Bokonon (1891– ?)

Nothing is more conducive to peace of mind than not having any opinions at all. Georg Christoph Lichtenberg (1742–1799)

Joy is that kind of happiness that doesn't depend on what happens. Brother David Steindl-Rast (1926–)

In the depths of winter I finally realized that within me there lay an invincible summer. Albert Camus (1913–1960)

Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom. Theodore Isaac Rubin (1923–)

Porter's Quotations

Today I bent the truth to be kind, and I have no regret, for I am far surer of what is kind than I am of what is true. Robert Brault

Life isn't happening to you; life is responding to you. Rhonda Byrne

Clear mind is like the full moon in the sky. Sometimes clouds come and cover it, but the moon is always behind them. Clouds go away, then the moon shines brightly. So don't worry about clear mind: it is always there. When thinking comes, behind it is clear mind. When thinking goes, there is only clear mind. Thinking comes and goes, comes and goes. You must not be attached to the coming or the going. Seung Sahn (1927–2004)

The first duty of love is to listen. Paul Tillich (1886–1965)

The music is not in the notes, but in the silence in between. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

When you walk across the fields with your mind pure and holy, then from all the stones, and all growing things, and all animals, the sparks of their soul come out and cling to you, and then they are purified and become a holy fire in you.

Ancient Hasidic saying

If you don't become the ocean, you'll be seasick every day. Leonard Cohen (1934–)

If we do not change our direction, we are likely to end up where we are headed. Ancient Chinese Proverb

Happiness is a deep breath. Ana Brett