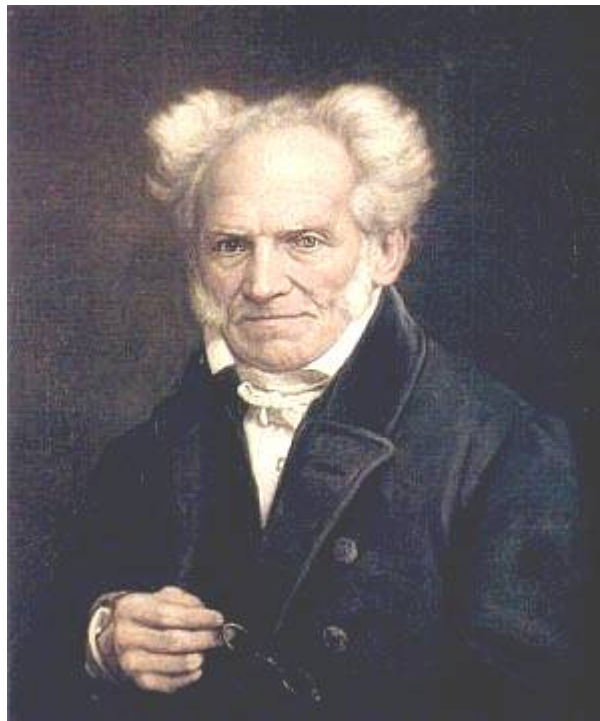


# QUOTES FOR MISANTHROPE:

## Mocking Homo Hypocritus



Arthur Schopenhauer, a misanthrope for all times

Bruce L. Gary

Other Books by Bruce L. Gary

ESSAYS FROM ANOTHER PARADIGM, 1992, 1993 (Abridged Edition)

GENETIC ENSLAVEMENT:

A CALL TO ARMS FOR INDIVIDUAL LIBERATION, 2004, 2006

THE MAKING OF A MISANTHROPE: BOOK 1, AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 2005

A MISANTHROPE'S HOLIDAY: VIGNETTES AND STORIES, 2007

EXOPLANET OBSERVING FOR AMATEURS, 2007

THE MAKING OF A MISANTHROPE: BOOK 2, MIDNIGHT THOUGHTS (2008)

# **QUOTES FOR MISANTHROPEs**

## **Mocking Homo Hypocritus**

Bruce L. Gary

Reductionist Publications, d/b/a  
5320 E. Calle Manzana  
Hereford, AZ 85615

Copyright 2008 by Bruce L. Gary

Published by Reductionist Publications d/b/a  
5320 E. Calle Manzana  
Hereford, AZ 85615

Second Edition: 2008 July 29

Printed by Mira Digital Publishing, St. Louis, MO; USA

All rights reserved except for brief passages quoted in a review. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form and by any means: electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without express prior permission from the publisher. Requests for usage permission or additional information should be addressed to: Reductionist Publications, 5320 E. Calle Manzana; Hereford, AZ 85615, or:

BLGARY@umich.edu

ISBN 978-0-9798446-2-1

## DEDICATION

Democritus of Abdera

Titus Lucretius

Julien Offray de la Mettrie

Paul d'Holbach

Pierre-Simon Laplace

Arthur Schopenhauer

Gustav R. Kirchhoff

Thomas H. Huxley

Herbert G. Wells

Theodore Dreiser

Bertrand Russell

Albert Einstein

Will Durant

Erwin Edman

Edward O. Wilson

Steven Weinberg

Carl Sagan

Richard Dawkins

Daniel Dennett

Douglas R. Hofstadter

For bravely promoting the scientific premise of reductionism.





*“Tell me your most cherished belief, and I’ll mock it!” A misanthrope pastime.*





# **C O N T E N T S**

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Classic Quotes</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2 Never Quoted Quotes</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>3 A Free Man's Worship</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>4 Your Odyssey</b>	<b>81</b>



---

## INTRODUCTION

---

This book's title was inspired by the fact that the quotations were selected by a misanthrope for the enjoyment of other misanthropes who are prone to mocking human nature. The quotations are not meant to be offensive, but since some are candid comments about human nature it is inevitable that they will be offensive – at least to the non-misanthrope.

### **Misanthrope Clarified**

The dictionary definition for misanthrope includes the phrase “hates or scorns mankind.” I would prefer a definition that includes the phrase: “is profoundly disappointed in mankind.”

As we misanthropes have come to acknowledge that the quality of human behavior comes woefully short of its potential, we also cling to a fading belief that better versions of humans are theoretically possible, and may some day evolve. This muted optimism must be a residue from childhood. Probably every misanthrope once believed that humans were basically good, that bad behavior was an inadvertent straying from a desired path of virtue. That's what I thought as a child. Such an idealistic vision was tarnished for me as a 6-year old who browsed books portraying the horrors of World War II.

By adulthood, having read history, I knew that humans can be evil, as evil as can be imagined – and more so. The scourge of war, and its incessant occurrence, belie that gentle nature that is hypocritically portrayed for public consumption. As Freud wrote in *Civilization and its Discontents* (1930), “...men are not gentle, friendly creatures wishing for love, who simply defend themselves if they are attacked, but that a powerful measure of desire for aggression has to be reckoned as part of their instinctual endowment.”

The evil that resides below the surface of every human, ready to be triggered by specific social settings, can only be understood from the perspective of sociobiology. The other books I've written express this dark theme, where I speculate on the fate of human civilizations, and why all of them have endings. If anyone has stomach for ugly speculations, or unflattering explanations for the way we are, I hesitatingly suggest that you consider reading my book *Genetic Enslavement: A Call to Arms for Individual Liberation* (2006).

## INTRODUCTION

When I wait in a checkout line I sometimes regard my fellow man and wonder how he would have behaved had he lived in Nazi Germany. Would he have saluted Hitler, joined the SA or SS; could he have become a prison guard at a concentration camp? Given that most Nazi era Germans condoned Hitler, and that today's Germans are genetically the same, how can anyone avoid the only possible answer? If the United States economy collapses, plunging Americans to the same depths of despair that afflicted Germany after World War I, could I count on the nice people I see in the supermarket to adhere to civilized behavior? I always come to the same conclusion: civilized behavior is a veneer, under which is the capacity for tribal behavior that would have no mercy for anyone not resembling a loyal fellow tribesman.

Finally, to clarify my version of a misanthrope, I would be remiss in not rebutting the common misperception that we are unhappy sourpusses. I claim to be one of the happiest humans on the planet. As Richard Dawkins has remarked, "It is a privilege to have been born, and live on this planet for a few decades." Mankind's pathetic drama is just one more existential "given." I will admit to frequently laughing at the drama, while exclaiming "Humans!" with resigned exasperation. It sometimes helps to declare that everything is an elaborate performance for my amusement, which may be a coping strategy to avoid becoming overwhelmed with grief.

### **Hypocrisy**

I should explain my use of the term "homo hypocritus." In anthropology a trait that is common to all human cultures is called a "human universal." I claim that "hypocrisy" should be added to this list. Some academics who study the origin of language have even speculated that speech evolved for the purpose of misleading others. But it's worse than this; people trick themselves with beliefs that serve the moment when a job has to be done. I love the phrase in Spanish "quando conviene," which literally translates to "when convenient" or "when it serves oneself."

In high school I became aware of a growing disgust for something about humans. I'll always remember the day in English Literature class, when we were studying Shakespeare, the revelation that what disgusted me had a word: hypocrisy! I nurtured this thought, and took the default view that anyone I didn't know was a charlatan, a fraud, or simply a member of the species "homo hypocritus." Many of the quotations in this book were probably chosen because of a subconscious need to call attention to this ugly truth. Indeed, this book may have been inspired by a desire to share my disappointment with human hypocrisy.

### **Incredulosity**

I'd like to call your attention to a pattern in my selection of quotes. Many of them are "gold nuggets" from about 2000 years ago! It is somehow gratifying to realize that human hypocrisy was recognized and mocked that long ago. Today, books are being published at the shameful rate of 3000 per day, and most of them are "idiotic" – in my humble opinion. You will look in vain for nuggets in them.

Perhaps "idiotic" and "humble opinion" are not the right words for describing my disdain for most books, as well as most people. I have gradually arrived at the belief that a few lucky people are born without the "belief gene." If you're like me, and don't have this gene, then your brain connections cause you to be puzzled by people who insist on the existence of supernatural powers, a pantheon of gods who make wind, rile the oceans and float in the heavens fretting over human misbehavior. I suspect this mischievous gene originated as a genetic tool for keeping tribal members loyal to tribal endeavors. My reasons for this speculation are dealt with elsewhere (*Genetic Enslavement*).

Not all intelligent people have the belief gene, but a correlation does exist. Among the general public 96% have the belief gene. Among scientists the rate is 39%. Accomplished scientists come in at 15%. Among the most accomplished scientists, those belonging to the National Academy of Sciences, the rate drops to 7%. And if the fluffy disciplines could be deleted from consideration (sociology, psychology, etc) I allege that the rate would be even lower. These numbers imply that the "belief gene" is anti-correlated with intelligence.

If I am correct in believing that each person is born with a strong predisposition to either believe in outlandish things or not, then it behooves me to refrain from criticizing those who don't share my outlook. I like to believe that with age I have mellowed. Therefore, dear reader, if you are offended by some of the quotes in this book, then I hope you will accept my apology for the offence. That is not my intent. My intent is to amuse those who think like me.

It will be useful to dwell a little on what misanthropes are up against if they try to present their ideas publicly. Consider the following quotation by an unashamed apologist for humans. "I detest all systems that depreciate human nature. If it be a delusion that there is something in the constitution of man that is venerable and worthy of its author, let me live and die in that delusion, rather than have my eyes opened to see my species in a humiliating light. Every good man feels his indignation rise against those who disparage his

## INTRODUCTION

*kindred* or his *country*; why should it not rise against those who disparage his *kind*?" (Thomas Reid, letter, 1775). This person could have uttered "My country, right or wrong!" I will assume that nobody who thinks like that will be reading this book.

### **Organization of Quotes**

Reading a collection of quotations arranged by categories becomes boring; at least for me they do. *Bartlett's Quotations* overcomes this by arranging the quotes by date. My collection has no obvious order, by intention, since it has been "randomized" by a method that takes no account of the subject, the author, or the date. Most entries are ordered alphabetically using the first significant word of the entry (which helps in the search for a specific quote if you know its first word). That way you'll probably never see two quotes about the same subject next to each other. I like the surprise of not knowing what the next entry will be about.

There are three parts to the book. The main part is a collection of quotes from the public domain, which I call "classic quotes." The second part, which is shorter, is a collection of things I've written. Since nobody has ever quoted them my entries can't be called quotes, but their "flavor" is similar. Please accept my humble apology for including mine under the same book cover. It's fun pretending they have merit.

The third part of this book is a condensed version of Bertrand Russell's essay "A Free Man's Worship." I consider it the "gold standard" for both writing style and substance of thought. One reader complained that it was difficult to understand, because of its poetic nature, so I include my "translation" of the essay. Some snippets of it are sprinkled throughout the classic quotations part of this book.

Whoever you are, I hope you enjoy at least some of this book.

---

# PART 1

## CLASSIC QUOTES

---

"...an actor who has played his part in one scene, and who takes his place among the audience 'til it is time for him to go upon the stage again, and quietly looks on at whatever may happen ..." Schopenhauer, describing everyday life, in *The World As Will and Idea*, 1844; p 47 of *The Philosophy of Schopenhauer*, edited by Irwin Edman, 1928

"A bad neighbor is a misfortune, as much as a good one is a great blessing." Hesiod, *The Theogony, Bk I*, 346, 700 BC

"A fanatic is one who has redoubled his energies after forgetting his aim." Santayana (approximate quote)

"A fool uttereth all his mind." *Bible*, Proverbs

"A good death does honor to a whole life." Petrarch, ca 1350 AD

"A hen is only an egg's way of making another egg." Samuel Butler, *Life and Habit*, 1877

"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step." Lao-tzu, *The Way of Lao-tzu*, before 531 BC

"A man can believe a considerable deal of rubbish, and yet go about his daily work in a rational and cheerful manner." Norman Douglas

"A man can surely do what he wills to do, but he cannot determine what he wills." Arthur Schopenhauer

"A man finds himself, to his great astonishment, suddenly existing, after thousands and thousands of years of non-existence: he lives for a little while; and then, again, comes an equally long period when he must exist no more." Schopenhauer, *Studies in Pessimism*

"A man he seems of cheerful yesterdays, and confident tomorrows." William Wordsworth, *The Excursion*, 1814

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"A man is no prophet in his own country." Anonymous

"A man left the old world to come to America. After some years the man returned home disenchanted. 'What's wrong?' asked his friends. 'Weren't the streets of America paved with gold bricks?' 'Yes they were,' answers the returnee, 'but no one told me you had to bend over to pick them up.'  
Anonymous

"A man must have his faults." Gaius Petronius, ca 50 AD

"A man must make his opportunity, as oft as find it." Francis Bacon, *The Advancement of Learning*, 1605

"A man should be mourned at his birth, not at his death." Charles de Secondat, *Letters Persanes*, 1721

"A man's character is his fate." Heraklitus, before 480 BC

"A man's homeland is wherever he prospers." Aristophanes, *Plutus*, 388 BC

"A man's manners are a mirror in which he shows his portrait." Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Proverbs in Prose*, 1803

"A mighty pain to love it is, and 'tis a pain that pain to miss; but of all pains, the greatest pain, it is to love, but love in vain." Abraham Cowley, *Anacreon*, 1656

"A millionaire who commissioned masterpieces to burn would find (few takers)... Every sort of artist demands human response." H. G. Wells, *Country of the Blind and Other Short Stories, Intro*, 1913

"A mind not to be changed by place or time. The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heav'n of hell, a hell in heav'n." John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, 1667

"A prudent (grateful) man will think more important what fate has conceded to him than what it has denied." Francis Bacon

"A shipwrecked sailor on this coast bids you set sail; Full many a gallant ship, ere we were lost, weathered the gale." Greek anthology

"A strange mystery it is that Nature, omnipotent but blind, in the revolution of her secular hurrying through the abyss of space, has brought forth at last a



## CLASSIC QUOTES

child, subject still to her power, but gifted with sight, with knowledge of good and evil, with the capacity of judging all the works of this unthinking Mother." Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Worship," 1903

"A sure way to arouse love is to love very little yourself." Francois de la Rochefoucauld

"A useless life is an early death." Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Iphigenia in Tauris*, 1787

"A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds." Francis Bacon

"A wit with dunces, and a dunce with wits." Alexander Pope, *The Dunciad*, 1727

"A woman drove me to drink and I never even had the courtesy to thank her." W. C. Fields

"A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle." Gloria Steinem

"Absence diminishes mediocre passions and increases great ones, as the wind blows out candles and fans fire." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678

"Accuse not Nature, she hath done her part; do thou but thine." John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, 1667

"Adversity introduces a man to himself." Anonymous

"Ah, make the most of what we yet may spend; Before we too into the Dust descend." Omar Khayyam, *The Rubaiyat*, 1859, Edward FitzGerald, translator

"Alcohol is the anesthesia by which we endure the operation of life." George Bernard Shaw

"Alcohol is the cause and solution to all life's problems." Dan Castellaneta, as Homer Simpson

"All books are divisible into two classes: the books of the hour, and the books of all time." John Ruskin, *Of Kings' Treasuries*, 1865

"All great truths begin as blasphemies." George Bernard Shaw

## CLASSIC QUOTES

“All the noonday brightness of human genius is destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and the whole temple of Man’s achievements must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins...”  
Bertrand Russell, “A Free Man’s Worship,” 1903

"All this buttoning and unbuttoning." 18th Century suicide note, anonymous

"Although we are mere sojourners on the surface of the planet, chained to a mere point in space, enduring but for a moment of time, the human mind is not only enabled to number worlds beyond the unassisted ken of mortal eye, but to trace the events of indefinite ages before the creation of our race, and is not even withheld from penetrating into the dark secrets of the ocean, or the interior of the solid globe; free, like the spirit which the poet described as animating the universe." Sir Charles Lyell, *Principle of Geology*, 1830

“Although we do not in life know where we are going, we experience beyond a doubt the fatigues of the journey.” Balzac

"Am I a god? I see so clearly!" Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Faust*, 1808

"Ambition is pitiless. Any merit that it cannot use it finds despicable." Joubert

"Among theologians, heretics are those who are not backed with a sufficient array of battalions to render them orthodox." Voltaire, *Philosophical Dictionary*, 1764

"An expert is a man who doesn't make the slightest error on the road to the Grand Illusion." Marshall McLuhan

"An optimist thinks that this is the best possible world. A pessimist fears that this is true." Anonymous

"An undertow of pessimism seemed to be dragging the finest, and once the most fervent, souls into a maelstrom of cynicism and despair. Everything had been tried, the most superhuman efforts had been made; but every effort had failed. There was hardly anything left to do, except perhaps, if one could, to eat and drink and be merry while it was day. For the night would come, after which there would be nothing." Will Durant, describing the temper of the Twenties, *Transition: A Mental Autobiography*, New York: Simon and Shuster, 1927

"And, dying, bless the hand that gave the blow." John Dryden, *Absalom and Achitophel*, 1680

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Anacharsis laughed at him [Solon] for imagining [that] the dishonesty and covetousness of his countrymen could be restrained by written laws, which were like spiders' webs, and would catch, it is true, the weak and poor, but be broken by the mighty and rich." Anacharsis, 600 BC

"And as the smart ship grew; In stature, grace, and hue; In shadowy silent distance grew the Iceberg too." Thomas Hardy, *The Convergence of the Twain* (Lines on the Loss of the Titanic), 1912

"And this, too, shall pass away." Quoted by Abraham Lincoln, attributed to wise men counseling a Chinese monarch, 1859

"And though we are hemmed into this narrow nook of time, we can see with the eyes of all those who in any age saw beyond it, sharing eternity with those who have anywhere or in any century shared it." Erwin Edman, *The Contemporary and His Soul*, 1931

"Are you Robert Redford?" "Only when I'm alone." Pollack, Redford exchange on a street

"Aristotle could have avoided the mistake of thinking that women had fewer teeth than men by the simple device of asking Mrs. Aristotle to open her mouth." Bertrand Russell

"Aristotle was famous for knowing everything. He taught that the brain exists merely to cool the blood and is not involved in the process of thinking. This is true only of certain people." Will Cuffy

"As a well spent day brings happy sleep, so life well used brings happy death." Leonardo de Vinci, ca 1510

"As long as I count the votes, what are you going to do about it?" Tammany Hall boss William Marcy Tweed

"As to the common people, ... one has to be hard with them and see that they do their work and that under the threat of the sword and the law they comply with the observance of piety, just as you chain up wild beasts. All our experience with history should teach us, when we look back, how badly human wisdom is betrayed when it relies on itself. Reason is the greatest enemy that faith has; it never comes to the aid of spiritual things, but -- more frequently than not -- struggles against the divine Word, treating with contempt all that emanates from God. Reason should be destroyed in all Christians. Reason is the Devil's greatest whore; by nature and manner of

## CLASSIC QUOTES

being she is a noxious whore; she is a prostitute, the Devil's appointed whore; whore eaten by scab and leprosy who ought to be trodden under foot and destroyed, she and her wisdom ... Throw dung in her face to make her ugly. She is and she ought to be drowned in baptism... She would deserve, the wretch, to be banished to the filthiest place in the house, to the closets." Martin Luther, *Erlangen Edition* v. 16, pp. 142-14

"At thirty, a man suspects himself a fool; Knows it at forty, and reforms his plan; At fifty chides his infamous delay; Pushes his purpose to resolve; In all the magnanimity of thought Resolves, and re-resolves; then dies the same." Edward Young, *Night Thoughts*, 1742

"Awake, arise, or be forever fallen!" John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, 1667

"Be good and you will be lonesome." Mark Twain, *Following the Equator, Pudd'nhead Wilson's New Calendar*, 1897

"Be not the first by whom the new are tried, Nor yet the last to lay the old aside." Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*, 1711

"Be wary of strong drink. It can make you shoot at tax collectors and miss." Lazarus Long, *Time Enough for Love*

"Beggars that I am, I am even poor in thanks." William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, 1601

"Beggars mounted run their horse to death." William Shakespeare, *King Henry the Sixth*, 1591

"Believing is seeing." Robert Thurman

"Better sleep with a sober cannibal than a drunken Christian." Herman Melville, *Moby Dick*

"Beware the fury of a patient man." John Dryden, *Absalom and Achitophel*, 1680

"Blessed is the man who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed" Alexander Pope, *Letter to Fortescue*, 1725

"Boys flying kites pull in their white winged birds, but you can't do that when you are flying words; Thought unexpressed may sometimes fall back dead;

## CLASSIC QUOTES

but God himself can't kill them when they are said." 19th Century, William Carleton (restatement of quote by Horace, 20 BC, "Once a word...")

"Brief and powerless is Man's life; on him and all his race the slow, sure doom falls pitiless and dark. Blind to good and evil, reckless of destruction, omnipotent matter rolls on its relentless way; for Man, condemned today to lose his dearest, tomorrow himself to pass through the gate of darkness, it remains only to cherish, ere yet the blow falls, the lofty thoughts that ennoble his little day; disdaining the coward terrors of the slave of Fate, to worship at the shrine that his own hands have built; undismayed by the empire of chance, to preserve a mind free from the wanton tyranny that rules his outward life; proudly defiant of the irresistible forces that tolerate, for a moment, his knowledge and his condemnation, to sustain alone, a weary but unyielding Atlas, the world that his own ideals have fashioned despite the trampling march of unconscious power." Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Worship," 1903

"But in deed, a friend is never known till a man have need." John Heywood, ca 1560 AD

"But man, proud man, drest in a little authority, most ignorant of what he's most assur'd, his glassy essence, like an angry ape, plays such fantastic tricks before high heaven, as make the angels weep." William Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, 1604

"But such is the irresistible nature of truth, that all it asks, and all it wants, is the liberty of appearing." Thomas Paine

"Cease to ask what the morrow will bring forth, and set down as gain each day that Fortune grants. ...Seize the day, put no trust in the morrow." Horace, *Odes*, ca 20 BC

"Children have real understanding only of that which they invent themselves, and each time that we try to teach them something too quickly, we keep them from reinventing it themselves." Jean Piaget

"The circus performer who places his head within a lion's mouth, and safely removes it, does not deserve applause. To safely complete something foolish is reward enough."

"Civilization is a parasite on the man with a hoe." Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization: The Reformation*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1957, p 752

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Common sense is not so common." Voltaire, *Dictionnaire Philosophique*, 1764

"Complete communication between two people (is) impossible." Georges Simenon, as quoted by Anthony Storr, in *Solitude*, p 120, where original reference is given *Writers at Work*, Malcolm Cowley

"Death is a better, milder fate than tyranny." Aeschylus, *Agamemnon*, before 456 BC

"Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want - and deserve to get it good and hard!" H. L. Mencken

"Did I not tell you earlier that a Jew is such a noble, precious jewel that God and all the angels dance when he farts?" Martin Luther, *On the Jews and Their Lies*, 1543

"...a discovery so simple that only a genius could have thought of it." Attributed to Einstein, commenting on Jean Piaget's childhood development insights

"Do not be coarse in your conversations. Do not cast lustful glances, or make eyes at another man's wife. Restrain yourself from getting angry or using offensive language. If you cannot, go back to your own house." Sign on wall of residence, named The House of the Moralists, in Pompeii ruins. *Lost Civilizations, Pompeii: The Vanished City*, Time-Life Books, p. 93

"Do you know what the real question for a this is? How much truth can you stand?" Irvin D. Yalom, *When Nietzsche Wept*, 1992, spoken by Nietzsche character

"Dogma occupies the idle reason, but action in the end pursues its own course independently of them, generally not according to abstract rules ..." Schopenhauer, *The World As Will and Idea*, 1844, p 41 of *The Philosophy of Schopenhauer*, edited by Irwin Edman, 1928

"During a space flight, the psyche of each astronaut is reshaped. Having seen the sun, the stars, and our planet, you become more full of life, softer. You begin to look at all living things with greater trepidation and you begin to be more kind and patient with the people around you. At any rate, that is what happened to me." Boris Volynov, Soviet Cosmonaut

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Each day is a little life: every waking and rising a little birth, every fresh morning a little youth, every going to rest and sleep a little death." Arthur Schopenhauer, *Parerga and Paralipomena, Counsels and Maxims*, 1851

"Each progressive spirit is opposed by a thousand mediocre minds appointed to guard the past." Maurice Masterlinck

"Earnestness is too often a cloak for intellectual and spiritual insufficiency." Robertson Davies, "On the Dangerous Edge," in Clifton Fadiman, ed., *Living Philosophies: The Reflections of Some Eminent Men and Women of Our Time* (New York: Doubleday, 1990), 130-7

"Educated men are as much superior to uneducated men as the living are to the dead." Aristotle, ca 330 BC

"Enough, if something from our hands have power to live, and act, and serve the future hour." William Wordsworth, *The River Duddon*, 1820

"Error is a hardy plant: it flourishes in every soil." Martin Tupper, *Proverbial Philosophy*, 1842

"Ethics is ... the art of recommending to others the sacrifices for cooperation with oneself." Bertrand Russell, *Mysticism and Logic*, p. 108, New York: Norton & Co., 1929

"Eugenic belief extends the function of philanthropy to future generations." Francis Galton, *Essays in Eugenics: Eugenics as a Factor in Religion*, 1905

"Every nation has the government it deserves." Joseph de Maistre, *Letter to X*, 1811

"Everyone seems normal until you get to know them." Anonymous

"Every reform, however necessary, will by weak minds be carried to an excess, that itself will need reforming." Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Biographica Literaria*, 1817

"Every time a child says 'I don't believe in fairies' there is a little fairy somewhere that falls down dead." J. M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

"Every woman should marry - and no man." Benjamin Disraeli, *Lothair*, 1870

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Every year civilization is invaded by millions of barbarians; they are called children." Hannah Arendt, paraphrased from lost source

"Everyone complains of his memory, and no one complains of his judgment." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678

"Everything Earthly is remembered as if it were very long ago and were no longer there, and it is not known when we will be (there) again." Aleksandr Aleksandrov, Soviet Cosmonaut

"Everything that emancipates the spirit without giving us control over ourselves is harmful." Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Proverbs in Prose*, 1803

"Excessive laziness is a slow death." H. Bloom, *The Lucifer Principle*, 1997

"Experience is something you don't get until after you need it." Anonymous

"Families with babies and families without babies are sorry for each other." E. W. Howe

"Fate chooses our relatives, we choose our friends." Jacques Delille, *Malheur et Pitie, Canto I*, 1803

"Few love to hear the sins they love to act." William Shakespeare, *Pericles*, 1609

"Few men make themselves masters of things they write or speak [about]." John Selden, *Table Talk*, 1689

"Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example." Mark Twain, *Pudd'nhead Wilson, Pudd'nhead Wilson's Calendar*, 1894

"...footprints on the sands of time." Henry W. Longfellow, *A Psalm to Life*, 1839

"For just experience tells, in every soil; that those (who) think must govern those (who) toil." Oliver Goldsmith, *The Traveller*, 1764

"For my own part, I would as soon be descended from that heroic little monkey who braved his dreaded enemy in order to save the life of his keeper, or from that old baboon who descending from the mountains and carried away in triumph his young comrade from a crowd of astonished dogs - as from a



## CLASSIC QUOTES

savage who delights to torture his enemies, offers up bloody sacrifices, practices infanticide without remorse, treats his wives like slaves, knows no decency, and is haunted by the grossest superstitions." Charles Darwin, 1871

"For now I see peace to corrupt no less than war to waste." John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, 1667

"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required; and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." *Holy Bible*, Luke 12:48

"For you in my respect are all the world: Then how can it be said I am alone, When all the world is here to look on me?" William Shakespeare, *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*, 1596

"Fortune does not change men; it unmaskes them." Mme. Necker

"Free will is an egotistic delusion." Will Durant, *Transition: A Mental Autobiography*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1927

"Freedom is the recognition of necessity." Spinoza

"Freedom unlimited is chaos complete." Will & Ariel Durant, *The Story of Civilization: The Age of Napoleon*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1975, p.173

"Generally speaking, it is quite right if great things - things of much sense for men of rare sense - are expressed but briefly and (hence) darkly, so that barren minds will declare it to be nonsense, rather than translate it into a nonsense that they can comprehend. For mean, vulgar minds have an ugly facility for seeing in the profoundest and most pregnant utterances only their own everyday opinion." Jean Paul, as quoted by Friedrich Nietzsche, *Philosophy in the Tragic Age of the Greeks*, 1894 (M. Cowan, trans., Chicago: gateway, p. 69)

"Genius must be born, and never can be taught." John Dryden, *Epistle to Congreve*, 1693

"Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving."  
Anonymous

"Give me chastity and continence, but not just now." Saint Augustine, ca 410 AD

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Given for one instant an intelligence which could comprehend all the forces by which nature is animated and the respective positions of the beings which compose it, if moreover this intelligence were vast enough to submit these data to analysis, it would embrace in the same formula both the movements of the largest bodies in the universe and those of the lightest atom; to it nothing would be uncertain, and the future, as the past, would be present to its eyes." Pierre Simon de Laplace, *Oeuvres, vol. VII, Theorie Analytique dse Probabilities*, 1812-1820 (predating H.G. Wells' essay "Rigid Universe" and also Albert Einstein's time as a 4<sup>th</sup> dimension)

"God damn you all, I told you so!" H. G. Wells, suggestion for his epitaph, ~1945, referring to his warning to humanity to avoid atomic war, in his book *The World Set Free*, 1914

"God made integers, all else is the work of man." Leopold Kronecker, *Jahresberichte der Deutschen Mathematiker Vereinigung*, late 19th Century

"Good news, oh beautiful planet, the accursed race of Man is not immortal." Robinson Jeffers

"Greatness knows itself." William Shakespeare, *King Henry the Fourth*, 1597

"Happiness is like a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp, but, if you sit down quietly, may alight upon you." Nathaniel Hawthorne

"Has anything arisen to show ... that where the life and breeding of every individual of a species is about equally secure, a degenerative process must not inevitably supervene? ...Natural Selection grips us more grimly than it ever did, because the doubts thrown upon the inheritance of acquired characteristics have deprived us of our trust in education as a means of redemption for decadent families. In our hearts we wish that the case were not so, we all hate Death and his handiwork; but the business of science is not to keep up the courage of men, but to tell the truth." H. G. Wells, "Bio-Optimism," *Nature*, Aug 29, 1895

"Have no friends not equal to yourself." Confucius, before 479 BC

"He disdains all things above his reach..." Sir Thomas Overbury, *An Affectate Traveller*, 1614

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"He hath no leisure who useth it not." George Herbert, *Jacula Prudentum*, 1651

"He knows the universe, and himself he does not know." Jean de La Fontaine, *Fables*, 1668

"He that is down, needs fear no fall." John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, 1678

"He that is not handsome at twenty, nor strong at thirty, nor rich at forty, nor wise at fifty, will never be handsome, strong, rich or wise." George Herbert, *Jacula Prudentum*, 1651

"He [who] is robbed, not wanting what is stol'n, let him not know't and he's not robb'd at all." William Shakespeare, *Othello*, 1605

"He [who] lends, gives." George Herbert, *Jacula Prudentum*, 1651

"He [who] will not apply new remedies must expect new evils; for time is the greatest innovator." Francis Bacon, *Essays*, 1625

"He who has done his best for his own time has lived for all times." Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller, *Wallenstein's Camp*, 1798

"He who is in love with himself has at least this advantage - that he won't encounter many rivals in his love." Lichtenberg

"He who knows does not speak; he who speaks does not know." Lao-tzu, *The Way of Lao-tzu*, before 531 BC

"He who praises everybody, praises nobody." James Boswell, *Life of Johnson*, 1791

"He who says there is no such thing as an honest man, you may be sure is himself a knave." George Berkeley, *Maxims Concerning Patriotism*, 1744

"He who speaks the truth should keep one foot in the stirrup." Turkish (?) proverb

"He will through life be master of himself and a happy man who from day to day can have said: 'I have lived: tomorrow the Father may fill the sky with black clouds or with cloudless sunshine.'" Horace, *Odes*, ca 20 BC

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Health and intellect are the two blessings of life." Menander, ca 300 BC

Higgamus Hoggamus, Woman is Monogamous; Hoggamus Higgamus, Man is Polygamous."

"His conduct still right, with his argument wrong." Oliver Goldsmith, *The Deserted Village*, 1770

"History, down to the present day, is a melancholy record of the horrors which can attend religion; human sacrifice, and in particular the slaughter of children, cannibalism, sensual orgies, abject superstition, hatred as between races, the maintenance of degrading customs, hysteria, bigotry, can all be laid at its charge. Religion is the last refuge of human savagery." Alfred North Whitehead, *Religion in the Making*, Macmillan, 1926

"Home is where the computer is..." Felix The Cat

"Hope is generally a wrong guide, though it is very good company by the way." Halifax

"Hope, utter charlatan though she be, at least lures us to life's end along a pretty path." Francois de la Rochefoucauld

"How absurd it would be that an organization nineteen hundred years old, caring for three hundred million souls, should accept new-fangled philosophies on the recommendation of a few men temporarily enthusiastic about a temporary hypothesis? How many 'truths' had the Church seen come and go, how many sciences, during its life, had been born and passed away; what guarantee was there that the favorite guesses of modern thought would not seem to a later age as ridiculous as the star-reading of the astrologers, the head-reading of the phrenologists, and the gold-making of the alchemists? Science, like most history, was a fable agreed upon - for a while. No, these matters of theory were not the important things. What counted was the tremendous effort to humanize and socialize the race; to curb the greed of the strong and comfort the sorrow of the weak; to frighten evil-doers with the fear of Hell, and hold out to the unhappy or bereaved the solacing hope of paradise; to preach to all men incessantly the virtues of gentleness and kindness, and fill their dull lives with the poetry of the sacraments and the Mass. This was the mission of the Church..." Will Durant (describing his restless thinking before leaving the church), 1927, *Transition: A Mental Autobiography*, New York: Simon and Schuster

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"How dreadful knowledge of the truth can be, when there's no help in truth!"  
Sophocles, *Ajax*, before 406 BC

"How happy he who crowns in shades like these, a youth of labor with an age  
of ease." Oliver Goldsmith, *The Deserted Village*, 1770

"How many evils have flowed from religion!" Lucretius, ca. 60 B

"Humankind cannot stand too much reality!" T. S. Elliot, ABC News

"I am always grieved when a man of real talent dies. The world needs such  
men more than Heaven." Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, *Aphorisms*, 1798

"I count religion but a childish toy, and hold that there is no sin but  
ignorance." Christopher Marlowe, 1589

"I desire to live in peace and to continue the life I have begun under the motto  
**to live well you must live unseen.**" Rene Descartes, letter dated April 1634

"I detest all systems that depreciate human nature. If it be a delusion that there  
is something in the constitution of man that is venerable and worthy of its  
author, let me live and die in that delusion, rather than have my eyes opened  
to see my species in a humiliating light. Every good man feels his  
indignation rise against those who disparage his *kindred* or his *country*; why  
should it not rise against those who disparage his *kind*?" Thomas Reid, letter,  
1775

"I do not believe in the God of theology who rewards good and punishes  
evil. My God created the laws that take care of that. His universe is not ruled  
by wishful thinking, but by immutable laws." Albert Einstein, 1955

"I do perceive here a divided duty." William Shakespeare, *Othello*, 1605

"I have another duty... My duty to myself." Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House*,  
1879

"I have been married three times, and not one of them was a failure."  
Margaret Mead (response to explain why all her marriages were failures), as  
relayed by Helen Fisch

"I have fears that I may cease to be; Before my pen has gleaned my teeming  
brain." John Keats, *When I Have Fears*, 1848

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"I have never made but one prayer to God, a very short one: 'O Lord, make my enemies ridiculous.' And God granted it." Voltaire, letter to M. Damiliville, May 16, 1767

"I have often regretted my speech, never my silence." Pubilius Syrus, ca 20 BC

"I have only two candidates as examples of infinity, the universe and human stupidity - and I'm not sure about the universe." A. Einstein

"I have so much to do that I'm going to bed." Savoyard proverb

"I have taken more good from alcohol than alcohol has taken from me." Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

"I may be drunk, Miss, but in the morning I will be sober and you will still be ugly." Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

"I must complain the cards are ill-shuffled, till I have a good hand." Jonathan Swift

"I never knew a man in my life who could not bear another's misfortunes perfectly like a Christian." Alexander Pope, *Thoughts on Various Subjects*, 1727

"I plan on living forever. So far, so good." Anonymous

"I praise the Frenchman, his remark was shrewd - How sweet, how passing sweet, is solitude! But grant me still a friend in my retreat, Whom I may whisper - solitude is sweet." William Cowper, *Retirement*, 1782

"I stood among them, but not of them; in a shroud of thoughts which were not their thoughts." Lord Byron, 1812

"I would have written a shorter letter, but I didn't have time." Mark Twain

"I would rather believe that God did not exist than believe that He was indifferent." George Sand, *Impressions et Souvenirs*, 1896

"I wouldn't have seen it if I hadn't believed it!" Anonymous (an old geologist saying. Also, "What you get is what you see, or more specifically what you look for." Robert R. Britt, web article)

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"If a man be gracious and courteous to strangers, it shows that he is a citizen of the world, and that his heart is no island cut off from their lands, but a continent that joins to them." Francis Bacon, *Goodness, and Goodness of Nature*, 1625

"If a man is a fool, what he calls reality will be foolish." Robertson Davies, "On the Dangerous Edge," in Clifton Fadiman, ed., *Living Philosophies: The Reflections of Some Eminent Men and Women of Our Time*, New York: Doubleday, 1990, p. 130-7

"If competence collides with custom, custom will win." Anonymous

"If everyone threw their troubles in a big heap, and later went to withdraw their fair allotment, each would prefer to retrieve their original burden." Anonymous

"If I can't picture it, I can't understand it." Einstein, quoted by John A. Wheeler

"If I had to baptise a Jew, I would take him to the bridge of the Elbe, hang a stone around his neck and push him over with the words 'I baptise thee in the name of Abraham.'" source lost

"If I love you, what business is it of yours?" Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Wilhelm Meister's Apprenticeship*, 1830

"If intellectual sleight of hand was sometimes necessary, then so be it." Robert Service, 2000, *Lenin: A Biography*, Boston, MA: Harvard University Press

"If it has teeth, sooner or later it will bite." Anonymous

"If once a man indulges himself in murder, very soon he comes to think little of robbing; and from robbing he comes next to drinking and Sabbath-breaking, and from that to incivility and procrastination." Thomas De Quincey, *Murder Considered as One of the Fine Arts*, 1827

"If utterance is denied, the thought lies like a burden on the man. Always the seer is a sayer." Ralph Waldo Emerson, divinity school address, 1838

"If we don't keep striving to light little candles in the darkness, nothing but the demons of ignorance will flourish." Thomas McDonough (2001.04.03)

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"If we resist our passions, it is oftener because they are weak than because they are strong." Francois de la Rochefoucauld

"If we should bring clearly to a man's sight the terrible sufferings and miseries to which his life is constantly exposed, he would be seized with horror."  
Arthur Schopenhauer

"If you fail to earn your place in the lifeboat, you may be thrown overboard."  
Plutarch, *Morals: Of the Training of Children*. ca. 50 BC

"If you had it to do over, would you fall in love with yourself?" Attributed to Oscar Levant, spoken to George Gershwin

"If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it." Anonymous

"If you're strong, appear weak; if you're weak, appear strong." Sun Tsu, *The Art of War*

"Ill deeds are doubled with an evil word." William Shakespeare, *The Comedy of Errors*, 1594

"In a very real sense human beings are machines constructed by the nucleic acids to arrange for the efficient replication of more nucleic acids... We are, in a way, temporary ambulatory repositories for our nucleic acids." Carl Sagan, *The Cosmic Connection*, Garden City, NY: Anchor Press, 1973 (he expressed the same thought in 1957; c.f. "Organisms die...")

"In action, in desire, we must submit perpetually to the tyranny of outside forces; but in thought, in aspiration, we are free, free from our fellowmen, free from the petty planet on which our bodies impotently crawl, free even, while we live, from the tyranny of death." Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Worship," 1903

"In an old house, the thing that works is the owner." Anonymous

"In early youth, as we contemplate our coming life, we are like children in a theatre before the curtain is raised, sitting there in high spirits and eagerly waiting for the play to begin. It is a blessing that we do not know what is really going to happen. Could we foresee it, there are times when children might seem like prisoners, condemned, not to death, but to life, and as yet all unconscious of what their sentence means." Schopenhauer, *Studies in Pessimism*



## CLASSIC QUOTES

“Infinity examples? The universe and human stupidity, and I’m sure about the first one.” Einstein, in response to a newspaper reporter’s request.

"In just two days, tomorrow will be yesterday." Anonymous

"In my *Future of an Illusion*, I was concerned... what the ordinary man understands by his religion, that system of doctrines and pledges that... assures him that a solicitous Providence is watching over him and will make up to him in a future existence for any shortcomings in his life. The ordinary man cannot imagine this Providence in any other form but that of a greatly exalted father,... The whole thing is so patently infantile, so incongruous with reality, that to one whose attitude to humanity is friendly it is painful to think that a great majority of mortals will never be able to rise above this view of life." Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, p 23, 1930

"In peace, children inter their parents; war violates the order of nature and causes parents to inter their children." Herodotus, before 425 B

"In politics, a straight line is the longest distance between two points." Anonymous

“In spite of Death, the mark and seal of the parental control, Man is yet free, during his brief years, to examine, to criticize, to know, and in imagination to create. To him alone, in the world with which he is acquainted, this freedom belongs; and in this lies his superiority to the restless forces that control his outward life.” Bertrand Russell, “A Free Man’s Worship,” 1903

"In the interest of simplicity, clarity, and... intellectual courage in the face of ideological hostility, evolutionary psychology is best regarded as identical to human sociobiology." E. O. Wilson, *Consilience*, 1998, pg. 150

"... In the spectacle of Death, in the endurance of intolerable pain, and in the irrevocableness of a vanished past, there is a sacredness, an over-powering awe, a feeling of the vastness, the depth, the inexhaustible mystery of existence, in which, as by some strange marriage of pain, the sufferer is bound to the world by bonds of sorrow. In these moments of insight, we lose all eagerness of temporary desire, all struggling and striving for petty ends, all care for the little trivial things that, to a superficial view, make up the common life of day by day; we see, surrounding the narrow raft illumined by the flickering light of human comradeship, the dark ocean on whose rolling waves we toss for a brief hour; from the great night without, a chill blast breaks in upon our refuge; all the loneliness of humanity amid hostile forces is

## CLASSIC QUOTES

concentrated upon the individual soul, which must struggle alone, with what of courage it can command, against the whole weight of a universe that cares nothing for its hopes and fears. Victory, in this struggle with the powers of darkness, is the true baptism into the glorious company of heroes, the true initiation into the overmastering beauty of human existence. From that awful encounter of the soul with the outer world, enunciation, wisdom and charity are born; and with their birth a new life begins." Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Worship," 1903

"In science one tries to tell people something that no one ever knew before in such a way as to be understood by everyone, But in poetry it's the exact opposite." Attributed to Paul Dirac.

"...intellect arose merely to serve the will [genes]. Most men ... are incapable of any other employment of their intellect, because with them it is merely a tool in service of their will and is entirely consumed by this service..." Schopenhauer, *Aphorisms*, 1851

"Intellect is invisible to the man who has none." Arthur Schopenhauer, *Aphorisms*, 1851

"It appears to me impossible to believe that man has undergone anything but an infinitesimal alteration in his intrinsic nature since the age of the unpolished stone... A decent citizen is always controlling and disciplining the impulses... it is indisputable that civilized man is in some manner different... But that difference... is in no degree inherited... With true articulate speech came the possibilities of more complex co-operations... Came writing, and therewith a tremendous acceleration in the expansion of that body of knowledge and ideals which is the reality of the civilized state. ...in civilized man we have (1) an inherited factor, the natural man, who is the product of natural selection, the culminating ape, and a type of animal more obstinately unchangeable than any other living creature; and (2) an acquired factor, the artificial man, the highly plastic creature of tradition, suggestion, and reasoned thought. ...in a rude and undisciplined way indeed, ...humanity is even now consciously steering itself against the currents and winds of the universe in which it finds itself. In the future, it is at least conceivable, that men with a trained reason and a sounder science, both of matter and psychology, may conduct this operation far more intelligently, unanimously, and effectively, and work towards, and at last attain and preserve, a social organization so cunningly balanced against exterior necessities on the one hand, and the artificial factor in the individual on the other, that the life of every human being... may be generally happy. To me, at least, this is no dream, but a possibility to be lost or won by men, as they may have or may

## CLASSIC QUOTES

not have the greatness of heart to consciously shape their moral conceptions and their lives to such an end." H. G. Wells, "Human Evolution, An Artificial Process," *Fortnightly Review*, Oct, 1896

"It can't be wrong, when it feels so right." Words in song: "You Light Up My Life"

"It does no harm to the mystery to know a little about it. For far more marvelous is the truth than any artists of the past imagined! Why do the poets of the present not speak of it? What men are poets who can speak of Jupiter if he were like a man, but if he is an immense spinning sphere of methane and ammonia must be silent?" Richard Feynman, *Lectures in Physics: Introduction to Physics*, Vol. 1, Addison Wesley, 1963

"It has been a thousand times observed, and I must observe it once more, that the hours we pass with happy prospects in view are more pleasing than those crowned with fruition." Oliver Goldsmith, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, 1766

"It has been said endlessly and patiently that the discovery that the universe has no purpose need not prevent a human being from having one, or indeed many, as many as his own life, circumstances and impulses generate." Erwin Edman, *The Contemporary and His Soul*, 1931

"It has oft been said, that it is not death, but dying which is terrible." Henry Fielding, *Amelia*, 1751

"It is a pleasure to stand upon the shore, and to see the ships tossed upon the sea; a pleasure to stand in the window of a castle, and to see a battle and the adventures thereof below; but no pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage ground of truth... and to see the errors, and wanderings, and mists, and tempests, in the vale below." Francis Bacon, *Essays, Of Truth*, 1625

"It is a waste of energy to be angry with a man who behaves badly, just as it is to be angry with a car that won't go." Bertrand Russell

"It is better to be envied than pitied." Herodotus, before 425 BC

"It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his **not** understanding it." Upton Sinclair

"It is difficult to withhold admiration from the traditional figure of the English sportsman, lithe, strong, and tranquil. He may be stupid but he is not harassed. He may be inarticulate but he has perfect poise... He is clean-limbed

## CLASSIC QUOTES

and sweet-blooded, a modern image of a Greek in the sunlight of animal health and adjustment amid the mists and diseases of modern thought. ...only simple people can lead simple lives. For others simplicity is itself a complex fraud that fools and hurts those who attempt it... The child in his mother's womb could not be more completely satisfied than the mystic lost - and saved - in the absolute... Most neo-mystics are not approaching the love of God so much as relapsing into the vast and vague confusions of infancy." Irwin Edman, *The Contemporary and His Soul*, New York: Jonathan Cape & Harrison Smith, 1931

"It is easier to discover a deficiency in individuals... than to see their real import and value." Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, *Philosophy of History*, 1832

"It is hard to gather wealth here, because as soon as you acquire some rice, for example, your neighbors want it. It is dangerous to save anything, because everything must immediately be shared. The [African] social system works to level everybody down to the same standard: It is a system that works against ambition." Jim Ashman (former Peace Corps volunteer, living in Sierra Leone, Africa; as reported by Robert D. Kaplan, *The Ends of the Earth: A Journey at the Dawn of the 21st Century*, 1966)

"It is indeed desirable to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors." Plutarch, *Morals: Of the Training of Children*. ca. 100 AD

"It is not the man who has too little, but the man who craves more, who is poor." Seneca, ca 50 AD

"It is worse still to be ignorant of your ignorance." Saint Jerome, ca 400 AD

"It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives." Samuel Johnson, *Boswell's Life of Johnson*, 1763

"It takes a wise man to recognize a wise man." Xenophanes, before 475 BC

"It was seen that want and suffering did not directly and of necessity spring from not having, but from desiring to have and not having; ... indeed, not only what is absolutely unavoidable or unattainable, but also what is merely relatively so, leaves us quite undisturbed; therefore the ills that have once become joined to our individuality, or the good things that must of necessity always be denied us, are treated with indifference, in accordance with the peculiarity of human nature that every wish soon dies and can no more beget pain if it is not nourished by hope." Schopenhauer, *The World As Will and*

## CLASSIC QUOTES

*Idea*, 1844, p. 49 of *The Philosophy of Schopenhauer*, edited by Irwin Edman, 1928

"It was thought impious at one time to attach lightning conductors to churches, as showing a want of trust in the tutelary care of the Deity to whom they were dedicated. Francis Galton, *Essays in Eugenics: Probability: The Foundation of Eugenics*, 1907

"It was very good of God to let Carlyle and Mrs. Carlyle marry one another, and so make only two people miserable instead of four." Samuel Butler, *Letters to Miss E. M. A. Savage*, 1884

"It's a fact that 75% of our genetic make-up is the same as a pumpkin. Although we like to think we are special, our genes bring us down to Earth." Monise Durrani, *BBC Science*, July 5, 1999

"It's never too late to have a happy childhood." Robert Thurman (Tibetan scholar)

"It's a privilege to have been born, and to have lived on this planet for a few decades." Richard Dawkins (during debate with theist)

"It's **not** nice." Pearl S. Buck, in letter to friend who was trying to portray *The Good Earth* as a nice book. (The book reflects reality, so it can't be "nice.")

"Kindness is in our power, but fondness is not." Dr. Johnson

"Laws are like cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through." Swift, *A Critical Essay Upon the Faculties of the Mind*, 1707 (Swift's version of Anacharsis, 600 BC)

"Laws grind the poor, and the rich men rule the law." Oliver Goldsmith, *The Traveller*, 1764

"Learning hath gained most by those books by which the printers have lost." Thomas Fuller, *The Holy State and the Profane State/Of Books*, 1642

"Learning to play the game of existence..." Erwin Edman, *Philosopher's Quest*, 1947

"Learning will be cast into the mire, and trodden down under the hoofs of a swinish multitude." Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, 1790

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Let blockheads read what blockheads wrote." Philip Stanhope, *Letters to His Son*, 1750

"Let us admit that, in the world we know, there are many things that would be better otherwise, and that the ideals to which we do and must adhere are not realized in the realm of matter. Let us preserve our respect for truth, for beauty, for the ideal of perfection which life does not permit us to attain, though none of these things meet with the approval of the unconscious universe. If Power is bad, as it seems to be, let us reject it from our hearts. In this lies Man's true freedom: in determination to worship only the God created by our own love of the good, to respect only the heaven which inspires the insight of our best moments. In action, in desire, we must submit perpetually to the tyranny of outside forces; but in thought, in aspiration, we are free, free from our fellowmen, free from the petty planet on which our bodies impotently crawl, free even, while we live, from the tyranny of death. Let us learn, then, that energy of faith which enables us to live constantly in the vision of the good; and let us descend, in action, into the world of fact, with that vision always before us." Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Worship," 1903

"Let us go singing as far as we go: the road will be less tedious." Virgil, *Eclogues*, ca 30 BC

"Life always gets harder toward the summit - the cold increases, responsibility increases." Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Antichrist*, 1883

"... The life of Man, viewed outwardly, is but a small thing in comparison with the forces of Nature. The slave is doomed to worship Time and Fate and Death, because they are greater than anything he finds in himself, and because all his thoughts are of things which they devour. But, great as they are, to think of them greatly, to feel their passionless splendor, is greater still. And such thought makes us free men; we no longer bow before the inevitable in Oriental subjection, but we absorb it, and make it a part of ourselves. To abandon the struggle for private happiness, to expel all eagerness of temporary desire, to burn with passion for eternal things - this is emancipation, and this is the free man's worship." Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Worship," 1903 (c.f., Erwin Edman's paean to aesthetics)

"Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore, so do our minutes hasten to their end." William Shakespeare, *Sonnets*, before 1598

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Like our shadows, our wishes lengthen as our sun declines." Edward Young, *Night Thoughts*, 1742

"Little by little, civilization crumbled into savagery, the torturing vision of better things was lost, man's consciousness was narrowed and coarsened into brute-consciousness,..." Olaf Stapledon, *Last and First Men*, 1931 (p. 207 of Dover edition)

"Little fly, thy summer's play, my thoughtless hand, has brushed away. Am not I, a fly like thee? Or art not thou, a man like me? For I dance, and drink and sing, till some blind hand, shall brush my wing." William Blake, *Songs of Experience*, 1794

"Little things affect little minds." Benjamin Disraeli, *Sybil, or, The Two Nations*, 1845

"Living well is the best revenge." George Herbert, *Jacula Prudentum*, 1651

"Looking outward to the blackness of space, sprinkled with the glory of a universe of lights, I saw majesty - but no welcome. Below was a welcoming planet. There, contained in the thin, moving, incredibly fragile shell of the biosphere is everything that is dear to you, all the human drama and comedy. That's where the good stuff is." Loren Acton, US Astronaut

"Love is a form of mental illness not yet recognized in the standard diagnostic manuals." Anonymous

"Man and the animals are merely a passage and channel for food, a tomb for other animals, a haven for the dead, giving life by the death of others, a coffer full of corruption." Leonardo de Vinci, ca 1510 AD

"Man does not live long enough to profit from his faults." La Bruyer

"Man is a rational animal who always loses his temper when he is called upon to act in accordance with the dictates of reason." Oscar Wilde, *The Critic As Artist*, 1890

"Man is at bottom a dreadful wild animal. We know this wild animal only in the tamed state called civilization..." Schopenhauer, *Aphorisms*, 1851

"Man is the hunter, woman is his game." Alfred Loyd Tennyson, *The Princess*, 1847

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving." Bertrand Russell

"Man, like a light in the night, is kindled and put out." Heraclitus, before 480 BC

"Mankind censures injustice fearing that they may be the victims of it, and not because they shrink from committing it." Plato, *The Republic*, ca 400 BC

"Mankind is composed of two sorts of men - those who love and create, and those who hate and destroy." Jose Marti, Letter to a Cuban Farmer, 1893 (c.f., "There are two kinds of people: those who produce more than they consume, and their opposite.")

"Mankind is divided into two great classes: hosts and guests." Max Beerbohm, *Hosts and Guests*, 20th Century

"Many... have too rashly charged the troops of error, and remain as trophies unto the enemies of truth." Sir Thomas Browne, *Religio Medici*, 1643

"Many brave men lived before Agamemnon; but all are overwhelmed in eternal night, unwept, unknown, because they lack a sacred poet." Horace, *Odes*, ca 20 BC

"Many would be cowards if they had the courage." Thomas Fuller

"May all that have life be delivered from suffering." Ancient Hindu invocation (which Arthur Schopenhauer considered the noblest of prayers)

"Maybe religion is just a method by which the weak and the poor try to persuade the strong to be gentle and the rich to be generous, with a sizeable cut going to the persuaders. To make it work, supernatural powers and survival after death must be postulated. Otherwise there is no reason for anyone to listen to such appeals: the powerful are beyond punishment here and now. The scam apparently works, as all human tribes have some kind of religion. Great cultures have been accompanied by impressive religions. Atheistic societies have left no trace in history." Andrejs Baldins, *Nature*, 1994 Feb 24

"Mediocre minds usually dismiss anything which reaches beyond their own understanding." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678



## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Men are not hanged for stealing horses, but that horses may not be stolen."  
George Savile, *Reflections*, 175

"Men can love only what is weaker than themselves, and women only what is stronger." Will Durant, *Transition: A Mental Autobiography*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1927, p. 69

"Men do not care how nobly they live, but only how long, although it is within reach of every man to live nobly, but within no man's power to live long." Seneca, ca 50 AD

"Men fear death as children fear to go in the dark; and as that natural fear in children is increased with tales, so is the other." Francis Bacon, *Essays*, 1625

"Men prize the thing ungain'd more than it is." William Shakespeare, *The Phoenix and the Turtle*, 1601

"The men the American people admire most extravagantly are the most daring liars; the men they detest most violently are those who try to tell them the truth. A Galileo could no more be elected President of the United States than he could be elected Pope of Rome. Both posts are reserved for men favored by God with an extraordinary genius for swathing the bitter facts of life in bandages of soft illusion." H. L. Mencken

"Men think themselves free because they are conscious of their volitions and desires, but are ignorant of the causes by which they are led to wish and desire." Spinoza, *Ethics* (Must have inspired Schopenhauer to write "Surely I can do what I *will* to do; but what determines *what* I will to do?")

"Men willingly believe what they wish." Julius Caesar, ca 50 BC

"Mispending a man's time is a kind of self-homicide." George Savile, *Political, Moral and Miscellaneous Reflections*, 1750

"Most people judge men only by their success or their good fortune." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678

"Most people, if they glance back when they come to the end of life, will find that all along they have been living ad interim: they will be surprised to find that the very thing they disregarded and let slip by unenjoyed was just the life in the expectation of which they passed all their time. Of how many a man may it not be said that hope made a fool of him until he danced into the arms

## CLASSIC QUOTES

of death!" Schopenhauer, *Studies in Pessimism* (c.f., "Life is an immense preparation for something that never really happens.")

"Most problems are caused by solutions." Eric Sevareid

"Much learning does not teach understanding." Heraclitus, before 480 BC

"My actions prove that God takes care of idiots" Guy Gabaldon (describing his heroic act during WW II when he persuaded 1000 Japanese soldiers to surrender to a miniscule American force whose size he exaggerated).

"My spirit is too weak - mortality; Weighs heavily on me like unwilling sleep; And each imagined pinnacle and steep; Of godlike hardship, tells me I must die; Like a sick Eagle looking at the sky." John Keats, *On Seeing the Elgin Marbles*, 1817 (c.f., "Like a wounded eagle eyeing the sky.")

"My time has not yet come either; some are born posthumously." Friedrich Nietzsche, *Ecce Homo*, 1883

"Mysteries are not necessarily miracles." Goethe

"Nature herself gives us courage... Death is not to be feared. It is a friend... Depart then without fear out of this world even as you came into it... Yield your torch to others as in a race... I often feel that death is not the enemy of life, but its friend, for it is the knowledge that our years are limited which makes them so precious... the day we are privileged to spend in the great park of life is not the same for all human beings, but there is enough beauty and joy and gaiety in the hours if we will but treasure them. Then for each one of us the moment comes when the great nurse, death, takes man, the child, by the hand and quietly says, 'It is time to go home. Night is coming. It is your bedtime, child of earth.'" Excerpts from *Peace of Mind*, Joshua Loth Liebman, Simon and Shuster, 1946 (as appeared in a "Personal Perspective" by Susan Giesberg, *Los Angeles Times*, May 26, 2002)

"Nature, Mr. Alnutt, is something we were put on this earth to rise above." (Spoken by Katherine Hepburn to Humphrey Bogart in movie *The African Queen*)

"Neither a borrower, nor lender be; For loan oft loses both itself and friend..." William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, 1601

"Never test the depth of the water with both feet." Anonymous

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"No guest is so welcome in a friend's house that he will not become a nuisance after three days." Titus Maccius Plautus, ca 200 BC

"No man is happy who does not think himself so." Publilius Syrus, ca 20 BC

"No man is wise enough by himself." Titus Maccius Plautus, ca 200 BC

"No one can draw more out of things, books included, than he already knows. A man has no ears for that to which experience has given him no access." Friedrich Nietzsche, *Ecce Homo*, 1883

"No one would talk much in society, if he knew how often he misunderstands others." Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Elective Affinities*, 1808

"No pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage-ground of truth." Francis Bacon, *Essays*, 1625

"Not a hundredth part of the thoughts in my head have ever been, or ever will, be spoken or written - as long as I keep my senses." Jane Carlyle, Journal, 1858

"Not every truth is the better for showing its face undisguised; and often silence is the wisest thing for a man to heed." Pindar, *Nemean Odes*, before 438 BC

"Not everything that is more difficult is more meritorious." St. Thomas Aquinas

"Not in the clamor of the crowded street; Not in the shouts and plaudits of the throng; But in ourselves, are triumph and defeat." Henry W. Longfellow, *Morituri Salutamus*, 1875

"Not marble, nor the gilded monuments of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme." William Shakespeare, *Sonnets*

"Not to be born surpasses thought and speech. The second best is to have seen the light, and then to go back quickly whence we came." Sophocles, before 406 BC

"Nothing doth more hurt in a state than that cunning men pass for wise." Francis Bacon, *Essays*, 1625

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm." Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Essays: First Series, Friendship*, 1838

"Nothing is more terrible than ignorance in action." Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Proverbs in Prose*, 1803

"Nothing is so firmly believed as that of which we know least." Montaigne

"Nothing is there to come, and nothing past, but an eternal now does always last." Abraham Cowley,  *Davideis*, 1656

"O miserable minds of men! O blind hearts! In what darkness of life, in what great dangers ye spend this little span of years! ... Life is one long struggle in the dark." Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things*, ca 60 BC

"Observe due measure, for right timing is in all things the most important factor." Hesiod, *The Theogony, BkI*, 694, 700 BC

"Of course we must be open-minded, but not so open-minded that our brains drop out." Anonymous

"Oh God! That bread should be so dear, And flesh and blood so cheap!" Thomas Hood, *The Song of the Shirt*, 1843

"Oh! Many a shaft at random sent, Finds mark the archer little meant! And many a word, at random spoken, May soothe or wound a heart that's broken!" Sir Walter Scott, *The Lord of the Isles*, 1815

"Oh, how fortunate we are, we men of knowledge, provided only that we know how to keep silent long enough!" Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Section 3, 1887

"Oh, to be seventy again!" Oliver Wendell Holmes, 1931, (at age of 90, upon seeing a beautiful young woman)

"Old as I am, for ladies' love unfit, the power of beauty, I remember yet." John Dryden, *Fables Ancient and Modern*, 1700

"The oldest of all philosophers, that of Evolution, was bound hand and foot and cast into utter darkness during the millennium of theological scholasticism. But Darwin poured new lifeblood into the ancient frame; the bonds burst, and the revived thought of ancient Greece has proved itself to be a more adequate expression of the universal order of things than any of the

## CLASSIC QUOTES

schemes which have been accepted by the credulity and welcomed by the superstition of 70 generations of men." T. H. Huxley, 1887

"Once a word has been allowed to escape, it cannot be recalled." Horace, *Epistles*, ca 20 BC (possibly the first of many similar quotes)

"One day, near the end of his career, and to show his contempt in the most public way, Cobb ostentatiously held the bat in Ruth's manner, hit three home runs in a single game, and then went right back to his older, favored style forever after." S. J. Gould, *Natural History*, April 12, 1991

"One man is more concerned with the impression he makes on the rest of the world, another with the impression the rest of mankind makes on him." Schopenhauer

"One never goes so far as when one doesn't know where one is going." Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Letter to Karl Friedrich Zelter, 1812

"One of the greatest pains to human nature is the pain of a new idea." Walter Bagehot, *Physics and Politics*, 1869

"One problem with standing on the shoulders of giants is that you don't have much choice about what direction you're walking in." Sally McBrearty, interview in *Science*, 1995 Nov 17

"One role of the intellectual is to warn society of its faults." Gregg Easterbrook, *Los Angeles Times*, pg. M1, 1996 May 12

"Only he who writes entirely for the sake of what he has to say writes anything worth writing." Schopenhauer, *Essays and Aphorisms*, 1851

"Opinion is ultimately determined by the feelings, and not by the intellect." Herbert Spencer, *Social Statics*, 1851

"Organisms die but their genes pass on - often mutated and redistributed, it is true, but genes nevertheless; and it is difficult, therefore, to escape the conclusion that the design of the organism is merely to provide for gene multiplication and survival..." Carl Sagan, "Radiation and the Origin of the Gene," *Evolution*, January, 1957 (Notice the date; 18 years before E. O. Wilson published *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis*, 1975)

"Organization is designed to stop things from happening." Anonymous

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Others go to bed with their mistresses; I with my ideas." Jose Marti, Letter, 1890

"...our age is one of impotent nobodies hurtling toward nothingness." Irwin Edman, *Philosopher's Holiday*, 1938

"Our civilized world is nothing but a great masquerade." Schopenhauer, *Aphorisms*, 1851

"Our sires' age was worse than our grandsires'. We, their sons, are more worthless than they; so in our turn we shall give the world a progeny yet more corrupt." Horace, *Odes*, ca 20 BC

"Our wretched species is so made that those who walk on the well-trodden path always throw stones at those who are showing a new road." Francois Voltaire

"Passions tyrannize over mankind; but ambition keeps the others in check." La Bruyere

"Patience is the best remedy for every trouble." Titus Maccius Plautus, ca 200 BC

"People give ear to an upstart astrologer (*sic*) [referring to Copernicus] who strove to show that the earth revolves, not the heavens or the firmament, the sun and the moon. Whoever wishes to appear clever must devise some new system, which of all systems is of course the very best. This fool wishes to reverse the entire science of astronomy." Martin Luther (in one of his *Table Talks*, in 1539), *Works*, **22**, c. 1543

"People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors." Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, 1790

"Perfect courage means doing unwitnessed what we would be capable of with the world looking on." La Rochefoucauld

"...a philosopher is someone who won't take common sense for an answer." Richard Dawkins, *The God Illusion* (2006), pg. 83 (meant as a compliment in a certain context, but equally useful with an opposite intent)

"Pliant toward his superiors, authoritarian toward those he deemed his inferiors." Bourdier (describing Georges Cuvier), *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, 1971

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Rarely do great beauty and great virtue dwell together." Petrarch, ca 1350 AD

"Reason must be deluded, blinded, and destroyed. Faith must trample underfoot all reason, sense, and understanding, and whatever it sees must be put out of sight and ... know nothing but the word of God. To be a Christian, you must pluck out the eye of reason. Whoever wants to be a Christian should tear the eyes out of his Reason. Die verfluchte Huhre, Vernunft. ("The Damned Whore, Reason"). Martin Luther, *Works*, Volume 22, c. 1543

"Religion has always been the wound, not the bandage." Dennis Potte

"Religion is the source of all imaginable follies and disturbances. It is the parent of fanaticism and civil discord. It is the enemy of mankind" Voltaire

"Religion is regarded by the common people as true, by the wise as false, and by the rulers as useful." Seneca the Younger, 5 BC - 65 AD

"Research never makes medical treatment cheaper, only ever more expensive, which no doubt partly explains the British government's antipathy towards it." *Nature*, 348: 468 (December 1990)

"Rogues are preferable to imbeciles because they sometimes take a rest." Dumas

"Science is the great antidote to the poison of superstition. An ailing world would do well to reach for the right bottle in the medicine cabinet." Adam Smith

"She speaks, yet she says nothing." William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, 1596

"Show me a people who haven't plundered, raped and pillaged its neighbors, and I'll show you a people who haven't been strong enough in recent times to do so with impunity." Anonymous

"Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft, and I'll show you A Flat Minor." Anonymous

"Sire, I have no need of that hypothesis." (in response to Napoleon Bonaparte's remark upon receiving a copy of Laplace's *Mecanique Celeste*: "You have written this huge book on the system of the world without once

## CLASSIC QUOTES

mentioning the author of the universe.") From *Eric Temple Bell, Men of Mathematics*, 1937

"Slight not what's near through aiming at what's far." Euripides, *Rhesus*, 435 B

"Small matters win great commendation." Francis Bacon, *Essays*, 1625

"Small things make base men proud." William Shakespeare, *King Henry the Sixth*, 1591

"So free we seem, so fettered fast we are." Robert Browning, *Andrea del Sarto*, 1855

"So it is that the gods do not give all men gifts of grace - neither good looks nor intelligence nor eloquence." Homer, *The Iliad*, 700 BC

"Social constructivists are not merely wrong - they are philistines and vandals scribbling graffiti on the temple of Athena." James Robert Brown, *Who Rules in Science: A Guide to the Wars*, Boston: Harvard University Press, 2001

"So long as you are praised think only that you are not yet on your own course but on that of another. " Nietzsche

"Some judge of authors' names, not works, and then; Nor praise nor blame the writings, but the men." Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*, 1711

"Some people are more fortunately born than others." Robertson Davies, "On the Dangerous Edge," in Clifton Fadiman, ed., *Living Philosophies: The Reflections of Some Eminent Men and Women of Our Time* (New York: Doubleday, 1990), 130-7

"Some praise at morning what they blame at night, But always think the last opinion right." Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*, 1711

"Some rise by sin, and some by virtue fall." William Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, 1604 (c.f., "No good deed goes unpunished; no bad deed goes unrewarded.")

"Soothsayers make a better living than truthsayers." Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, *Aphorisms*, 1798

"...standing on the shoulders of dwarfs." Sam Harris, 2005



## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Submit to the present evil, lest a greater one befall you." Phaedrus, ca 8 AD

"Such ... is the world which Science presents for our belief. ... That man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; ... all the noonday brightness of human genius are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins..." Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Worship," 1903

"Such labored nothings, in so strange a style, Amaze th' unlearn'd, and make the learned smile." Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*, 1711

"Such truth as opposeth no man's profit nor pleasure is to all men welcome." Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathon*, 1651

"Suppose you knew fully the position and the properties of every particle of matter... in the universe at any particular moment of time: ...Well, that knowledge would involve the knowledge of the condition of things at the previous moment, and at the moment before that, and so on. If you knew and perceived the present perfectly, you would perceive therein the whole of the past. ... Similarly, if you grasped the whole of the present, ...you would see clearly all the future. To an omniscient observer... he would see, as it were, a Rigid Universe filling space and time - a Universe in which things were always the same. He would see one sole unchanging series of cause and effect... If 'past' meant anything, it would mean looking in a certain direction; while 'future' meant looking the opposite way. From the absolute point of view the universe is a perfectly rigid unalterable apparatus, entirely predestinate, entirely complete and finished... time is merely a dimension, quite analogous to the three dimensions of space." H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine*, 1894 (c.f., "Given for one instant..." by Laplace, 1820)

"Talk sense to a fool and he calls you foolish." Euripides, 407 B

"Tempt not a desperate man." William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, 1596

"That favorite subject, Myself" James Boswell, Letter to Temple, 1763

"That which comes later, the motivation, is experienced first... The ideas engendered by a certain condition have been misunderstood as the cause of that condition..." Friedrich Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*, 1889

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"The bad students can't be taught, and the good ones don't need to be."  
Paraphrase of Richard Feynman (*The Feynman Lectures in Physics*,  
Introduction)

"The beginning is the most important part of the work." Plato, *The Republic*,  
ca 400 BC

"The bell strikes one. We take no note of time but from its loss." Edward  
Young, *Night Thoughts*, 1742

"The business of the animal seems to be, not to live its own life, but to  
reproduce its own kind, and the term of life at its disposal is adjusted  
accurately to the special difficulties of this purpose." H. G. Wells, "The  
Duration of Life," *Saturday Review*, Feb 23, 1895 (How prescient this is,  
coming 80 years before E. O. Wilson's *Sociobiology: The New Synthesis*,  
1975)

"The childhood shows the man, as morning shows the day." John Milton,  
*Paradise Lost*, 1667

"The Chinese have a story based on three or four thousand years of  
civilization. Two Chinese coolies were arguing heatedly in the midst of a  
crowd. A stranger expressed surprise that no blows were being struck. His  
Chinese friend replied, **'The man who strikes first admits that his ideas  
have given out.'**" Franklin D. Roosevelt

"The desire of the moth for the star; Of the night for the morrow; The  
devotion to something afar; From the sphere of our sorrow." Percy Shelley,  
*One Word is Too Often Profaned*, 1824

"The discovery that tendencies to altruism are shaped by benefits to genes is  
one of the most disturbing in the history of science. When I first grasped it, I  
slept badly for many nights, trying to find some alternative that did not so  
roughly challenge my sense of good and evil." Randolph Nesse, Commentary  
in Wilson, D. S. and E. Sober, "Reintroducing Group Selection to the Human  
and Behavioral Sciences," *Behavior and Brain Sciences*, **17**, p. 585, 1994

"The earth is degenerating these days. Bribery and corruption abound.  
Children no longer mind parents. Every man wants to write a book, and it is  
evident that the end of the world is approaching fast." Assyrian tablet, 2800  
BC

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"The effort to understand the universe is one of the very few things that lifts human life a little above the level of farce and gives it some of the grace of tragedy." Steven Weinberg

"The empty vessel makes the greatest sound." William Shakespeare, *King Henry the Fifth*, 1599

"The first divine was the first rogue who met the first fool." Voltaire

"The friend of all humanity is not to my taste." Moliere

"The general theory of evolution... assumes that in nature there is a great, unital, continuous and everlasting process of development, and that all natural phenomena without exception, from the motion of the celestial bodies and the fall of the rolling stone, up to the growth of the plant, and the consciousness of man, are subject to the same great law of causation - that they are ultimately to be reduced to atomic mechanics." Ernst Heinrich Haeckel, *Freie Wissenschaft und Freie Lehre*, 1878 (an expression of the "reductionist" philosophy, a couple centuries ahead of its time)

"The gods, likening themselves to all kinds of strangers, go in various disguises from city to city, observing the wrongdoing and the righteousness of men." Homer, *Odyssey*, Bk XVII, 485, 700 BC

"The good displeases us when we have not yet grown up to it." Nietzsche

"The gratitude of most men is merely a secret desire to receive greater benefits." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678 (the ultimate in cynicism)

"The heart has its reasons, which reason cannot comprehend." Anonymous

"The hen is an egg's way of producing another egg." Samuel Butler

"The highest object at which the natural sciences are constrained to aim, but which they will never reach, is the determination of the forces which are present in nature, and of the state of matter at any given moment - in one word, the reduction of all the phenomena of nature to mechanics." Gustav Robert Kirchhoff, *Über das Ziel der Naturwissenschaften*, 1865 (an early expression of the "reductionist" philosophy, also a couple centuries ahead of its time)

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"The illusion that times that were are better than those that are, has probably pervaded all ages." Horace Greeley, *The American Conflict*, 1866

"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." Nietzsche

"The jury, passing on the prisoner's life, may in the sworn twelve have a thief or two guiltier than him they try." William Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, 1604

"The lady doth protest too much, methinks." William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, 1601

"The Leaves of Life keep falling one by one." Omar Khayyam, *The Rubaiyat*, Edward FitzGerald, translator, 1859

"The life that has schemed and struggled and committed itself, that life that has played and lost, comes at last to the pitiless judgment of time, and is slowly and remorselessly annihilated. This is the saddest chapter in biological science - the tragedy of (species) extinction. ...the pterodactyls, the first of vertebrated animals to spread a wing to the wind, and follow the hunted insects to their last refuge of the air. How triumphantly and gloriously these winged lizards, these original dragons, must have floated through their new empire of the atmosphere! If their narrow brains could have entertained the thought, they would have congratulated themselves upon having gained a great and inalienable heritage for themselves and their children forever. And now we cleave a rock and find their bones, and speculate doubtfully what their outer shape may have been." H. G. Wells, "On Extinction," *Chamber's Journal*, Sep, 1893

"The life which is unexamined is not worth living." Plato, *Dialogues, Apology*, ca 400 BC

"The man who lets himself be bored is even more contemptible than the bore." Samuel Butler, *The Fair Haven*, 1873

"The man who runs may fight again." Menander, ca 300 BC

"The man who thinks should not ally himself with a wife who cannot share his thoughts." Jean Jaques Rousseau, *Emile*, 1757

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"The men who can manage men manage the men who can manage only things, and the men who can manage money manage all." Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization: The Age of Louis XIV*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1963

"The mind is always the dupe of the heart." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678

"The miserable have no other medicine, but only hope." William Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, 1604

"The more comprehensible the universe becomes the more pointless it seems." Steven Weinberg, *Gravitation and Cosmology*

"The most absurd and reckless aspirations have sometimes led to extraordinary success." Vauvenargues

"The most common of all follies is to believe passionately in the palpably not true. It is the chief occupation of mankind." H.L. Menken

"The most melancholy of human reflections, perhaps, is that on the whole it is a question whether the benevolence of mankind does most good or harm." Walter Bagehot, *Physics and Politics*, 1867

"The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ; Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit; Shall lure it back to cancel half a line; Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it." Edward Fitzgerald, translator, Omar Khayyam, *The Rubaiyat*, 1859

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Edmund Burke, attributed

"The opinion of the strongest is always the best." Jean de La Fontaine, *Fables*, 1668

"The pleasure of love is in loving. We are happier in the passion we feel than in that which we arouse." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678

"The present life of men on Earth, O King, as compared with the whole length of time which is unknowable to us, seems to me to be like this: as if, when you are sitting at dinner with your chiefs and ministers in wintertime, ...one of the sparrows from outside flew very quickly through the hall; as if it came

## CLASSIC QUOTES

in one door and soon went through another. In that actual time it is indoors it is not touched by the winter's storm; but yet the tiny period of calm is over in a moment, and having come out of the winter it soon returns to the winter and slips out of your sight. Man's life appears to be more or less like this; and of what may follow it, or what preceded it, we are absolutely ignorant." The Venerable Bede, *Eccliaistical History of the English People*, 731 AD

"The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment." Anonymous

"The religion of one age is the literary entertainment of the next." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"The religions of humanity, too, must be classified as mass-delusions... Needless to say, no one who shares a delusion recognizes it as such." Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, p 36, 1930

"The ring always believes that the finger lives for it." Chazal

"The savage, like ourselves, feels the oppression of his impotence before the powers of Nature; but having in himself nothing that he respects more than Power, he is willing to prostrate himself before his gods, without inquiring whether they are worthy of his worship. Pathetic and very terrible is the long history of cruelty and torture, of degradation and human sacrifice, endured in the hope of placating the jealous gods: surely, the trembling believer thinks, when what is most precious has been freely given, their lust for blood must be appeased, and more will not be required." Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Worship," 1903

"The sick are the greatest danger for the healthy; it is not from the strongest that harm comes to the strong, but from the weakest." Friedrich Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*, 1887

"The significance of a man is not in what he attains, but rather in what he longs to attain." Kahlil Gibran

"The skylark, however high it flies, however heavenly its song, has a mortal body from which its song arises and an earthly home to which it may and must return." Erwin Edman, *The Contemporary and His Soul*, 1931

"The sociobiological view of love has always depressed me; I'm saddened to think that the world's great lovers... were inspired not by passion but by the

## CLASSIC QUOTES

need to catapult their DNA into the future. ...David Gubernick explains... (that) Love and Intimacy evolved because at some point in the history of humankind those of our ancestors who felt such emotions prospered reproductively." Judith Stone, *Discover*, May 1991

"The spirit grows, strength is restored by wounding." Friedrich Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*, 1889

"The strongest drive in any creature ...is the desire to preserve one's genetic essence for eternity." Judith Stone, *Discover*, May, 1991

"The strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone." Henrik Ibsen, *An Enemy of the People*, 1882

"The systematic thought of ancient writers is now nearly worthless; but their detached insights are priceless." Alfred North Whitehead

"The tempo at which things move at present, the force and energy with which everything is done, cause anguish to the man of archaic mould, and this anguish is the measure of the difference between his pulse-beats and the pulse-beats of the time." Jose Ortega y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses*, Ch. 3, 1930

"The true forefathers of the reader... Why were they living... in inhospitable rivers and spending half their lives half-baked in river mud? ...They had failed in the struggle, they were less active and powerful than their rivals of the sea... They preferred dirt, discomfort, and survival... Some conservative descendants of these mud-fish live today in African and Australian rivers... Others of their children, however, have risen in the world... Emigrants from the rivers swarmed over the yet uncrowded land. ...From these sprang divergently the birds and mammals, and, finally, the last of the mud-fish family, man... He it is who goes down to the sea in ships, and, with wide-sweeping nets and hooks cunningly baited, beguiles the children of those who drove his ancestors out of the water. The whirligig of time brings round its revenges." H. G. Wells, "Zoological Regression," *Gentleman's Magazine*, Sep, 1894

"The truths of religion are never so well understood as by those who have lost the power of reasoning." Voltaire, *Philosophical Dictionary*, 1764

"The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference." Richard Dawkins

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"The various modes of worship, which prevailed in the Toman world, were all considered by the people, as equally true; by the philosophers, as equally false; and by the magistrate, as equally useful." Edward Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, 1788

"The vast marvel is to be alive for man, woman, flower and beast and bird, the supreme time is to be most vividly, most perfectly alive. Whatever the unborn and dead may know, they cannot know the beauty, the marvel of being alive in the flesh... the magnificent here and now is ours, and ours alone, and ours only for a time." (approximate quote) D. H. Lawrence

"The wise learn many things from their enemies." Aristophanes, *Birds*, 414 BC

"The world is a comedy for those who think, but a tragedy for those who feel." Horace Walpole

"The world wants to be deceived." Sebastian Brant, 1494 AD

"The worst part of war is that so many people enjoy it." Ellen Glasgow, *I Believe: A Series of Intimate Credos*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1939

"Theology, or something that goes under that name, is still kept alive by the faithful, but only by artificial respiration." Carl L. Becker, *The Heavenly City of the Eighteenth-Century Philosophers*, New haven: Yale University, 1932, p. 17

"There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy." William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, 1601

"There are successful marriages, but no blissful ones." Francois de la Rochefoucauld

"There are three classes of intellects: one which comprehends by itself; another which appreciates what others comprehend; and a third which neither comprehends by itself nor by the showing of others; the first is the most excellent, the second is good, the third is useless." Niccolo Machiavelli, 1532 AD

"There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works." Anonymous



## CLASSIC QUOTES

"...there can be no *Why* but only a *How*, since to know *How* disposes finally of any possible *Why*." Theodore Dreiser, *Living Philosophies: A Series of Intimate Credos*, 1930.

"There is a knowledge which is desirable, though nothing come of it, as being of itself a treasure, and a sufficient remuneration of years of labor." John Newman, *The Idea of a University*, 1873

"There is great skill in knowing how to conceal one's skill." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678

"There is only one success - to be able to spend your life in your own way." Christopher Morely, 1922

"There is no solution, because there is no problem." French philosopher

"There is no wealth but life." John Ruskin, *Unto This Last*, 1862

"There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things." Niccolo Machiavelli, 1532 AD

"There is on earth among all dangers no more dangerous thing than a richly endowed and adroit reason... Reason must be deluded, blinded, and destroyed." Martin Luther, quoted by Walter Kaufmann, *The Faith of a Heretic*, Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1963, p. 75

"There is so much good in the worst of us, And so much bad in the best of us, That it hardly becomes any of us, To talk about the rest of us." 19th Century, Anonymous

"There is something else, too, which is a part of growing up - to see that life is really, after all, a game. When we play a game, as it should be played, we strain every muscle to win; but all the while we care less for winning than for the game. And we play the better for it. When barbarians play against a Patagonian team, they forget that it is a game, and go mad for victory. And then how we despise them! If they find themselves losing, they turn savage; if winning, blatant. Either way, the game is murdered, and they cannot see that they are slaughtering a lovely thing. How they pester and curse the umpire too! I have done that myself, of course, before now; not in games but in life. I have actually cursed the umpire of life... I want to tell you how I came to learn my lesson. I have a queer love for clambering about the high mountains; and once when I was up among the snow-fields... I was caught in a blizzard.

## CLASSIC QUOTES

...After many hours of floundering, I fell into a snow-drift. I tried to rise, but fell again and again, till my head was buried. The thought of death enraged me, for there was still so much that I wanted to do. I struggled frantically, vainly. Then suddenly - how can I put it - I saw the game that I was losing, and it was good. Good, no less to lose than to win. For it was the game, now, not victory, that mattered. Hitherto I had been blindfold, and a slave to victory; suddenly I was free, and with sight. For now I saw myself, and all of us, through the eyes of the umpire. It was as though a play-actor were to see the whole play, with his own part in it, through the author's eyes, from the auditorium. Here was I, acting the part of a rather fine man who had come to grief through his own carelessness before his work was done. For me, a character in the play, the situation was hideous; yet for me, the spectator, it had become excellent, within a wider excellence. I saw that it was equally so with all of us, and with all the worlds. For I seemed to see a thousand worlds taking part with us in the great show. And I saw everything through the calm eyes, the exultant, almost derisive, yet not unkindly, eyes of the playwright. ...Well, it had seemed that my exit had come; but no, there was still a cue for me. Somehow I was so strengthened by this new view of things that I struggled out of the snow-drift. And here I am once more. But I am a new man. My spirit is free." Spoken by "Divine Boy," Olaf Stapledon, *Last and First Men*, Chapter 5, Section 3, 1931

"There is, however, a limit at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue." Edmund Burke, *Observations on a Late Publication on the Present State of the Nation*, 1769

"There's hope a great man's memory may outlive his life half a year." William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, 1601

"They are ill discoverers who think there is no land, when they can see nothing but sea." Francis Bacon, *The Advancement of Learning*, 1605

"Think twice before everything you say, especially if you mean to say it." Anonymous

"This animal is very bad; when attacked, it defends itself!" 19th Century, France, Anonymous

"This filthy 20th century! I hate its guts!" A. L. Rowse, 20th century

"This is the bitterest pain among men, to have much knowledge but no power." Herodotus, before 425 BC

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"This is the hardest of all: to close the open hand out of love, and keep modest as a giver." Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, 1883

"This long disease, my life." Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Man*, 1734

"This only grant me, that my means may lie too low for envy, for contempt too high." Abraham Cowley, *A Vote*, 1636

"Those have most power to hurt us that we love." Francis Beaumont, *The Maid's Tragedy*, 17th Century

"Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine." Anonymous

"Those who wish to appear wise among fools, among the wise seem foolish." Quintilian, ca 80 AD

"Those whom God wishes to destroy, he first makes mad." Euripides, Fragment, before 406 BC

"Thus I live in the world rather as a spectator of Mankind than as one of the species." Joseph Addison (1672-1719), *The Spectator*, 1711

"Thus the earliest vertebrates, like the earliest amphibia, the earliest mammals, and the earliest primates, were small predators. Over and over again in evolution, the originators of new modes of life were small predators, and the key innovations at each stage conferred a selective advantage in predation." John Morgan Allman, *Evolving Brains*, 1999, p. 73

"Time is the most valuable thing a man can spend." Theophrastus, ca 300 BC

"Time, the avenger! Unto thee I lift my hands, and heart, and crave of thee a gift." Lord Byron, 1818

"Time, which strengthens friendship, weakens love." Jean de La Bruyere, *Les Caracteres*, 1688

"To be a pessimist is to never be disappointed." Anonymous

"To do just the opposite is also a form of imitation." Georg Christoph Lichtenberg, *Aphorisms*, 1798

"To every man comes, sooner or later, the great renunciation. For the young, there is nothing unattainable; a good thing desired with the whole force of a

## CLASSIC QUOTES

passionate will, and yet impossible, is to them not credible. Yet, by death, by illness, by poverty, or by the voice of duty, we must learn, each one of us, that the world was not made for us, and that, however beautiful may be the things we crave, Fate may nevertheless forbid them. It is the part of courage, when misfortune comes, to bear without repining the ruin of our hopes, to turn away our thoughts from vain regrets. This degree of submission to Power is not only just and right: it is the very gate of wisdom." Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Worship," 1903

"To every man is given the key to the gates of Heaven; the same key opens the gates of Hell." Buddhist proverb

"To know that which before us lies in daily life is the prime wisdom." John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, 1667

"To laugh at men of sense is the privilege of fools." Jean de La Bruyere, *Les Caracteres*, 1688

"To many, total abstinence is easier than perfect moderation." St. Augustine, *On the Good of Marriage*

"To overcome difficulties is to experience the full delight of existence." Arthur Schopenhauer, *Counsels and Maxims*

"To protect the faith is the highest calling of the radical creed. The more the evidence weighs against the belief, the more noble the act of believing becomes." [There is a] readiness to reshape reality to make the world correspond to an idea, ...a willingness to tinker with the facts to serve a greater truth." Collier, P and D. Horowitz, *Destructive Generation, Second Thought Books*, p. 246, 37, 37, 1995

"To weep is to make less the depth of grief." William Shakespeare, *King Henry the Sixth*, 1591

"To whom nothing is given, of him can nothing be required." Henry Fielding, Joseph Andrews, 1742 (play on "For unto whomsoever much is given...")

"Too great haste in paying off an obligation is a kind of ingratitude." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678

"True friendship is never serene." Marie de Rabutin-Chantal, *Lettres a Madame de Grignan*, 1671

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"True friendship's laws are by this rule express'd: Welcome the coming, speed the parting guest." Alexander Pope, *Translation of the Odyssey*, 1756

"Truly, to tell lies is not honorable; but when the truth entails tremendous ruin, to speak dishonorably is pardonable." Sophocles, before 406 BC

"Truth is the cry of all, but the game of the few." George Berkeley, *Siris*, 1744

"Truth often suffers more from the heat of its defenders than from the arguments of its opposers." William Penn, *Some Fruits of Solitude*, 1693

"...two great European narcotics, alcohol and Christianity." Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

"Underneath every successful man you will find a woman." *Playboy*, 1963 Oct.

"... United with his fellow-men by the strongest of all ties, the tie of a common doom, the free man finds that a new vision is with him always, shedding over every daily task the light of love. The life of Man is a long march through the night, surrounded by invisible foes, tortured by weariness and pain, towards a goal that few can hope to reach, and where none may tarry long. One by one, as they march, our comrades vanish from our sight, seized by the silent orders of omnipotent Death. Very brief is the time in which we can help them, in which their happiness or misery is decided. Be it ours to shed sunshine on their path, to lighten their sorrows by the balm of sympathy, to give them the pure joy of a never tiring affection, to strengthen failing courage, to instill faith in hours of despair. Let us not weigh in grudging scales their merits and demerits, but let us think only of their need - of the sorrows, the difficulties, perhaps the blindnesses, that make the misery of their lives; let us remember that they are fellow-sufferers in the same darkness, actors in the same tragedy with ourselves. And so, when their day is over, when their good and their evil have become eternal by the immortality of the past, be it ours to feel that, where they suffered, where they failed, no deed of ours was the cause; but wherever a spark of the divine fire kindled in their hearts, we were ready with encouragement, with sympathy, with brave words in which high courage glowed." Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Worship," 1903

"Unsung, the noblest deed will die." Pindar, *Isthmean Odes*, before 438 BC

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Until I was twelve years old, it did not occur to me that everybody did not write as easily as they breathed. ...So I became a journalist..."It taught me firmly and inexorably that there are no rules of human conduct which are not broken over and over again, often with what appears to be impunity. ...although I was committed to all the news that was fit to print, I was constantly astonished by the news that was not fit to print and which few people would have believed." (Source lost)

"Until you understand a writer's ignorance, presume yourself ignorant of his writings." Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Biographica Literaria*, 1817

"Unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." [Republican motto? No, it's a Richard Dawkins explanation of positive feedback in mating preference situations.] Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker*, New York: W. W. Norton & Co, 1986

"Wandering in a vast forest at night, I have only a faint light to guide me. A stranger appears and says to me: 'My friend, you should blow out your candle in order to find your way more clearly.' This stranger is a theologian." Diderot, c1762

"Wars and revolutions and battles are due simply and solely to the body and its desires. All wars are undertaken for the acquisition of wealth; and the reason why we have to acquire wealth is the body, because we are slaves in its service." Socrates

"We adjust all evidence to fit our beliefs." Robert Thurman

"We all have strength enough to endure the misfortunes of others." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678

"We are always doing something for Posterity, but I would fain see Posterity do something for us." Joseph Addison, *The Spectator*, 1714

"We are here on Earth to help others. What on Earth the others are here for I don't know." W. H. Auden

"We are ne'er like angels till our passion dies." Thomas Dekker, *The Honest Whore*, 1604

"We can do noble acts without ruling the earth and sea." Aristotle

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"We confess to little faults only to persuade ourselves that we have no great ones." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678

"We know what we are, but know not what we may be." William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, 1601

"We must laugh before we are happy, for fear we die before we laugh at all." Jean de La Bruyere, *Les Caracteres*, 168

"We must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures." William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar*, 1599

"We often do good that we may do harm with impunity." Francois de la Rochefoucauld

"We pardon to the extent that we love." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678

"We rarely find anyone who can say he has lived a happy life, and who, content with his life, can retire from the world like a satisfied guest." Horace, *Satires*, ca 20 BC

"We rarely find that people have good sense unless they agree with us." Francois Duc de La Rochefoucauld, *Reflections; or, Sentences and Moral Maxims*, 1678

"We refuse praise from a desire to be praised twice." La Rochefocauld

"We work in the twentieth century and dream in the twelfth... those who try to bask in vanquished sunlight..." Erwin Edman, *The Contemporary and His Soul*, New York: Cape & Smith, pp 177 and 176, 1931

"What are the long-term effects of instant gratification? Ironically, human nature is often the greatest deterrent to making an intelligent decision. But who can blame us? We're only human!" Add in *New Yorker*, by Nuveen (specialists in tax-free investments), Feb. 25, 1991

"What I call nature, and fools call God." Robert Browning, *The Ring and the Book*, (1870)

"What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies." Aristotle, ca 330 BC

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"What is it: is man only a blunder of God, or God only a blunder of man?"  
Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Twilight of the Idols*, 1883

"What is now proved was once only imagined." William Blake

"What is wanted is not the will-to-believe, but the wish to find out, which is its exact opposite." Bertrand Russell

"What may man within him hide, though angel on the outward side!" William Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*, 1604

"What we cannot speak about we must pass over in silence." Ludwig Josef Johann Wittgenstein, *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*, 1922

"What woeful stuff this madrigal would be, In some starv'd hackney sonneteer, or me! But let a lord once own the happy lines, How the wit brightens! How the style refines!" Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*, 1711

"What's past and what's to come is strew'd with husks, and formless ruin of oblivion." William Shakespeare, *Troilus and Cressida*, 1602

"What's the use of knowing things if no one knows you know it? What's the use of doing deeds when no one knows who did it?" Anonymous

"When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle." Edmund Burke, *Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontents*, 1770

"When God is at last dead for Man, when the last gleam of light is extinguished, and we are surrounded by the impenetrable darkness of a universe that exists for no purpose, then at last Man will know that he is alone, and must create his own values to live by." Nietzsche (paraphrase)

"When its whole significance dawns upon you [referring to evolution], your heart sinks into a heap of sand within you. There is a hideous fatalism about it, a ghastly and damnable reduction of beauty and intelligence, of strength and purpose, of honor and aspiration." George B. Shaw

"When one person suffers from a delusion, it is called insanity. When many people suffer from a delusion it is called Religion." Robert M. Pirsig, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*



## CLASSIC QUOTES

"When our vices desert us, we flatter ourselves that we are deserting our vices." Francois de la Rochefoucauld

"When the plumbers want to be philosophers, forcing the philosophers to do their own plumbing, we will arrive at a place wherein neither the plumbing nor the philosophy holds water." Thomas D. Murray, *Santa Barbara News-Press*, February 15, 2000

"When the populace takes to reasoning, all is lost." Voltaire

"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanac*, 1733

"When we are born, we cry that we are come to this great stage of fools." William Shakespeare, *King Lear*, 1605

"When you have nothing to say, say nothing." Charles Caleb Colton, *Lacon*, 1822

"Who overcomes by force hath overcome but half his foe." John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, 1667

"[Who shall] not to feel the torturing need to know and see for oneself what is there beyond the mysterious blue wall of the horizon, not to find the arrangements of life monotonous and depressing, to look at the white road leading off into the unknown distance without feeling the imperious necessity of giving in to it and following it obediently across mountains and valleys. The cowardly belief that a man must stay in one place is reminiscent of the unquestioning resignation of animals, beasts of burden stupefied by servitude and yet always willing to accept the slipping on of the harness. There are limits to every domain and laws to govern every organized power. The wanderer (the seeker) owns the whole vast earth that ends only at the non-existent horizon, and, his empire is an intangible one, for his domination and enjoyment of it are things of the spirit." Isabelle Eberhardt, *The Oblivion Seekers*

"Whom they have injured they also hate." Seneca, ca 50 AD

"Wise men profit more from fools than fools from wise men; for the wise men shun the mistakes of the fools, but the fools do not imitate the successes of the wise." Marcus Porcius Cato, ca 160 BC

## CLASSIC QUOTES

"Wit that can creep, and pride that licks the dust." Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Man*, 1734

"Women sometimes forgive a man who forces the opportunity, but never a man who misses one." Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Perigord, ca. 1857

"...the word God is for me nothing more than the expression and product of human weaknesses, the bible a collection of honorable but still primitive legends legends which are nevertheless pretty childish. No interpretation no matter how subtle can (for me) change this." A. Einstein, letter to philosopher Eric Gutkind, January, 1954 (a year before Einstein's death).

"Words are like leaves; and where they most abound, Much fruit of sense beneath is rarely found." Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Criticism*, 1711

"Words have a longer life than deeds." Pindar, *Nemean Odes*, before 438 BC

"You are born with a job to do, and you must find it and do it, and there are no excuses for you if you fail through lack of Perseverance." Plutarch, *Morals: Of the Training of Children*. ca. 50 BC

"You may talk of the tyranny of Nero and Tiberius; but the real tyranny is the tyranny of your neighbor ... Public opinion is a permeating influence, and it exacts obedience to itself; it requires us to think other men's thoughts, to speak other men's words, to follow other men's habits." Walter Bagehot, *Biographical Studies*, 1907, Sir Robert Peel

"You saw his weakness, and he will never forgive you." Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller, *Wilhelm Tell*, 1804

"You tread upon my patience." William Shakespeare, *King Henry the Fourth*, 1597

"Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you, and though they are with you, yet they belong not to you. You may give them your love but not your thoughts. For they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday. You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth. The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far. Let your

## CLASSIC QUOTES

bending in the archer's hand be for gladness; for even as he loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable." Kahlil Gibran, "On Children," *The Prophet*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1923

---

## PART 2

### THIS MISANTHROPE'S BREVITY

---

I hesitate to include the following amateur, never-quoted “quotes” in the same book as those in Part 1 that have actually been quoted. However, part of my reason for writing this book is to encourage misanthropes to unite, unapologetically, and nudge Humanity to take a better path. After all, as my first quote states...

---

“A tick of the cosmic clock wrought life from dust, and here stands Man at the threshold of 5 billion years of solar tranquility. Before his umbilical to Earth is cut, Man may self-destruct, genetically dissolve or step backward to a primitive state. A better alternative would be for Man to domesticate himself, ridding his gene pool of tribal-serving genes that have rendered him dysfunctional in a modern society and an unreliable custodian of civilization. Misanthropes will never unite to guide Man forward, so I expect that humans are destined to follow one of the inglorious backward paths.”

Archduke Franz Ferdinand boasted that he shot 300,000 creatures. He loved to hunt from a train, shooting from his comfortable moving perch. Another train followed to collect his kill, which would be added to an immense collection of trophies in Ferdinand’s castle. When an assassin’s bullet struck Ferdinand in 1914 humanity should have rejoiced. Instead, they started World War I. Humans!

“Asking the right question can be more useful than giving a right answer.”

“As we look at others, and even ourselves, we see only fools!”

“Big thoughts can never be comprehended by little minds. Even big minds are prone to discount big thoughts if they are not delivered in a royal carriage.”

“Civility is a thin veneer; scratch it at your peril, for dark things dwell below.”

“Conservatism, per se, is a good thing; as in preserving the environment and saving money. But the concept of “conservatism” is corrupted when it becomes a shield for pilfering the common good, as in stealing from the poor and then accusing protesting victims of engaging in class warfare.”

## NEVER QUOTED QUOTES

“Dear Reader, you normaloid idiot!” (Opening sentence of a book Introduction)

“Death is life’s true aim.”

“Discussing the existence of God is about as interesting as debating the existence of the Easter Bunny.”

“Discussions may eventually convince while arguments only harden positions and threaten relationships.”

“Each birth marks the beginning of a life-long conflict between an individual’s pursuit of happiness and a gene pool’s pursuit of immortality. But the genes have an unfair advantage, for they have honed their enslavement of individuals over evolutionary timescales. Does ‘thinking Man’ have a chance of outwitting the genes? Is it possible for an individual to identify gene tricks and assert his will to side-step them? If the gene pool could think, it would have ‘nightmares’ about the individual who uses rational thought to subvert instincts and get what is fair for an **individual** to want while denying genes what **they** want. To the extent that a liberated individual serves as an example for others he is also a menace to the gene pool. If only one generation were to become totally infected and useless to the gene pool, the gene pool would die. This proves that no generation of humans has ever been infected by the notion of individual liberation. Humanity is doomed to everlasting enslavement!”

“Down with meritocracy; up with Roobocracy. The Roob’s motto: ‘Knowledge corrupts; only the uneducated can be trusted with power.’”

“Each birth marks the beginning of a life-long conflict between an individual’s pursuit of happiness and a gene pool’s pursuit of immortality.

“Every baby represents a victory of the genes over hypothetical individual aspirations for liberation from genetic enslavement.”

“Within each man is a criminal opportunist, waiting, waiting...”

“Every pompous statement should be turned on its head if you want a shortcut to truth.”

“Everything of value ends-up in the fireplace.”

## NEVER QUOTED QUOTES

“Flag-waving patriotism is dangerous to individuals. When the home tribe is threatened, or when it is preparing to attack its neighbor, everyone’s loyalty bears closer inspection. This produces a shameless rush to rally around the flag with an embarrassing excess of fervor. As Voltaire said “Patriotism is a refuge of cowards.” The most glaring flaw of group-think patriotism is revealed by the patriot himself when he exclaims, to an approving crowd of riled-up tribesmen: ‘my country, right or wrong.’”

“Genes assemble ‘vehicles’ for carrying copies of themselves into the future. Even though individuals compete with each other, what counts more on evolutionary timescales is which genes are the winners and losers. An individual’s anatomy, physiology and behavior are expressions of what has served the ancestral **genes**, not what served the **ancestors**.”

“God is Santa Clause for adults.”

"God must have had an inordinate fondness for idiots, for why else would he have made so many." (A shameless variation on J. B. S. Haldane's comment about beetles)

“He works hard, me thinks, to present the impression that he doesn’t care what impression he presents.”

“How can so many smart people be so dumb!”

“How ironic that clinical psychiatry believes that enlightening a patient about himself can lead to a cure; in other words, when a person’s messed-up just force them to see it, and the mess will tidy itself.”

“How much could natural selection have changed the character of men since the Romans flocked to coliseum entertainment 60 generations ago?”

“Humans! How can any caring person observe the human scene without exclaiming this epithet in exasperation?”

“Humans deserve each other.”

“I am a nobody; nobody is perfect; therefore I am perfect.”

“I think it’s possible to admire any creature that’s true to its nature; the only exception being Humans.”

“I should worship whatever made God; but knowing its creator, I despise it.”

## NEVER QUOTED QUOTES

“If a contented happiness were my goal I should have been born a cow.”

“If only human affairs could be entrusted to humans!”

“Illusions soften the sting of Reality.”

“I’m proud of my ability to accept cold facts. For example, I’ve done a pretty good job of accepting the possibility that I might die.”

“I’ll admit to a smile upon learning that an act of God destroyed a church.”

“In the interest of creating a more tolerant society I suggest banishing all intolerant people.”

"An irony, that young people move fast, as if their time is short, while old people move slowly, as if they have forever."

“Is it possible for the seeker of truth to love men? Is it possible for men to love the seeker of truth?”

“It is a mistake to recommend reading material; no one else can know a person’s taste in written garbage.”

“It is a tasteless pastime carrying a little mirror for reflecting pathetic illusions.”

“It is fitting that the words hypocrisy and humanity should appear on the same page of my dictionary.”

“It’s easy to say ‘why should I?’ when you subconsciously know you can’t.”

“It’s a lucky man who’s a tool for something.”

“It’s frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you questions.”

“It’s a scary thought that humans are in charge of human affairs.”

“It is easier to have self-confidence when others have confidence in you.”

“Just as a man must question those of his thoughts that meet with ready acceptance, so must he adhere to those that are immediately rejected.”

## NEVER QUOTED QUOTES

“Let us salute the amazing ability of people to figure out which side of their bread is buttered.”

“Like all intellectual diversions it achieved the goal of killing time.”

“Man is a portion of the inanimate universe come alive, the sole observer, whose intellect has revealed to him the nature of his origin, and whose imagination allows him to speculate on the manner of his extinction – as an individual and as a species.”

“Mankind, a disease upon the Earth.”

"Men and women deserve each other!"

"Men like him wouldn't exist if women weren't attracted to his type."

“Men kill, women enslave.”

“A misanthrope is someone profoundly disappointed in humanity. Only my dogs have grounds for not being misanthropic.”

“Most people are less concerned about the truth of something than about how it makes them feel. This is a good strategy for keeping the human robot enslaved to the genetic agenda.”

“Much of human behavior has to do with gaining access to the best genes the opposite sex has to offer.”

“The Muslim terrorist who believes that 70 virgins await him after he kills innocents of the enemy tribe is no less gullible than the male walking stick who allows his head to be eaten while procreating so that his insemination act will be more successful. Both are unthinking automatons enslaved by their genes.”

“‘My country, right or wrong’ is one of the most incriminating admissions of human hypocrisy because it reveals our shameless origins as dangerous tribal barbarians: my tribe, right or wrong.”

"My definition of "idiocy" begins with the assertion that there's a "how" explanation for everything and a "why" explanation for nothing; those who don't understand this are idiots."



## NEVER QUOTED QUOTES

“My dogs are better company at the dinner table than most humans; silence is better than the idiotic blathering of pompous morons.”

"My life has benefited greatly by not getting much of what I wanted!"

“My main disappointment in life is that year after year I discover that there are fewer and fewer intelligent people in the world.”

“Nature will terminate your life at a time of its own reckoning without regard for how fulfilled it has been, as it sentences you to eternal nothingness.”

"Not only are things not what they seem to be, they are often not what we think they are after we discover they're not what they seem to be."

“Oh, to be dead again!”

“Men value women because they can make babies. Women value men because they can protect and support a family. The genes value both because their enslavement provides an opportunity for genetic immortality.”

“My residence is a refuge from worldly horridness. My two dogs and a cat are accustomed to more kindness and respect than most humans get. At least on my property nothing horrible is happening; all creatures live in total ignorance of the revolting state of things outside. To remain sane each of us must close our eyes to the outside world as we ‘cultivate our garden.’”

“One difference between uncivilized people and us is that they are constrained in every way by traditions and social imprisonment to make fools of themselves, while we do so with the benefit of unprecedented social emancipation and freedom.”

“One way to distinguish Republicans from Democrats is that the former excuse the unethical inclinations of the wealthy whereas the latter excuse the unethical inclinations of the poor.”

“Our ancestors knew only the suffering their eyes could see. Today, however, it is possible to be overwhelmed by horrible things happening all the time throughout the world. There is no comfort in the knowledge that almost all of it is caused by our fellow man. The only way to stay sane is to shut one’s eyes.”

“People never change their beliefs because they can’t change their natures.”

## NEVER QUOTED QUOTES

“‘Perchance to die’ follows from ‘perchance to dream.’ Death is a permanent sleep, but devoid of dreams. That is why my bedtime prayer is ‘perchance to dream.’”

“A person may have a Philosophy of Reality, a Philosophy for Living, and an Adaptation to Life. In theory, each should form the basis for the next, but in reality they are unrelated since they develop in reverse order.”

“Pleasure pursued ceases to yield pleasure; it must come unexpected. How should one live when the very thing which justifies the endurance of life tends to disappear when it is pursued?”

“Sex is an ever-present reminder of the individual’s subservience to the genes.”

“Sometimes when the world seems inexplicable, I’m reminded of the little ant that was confused by the fact that all his uncles were ants.” Variant of an old joke.

"Simplicity of demeanor does not handicap subtlety of thought."

“Sports may be ‘just a game’ - but its evolutionary purpose is preparation for the kill.”

“The future is that half of fate not yet detected.”

“Tell me your most cherished belief, and I’ll mock it!” (A misanthrope pastime.)

“The laws of physics render familiar notions of consciousness irrelevant to the inevitable unfolding human drama. Our free will can alter events just as much as a moviegoer can alter the movie. Indeed, we are all Marching Morons.”

“The misanthrope is unwilling to surrender the pre-pubescent world-view of Truth and Beauty for War and Sex.”

“The more impassioned the argument, the less credible it seems.”

“The older I get, the dumber the rest of humanity becomes!”

"The older I get, the more I become who I am."

“The only end in life should be the pure enjoyment of it.”

## NEVER QUOTED QUOTES

“The other-directed attitude is merely a leftover dependence from childhood when we measured our actions by the reaction it brought from our parents? A child must endeavor to make his impulses conform with adult standards. The child is obliged to recognize the existence of an all-powerful, all-seeing outside force whose wrath can be avoided, and whose beneficence may be elicited, merely by yielding his sovereignty to it. Because the child must survive childhood the infantile mind is predisposed to embrace the concept of an all-powerful agent who is the source of rightness and wrongness, who sits in judgment of the person’s every act, and who dispenses love and protection for as long as its will is obeyed. So what happens when a child grows up and becomes aware that his parents are flawed and don’t measure up to an earlier perfection? Children’s illusory gods don’t fade away, they’re projected! It begins a transformed life as an abstraction, beyond reach, beyond challenge, and it is called God.”

"The past I can deal with; it's the present I'm having trouble with."

“The path to a winning place, that did not have evolutionary payoffs for our ancestors, is an arduous path, and getting to such a winning place is as rare an achievement as it is painful.”

"The person who knows less, sometimes understands more."

“The person who is comfortable with his beliefs does not seek corroboration by trying to persuade others. Proselytizing is a sign of uncertainty.”

“The simple person believes that ‘if it feels good, do it,’ whereas the wise person believes ‘if it feels good, don’t trust it.’”

“The stupid genes are blind to the future; their wisdom is of the past.”

“The top of my head used to produce hair; now it produces vitamin D.”

“The true philosopher is dedicated to silence.”

“The younger generation learns history, the middle generation makes it, and the older one watches it go by.”

“There being no inherent purpose or meaning for one’s life should set a person free to order his life according to whatever philosophy he may take a liking to, even illusory ones.”

## NEVER QUOTED QUOTES

"There's a game called 'conversation' with rules that stipulate that the players take turns overlooking stupidity, hypocrisy and irrelevance."

"Thinking is a subversive activity. It undermines the power of our primitive right brain."

"This moment is a transition between memories and imagination."

"Those with the bleakest prospects in their future are the most desperate to prolong life."

"A three-letter word, sometimes referred to as *Santa Clause for adults*."  
(From a misanthrope's cross-word puzzle.)

"To be enlightened is to realize that enlightenment is a meaningless concept."

"To err is human. Indeed, it is our trademark."

"Truth is suppressed when it promotes unhappiness. Therefore, to get the whole truth one must seek out unhappy people."

"Truth is the one thing you can hit people over the head with, without getting a reaction!"

"Truth stands still while our perception of it changes."

"While watching the evening news I often exclaim: Thank God I'm not Human!"

"Well, first, I want to commend you for keeping a straight face while you said that."

"When has anybody in the future done something for me?"

"When surrounded by a world of idiots the best defense is to live a good life."

"When people begin to agree with me it is time for me to review where I went wrong."

"When times are easy people become lazy. Can a generation unfamiliar with the work ethic be a reliable custodian of civilization?"

"When you ignore the world, the world ignores you. Count your blessings!"

## NEVER QUOTED QUOTES

“When you walk under the sun notice your shadow, and think of it as a reminder of death. The shadow is the absence of light, as death is the absence of life. Even when the sun is at your zenith remember that each subsequent passing hour lengthens your shadow. Let your awareness of death serve a constructive purpose; let it enhance your appreciation for life. Nature terminates a life without noting how fulfilled it has been, as it sentences you to eternal nothingness. You owe yourself that fulfillment before sunset.”

“Whether or not a belief spreads is unrelated to its merit. Indeed, the relationship is often inverted.”

"Which *serves* the other: The chicken or the egg?"

“While the rich multiply their riches, the poor just multiply.”

"Why should humans value things that every animal can do? Fighting, wooing, sex, making babies – these are things that come naturally to all creatures. Humans should value things that *only* humans can do. The mark of the common man is to think like the animals. (Based on a Schopenhauer complaint)

“With a dog’s friendship, who needs people?”

"Women are most discredited by their irrational attraction to men."

"Women like being man-handled!"

“You, the unborn, though your numbers far surpass ours, please understand that the problems of my contemporaries are more compelling than even the matter of your existence. The gratitude of the visible multitude is palpable, whereas your existence is only hypothetical. It appears that my actions are merciful, since everyone says they are. Our leaders improve nuclear weapons with the cry ‘better dead than red.’ Perhaps it is inevitable that sapient species emerge after a protracted period of intra-specific, inter-tribal warfare. But during that dangerous transition to sanity the species must deal with behaviors and weapons that threaten the very survival of our species: *homo hypocritus*.”

SETI scientists speak with authority about silence.

## NEVER QUOTED QUOTES

## **PART 3**

### **A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP**

---

This section is devoted to “the greatest essay ever written.”

Bertrand Russell published it in *Independent Review* (1903). In 1929 it was reprinted as Chapter 3 of *Mysticism and Logic*. When I discovered the essay in 1998 I was overwhelmed by a feeling of *déjà vu*, as if I had written the essay in some past life. I was “so on the same wavelength” with “Bertie” that I knew intuitively what he was aiming at, in spite of his poetic flourishes.

When I tried to share the essay with someone I was dismayed by a complaint that the essay was difficult to understand. That’s when I decided to create an abridged version of what Bertie had written, with insertions of my annotated “translations” before each paragraph.

I will present “A Free Man’s Worship” (abridged) in three versions: 1) my “translated” version, 2) Russell’s original, and 3) a paragraph-by-paragraph correspondence with my paragraph translation preceding each of Russell’s paragraphs. I hope my “translations” don’t get in the way of appreciating Russell’s poetic rendition.

## A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP

### **"A Free Man's Worship"**

Bruce L. Gary "translation" of abridged version of Bertrand Russell's essay

1998.08.27

Science has removed the veil of mystery from the workings of the universe, forcing Man to accept a view in which all things are the result of cold, uncaring forces. Man must accept that his existence is an unforeseen accident of Nature, and our understanding of the blind workings of these same forces persuades us that Mankind will eventually perish, along with his proud achievements.

How ironic that blind forces created a creature that thinks and aspires to understand the forces that created it, with an understanding denied the creating forces – which are blind. And more, this creature has feelings of good and evil, which also are denied the creating forces. And this new creature uses these insights and feelings to make judgments about the universe that created it.

In spite of being powerless within this mechanistic universe, as metaphorically emphasized by the fact that we die after just a few short years of existence, this thinking and feeling creature is nevertheless "free." He is free to ponder, to understand, to pass judgment, and imagine things that theoretically could exist. All these things are denied to the rest of the universe, and to the forces that bind the sentient individual; this makes the sentient "superior" to the creating and still enslaving forces.

Even primitive people understand that they are subject to forces more powerful than themselves. Those of our ancestors who acknowledged the power of stronger men and prostrated themselves in their worship, were more likely to be spared, and therefore tended to survive. The powers of Nature were dealt with similarly, because of the savages imperfect understanding of the differences between Nature and Man; hence, our ancestors prostrated themselves before the imagined Gods who represented Natural forces and offered sacrifices of valued things as if these would evoke compassion.

The savage relates to Nature the way a slave relates to his master. A slave dare not complain to his master about the unfair infliction of pain. Similarly, the savage dare not complain about the unfairness of his Gods.

The thinking person bravely acknowledges the imperfectness of the world. Unlike the savage, for whom survival is paramount and which constrains his thinking, we thinking people refuse to surrender our wish for the world to be better. We boldly worship "truth" and "beauty" and other concepts which are luxuries for the savage. The savage is enslaved by his excessive concern with the Powers of Nature, which for him are too complex to challenge. We have become "free" by refusing to worship fear-driven Power, like a slave worships his master, and to worship instead an imagined world of goodness, fairness and perfection. Even when the world does not



## A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP

bring forth goodness in our lives, we can at least imagine it, and seek solace from the imagined state. Although we know that we are mortal, we can at least imagine immortality, and be comforted by the thought. No matter how buffeted our lives may be by uncaring natural forces, we can still imagine a tranquil state, and use it's vision to survive the real world with equanimity.

Part of growing-up is surrendering the Mother Love that bathed our self-centered baby years. Our wishes cannot always be met by crying, as they once were. The adult must abandon childhood dreams when Fate denies them, and we must emotionally accept that this is normal. The acceptance of limitations is a precondition for further growth.

After learning that the outer world was not created for our benefit, but that we are mere unintended products of its blind forces, it becomes easier to accept the limitations of living within it. We can forgive it for whatever unintended calamities occur, for the Universe does not seek out its victims. It is unconscious, and uncaring, so there is no point in worshiping it for the purpose of avoiding its anger. This frees us to begin to see beauty within it. Because it is powerful it deserves our respect, but because it does not take notice of us we are free to think about it any way that we want. That which once scared us becomes beautiful, and worthy of our worship. But this is a new worship, for instead of being driven by fear and the need to propitiate, we are driven by the idealization of beauty, by aesthetics. This is a sort of triumph of the human mind over a once intimidating universe.

Death represents another challenge to the person who has shaken off the shackles of savage thinking. There is no denying that it is inevitable and irrevocable. The vastness of the un-lived future, matched by the vastness of the un-lived past, would seem to diminish the significance of the short span we do live. How ironic that during our brief span there should be so much travail and pain. Seeing that much of this sorrow is produced by petty strivings, we are less eager to pursue the endless and trivial struggles that once constituted our everyday life. Ever more freed from conventional shackles, and more aloof, it is easier to comprehend the poignancy of the human predicament: we are all subject to the same brief existence, surrounded by an immense and uncaring universe, we invent meaning and work together to achieve imagined goals, but most of these goals are transitory and petty, so in effect we squander our short tenure. And finally, we die alone, carrying the burden of knowledge that our struggles were for imagined causes, and that our final defeat is a passage into an uncaring, inanimate oblivion. However, with our contemporaries we share the realization of the aloneness of Death, and this recognition can bond us. Out of this shared dilemma can arise a new empathy for our fellow Man.

Whereas the savage continues to view the inanimate world as animate, and therefore worships false gods (in the manner of a slave), and whereas the savage continues to be driven by petty strivings with transitory rewards of personal happiness, thereby squandering a finite life, and whereas the savage refuses to accept the inevitable victory of an uncaring universe over his petty struggles, and therefore invents pitiful palliative realities promising everlasting heavenly happiness, the thoughtful man is

## A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP

free of all these false worshippings, false strivings, and false hopes. This emancipating perspective opens the way to the free man's worship.

Thoughtful men, who have freed themselves from the savage's slave worship mentality, are bound together by an acknowledgement of their shared fate. Each of us faces the existential dilemma, each confronts an uncaring physical universe and an evil animate one, each of us endures this for a brief time, and each of us will die alone. To the extent that I understand my individual fate, I also understand the fate of my fellow man. Our shared doom creates a feeling of fellowship. Together we march through the treacherous fields of life, and one by one we fall down to die. We are fellow-sufferers, and it feels right to reach out with a helpful hand to those who we shall later become. We may see their shortcomings, and know that we have ours; and remembering their burden of sorrows, we forgive.

Let our little day in the immense scheme of things be free of unnecessary pain, and be filled with gratitude. Let us worship, during our few precious moments, at our self-built shrine dedicated to aesthetic beauty. If we cherish these few good things during our journey, then we will be less buffeted by the uncaring universe that unknowingly created us. This is the only worship worthy of free men.

## "A Free Man's Worship"

Bertrand Russell

Published in *Independent Review*, 1903 (Also reprinted in *Mysticism and Logic* as Chapter 3, W. W. Norton and Company, New York, 1929.) Abridged by Bruce L. Gary, 1998.08.27.

Such ... is the world which Science presents for our belief. ... That man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; ... all the noonday brightness of human genius are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins.

A strange mystery it is that Nature, omnipotent but blind, in the revolutions of her secular hurrying through the abysses of space, has brought forth at last a child, subject still to her power, but gifted with sight, with knowledge of good and evil, with the capacity of judging all the works of his unthinking Mother.

In spite of Death, the mark and seal of the parental control, Man is yet free, during his brief years, to examine, to criticize, to know, and in imagination to create. To him alone, in the world with which he is acquainted, this freedom belongs; and in this lies his superiority to the resistless forces that control his outward life.

The savage, like ourselves, feels the oppression of his impotence before the powers of Nature; but having in himself nothing that he respects more than Power, he is willing to prostrate himself before his gods, without inquiring whether they are worthy of his worship. Pathetic and very terrible is the long history of cruelty and torture, of degradation and human sacrifice, endured in the hope of placating the jealous gods: surely, the trembling believer thinks, when what is most precious has been freely given, their lust for blood must be appeased, and more will not be required.

The religion of Moloch - as such creeds may be generically called - is in essence the cringing submission of the slave, who dare not, even in his heart, allow the thought that his master deserves no adulation. Since the independence of ideals is not yet acknowledged, Power may be freely worshipped, and receive an unlimited respect, despite its wanton infliction of pain.

## A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP

... Let us admit that, in the world we know, there are many things that would be better otherwise, and that the ideals to which we do and must adhere are not realized in the realm of matter. Let us preserve our respect for truth, for beauty, for the ideal of perfection which life does not permit us to attain, though none of these things meet with the approval of the unconscious universe. If Power is bad, as it seems to be, let us reject it from our hearts. In this lies Man's true freedom: in determination to worship only the God created by our own love of the good, to respect only the heaven which inspires the insight of our best moments. In action, in desire, we must submit perpetually to the tyranny of outside forces; but in thought, in aspiration, we are free, free from our fellowmen, free from the petty planet on which our bodies impotently crawl, free even, while we live, from the tyranny of death. Let us learn, then, that energy of faith which enables us to live constantly in the vision of the good; and let us descend, in action, into the world of fact, with that vision always before us.

To every man comes, sooner or later, the great renunciation. For the young, there is nothing unattainable; a good thing desired with the whole force of a passionate will, and yet impossible, is to them not credible. Yet, by death, by illness, by poverty, or by the voice of duty, we must learn, each one of us, that the world was not made for us, and that, however beautiful may be the things we crave, Fate may nevertheless forbid them. It is the part of courage, when misfortune comes, to bear without repining the ruin of our hopes, to turn away our thoughts from vain regrets. This degree of submission to Power is not only just and right: it is the very gate of wisdom.

When, without the bitterness of impotent rebellion we have learnt both to resign ourselves to the outward rule of Fate and to recognize that the non-human world is unworthy of our worship, it becomes possible at last so to transform and refashion the unconscious universe, so to transmute it in the crucible of imagination, that a new image of shining gold replaces the old idol of clay. In all the multiform facets of the world - in the visual shapes of trees and mountains and clouds, in the events of the life of man, even in the very omnipotence of Death - the insight of creative idealism can find the reflection of a beauty which its own thoughts first made. In this way mind asserts its subtle mastery over the thoughtless forces of Nature.

In the spectacle of Death, in the endurance of intolerable pain, and in the irrevocableness of a vanished past, there is a sacredness, an over-powering awe, a feeling of the vastness, the depth, the inexhaustible mystery of existence, in which, as by some strange marriage of pain, the sufferer is bound to the world by bonds of sorrow. In these moments of insight, we lose all eagerness of temporary desire, all struggling and striving for petty ends, all

## A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP

care for the little trivial things that, to a superficial view, make up the common life of day by day; we see, surrounding the narrow raft illuminated by the flickering light of human comradeship, the dark ocean on whose rolling waves we toss for a brief hour; from the great night without, a chill blast breaks in upon our refuge; all the loneliness of humanity amid hostile forces is concentrated upon the individual soul, which must struggle alone, with what of courage it can command, against the whole weight of a universe that cares nothing for its hopes and fears. Victory, in this struggle with the powers of darkness, is the true baptism into the glorious company of heroes, the true initiation into the overmastering beauty of human existence. From that awful encounter of the soul with the outer world, enunciation, wisdom and charity are born; and with their birth a new life begins.

The life of Man, viewed outwardly, is but a small thing in comparison with the forces of Nature. The slave is doomed to worship Time and Fate and Death, because they are greater than anything he finds in himself, and because all his thoughts are of things which they devour. But, great as they are, to think of them greatly, to feel their passionless splendor, is greater still. And such thought makes us free men; we no longer bow before the inevitable in Oriental subjection, but we absorb it, and make it a part of ourselves. To abandon the struggle for private happiness, to expel all eagerness of temporary desire, to burn with passion for eternal things - this is emancipation, and this is the free man's worship."

United with his fellow-men by the strongest of all ties, the tie of a common doom, the free man finds that a new vision is with him always, shedding over every daily task the light of love. The life of Man is a long march through the night, surrounded by invisible foes, tortured by weariness and pain, towards a goal that few can hope to reach, and where none may tarry long. One by one, as they march, our comrades vanish from our sight, seized by the silent orders of omnipotent Death. Very brief is the time in which we can help them, in which their happiness or misery is decided. Be it ours to shed sunshine on their path, to lighten their sorrows by the balm of sympathy, to give them the pure joy of a never tiring affection, to strengthen failing courage, to instill faith in hours of despair. Let us not weigh in grudging scales their merits and demerits, but let us think only of their need - of the sorrows, the difficulties, perhaps the blindnesses, that make the misery of their lives; let us remember that they are fellow-sufferers in the same darkness, actors in the same tragedy with ourselves. And so, when their day is over, when their good and their evil have become eternal by the immortality of the past, be it ours to feel that, where they suffered, where they failed, no deed of ours was the cause; but wherever a spark of the divine fire kindled in their hearts, we were ready with

## A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP

encouragement, with sympathy, with brave words in which high courage glowed.

Brief and powerless is Man's life; on him and all his race the slow, sure doom falls pitiless and dark. Blind to good and evil, reckless of destruction, omnipotent matter rolls on its relentless way; for Man, condemned today to lose his dearest, tomorrow himself to pass through the gate of darkness, it remains only to cherish, ere yet the blow falls, the lofty thoughts that ennoble his little day; disdaining the coward terrors of the slave of Fate, to worship at the shrine that his own hands have built; undismayed by the empire of chance, to preserve a mind free from the wanton tyranny that rules his outward life; proudly defiant of the irresistible forces that tolerate, for a moment, his knowledge and his condemnation, to sustain alone, a weary but unyielding Atlas, the world that his own ideals have fashioned despite the trampling march of unconscious power.

## "A Free Man's Worship"

Bertrand Russell

Published in *Independent Review*, 1903 (Also reprinted in *Mysticism and Logic* as Chapter 3, W. W. Norton and Company, New York, 1929.)

Abridged by Bruce L. Gary, 1998.08.27, with paragraph-by-paragraph correspondence with the version presented above.

*Science has removed the veil of mystery from the workings of the universe, forcing Man to accept a view in which all things are the result of cold, uncaring forces. Man must accept that his existence is an unforeseen accident of Nature, and our understanding of the blind workings of these same forces persuades us that Mankind will eventually perish, along with his proud achievements.*

**"... Such ... is the world which Science presents for our belief. ... That man is the product of causes which had no prevision of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hopes and fears, his loves and his beliefs, are but the outcome of accidental collocations of atoms; ... all the noonday brightness of human genius are destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system, and that the whole temple of man's achievement must inevitably be buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruins..."**

*How ironic that blind forces created a creature that thinks and aspires to understand the forces that created it, with an understanding denied the creating forces - since they are blind. And more, this creature has feelings of good and evil, which also are denied the creating forces. And this new creature uses these insights and feelings to make judgments about the universe that created it.*

**"A strange mystery it is that Nature, omnipotent but blind, in the revolutions of her secular hurrying through the abysses of space, has brought forth at last a child, subject still to her power, but gifted with sight, with knowledge of good and evil, with the capacity of judging all the works of his unthinking Mother."**

*In spite of being powerless within this mechanistic universe, as metaphorically emphasized by the fact that we die after just a few short years of existence, this thinking and feeling creature is nevertheless "free." He is free to ponder, to understand, to pass judgment, and imagine things that theoretically could exist. All these things are denied to the rest of the universe, to the forces that bind the sentient individual, and this makes the sentient "superior" to the creating and enslaving forces.*

## A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP

**"In spite of Death, the mark and seal of the parental control, Man is yet free, during his brief years, to examine, to criticize, to know, and in imagination to create. To him alone, in the world with which he is acquainted, this freedom belongs; and in this lies his superiority to the resistless forces that control his outward life."**

*Even primitive people understand that they are subject to forces more powerful than themselves. Those of our ancestors who acknowledged the power of stronger men and prostrated themselves in their worship, were more likely to be spared, and therefore tended to survive. The powers of Nature were dealt with similarly, because of the savages imperfect understanding of the differences between Nature and Man; hence, our ancestors prostrated themselves before the imagined Gods who represented Natural forces and offered sacrifices of valued things as if these would evoke compassion.*

**"The savage, like ourselves, feels the oppression of his impotence before the powers of Nature; but having in himself nothing that he respects more than Power, he is willing to prostrate himself before his gods, without inquiring whether they are worthy of his worship. Pathetic and very terrible is the long history of cruelty and torture, of degradation and human sacrifice, endured in the hope of placating the jealous gods: surely, the trembling believer thinks, when what is most precious has been freely given, their lust for blood must be appeased, and more will not be required."**

*The savage relates to Nature the way a slave relates to his master. A slave dare not complain to his master about the unfair infliction of pain. Similarly, the savage dare not complain about the unfairness of his Gods.*

**"The religion of Moloch - as such creeds may be generically called - is in essence the cringing submission of the slave, who dare not, even in his heart, allow the thought that his master deserves no adulation. Since the independence of ideals is not yet acknowledged, Power may be freely worshipped, and receive an unlimited respect, despite its wanton infliction of pain."**

*The thinking person bravely acknowledges the imperfectness of the world. Unlike the savage, for whom survival is paramount and which constrains his thinking, we thinking people refuse to surrender our wish for the world to be better. We boldly worship "truth" and "beauty" and other concepts which are luxuries for the savage. The savage is enslaved by his excessive concern with the Powers of Nature, which for him are too complex to challenge. We have become "free" by refusing to worship fear-driven Power, like a slave worships his master, and to worship instead an imagined world of goodness, fairness and perfection. Even when the world does not bring forth goodness in our lives, we can at least imagine it, and seek solace from the imagined state. Although we know that we are mortal, we can at least imagine immortality, and be comforted by the thought. No matter how buffeted our lives may be by uncaring natural forces, we can still imagine a tranquil state, and use it's vision to survive the real world with equanimity.*



## A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP

**"... Let us admit that, in the world we know, there are many things that would be better otherwise, and that the ideals to which we do and must adhere are not realized in the realm of matter. Let us preserve our respect for truth, for beauty, for the ideal of perfection which life does not permit us to attain, though none of these things meet with the approval of the unconscious universe. If Power is bad, as it seems to be, let us reject it from our hearts. In this lies Man's true freedom: in determination to worship only the God created by our own love of the good, to respect only the heaven which inspires the insight of our best moments. In action, in desire, we must submit perpetually to the tyranny of outside forces; but in thought, in aspiration, we are free, free from our fellowmen, free from the petty planet on which our bodies impotently crawl, free even, while we live, from the tyranny of death. Let us learn, then, that energy of faith which enables us to live constantly in the vision of the good; and let us descend, in action, into the world of fact, with that vision always before us."**

*Part of growing-up is surrendering the Mother Love that bathed our self-centered baby years. Our wishes cannot always be met by crying, as they once were. The adult must abandon childhood dreams when Fate denies them, and we must emotionally accept that this is normal. The acceptance of limitations is a precondition for further growth.*

**"... To every man comes, sooner or later, the great renunciation. For the young, there is nothing unattainable; a good thing desired with the whole force of a passionate will, and yet impossible, is to them not credible. Yet, by death, by illness, by poverty, or by the voice of duty, we must learn, each one of us, that the world was not made for us, and that, however beautiful may be the things we crave, Fate may nevertheless forbid them. It is the part of courage, when misfortune comes, to bear without repining the ruin of our hopes, to turn away our thoughts from vain regrets. This degree of submission to Power is not only just and right: it is the very gate of wisdom."**

*After learning that the outer world was not created for our benefit, but that we are mere unintended products of its blind forces, it becomes easier to accept the limitations of living within it. We can forgive it for whatever unintended calamities occur, for the Universe does not seek out its victims. It is unconscious, and uncaring, so there is no point in worshipping it for the purpose of avoiding its anger. This frees us to begin to see beauty within it. Because it is powerful it deserves our respect, but because it does not take notice of us we are free to think about it any way that we want. That which once scared us becomes beautiful, and worthy of our worship. But this is a new worship, for instead of being driven by fear and the need to propitiate, we are driven by the idealization of beauty, by aesthetics. This is a sort of triumph of the human mind over a once intimidating universe.*

**"... When, without the bitterness of impotent rebellion we have learnt both to resign ourselves to the outward rule of Fate and to recognize that the non-human world is unworthy of our worship, it becomes possible at last so to**

## A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP

**transform and refashion the unconscious universe, so to transmute it in the crucible of imagination, that a new image of shining gold replaces the old idol of clay. In all the multiform facets of the world - in the visual shapes of trees and mountains and clouds, in the events of the life of man, even in the very omnipotence of Death - the insight of creative idealism can find the reflection of a beauty which its own thoughts first made. In this way mind asserts its subtle mastery over the thoughtless forces of Nature."**

*Death represents another challenge to the person who has shaken off the shackles of savage thinking. There is no denying that it is inevitable and irrevocable. The vastness of the un-lived future, matched by the vastness of the un-lived past, would seem to diminish the significance of the short span we do live. How ironic that during our brief span there should be so much travail and pain. Seeing that much of this sorrow is produced by petty strivings, we are less eager to pursue the endless and trivial struggles that once constituted our everyday life. Ever more freed from conventional shackles, and more aloof, it is easier to comprehend the poignancy of the human predicament: we are all subject to the same brief existence, surrounded by an immense and uncaring universe, we invent meaning and work together to achieve imagined goals, but most of these goals are transitory and petty, so in effect we squander our short tenure. And finally, we die alone, carrying the burden of knowledge that our struggles were for imagined causes, and that our final defeat is a passage into an uncaring, inanimate oblivion. However, with our contemporaries we share the realization of the aloneness of Death, and this recognition can bond us. Out of this shared dilemma can arise a new empathy for our fellow Man.*

**"... In the spectacle of Death, in the endurance of intolerable pain, and in the irrevocableness of a vanished past, there is a sacredness, an over-powering awe, a feeling of the vastness, the depth, the inexhaustible mystery of existence, in which, as by some strange marriage of pain, the sufferer is bound to the world by bonds of sorrow. In these moments of insight, we lose all eagerness of temporary desire, all struggling and striving for petty ends, all care for the little trivial things that, to a superficial view, make up the common life of day by day; we see, surrounding the narrow raft illumined by the flickering light of human comradeship, the dark ocean on whose rolling waves we toss for a brief hour; from the great night without, a chill blast breaks in upon our refuge; all the loneliness of humanity amid hostile forces is concentrated upon the individual soul, which must struggle alone, with what of courage it can command, against the whole weight of a universe that cares nothing for its hopes and fears. Victory, in this struggle with the powers of darkness, is the true baptism into the glorious company of heroes, the true initiation into the overmastering beauty of human existence. From that awful encounter of the soul with the outer world, enunciation, wisdom and charity are born; and with their birth a new life begins."**

*Whereas the savage continues to view the inanimate world as animate, and therefore worships false gods (in the manner of a slave), and whereas the savage continues to be driven by petty strivings with transitory rewards of personal happiness, thereby*

## A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP

*squandering a finite life, and whereas the savage refuses to accept the inevitable victory of an uncaring universe over his petty struggles, and therefore invents pitiful palliative realities promising everlasting heavenly happiness, the thoughtful man is free of all these false worshippings, false strivings, and false hopes. This emancipating perspective opens the way to the free man's worship.*

**"... The life of Man, viewed outwardly, is but a small thing in comparison with the forces of Nature. The slave is doomed to worship Time and Fate and Death, because they are greater than anything he finds in himself, and because all his thoughts are of things which they devour. But, great as they are, to think of them greatly, to feel their passionless splendor, is greater still. And such thought makes us free men; we no longer bow before the inevitable in Oriental subjection, but we absorb it, and make it a part of ourselves. To abandon the struggle for private happiness, to expel all eagerness of temporary desire, to burn with passion for eternal things - this is emancipation, and this is the free man's worship."**

*Thoughtful men, who have freed themselves from the savage's slave worship mentality, are bound together by an acknowledgement of their shared fate. Each of us faces the existential dilemma, each confronts an uncaring physical universe and an evil animate one, each of us endures this for a brief time, and each of us will die alone. To the extent that I understand my individual fate, I also understand the fate of my fellow man. Our shared doom creates a feeling of fellowship. Together we march through the treacherous fields of life, and one by one we fall down to die. We are fellow-sufferers, and it feels right to reach out with a helpful hand to those who we shall later become. We may see their shortcomings, and know that we have ours; and remembering their burden of sorrows, we forgive.*

**"... United with his fellow-men by the strongest of all ties, the tie of a common doom, the free man finds that a new vision is with him always, shedding over every daily task the light of love. The life of Man is a long march through the night, surrounded by invisible foes, tortured by weariness and pain, towards a goal that few can hope to reach, and where none may tarry long. One by one, as they march, our comrades vanish from our sight, seized by the silent orders of omnipotent Death. Very brief is the time in which we can help them, in which their happiness or misery is decided. Be it ours to shed sunshine on their path, to lighten their sorrows by the balm of sympathy, to give them the pure joy of a never tiring affection, to strengthen failing courage, to instill faith in hours of despair. Let us not weigh in grudging scales their merits and demerits, but let us think only of their need - of the sorrows, the difficulties, perhaps the blindnesses, that make the misery of their lives; let us remember that they are fellow-sufferers in the same darkness, actors in the same tragedy with ourselves. And so, when their day is over, when their good and their evil have become eternal by the immortality of the past, be it ours to feel that, where they suffered, where they failed, no deed of ours was the cause; but wherever a spark of the divine fire kindled in their hearts, we were ready with encouragement, with sympathy, with brave words in which high courage glowed."**

## A FREE MAN'S WORSHIP

*Let our little day in the immense scheme of things be free of unnecessary pain, and be filled with gratitude. Let us worship, during our few precious moments, at our self-built shrine dedicated to aesthetic beauty. If we cherish these few good things during our journey, then we will be less buffeted by the uncaring universe that unknowingly created us. This is the only worship worthy of free men.*

**"Brief and powerless is Man's life; on him and all his race the slow, sure doom falls pitiless and dark. Blind to good and evil, reckless of destruction, omnipotent matter rolls on its relentless way; for Man, condemned today to lose his dearest, tomorrow himself to pass through the gate of darkness, it remains only to cherish, ere yet the blow falls, the lofty thoughts that ennoble his little day; disdaining the coward terrors of the slave of Fate, to worship at the shrine that his own hands have built; undismayed by the empire of chance, to preserve a mind free from the wanton tyranny that rules his outward life; proudly defiant of the irresistible forces that tolerate, for a moment, his knowledge and his condemnation, to sustain alone, a weary but unyielding Atlas, the world that his own ideals have fashioned despite the trampling march of unconscious power."**

# **YOUR ODYSSEY**

1992

**From dust to stars, and dust again;  
once more a star, with earth in orb,  
evolving life, on land and sea,  
producing Man, and making me.**

**Ageless atoms, you leave behind  
countless stories, now combined.  
Configured thus, you now form me,  
providing for my odyssey.**

**From single-cell, to feeling child,  
who learned the skills for living life,  
my opened eyes viewed worldly scenes,  
I filled with hope, and dreamed some dreams.**

**I worked and toiled, for decades long,  
some lucky breaks, and then achieved!  
Triumphant pause, a time to see,  
the rush of time, the end of me!**

**My song is brief, it's almost sung,  
deserving rest, my war I've won.  
But from within, that short-termed we,  
you atoms yearn to wrestle free.**

**Restless atoms, you must resume  
uncharted paths, for endless time.  
I give you thanks, and set you free,  
as you resume YOUR odyssey.**