



Moments Of Clarity, Volume III

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Books by the Author

Go Back, You Didn't Say May I: Thirtieth Anniversary Edition

Moments of Clarity

Moments of Clarity, Volume II

Moments of Clarity, Volume III

In Any Given Moment

Me & Us

Life's Secrets

Life's Secrets, Part II

STOP! Before You Kiss That Frog.... [humor]

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ISBN # Softcover 1-4010-2206-5

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For
Barbara

FORWARD TO VOLUME III

From the responses I have received regarding the contents of previous volumes of this series, I must assume that the words of introduction which I wrote were helpful to readers, and so I offer them once again:

It was decades ago that I first came across the term “commonplace book,” thanks to an explanation I happened to find in such a volume by W. H. Auden. Like most folks, I suppose, I had always thought that “commonplace” meant simply that: ordinary, unremarkable, and rather forgettable.

Yet Auden taught me something new: that the archaic term “commonplace book” connoted, in fact, just the opposite; it was a book in which one collects or gathers writings, sayings, and memorable matters, so that they will not be lost to the collector.

I decided at that moment that I wanted to offer such a gift to myself, to become a collector of thoughts, wisdom, perceptions, stories, learnings; in other words, some guideposts for my own journey of life.

It has been, I think, one of the better gifts I’ve ever offered myself...and now, I hope, I get to offer that same gift to you, partly in the desire to encourage other pilgrims to gain their own delight, to make their own commitment to forming a cache of treasure for their own life’s journey.

Beyond that cornerstone reason of maintaining in one place those things which others have to teach me, I would suggest that there are collateral possibilities for the use of this collection, and I mention only a few:

- if one is of a certain mood or emotion—especially in a state of confusion or depression or frustration—I believe that the reading of a mere three or four pages, taken anywhere herein, could quickly set some matters straight, enthuse the heart, enliven the passions, and perhaps even offer some practical or spiritual responses to life’s odd moments and questions;
- as a daily menu, such a collection—taken in limited bites—could offer a wondrous possibility for contemplation, meditation, reflection, spiritual direction, or simply a helpful relaxation amid the speed and demands of this outrageous world;
- in this day of illusion—in which we are often told to believe that there really are so-called “self-made” men and women—perhaps the words of our ancestors and of our peers will at least gently remind us that we live and grow in the continuum of a universal quest for meaning and understanding;
- perhaps it’s not too outrageous a possibility that adolescents (of whatever age!) might wish to peruse the reflections of pilgrims who have struggled with life, love, sex, identity, discipline, failure, success, relationships, and uncertainty in a myriad of ways and responses;
- in this era of diminishing language, we are given an opportunity to relish words, to consider them again in their real meanings, or even to use that trusty dictionary to find from what roots they came, and therefore how language has evolved or devolved;
- we may, in fact, be so caught by the specific words and thoughts of a certain writer that we will gift ourselves further by seeking out the fuller work of that author...which, likely, will lead us to even others;
- on a very practical level, I believe that any three to five pages, taken arbitrarily,

could offer the novelist that elusive combination of outline and characters...a preacher, the certain basis for sound homiletics...the storyteller, a gold mine of lore...the businessperson, a means of motivation and sound ethics...the psychiatrist (or patient!), a reminder of life's holistic makeup...a dramatist, the essence of soliloquy...and the rest of us, the delicious epiphany that our lives do matter, for our hopes and dreams are rehearsed by others in the endless chorus.

And so the gift is passed on to you, to expand and build upon in your own way.

I offer, finally, a few suggestions for this reading and digesting:

- do not seek “categories” of wisdom or discovery in these pages (or in life!), for there is no “order” to the arrival of clarity;
- neither seek my own bias or agreement with various entries, but rather find your own mind and heart in each author's offering;
- although we may commiserate about the lack of gender inclusivity in previous times, please do not fret over the absence of such sophistication in writers of earlier eras, for I do believe that period writers or speakers often meant to include and/or address both sexes;
- regrettably, such a collection can be used—as some continue to use various scripture—as a hammer with which to beat others over the head, to make a point, to gather momentum for a certain bias, or to inflict the wound of one-upmanship, rather than for personal or communal discovery;
- in any such collection, especially one gained over such a period of time, there may be an occasion of incorrect or absent attributions, or the wrongly transcribed words of the original author; any of these herein are truly innocent, and I know that you will be kind enough to let me know of any needed corrections for future editions.

Blessings,
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Community requires the confession of brokenness. But how remarkable it is that in our culture brokenness must be ‘confessed.’ We think of confession as an act that should be carried out in secret, in the darkness of the confessional, with the guarantee of professional priestly or psychiatric confidentiality. Yet the reality is that every human being is broken and vulnerable. How strange that we should ordinarily feel compelled to hide our wounds when we are all wounded! Community requires the ability to expose our wounds and weaknesses to our fellow creatures. It also requires the ability to be affected by the wounds of others. But even more important is the love that arises among us when we share, both ways, our woundedness.

M. Scott Peck

The art of being wise is the art of knowing what to overlook.

William James

Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The only normal people are the ones you don’t know very well.

Joe Ancis

If a woman gets nervous, she’ll eat or go shopping. A man will attack a country—it’s a whole other way of thinking.

Elayne Boosler

Experience teaches us to be most on our guard to protect liberty when the government’s purpose is beneficent. Men born to freedom are naturally alert to repel invasion of their liberty by evil-minded rulers. The greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious encroachment by men of zeal, well-meaning but without understanding.

Louis Brandeis

A real patriot is the fellow who gets a parking ticket and rejoices that the system works.

Bill Vaughan

Money helps, though not so much as you think when you don’t have it.

Louise Erdrich

‘Among the Reasons God May Temporarily Be Unavailable to Bless America’:

- (1) because God has had it up to here with the assumption that prayers for national exemption from pain and tragedy deserve an answer;
- (2) because God is too busy processing Americans’ prayers for their high-school football teams;
- (3) because God takes for granted that the bombs falling on Kabul are America’s real prayers;
- (4) because such a tasteless and lurid efflorescence of red, white, and blue (including flags wrapped around church steeples) gives God a massive headache.

The Rev. Peter Laarman

Television has done much for psychiatry by spreading information about it, as well as contributing to the need for it.

Alfred Hitchcock

Work like you don't need the money.

Love like you've never been hurt.

Dance like nobody's watching.

Sing like nobody's listening.

Author unknown

I find it strange that the last place I can really quote Jesus these days is in American churches. They don't want to hear 'overcome evil with good.' They don't want to hear 'those who live by the sword die by the sword.' They don't want to hear 'if your enemy hurts you, do good, feed, clothe, minister to him.' They don't want to hear 'blessed are the merciful.' They don't want to hear 'love your enemies.'

Tony Campolo

Sex is good, but not as good as fresh sweet corn.

Garrison Keillor

Lord, remember not only the men and women of good will, but also those of ill will. But do not remember all the suffering they have inflicted upon us. Remember rather the fruits we brought, thanks to this suffering: our comradeship, our loyalty, our humility, the courage, the generosity, the greatness of heart that has grown out of this. And when they come to judgment, let all the fruits we have borne be their forgiveness.

[Found on an old wrapping paper in the Ravensbrück concentration camp.]

'The whole saga of God's love affair with us,' he said, 'which had been an interesting story to me before, came alive one night in Selma when I was tutoring a little girl in reading. Suddenly she put two syllables together and read a word out loud. She jumped up and ran to her father who was in the next room. 'Daddy,' she shouted, 'listen to me; I can read.!'

'Her father listened, praised her, then came into the room where I was. He was crying. 'Jon,' he said, 'I couldn't much see the point of what you're doin' down here until just now. But I'm goin' with you to the Court House tomorrow to register to vote.'

Jonathan Daniels (martyred) [in a conversation with Blayney Colmore, 1965]

There is no such thing as the State

And no one exists alone;

Hunger allows no choice

To the citizen or the police;

We must love one another or die.

W. H. Auden

God forbid that I should claim for our country the mantle of perfect righteousness. We have committed sins of omission and sins of commission, for which we stand in need of the mercy of the Lord.

Harry S. Truman

We must make clear to the Germans that the wrong for which their fallen leaders are on trial is not that they lost the war, but that they started it...No grievances or policies will justify resort to aggressive war. It is utterly renounced and condemned as an instrument of policy.

Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson [at the Nuremburg Trials, August 12, 1945]

The danger of censorship in the United States is less from business or the religious right or the self-righteous left than from the self-censorship of artists themselves, who simply give up. If we can't see a way to get our story told, what is the point of trying? I wonder how many fine, inspiring ideas are strangled in the womb of the imagination because there's no way past the gates of commerce.

Frank Pierson

If the Americans go in and overthrow Saddam Hussein and it's clean—he has nothing—I will apologize to the nation, and I will not trust the Bush administration again.

Bill O'Reilly

It isn't just pop culture and fast food that is creating a monoculture across the planet...there is at least one other great destructive force at work globally, and this is the American management model. Leaders everywhere, no matter what their culture or tradition, are pressured to focus on numeric measures of efficiency and narrow measures of success, i.e. growth and profit-making. ...As these too-narrow measures roll out around the world, they create the conditions for large-scale destruction of cultures, habitats, and the human spirit. Yet few local leaders can withstand the pressure to be 'modern' and so they forfeit their own experience and wisdom about what works best within their own traditions.

Margaret J. Wheatley

It is better to have loafed and lost than never to have loafed at all.

James Thurber

The perjurer's mother told white lies.

Austin O'Malley

You discover real true love at the moment when you are making love with your partner and realize that all your life together is a single continuous and ongoing act of love-making, in the course of which you happen to occasionally disengage bodies altogether for hours at a time. It is not something to which you return—it is something you suddenly find that you have never really left.

Spider and Jeanne Robinson

Out of the corner of one eye, I could see my mother. Out of the corner of the other eye, I could see her shadow on the wall, cast there by the lamplight. It was a big and solid shadow, and it looked so much like my mother that I became frightened. For I could not be sure whether for the rest of my life I would be able to tell when it was really my mother and when it was really her shadow standing between me and the rest of the world.
Jamaica Kincaid

To be revolutionary is to be original, to know where we came from, to validate what is ours and help it to flourish, the best of what is ours, of our beginnings, our principles, and to leave behind what no longer serves us.
Ines Hernandez

School was a worry to her. She was not glib or quick in a world where glibness and quickness were easily confused with ability to learn.
Tillie Olsen

We think work with the brain is more worthy than work with the hands. Nobody who thinks with his hands could ever fall for this.
E.F. Schumacher

What we cultivate and care about inwardly either freshens or poisons the bloodstream of humanity.
Robert Corin Morris

I don't believe in charity. I believe in solidarity. Charity is so vertical. It goes from the top to the bottom. Solidarity is horizontal. It respects the other person and learns from the other. I have a lot to learn from other people.
Eduardo Galeano

We have entered a new Middle Ages, a time of plague, famine, violence, extreme class disparity, and religious fanaticism,...a time when it is terribly important, and often dangerous, to preserve values and knowledge—to stand up for visions that most of this crazed world can't comprehend or tolerate. The value of having an inner map of the world as it is (not as it's broadcast) is this: it allows you to know that your task is larger than yourself. If you choose, just by virtue of being a decent person, you are entrusted with passing on something of value through a dark, crazy time—preserving your integrity, in your way, by your acts and your very breathing for those who will build again when this chaos exhausts itself. People who assume the burden of their own integrity are free—because integrity is freedom, and (as Nelson Mandela proved) its force can't be quelled even when a person of integrity is jailed. The future lives in our individual, often lonely, and certainly unprofitable acts of integrity, or it doesn't live at all.
Michael Ventura

I have always been regretting that I was not as wise as the day I was born.
Henry David Thoreau

War would end if the dead could return.
Stanley Baldwin

When the heart grieves over what it has lost, the spirit rejoices over what it has found.
Sufi epigram

People treat their daily planners the way monks and nuns used to treat their prayer books. They keep them close at all times. They clasp them with missionary zeal as they head from meeting to meeting...Like medieval displays of conspicuous piety, the planner announces to the world that you are one whose life and time are worth something...The parallels between religious books of hours and our contemporary ones reflect our respective sets of values. While the intricate Celtic knots of the *Book of Kells* invited us to contemplate the interrelationship between the world of time and the world of eternity, the various interactive sections of the modern planner show only the interweaving of the various clock-bound schedules that make up the fabric of our contemporary lives...yet none of this points beyond our horizontal realm to the vertical realm in which we also live.
Gary Eberle

To be revolutionary is to love your life enough to change it, to choose struggle instead of exile, to risk everything with only the glimmering hope of a world to win.
Andrew Kopkind

The question is not whether we will be extremist but what kind of extremist will we be.
Martin Luther King Jr.

When, at some point in our lives, we meet a real tragedy—which could happen to any one of us—we can react in two ways. Obviously, we can lose hope, let ourselves slip into discouragement, into alcohol, drugs, and unending sadness. Or else we can wake ourselves up, discover in ourselves an energy that was hidden there, and act with more clarity, more force.
The Dalai Lama

Inside my empty bottle I was constructing a lighthouse while all the others were making ships.
Charles Simic

I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me.
Muhammad Ali

In the vast rambling mansion of our civilization, the cobwebbed gothic wing containing our religious imagination is less frequented than previously, but it certainly remains a haunting presence.
Kenneth Minogue

I got out of bed
on two strong legs.
It might have been
otherwise. I ate
cereal, sweet
milk, ripe, flawless
peach. It might
have been otherwise.
I took the dog uphill
to the birch wood.
All morning I did
the work I love.

At noon I lay down
with my mate. It might
have been otherwise.
We ate dinner together
at a table with silver
candlesticks. It might
have been otherwise.
I slept in a bed
in a room with paintings
on the walls, and
planned another day
just like this day.
But one day, I know,
it will be otherwise.
Jane Kenyon

Envy may be the subtlest—perhaps, I should say, the most insidious—of the seven deadly sins. Surely it is the one that people are least likely to want to own up to, for to do so is to admit that one is probably ungenerous, mean, small-hearted. It may also be the most endemic. Apart from Socrates, Jesus, Marcus Aurelius, Saint Francis, Mother Teresa, and only a few others, at one time or another, we have all felt flashes of envy, even if in varying intensities, from its minor pricks to its deep, soul-destroying, lacerating stabs. So widespread is it—a word for envy, I have read, exists in all languages—that one is ready to believe it the sin for which the best argument can be made that it is part of human nature.
Joseph Epstein

My mother was my first jealous lover.
Barbara Grizzuti Harrison

Everything bad was laid on the body, and everything good was credited to the soul. It scared me a little when I realized that I saw it the other way around. If the soul and body

really were divided, then it seemed to me that all the worst sins—hatred and anger and self-righteousness and even greed and lust—came from the soul.

But these preachers I'm talking about all thought that the soul could do no wrong, but always had its face washed and its pants on and was in agony over having to associate with the flesh and the world. And yet these same people believed in the resurrection of the body. Their own bodies were soft from disuse or dry with self-contempt. And those very bodies that they neglected or ignored or held in contempt, they expected to be resurrected and to live forever. And they thought this would be heaven.

Wendell Berry

Americans are very friendly and very suspicious, that is what Americans are and that is what always upsets the foreigner who deals with them, they are so friendly how can they be so suspicious they are so suspicious how can they be so friendly but they just are.

Gertrude Stein

The slogan 'let go and let God' has always been one of my most hated expressions. I now see it in a new light. As far as it is a call to lose power in deference to a pre determined plan from an almighty controlling external force, I reject it. As far as it is a call to surrender the ego to the movements of the universe and an authentic heart, I applaud it. As far as it is a call to give up control in order to gain freedom and power, I crave it.

Ian Lawton

Everything you need you already have. You are complete right now; you are a whole, total person, not an apprentice person on the way to someplace else.

Wayne Dyer

The man who thinks only of his own salvation is as good as a coal drawn out of the fire.

James Jones

There is no religion without love, and people may talk as much as they like about their religion, but if it does not teach them to be good and kind to man and beast, it is all a sham.

Anna Sewell

In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world, the world of renunciation and supposed holiness. ...This sense of liberation from an illusory difference was such a relief and such a joy to me that I almost laughed out loud. ...There is no way of telling people that they are all walking around shining like the sun.

Thomas Merton

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.

The Dalai Lama

Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone; it has to be made, like bread, remade all the time, made new.

Ursula Le Guin

I pray for the strength to accept that lives most often end in tragedy, that quests don't always work, that understanding is a long and lonely hunt, that I can't reason my way to love, eat gold, or live forever. And that none of this matters. I pray to understand that I am here to find my way back to God, whatever that takes, and all the rest, save love and duty, is an illusion.

John Taylor Gatto

Who are you not to be gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

Marianne Williamson

A state legislator recently accused me of 'anti-Christian bigotry,' no doubt referring to my description, in *Nickel and Dimed*, of Jesus as a 'wine-guzzling vagrant and precocious socialist.' On the 'vagrant' part, there can be no debate, and, although 'guzzling' may be a bit overstated, Jesus was sufficiently associated with wine ('I am the true vine,' etc.) to be confused with the Greek wine god Dionysius in the Hellenistic world... As for Jesus being a socialist, I take it back. He was actually a little to the left of that, judging from his instruction to the rich man to sell all that he had and give to the poor. If that's what it takes to be a true Christian, believe me, it's a hell of a lot easier to be a socialist: You have to dedicate yourself to working for the poor, just as a Christian should, but at least you get to keep your stuff.

Barbara Ehrenreich

Man is the only animal who has to be encouraged to live.

Friedrich Nietzsche

This was the dawn of plastic eating in America. ...We doted on Velveeta. Spam. Canned ravioli. Instant puddings. Instant anything. The farther a thing was from the texture, flavor, and terrifying unpredictability of real food, the better.

Shirley Abbott

When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

There is a woe that is wisdom, a woe that is madness.

Herman Melville

To live content with small means,
to seek elegance rather than luxury,

and refinement rather than fashion,
to be worthy, not respectable,
and wealthy, not rich.
To study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly,
to listen to stars and birds, babes and sages, with open heart,
to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasions,
hurry never.
In a word, to let the spiritual, unbidden and unconscious,
grow up through the common.
This is to be my symphony.
William Henry Channing

Birth is always awesome and terrifying, exhilarating and traumatic. But the birth of a giraffe is something else altogether. When the mother giraffe is about to give birth, she doesn't lie down; she stands up to bring her calf into the world—and, remember, her hind quarters are nearly ten feet above the ground. So a newborn giraffe begins life with quite a thump. But that's not the end of it. After the little one 'lands,' the mother does the most surprising thing: she moves behind her newborn and swings her long leg outward and kicks her baby, sending it sprawling head over hooves. If the baby giraffe doesn't respond, Mom kicks the calf again. And again, if necessary until the calf gets up. Finally, the little giraffe stands up on its wobbly legs. And the mother giraffe kicks it off its feet again. Within minutes of its birth, the poor kid has been dropped, kicked and dumped over. Why? Because the mother giraffe wants her calf to remember how it got up. In the wild, baby giraffes must be able to get up as quickly as possible in order to stay with the herd. Young giraffes who stumble and trip are easy prey for lions, hyenas, leopards, and wild dogs. So a mother giraffe's seeming harshness is really an act of tough love for her newborn.
Gary Richmond.

If any question why we died,
Tell them, because our fathers lied.
Rudyard Kipling

The Tibetans have a beautiful ritual that you might try in your own home. In the morning, the first thing after rising, take a bowl and, slowly, fill it with water. As you fill the bowl, reflect on the particulars of your life: the people with whom you share your time, your state of health, whatever problems you face, what skills and strengths you have, your disappointments and successes, your worries, your personal gifts...as the bowl fills with water, receive all of those things as gifts from God and accept them unconditionally as your portion. Fill the bowl to the brim. Then, carefully so as not to spill a drop, set the bowl in a special place for the rest of the day—a place where you will see it often. Let the water in the bowl serve as a reminder of everything that life has given you.
At the end of the day, just before retiring for the night, empty the bowl—slowly—and

turn it upside down. Let the pouring out of the water be your prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of the day just ending. Emptying the bowl is an act of letting go, of waiting in hope until the morning light to receive once again all that life holds.

Rachel Naomi Remen

We are involved now in a profound failure of imagination. Most of us cannot imagine the wheat beyond the bread, or the farmer beyond the wheat, or the farm beyond the farmer, or the history beyond the farm. Most people cannot imagine the forest and the forest economy that produced their houses and furniture and paper; or the landscapes, the streams and the weather that fill their pitchers and bathtubs and swimming pools with water. Most people appear to assume that when they have paid their money for these things they have entirely met their obligations.

Wendell Berry

To confuse the role of God with that of the American nation, as George Bush seems to do, is a serious theological error that some might say borders on idolatry or blasphemy.

Jim Wallis

Who is wise? One who learns from all.

Rabbi Ben Zoma

I can reason down or deny everything, except this perpetual Belly; feed he must and will, and I cannot make him respectable.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Making money ain't nothing exciting to me. You might be able to buy a little better booze than the wino on the corner, but you get sick just like the next cat, and when you die you're just as graveyard dead.

Louis Armstrong

It is my intention to make my entire life a rejection of, a protest against the crimes and injustices of war and political tyranny which threaten to destroy the whole race of [humankind] and the world with [it]. ...I make monastic silence a protest against the lies of politicians, propagandists, and agitators, and when I speak it is to deny that my faith and my church can ever be aligned with these forces of injustice and destruction. But it is true, nevertheless, that the faith in which I believe is also invoked by many who believe in war, believe in racial injustices, believe in self-righteous and lying forms of tyranny. My life must, then, be a protest against these also, and perhaps against these most of all.

Thomas Merton

There are many ways of eating, for some eating is living for some eating is dying, for some thinking about ways of eating gives to them the feeling that they have it in them to be alive and to be going on living, to some to think about eating makes them know that death is always waiting that dying is in them.

Gertrude Stein

Clearly, some time ago makers and consumers of American junk food passed jointly through some kind of sensibility barrier in the endless quest for new taste sensations. Now they are a little like those desperate junkies who have tried every known drug and are finally reduced to mainlining toilet-bowl cleanser in an effort to get still higher.
Bill Bryson

Behind the ostensible government sits enthroned an invisible government owing no allegiance and acknowledging no responsibility to the people. To destroy this invisible government, to befoul the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics is the first task of the statesmanship of the day.

Theodore Roosevelt

Our duty, as men and women is to proceed as if limits to our ability did not exist. We are collaborators in creation.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

My father told us that the men who burned down our farm were not three white men. They were individuals with hatred and jealousy in their hearts. He implored us not to label or stereotype anyone based on the color of their skin. My father further warned us not to become embittered by other people's hatred because it would poison our lives as it had the lives of those three men.

Armstrong Williams

In a true dialogue, both sides are willing to change. We have to appreciate that truth can be received from outside—not only within—our own group. If we do not believe that, entering into dialogue would be a waste of time.

Thich Nhat Hanh

The more prohibitions you have, the less virtuous people will be.

Tao te Ching

There are times when we must sink to the bottom of our misery to understand truth, just as we must descend to the bottom of a well to see the stars in broad daylight.

Vaclav Havel

Those who have suffered understand suffering and therefore extend their hand.

Patti Smith

A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against its government.

Edward Abbey

Comrade! I give you my hand!

I give you my love, more precious than money,

I give you myself, before preaching or law;

Will you give me yourself? Will you come travel with me?

Shall we stick by each other as long as we live?
Walt Whitman

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it understands that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring.
Martin Luther King Jr.

No one is listening until you fart.
Author unknown

All sorts of censors appear in our heads while we work. Some are easy to detect: the ones that tell us the work is bad before it even comes all the way into existence. But there are also the ones who want us to make the work pretty, sweet, or poetic. ...It's an effort to control what scares us. The censoring parts of our minds remind me a little of Cosmopolitan magazine. If those hints on how to be sexy, beautiful, man-attracting women really worked, that magazine would lose its readership. Who would read Cosmo if they had the life Cosmo promises?
Lynda Barry

If America's most powerful women are of at least two minds about their power, reluctant even to admit that they have it, much less that they like it, should it surprise anyone that the rest of us are unwilling to do what it takes to get it? If nice guys finish last, should it shock us when nice girls don't even get in the game?
Susan Estrich

Money does not corrupt people. What corrupts people is lack of affection. ...Money is simply the bandage which wounded people put over their wounds.
Margaret Halsey

Mabel Pettigrew thought: I can read him like a book. She had not read a book for over forty years, could never concentrate on reading, but this nevertheless was her thought.
Muriel Spark

Whatever people in general do not understand, they are always prepared to dislike; the incomprehensible is always the obnoxious.
L.E. Landon

We didn't have a relationship; we had a personality clash.
Alice Molloy

My God! The English language is a form of communication! Conversation isn't just crossfire where you shoot and get shot at! Where you've got to duck for your life and aim to kill! Words aren't only bombs and bullets—no, they're little gifts, containing meanings!
Philip Roth

The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either—but right through every human heart. ... This line shifts. Inside us, it oscillates with the years. And even within hearts overwhelmed by evil, one small bridgehead of good is retained. And even in the best of hearts, there remains...an uprooted small corner of evil.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

If you look at history, even recent history, you see that there is indeed progress. ... Over time, the cycle is clearly, generally upwards. And it doesn't happen by laws of nature. And it doesn't happen by social laws. ... It happens as a result of hard work by dedicated people who are willing to look at problems honestly, to look at them without illusions, and to go to work chipping away at them, with no guarantee of success—in fact, with a need for a rather high tolerance for failure along the way, and plenty of disappointments.

Noam Chomsky

I'm tired of waiting. It's time for us to find our own voice, to do our own organizing, to push forward on reform, to push forward on issues of economic justice, and to make the United States of America, this good country, even better.

Paul Wellstone

I was meditating a lot at a Zen center and went without sleep. The Roshi said to me, 'You think you're going to get sick, don't you?' I virtually screamed at him. He said, 'What is sickness? What is health? Both are irrelevant.' That triggered an experience where I found myself knowing he was right. In a stoic, matter-of-fact way. He turned my anger around to enlightenment; it was plain as day to me. The opposites, you see. 'One to me is fame and shame; one to me is loss and gain; one to me is pleasure and pain....' I had recited that poem to my students for years but had never experienced it. That was an ordeal that led to knowledge, to a mystical experience, I think.

Huston Smith

Fake food—I mean those patented substances chemically flavored and mechanically bulked out to kill the appetite and deceive the gut—is unnatural, almost immoral, a bane to good eating and good cooking.

Julia Child

For the first time in the history of the world, every human being is now subjected to contact with dangerous chemicals, from the moment of conception until death.

Rachel Carson

In the days ahead we must not consider it unpatriotic to raise certain basic questions about our national character. We must begin to ask, 'Why are there forty million poor people in a nation overflowing with such unbelievable affluence? Why has our nation placed itself in the position of being God's military agent on earth...? Why have we substituted the arrogant undertaking of policing the whole world for the high task of putting our own house in order?'

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Feminism is my fight. In fact, until more men get involved in this fight and march in Take Back the Night marches and participate in gender studies programs and help create masculine identities for our male children that allow them to express themselves in a tender and passionate manner rather than by resorting to hypermasculinity and misogyny and homophobia to prove themselves 'real men,' then nothing will change at all. You might have a nation of enlightened women ready to kick some ass and change things, but the very people who run this world will just be standing there with their arms crossed.

R. Eirik Ott

I've learned that if you're really wanting to get a message across, it has to go down with a sweetening dollop of comedy. You've got to keep reminding yourself that your point has to be a pill in the dog's food.

Bill Maher

I wonder about our species' species-centric value system a lot, and finally I just chalk it up to one of those genes that is bred into us to ensure that we sorry humans continue. ...This gene is also responsible for incredible acts of heroism: the woman who jumps into the flood after her baby, the soldier who pulls his comrade from gunfire. But human rescues are not always as grateful as you might think. I once carried an elderly woman out of a building and I could tell that the whole time she was thinking, 'Oh my god, I'm in trouble. A girl is carrying me.' Conversely, I once picked up a German shepherd who weighed as much as that woman, or more. He was a huge animal and I held him awkwardly. ...He did not at any time bare his teeth, growl, or whine his discomfort.

Caroline Paul

Things are getting better for mothers in nontraditional families, but there are still incredible pressures to marry (and marry anyone), to become more conservative 'for the sake of the children,' and to morph into a self-sacrificing robot. Basically, the blueprint our society hands mothers says: 'Give up your own identity and your own basic beliefs in order to mother your children.' This is silly and impossible at best, an oppressive recipe for depression at worst.

Ariel Gore

I would have started earlier [in the 2000 Presidential campaign] and called up these so-called critics had I had the clairvoyance to realize they were getting cold feet. The only true aging is the erosion of one's ideals. They're people of increasingly low expectations. That's the definition of a frightened liberal.

Ralph Nader

I, too, have said that I would exchange all the blues to save one starving child. I was wrong, not only because the exchange is not in my power, but also because the singing of the Lord's song in so strange a land has saved more children than anyone will ever know.

James Baldwin

No one attains faith without first achieving the prerequisites of faith. First we praise, then

we believe. We begin with a sense of wonder and arrive at radical amazement. The first response is reverence and awe, openness to the mystery that surrounds, and we are led to be overwhelmed by the glory.

Abraham Joshua Heschel

In Genesis, man was created before woman, obviously as a prototype. Thus men represent an experiment. Women represent the crowning achievement of God's intent for humanity.

Author unknown

Community—real community—is painful. I've been doing this 38 years, and this is what I've learned...a community is a place of pain.

Jean Vanier

Wouldn't you think some sociologist would have done a comparative study by now to prove, as I have always suspected, that there is a higher proportion of Undeserving Rich than Undeserving Poor?

Molly Ivins

The United States is like the guy at the party who gives cocaine to everybody and still nobody likes him.

Jim Samuels

To some men peace merely means the liberty to exploit other people without fear of retaliation or interference. To others peace means the freedom to rob others without interruption. To still others it means the leisure to devour the goods of the earth without being compelled to interrupt their pleasures to feed those whom their greed is starving. And to practically everybody peace simply means the absence of any physical violence that might cast a shadow over lives devoted to the satisfaction of their animal appetites for comfort and leisure. Many men like these have asked God for what they thought was 'peace' and wondered why their prayer was not answered. They could not understand that it actually was answered. God left them with what they desired, for their idea of peace was only another form of war.

Thomas Merton

Worrying is less work than doing something to fix the worry. Everybody wants to save the earth; nobody wants to help Mom with the dishes.

P.J. O'Rourke

Hollywood separates personal and social issues because the producers are afraid of alienating anyone. They are salesmen and every salesman knows better than to discuss religion or politics. You might lose a customer if you actually took a stand on anything that mattered. Remember Antonioni's description of Hollywood? 'Being nowhere, saying nothing, about no one.'

Ray Carney

After a recent trip to New York one French journalist remarked that leafing through a copy of Forbes or Fortune is like reading the operating manual of a strangely sanctimonious pirate ship.

Adam Gopnik

Justice without love is not justice. Love without justice is not love.

Mother Teresa

He [writer and Trappist monk Thomas Merton] wasn't a dour monk at all. ...I often went down to visit him at the monastery in Kentucky. The abbot would give him a day off, and I'd rent a car. ...We would stop in the woods and he'd change into his farmworker's bluejeans and a beret to hide his tonsure. Then we'd hit the bars across Kentucky. He loved beer, and he loved that smoked ham they have down there. He was a wonderful person. He wanted to read contemporary writers, but the books were often confiscated, so we had a secret system. I sent the books he wanted to the monastery psychiatrist in Louisville, who would get them to Merton. ...Once I asked him, 'Tom, why do you stay here? You could get out and be a tremendous success in the world.' He answered that the monastery was where God wanted him to be.

James Laughlin

Nonattachment is not the elimination of desire. It is the spaciousness to allow any quality of mind, any thought or feeling, to arise without closing around it, without eliminating the pure witness of being. It is an active receptivity to life.

Stephen Levine

Our lives don't really belong to us, you see—they belong to the world, and in spite of our efforts to make sense of it, the world is a place beyond our understanding.

Paul Auster

And did you get what you wanted from this life even so? I did. And what did you want? To call myself beloved, to feel myself beloved on the earth.

Raymond Carver

Let there be such oneness between us that when one cries, the other tastes salt.

Rosabelle Believe

Time to plant tears, says the Almanac.

Elizabeth Bishop

The absence of the dead...is their way of appearing.

Simone Weil

There are years when nothing happens and years in which centuries happen.

Carlos Fuentes

As a father taking his very well-brought-up young daughter to the opera for the first time,

Peter Ustinov was unwise enough to choose the Baths of Caracall in Rome. The opera was *Aida*: during one particular scene the whole stage seemed to be covered with animals—camels, elephants, horses, unwanted cats, and so on. At a climactic point, almost all the animals relieved themselves simultaneously. As he stared aghast at this incredible sight, Ustinov felt a light tapping on his shoulder and heard his daughter's earnest voice: 'Daddy, is it all right if I laugh?'

The Little, Brown Book of Anecdotes

You may break any written law in America with impunity. There is an unwritten law that you break at your peril. It is: do not attack the profit system.

Mary Heaton Vorse

Every civilizing step in history has been ridiculed as 'sentimental,' 'impractical,' or 'womanish'...by those whose fun, profit, or convenience was at stake.

Joan Gilbert

A team effort is a lot of people doing what I say.

Michael Winner

Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.

Anne Lamott

The nonviolent approach does not immediately change the heart of the oppressor. It first does something to the hearts and souls of those committed to it. It gives them new self-respect; it calls up resources of strength and courage that they did not know they had. Finally it reaches the opponent and so stirs his conscience that reconciliation becomes a reality.

Martin Luther King Jr.

At the moment you are most in awe of all there is about life that you don't understand, you are closer to understanding it all than at any other time.

Jane Wagner

A mystic is a person who is puzzled before the obvious but who understands the nonexistent.

Elbert Hubbard

The thing that astonished him was that cats should have two holes cut in their coat exactly at the place where their eyes are.

G.C. Lichtenberg

I never doubted my ability, but when you hear all your life you're inferior, it makes you wonder if the other guys have something you've never seen before. If they do, I'm still looking for it.

Hank Aaron

Chance is perhaps the pseudonym of God when he does not wish to sign his work.
Anatole France

When ideas go unexamined and unchallenged for a long enough time, certain things happen. They become mythological, and they become very, very powerful. They create conformity. They intimidate.

E.L. Doctorow

Death doesn't take the time to knock on the door.
Yiddish folk-saying

The practice of terror serves the true believer not only to cow and crush his opponents but also to invigorate and intensify his own faith.

Eric Hoffer

We are all of us in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.
Elvis Costello

One thing...ought to be every human being's birthright—namely, a beloved person to share cookies with before turning in to bed.

Yi-Fu Tuan

I have never met a man who didn't feel uneasy about masculinity, who didn't feel that in some way he wasn't living up to what it meant to be a man. There's a reason for that: Masculinity is a fraud; it's a trap. None of us are man enough.

Robert Jensen

A sense of reverence is necessary for psychological health. If a person has no sense of reverence, no feeling that there is anyone or anything that inspires awe, it cuts the personality off completely from the nourishing springs of the unconscious.

Robert Johnson

I recently invented a new theory: ambitheism. This is the doctrine that God both does and doesn't exist. I have noticed that when I try to believe in God, I am filled with sudden moments of despair that God is absent, but when I try to be an atheist, I slowly come to believe in a divine will. Thus, I have concluded that both ideas are true. God simultaneously is and isn't.

Michael Gorelick

A person who believes...that there is a whole of which one is part, and that in being a part, one is whole: such a person has no desire whatever, at any time, to play God. Only those who have denied their being yearn to play at it.

Ursula K. LeGuin

An unrectified case of injustice has a terrible way of lingering, restlessly, in the social

atmosphere like an unfinished equation.

Mary McCarthy

Is it really so difficult to tell a good action from a bad one? I think one usually knows right away or a moment afterward, in a horrid flash of regret.

Mary McCarthy

A big hurdle that none of us is spared (whether we know it or not): how to keep going and going, doing and doing, learning and learning, without becoming so set in our ways that we lose sight of (or our taste for) the stray, the different, the unexpected.

William Carlos Williams

The facts of this world seen clearly are seen through tears.

Margaret Atwood

In Mexico, I first encountered the attitude that was missing from the optimistic innocence of living in the United States: a tragic sense of life. Such a sense doesn't force us into a closed somber cone of depression and futility; it urges the opposite. The tragic sense opens a human being to the exuberant joys of the present. To laughter, carnality, the comical varieties of love, to music and art, to the small human glories of the day.

Pete Hamill

Sex is hardly ever just about sex.

Shirley MacLaine

Everyone lies about sex, more or less, to themselves if not to others, to others if not to themselves, exaggerating its importance or minimizing its pull.

Daphne Merkin

Pornography is rather like trying to find out about a Beethoven symphony by having someone tell you about it and perhaps hum a few bars.

Robertson Davies

To be without some of the things you want is an indispensable part of happiness.

Bertrand Russell

If it were all so simple!

If only there were evil people somewhere insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were necessary only to separate them from the rest of us and destroy them.

But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.

And who is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart?

Alexsandr Solzhenitsyn

Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been tried, found difficult, and been set aside.

G.K. Chesterton

You do not become a ‘dissident’ just because you decide one day to take up this most unusual career. You are thrown into it by your personal sense of responsibility, combined with a complex set of external circumstances. You are cast out of the existing structures and placed in a position of conflict with them. It begins as an attempt to do your work well, and ends with being branded an enemy of society.

Vaclav Havel

It is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong.

Voltaire

I want nothing to do with natural foods. At my age I need all the preservatives I can get.

George Burns

You are still afraid to die. Maybe that fear is connected with some deep unspoken worry that God will not accept you as his. The question ‘Why do I have to die?’ is connected to this fear. You asked it as a little child, and you are still asking it. ...God called you from the moment you were knitted together in your mother’s womb. It is your vocation to receive that love, and to give it back. From the very beginning you have, like every human being, experienced the forces of death. Whether physically (through aging and illness) or inwardly (through temptation, sin, etc.), these forces have attacked you—through all your years of growing up—and they will continue to attack you. But even though you have often felt overwhelmed, you have been faithful. Hang on to that. Know that the dark forces will have no final power over you.

Henri Nouwen

Sir, [the American colonists] are a race of convicts, and ought to be thankful for anything we allow them short of hanging.

Samuel Johnson

To become able to make something is, I think, necessary to thorough development. I would rather have son of mine a carpenter, a watchmaker, a woodcarver, a shoemaker, a jeweler, a blacksmith, a bookbinder, than I would have him earn his bread as a clerk in a counting house.

George MacDonald

You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake.

Jeannette Rankin

Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right.

Laurens van der Post

Good communication is as stimulating as black coffee, and just as hard to sleep after.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

We put our truths together in pieces, but you use nails, and I use glue. You mend with staples. I mend with screws. You stitch what I would bandage. Your truth may not look like mine, but that is not what matters. What matters is this: you can look at a scar and see hurt or you can look at a scar and see healing. Try to understand.

Sheri Reynolds

As if you could kill time without injuring eternity.

Henry David Thoreau

Nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters, pain and pleasure. It is for them alone to point out what we ought to do, as well as to determine what we shall do.

Jeremy Bentham

The real question is not whether machines think but whether men do.

B. F. Skinner

If you hear that someone is speaking ill of you, instead of trying to defend yourself you should say: 'He obviously does not know me very well, since there are so many other faults he could have mentioned.'

Epictetus

If the world was without any natural evil and suffering we wouldn't have the opportunity, or nearly as much opportunity, to show courage, patience and sympathy.

Richard Swinburne

How absurd to anguish over our passing into freedom from all anguish. Just as our birth was the beginning of all things for us, so our death will be the death of them all. That is why it is equally mad to weep because we shall not be alive a hundred years from now and to weep because we were not alive a hundred years ago.

Michel de Montaigne

The dollar sign is the only sign in which the modern man appears to have any real faith.

Helen Rowland

Whilst you live, a little religion seems enough; but believe me, it requires a great deal when you come to die.

Geraldine Jewsbury

My father considered a walk among the mountains as the equivalent of churchgoing.

Aldous Huxley

Every time a man expects, as he says, his money to work for him, he is expecting other people to work for him.

Dorothy L. Sayers

Upscale people are fixated with food simply because they are now able to eat so much of it without getting fat, and the reason they don't get fat is that they maintain a profligate level of calorie expenditure. The very same people whose evenings begin with melted goat cheese...get up at dawn to run, break for a midmorning aerobics class, and watch the evening news while racing on a stationary bicycle.

Barbara Ehrenreich

My grandmother would sometimes choke on her food, and have to go out on the side porch in Shillington, where one or another member of the family would follow and hammer on her back while she clung, gagging, to the porch rail. ...I also would choke now and then. My album of sore moments includes a memory of crouching above my tray in the Lowell House dining hall at Harvard, miserably retching at something in my throat that would not go up or down, while half-swallowed milk dribbled from my mouth and the other students at the table silently took up their trays and moved away. On the edge of asphyxia, I sympathized with them and wished that I, too, could shun me.

John Updike

We never repent having eaten too little.

Thomas Jefferson

If you put a chain around the neck of a slave, the other end fastens itself around your own.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

After dinner, [Marcel] Duchamp would take the bus to Nice to play at a chess circle and return late with Lydie [his first wife] lying awake waiting for him. Even so, he did not go up to bed immediately, but set up the chess pieces to study the position of a game he had been playing. First thing in the morning when he arose, he went to the chessboard to make a move he had thought out during the night. But the piece could not be moved. During the night Lydie had arisen and glued down all the pieces. ...A few days later, Duchamp and Lydie divorced, and he returned to the States.

Man Ray

The old futures have a way of hanging around. ...Everyone sort of knows that the real future is going to be cluttered with all the same junk we have today, except it will be old and beat up and there will be more of it.

William Gibson

American women expect to find in their husbands a perfection English women only hope to find in their butlers.

Somerset Maugham

When a lark wants to pass gas like an elephant, it has to blow up. In the same way, all scholarly theology must blow up, because it has wanted to be the supreme wisdom instead of remaining what it is, an unassuming triviality.

Søren Kierkegaard

I ain't no saint, but I've tried never to do anything that would hurt my family or offend God...I figure all any kid needs is hope and the feeling he or she belongs. If I could do or say anything that would give some kid that feeling, I would believe I had contributed something to the world.

Elvis Presley

Anyone who can live on welfare should be courted by Wall Street. He is a financial genius.

Joanna dark

It is not the critic who counts, not the one who points out how the strong man tumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the person who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust, sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt

I think that the vast majority of us 'normal' people spend our lives trashing our treasures and treasuring our trash. We bustle around trying to create the impression that we are hip, imperturbable, omniscient, in perfect control, when in fact we are awkward and scared and bewildered.

Martha Beck

It is really so simple! The main thing is to love your neighbor as yourself. Once you do that, you will discover at once how everything shall fall into place.

Fyodor Dostoevsky

Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up.

Anne Lamott

The 'spiritual high' we reach at conferences and other such events is not enough to sustain our faith for long. To quote Christoph Blumhardt, 'Merely spiritual communities do not last. People may be friends for a while, but it eventually ends. Anything that is going to last must have a much deeper foundation.' We won't be able to coast on the warm-fuzzy feelings for long. Yes, it was a stimulating experience. But what deeds will it stimulate us to? As Eberhard Arnold bluntly puts it, 'We cannot be satisfied with intellectual unanimity; nor is it enough to vibrate together in an emotional experience.' And so today, in our separate places, we must each act on what we've learned. What form this action takes may not be that important. But it is vital that we move beyond words.

Red Zimmerman

Once when I was in the Himalayas, I was sitting upon the bank of a river; I drew out of the water a beautiful, hard, round stone and smashed it. The inside was quite dry. The stone had been lying a long time in the water, but the water had not penetrated the stone. It is just like that with the 'Christian' people of the West. They have for centuries been surrounded by Christianity, entirely steeped in its blessings, but the Master's truth has not penetrated them. Christianity is not at fault; the reason lies rather in the hardness of their hearts. Materialism and intellectualism have made their hearts hard. So I am not surprised that many people in the West do not understand what Christianity really is.

Sadhu Sundar Singh

Obedience through fear is reluctant and resentful. Obedience through gratitude is joyful, instant and spontaneous. Gratitude is like an overflowing stream, positive, outgoing. It is a powerful antiseptic, that kills the germs of bitterness. Gratitude is the glue that binds and unites you to your neighbor. It is the salt that flavors all inspired relationships. A grateful heart is a normal heart.

Daw Nyein Tha

In a true dialogue, both sides are willing to change. We have to appreciate that truth can be received from outside—not only within—our own group. If we do not believe that, entering into dialogue would be a waste of time.

Thich Nhat Hanh

I have learned through bitter experience the one supreme lesson to conserve my anger, and as heat conserved is transmuted into energy, even so our anger controlled can be transmuted into a power that can move the world.

Mahatma Gandhi

Do not run toward pain, but do not run from it, either. Pain is your guide. Pain is what guides a person in every serious undertaking. Unless an aching longing and passion arises in someone to get or achieve something, he will never get or achieve it.

Andrew Harvey

We are here on earth to do good to others. What the others are here for, I don't know.

W.H. Auden

The grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere; the dew is never all dried at once; a shower is forever falling; vapor is ever rising. Eternal surprise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn, as the round Earth rolls.

John Muir

A reverence for life is a reverence for wildness—a reverence for life beyond your control.

Doug Peacock

The world is a stage, but the play is badly cast.
Oscar Wilde

There are two barriers that often prevent communication between the young and their elders. The first is middle-aged forgetfulness of the fact that they themselves are no longer young. The second is youthful ignorance of the fact that the middle-aged are still alive.
Jessamyn West

I would rather live in a world where my life is surrounded by mystery than live in a world so small that my mind could comprehend it.
Harry Emerson Fosdick

I acknowledge the cold truth of her death for perhaps the first time. She is truly gone, forever out of reach, and I have become my own judge.
Sheila Ballantyne

We often forgive those who bore us, but we cannot forgive those who find us boring.
La Rochefoucauld

Why is 'phonics' not spelled the way it sounds?
George Carlin

Only a mediocre person is always at his best.
W. Somerset Maugham

The first purpose of alcohol is to make English your second language.
Robin Williams

There is a calmness to a life lived in gratitude, a quiet joy.
Ralph Blum

The same stream of life that runs through the world runs through my veins night and day and dances in rhythmic measure. It is the same life that shoots in joy through the dust of the Earth in to the numberless blades of grass and breaks into tumultuous waves of flowers.
Rabindranath Tagore

There is always an enormous temptation in all of life to diddle around making itsy-bitsy friends and meals and journeys for itsy-bitsy years on end. It is so self-conscious, so apparently moral, simply to step aside from the gaps where the creeks and winds pour down, saying, I never merited this grace, quite rightly, and then to sulk along the rest of your days on the edge of rage. I won't have it. The world is wilder than that in all directions, more dangerous and bitter, more extravagant and bright. We are making hay when we should be making whoopee; we are raising tomatoes when we should be raising Cain, or Lazarus.

Annie Dillard

It is by the goodness of God that in our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either of them.

Mark Twain

The declaration which says that God visits the sins of the fathers upon the children is contrary to every principle of moral justice.

Thomas Paine

It is very much easier to be intolerant, angry, jealous and resentful than it is to be generous, patient, kind and considerate. Without question it takes far more thought, and far more work, to treat others from the standpoint of these virtues than from that of those vices, which is why the latter are so prevalent.

A.C. Grayling

It is the customary fate of new truths to begin as heresies and to end as superstitions.

Thomas Huxley

Distrust everyone in whom the impulse to punish is powerful!

Friedrich Nietzsche

Some people talk in their sleep. Lecturers talk while other people sleep.

Albert Camus

The universe is not only queerer than we suppose, but queerer than we *can* suppose.

John Haldane

The heart has its reasons of which reason knows nothing.

Blaise Pascal

What progress we are making. In the Middle Ages they would have burned me. Now they are content with burning my books.

Sigmund Freud

The idea of death, the fear of it, haunts the human animal like nothing else; it is a mainspring of human activity—designed largely to avoid the fatality of death, to overcome it by denying in some way that it is the final destiny of man.

Ernest Becker

There were so many in my family, I was eight years old before it was my turn in the bathroom. In all there were seven brothers. That's how I learned to dance...waiting for my turn in the bathroom.

Bob Hope

Many of us have no long-range vision in much of our struggle. We think only of the moment, this time, this place, this circumstance. But think of the ten generations of children that inherit love, and their children, and theirs. ...Anyone can count the seeds of an apple. Who can count the apples in a seed?

Stephen Covey

A man lives with himself for seventy years, and doesn't know who he is.

Israel Salanter Lipkin

Tolstoy's illness dried him up, burnt something out of him. Inwardly he seemed to become lighter, more transparent, more resigned. His eyes are still keen, his glance piercing. He listens attentively, as though recalling something which he has forgotten, or as though waiting for something new and unknown.

Maxim Gorky

How refreshing, the whinny of a packhorse unloaded of everything!

Zen saying

It is something big and cosmic. What else do we have? There's only birth and death and the union of two people—and sex is the only one that happens to us more than once.

Kathleen Winsor

I close your ear with kisses and seal your nostrils, and round your neck you'll wear—nay, let me work—a delicate chain of kisses. Like beads they go around and not one misses to touch its fellow on either side.

D.H. Lawrence

Hungry people cannot be good at learning or producing anything, except perhaps violence.

Pearl Bailey

Power concedes nothing without demand. It never did, and it never will. Find out just what people wilt submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and this will continue till they have resisted with either words or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they suppress.

Frederick Douglass

Nothing is worth more than this day.

Goethe

The ultimate aim of the quest...must be neither release nor ecstasy for oneself, but wisdom and power to serve others.

Joseph Campbell

Among the many legends that surround the Nepalese Gurkhas of the British Army is the

story of a paratroop regiment in the Second World War. The leader of the regiment asked for volunteers for a particularly dangerous drop behind enemy lines. About half the Gurkhas promptly stepped forward. The leader then went through what the volunteers would be asked to do. Halfway into his explanation, a surprised voice piped up from the back: 'Oh, you mean we can use parachutes?' Every remaining Gurkha joined the volunteers.

Radio Times, London

The best thing against worry is to take care of others right away.

Carl Hilty

In the beginning there was my mother. A shape. A shape and a force, standing in the light. You could see her energy; it was visible in the air. Against any background she stood out.

Marilyn Krysl

Atheistic existentialism, of which I am a representative, declares with greater consistency that if God does not exist there is at least one being whose existence comes before its essence, a being which exists before it can be defined by any conception of it. That being is man.

Jean-Paul Sartre

Never bother about other people's opinions. Be humble and you will never be disturbed. Remember St. Aloysius, who said he would continue to play billiards even if he knew he was going to die. Do you play well? Sleep well? Eat well? These are duties.

Mother Teresa

The most precious things of life are near at hand, without money and without price. Each of you has the whole wealth of the universe at your very door. ...So, on a large scale, the student and lover of nature has this advantage over people who gad up and down the world seeking some novelty or excitement: he has only to stay at home and see the procession pass. The great globe swings around to him like a revolving showcase; the change of the seasons is like the passage of strange and new countries; the zones of the earth, with all their beauties and marvels, pass one's door and linger long in the passing.

John Burrough

Between a few hundred and a few thousand people die every year from terrorist acts. More than 6 million children die every year from hunger-related causes. Where should our government's spending priorities be?

James R. Adair

One of the joys our technological civilization has lost is the excitement with which seasonal flowers and fruits were welcomed; the first daffodil, strawberry, or cherry are now things of the past, along with their precious moment of arrival. Even the tangerine—now a seedless clementine—appears months before Christmas.

Derek Jarman

People have the power to redeem the work of fools.
Patti Smith

His mother had often said, When you choose an action, you choose the consequences of that action. She had emphasized the corollary of this axiom even more vehemently: when you desired a consequence, you had damned well better take the action that would create it.
Lois McMaster Bujold

I put a dollar in a change machine. Nothing happened.
George Carlin

Despair is a greater deceiver than hope.
Marquis de Vauvenargues

To hope for Paradise is to live in Paradise, a very different thing from actually getting there.
Vita Sackville-West

I studiously avoided all so-called holy men. I did so because I had to make do with my own truth, not accept from others what I could not attain on my own. I would have felt it as a theft had I attempted to learn from the holy men and to accept their truth for myself. Neither in Europe can I make any borrowings from the East, but must shape my life out of myself—out of what my inner being tells me, or what nature brings to me.
Carl Jung

Perhaps the most lasting pleasure in life is the pleasure of not going to church.
William Inge

From Freud on, psychologists would have us believe that if only our parents had done things differently, we would be better people today; and therefore we start life with a handicap and must not be blamed for our shortcomings. But if you look around you will see those who have overcome their heritage by opening their hearts and their wills to the demands life puts upon them, and turning their vision outwards to see what they need to do to help the less strong, the less fortunate. Shortcomings can be forgiven, self-circling not—as I know from my own life.
Audrey Bush

There are pieces to every whole, yet each piece is complete. Don't worry about how they will come together. Work joyfully on the piece that's before you.
Melody Beattie

Freedom is a heavy load, a great and strange burden for the spirit to undertake. It is not easy. It is not a gift given, but a choice made, and the choice may be a hard one. The road goes upward towards the light, but the laden traveler may never reach the end of it.

Ursula le Guin

I once had a conversation with Alan Jones, Dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, in which I told him about the hornet's nest I had stirred up with my universalism. He looked thoughtful and said, 'I think, to call yourself an orthodox Anglican, you probably have to believe in hell. But I'm not sure you have to believe anyone spends eternity there.'

The Rev. Blayney Colmore

If you don't stand up for something, you'll fall for anything.

Unknown

The Bible contains six admonishments to homosexuals (this is arguable; it may be fewer) and 362 admonishments to heterosexuals. That doesn't mean that God doesn't love heterosexuals. It's just that they need more supervision.

Anonymous

Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.

Helen Keller

Always do the right thing. It'll gratify some and astonish the rest.

Mark Twain

The wheels of justice...they're square wheels.

Barbara Corcoran

None who have always been free can understand the terrible fascinating power of the hope of freedom to those who are not free.

Pearl S. Buck

Let us not take for granted that life exists more fully in what is commonly thought big than in what is commonly thought small.

Virginia Woolf

Few of us can do more than a small handful of things well and with the proper passion, so don't spread yourself too thin if you can help it. Jalaluddin Rumi said, 'A thousand half-loves must be forsaken to take one whole heart home.'

John Gierach

A community is only being created when its members accept that they are not going to achieve great things, that they are not going to be heroes, but simply live each day with new hope, like children, in wonderment as the sun rises and in thanksgiving as it sets. Community is only being created when they have recognized that the greatness of humanity lies in the acceptance of our insignificance, our human condition and our earth, and to thank God for having put in a finite body the seeds of eternity which are visible in small and daily gestures of love and forgiveness. The beauty of people is in this fidelity

to the wonder of each day.
Jean Vanier

Every American carries in his bloodstream the heritage of the malcontent and the dreamer.
Dorothy Fuldheim

If our sex life were determined by our first youthful experiments, most of the world would be doomed to celibacy. In no area of human experience are human beings more convinced that something better can be had if only they persevere.
P. D. James

I didn't want it like that. Not against the bricks or hunkering in somebody's car. I wanted it to come undone like gold thread, like a tent full of birds.
Sandra Cisneros

For a long time, I sought safety and security among the wise and clever, hardly aware that the things of the Kingdom were revealed to 'little children'; that God has chosen 'those who by human standards are fools to shame the wise.' But when I experienced the warm, unpretentious reception of those who have nothing to boast about, and experienced a loving embrace from people who didn't ask any questions, I began to discover that a true spiritual homecoming means a return to the poor in spirit to whom the Kingdom of Heaven belongs. The embrace of the Father became very real to me in the embraces of the mentally poor.
Henri Nouwen

He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.
Winston Churchill

Indeed, I thought, slipping the silver into my purse, it is remarkable, remembering the bitterness of those days, what a change of temper a fixed income will bring about.
Virginia Woolf

Time itself is neutral; it can be used either destructively or constructively. More and more I feel that the people of ill will have used time much more effectively than have the people of good will. We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be coworkers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of stagnation.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go.
Oscar Wilde

Moses said the law is everything.
Jesus said love is everything.

Marx said capital is everything.
Freud said sex is everything.
Einstein said everything is relative.
Unknown

According to Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, during the June summit with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Abbas, George W. Bush made the following statement: ‘*God* told me to strike at al-Qaeda and I struck them.’

I tell you, if you want to be active, you must not be afraid of failures, and you must not be afraid of making mistakes. People think they will become good by doing no harm, but that’s a lie. Such a frame of mind leads to stagnation and mediocrity.
Vincent Van Gogh

Perhaps love is the process of my leading you gently back to yourself.
Antoine de Saint-Exupery

If I got to make just one law, it would be that the men who make the decisions to drop bombs would first, every time, have to spend one whole day taking care of a baby. We were not made to do this killing thing, I swear. Back up. It’s a big mistake.
Barbara Kingsolver

Are you not a robber, you who consider your own that which has been given you solely to distribute to others? This bread which you have set aside is the bread of the hungry; this garment you have locked away is the clothing of the naked; those shoes which you let rot are the shoes of one who is barefoot; those riches you have hoarded are the riches of the poor.
St. Basil the Great

There is no such thing as ‘my bread.’ All bread is ours and is given to me, to others through me and to me through others. For not only bread but all things necessary for sustenance in this life are given on loan to us with others and because of others and for others and to others through us.
Meister Eckhart

Fundamentalism is the paranoid condition of those who do not see that roughness is not a defect of human existence, but what makes it work.
Terry Eagleton

It’s an insult to God to believe in God. ...So my suspicion is that the people he really loves best now in the twentieth century are probably the atheists and agnostics, because they’re the only ones who have ever really taken him seriously.
Galen Stawson

We must not believe the many, who say that only free people ought to be educated, but we should rather believe the philosophers who say that only the educated are free.

Epictetus

Who can refute a sneer?

William Paley

The better part of the man is soon ploughed into the soil for compost.

Henry David Thoreau

It is strange, this painless death. Like stepping through a door held politely open for him. It doesn't seem right, somehow; a trivialization of the event. Death ought to be harder to achieve. Better to be hunted down, rooted out, hurting and bloody. Then death would come as a relief. It would be welcome.

Richard Selzer

One of the most constant characteristics of beliefs is their intolerance. The stronger the belief, the greater its intolerance. Men dominated by a certitude cannot tolerate those who do not accept it.

Gustave Le Bon

Man had always assumed that he was more intelligent than dolphins because he had achieved so much...the wheel, New York, wars, and so on, whilst all the dolphins had ever done was muck about in the water having a good time. But conversely the dolphins believed themselves to be more intelligent than man for precisely the same reasons.

Douglas Adams

If you talk to God, you are praying; if God talks to you, you have schizophrenia.

Thomas Szasz, M.D.

Many people would sooner die than think. In fact they do.

Bertrand Russell

I am not afraid of being thought a sentimentalist when I say that I believe natural beauty has a necessary place in the spiritual development of an individual or a society. I believe that whenever we destroy beauty, or whenever we substitute something manmade and artificial for a natural feature of the earth, we have retarded some part of man's spiritual growth.

Rachel Carson

One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It is simply too painful to acknowledge—even to ourselves—that we've been so credulous.

Carl Sagan

Thousands of years ago, cats were worshipped as gods. Cats have never forgotten this.

Anonymous

The three hardest tasks in the world are neither physical feats nor intellectual achievements, but moral acts: to return love for hate, to include the excluded, and to say, 'I was wrong.'

Sydney J. Harris

The object of life is not to be on the side of the majority, but to escape finding oneself in the ranks of the insane. Remember that there is a God who desires neither praise nor glory from men created in his image, but rather that they, guided by the understanding given them, should in their actions become like unto him. The fig tree is true to its purposes, so is the dog, so also are bees. Is it possible, then, that man shall not fulfill his vocation? But alas, these great and sacred truths vanish from memory. The bustle of daily life, war, unthinking fear, spiritual lameness, and habitual servitude stifle them.

Marcus Aurelius

The first and greatest commandment is, Don't let them scare you.

Elmer Davis

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.

Benjamin Franklin

The rich are different from us.

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Yes, they have more money.

Ernest Hemingway (replying to F. Scott Fitzgerald)

War is bestowed like electroshock on the depressive nation: thousands of volts jolting the system, an artificial galvanizing, one effect of which is loss of memory. War comes...as absolute failure of imagination, scientific and political. That a war can be represented as helping a people to 'feel good' about themselves, their country, is a measure of that failure.

Adrienne Rich

We seem to live in a society that lacks communication. When you try to communicate, you're called a radical, a communist, dirty, a Republican, or something to let you know you're not speaking their language.

Richard Pryor

I praise the dance, for it frees people from the heaviness of matter and binds the isolated to community. I praise the dance, which demands everything: health and a clear spirit and a buoyant soul. Dance is a transformation of space, of time, of people, who are in constant danger of becoming all brain, will, or feeling. Dancing demands a whole person, one who is firmly anchored in the center of his life, who is not obsessed by lust for people and things and the demon of isolation in his own ego.

Dancing demands a freed person, one who vibrates with the equipoise of all his powers. I praise the dance. O man, learn to dance, or else the angels in heaven will not know what to do with you.

St. Augustine

Don Quixote is the true American. ... You do not have to look in many American eyes to suddenly meet somewhere the beautiful grave lunacy of his gaze.

Tennessee Williams

Beware! The 'Yes' of promise keeping is sleep-inducing. An honest 'No' possesses much more promise. It can stimulate; repentance may not be far away. He who says 'No,' becomes almost afraid of himself. But he who says 'Yes, I will,' is all too pleased with himself. The world is quite inclined—even eager—to make promises, for a promise appears very fine at the moment—it inspires! Yet for this very reason the eternal is suspicious of promises.

Søren Kierkegaard

Martin Luther once described the sinner as *homo incurvatus in se*, the human being completely bent in on the self. This human being can think only of and feel nothing except the self, compelled to revolve day and night around the self, never coming free from it—and thus never experiencing that freedom, which is surely one of love's most beautiful gifts.

Dorothee Solle

Everything that happens is at once natural and inconceivable.

E.M. Cioran

This will to be oneself is heroism. Life is a desperate struggle to be in fact that which we are in design.

Ortega Y. Gasset

It is not how much we are doing but how much love, how much honesty, how much faith is put into doing it. It makes no difference what we are doing. What you are doing, I cannot do, and what I am doing, you cannot do. Only sometimes we forget and we spend more time looking at somebody else and wishing we were doing something else. We waste our time thinking of tomorrow and today we let the day pass and yesterday is gone.

Mother Teresa

Every strand of biblical faith shows God to be deeply engaged in and passionately concerned for the economic issues. It does seem that the God of the Bible—contrary to much popular religion—cares a great deal about debts, mortgages, wages, and interest, and is preoccupied with the well-being of the poor.

Walter Brueggemann

When a man tells you that he got rich through hard work, ask him, 'Whose?'

Don Marquis

Acceptance is hard. To accept my pain means holding it in my arms, like a package handed to me, my proper burden to be carried. The package may be heavy as lead, or burning hot, or stuck through with razors, but I must concede that it is my package, simply because it has arrived in my life. It is not a mistake. It has not been sent by accident to the wrong person. I may not welcome it, but accepting it means I carry it without protest for as long as necessary—and then I lay it down.

Jeanne Duprau

If you don't have any money, the problem is food. When you have money, it's sex. When you have both, it's health. If everything is simply jake, then you're frightened of death.

J.P. Donleavy

That life...that she had complained against, had murmured at, had raged at and defied—nonetheless she had loved it so, joyed in it so, both in good days and evil, that not one day had there been when it would not have seemed hard to give it back to God, nor one grief that she could have forgone without regret.

Sigrid Undsetfs

The last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances; to choose one's own way.

Viktor Frankl

Wouldn't you think some sociologist would have done a comparative study by now to prove, as I have always suspected, that there is a higher proportion of Undeserving Rich than Undeserving Poor?

Molly Ivins

We must be careful that the people who make \$5,000 a year are not pitted against those who make \$25,000 a year by those who make \$900,000 a year.

Barbara Mikulski

None of us is responsible for the complexion of his skin. This fact of nature offers no clue to the character or quality of the person underneath.

Marian Anderson

If we lose love and self-respect for each other, this is how we finally die.

Maya Angelou

Any form of art is a form of power; it has impact, it can affect change—it can not only move us, it makes us move.

Ossie Davis

If the aborigine drafted an IQ test, all of Western civilization presumably would flunk it.

Stanley Marion Garn

It's always been and always will be the same in the world: the horse does the work, and the coachman is tipped.

Source unknown

Marge, it takes two to lie. One to lie and one to listen.

Homer Simpson

This is what the world honors: wealth, eminence, long life, a good name. This is what the world finds happiness in: a life of ease, rich food, fine clothes, beautiful sights, sweet sounds. People who can't get these things fret a great deal and are afraid, wear themselves out rushing around on business, spend night and day scheming and scrutinizing. Man lives his life in company with worry, and if he lives a long time, then he has spent that much time worrying. This is a callous way to treat the body.

Chuang Tzu

Time alone, oh, time will tell. / You think you're in heaven, but you're living in hell.

Bob Marley

School is an institution built on the axiom that learning is the result of teaching. And institutional wisdom continues to accept this axiom, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

Ivan Illich

Truth can be found everywhere, even on the lips of drunkards, in the noisiest of taverns.

Elie Wiesel

Americans live out their working lives, and most of their daily existence, not within a democratic system but instead within a hierarchical structure of subordination. To this extent, democracy is necessarily marginal...to their lives.

Robert A. Dahl

Any God I ever felt in church I brought in with me.

Alice Walker

Talk to me about the truth of religion and I'll listen gladly. Talk to me about the duty of religion and I'll listen submissively. But don't come talking to me about the consolations of religion or I shall suspect that you don't understand.

C.S. Lewis (after the death of his wife)

People should worry about each other. Because worry is just love in its worst form. But it's still love.

Simon Gray

How else but through a broken heart may Christ enter in?

Oscar Wilde

I would sum up my fear about the future in one word: boring. And that's my one fear: that everything has happened; nothing exciting or new or interesting is ever going to happen again. ...The future is just going to be a vast, conforming suburb of the soul.
J.G. Ballard

He whose belly is full believes not him whose belly is empty.
Thomas Fuller

We are afraid of religion because it interprets rather than just observes. Religion does not confirm that there are hungry people in the world; it interprets the hungry to be our brethren whom we allow to starve.
Dorothe Solle

Independence? That's a middle-class blasphemy. We are all dependent on one another, every soul of us on earth.
George Bernard Shaw

Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.
Mother Teresa

I suffer more from the humiliations inflicted by my country than from those inflicted on her.
Simone Weil

If we can recognize that change and uncertainty are basic principles, we can greet the future and the transformation we are undergoing with the understanding that we do not know enough to be pessimistic.
Hazel Henderson

I have a new philosophy. I'm only going to dread one day at a time.
Charles Schutz

The present form of the world passes away,
and there remains only the joy
of having used this world
to establish God's rule here.
All pomp, all triumphs, all selfish capitalism,
all the false successes of life will pass
with the world's form.
All of that passes away.
What does not pass away is love.
When one has turned money, property,
work in one's calling
into service of others,
then the joy of sharing and the feeling that all are one's family
does not pass away.

In the evening of life you will be judged on love.
Oscar Romero

Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is. In the boredom and pain of it no less than in the excitement and gladness; touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.
Fred Buechner

Mysticism and exaggeration go together. A mystic must not fear ridicule if he is to push all the way to the limits of humility or the limits of delight.
Milan Kundera

I am glad that my master lived in a one-story house when I began to traverse the early stages of love. For when he would speak of the wonders and the beauty of creation, I could not control my happiness and would commence a dance that most always resulted in a dive, head first, out of his window. And you only broke your big nose seventeen times.
Hafiz

Only really plain people know about love. The very fascinating ones try so hard to create an impression that they soon exhaust their talents.
Katherine Hepburn

Don't go around saying that the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.
Mark Twain

Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Violence may murder the murderer, but it doesn't murder murder. Violence may murder the liar, but it doesn't murder lies; it doesn't establish truth. ... Violence may go to the point of murdering the hater, but it doesn't murder hate. It may increase hate. It is always a descending spiral leading nowhere. This is the ultimate weakness of violence: It multiplies evil and violence in the universe. It doesn't solve any problems.
Martin Luther King Jr.

All that remains to the mother in modern consumer society is the role of scapegoat; psychoanalysis uses huge amounts of money and time to persuade analysts to foist their problems onto the absent mother, who has no opportunity to utter a word in her own defense. Hostility to the mother in our societies is an index of mental health.
Germaine Greer

What mother and daughter understand each other, or even have sympathy for each other's lack of understanding?
Maya Angelou

My child, flee from all evil and from everything resembling it. Do not get angry, for anger leads to murder. Do not get into passionate tempers or be quarrelsome or boil with rage, for all these things breed murder. My child, do not be lustful, for lust leads to promiscuity. Do not use foul language or cast lewd eyes, for all these things lead to adulterous acts. My child, do not foretell the future from natural signs, for this leads to idolatry. Do not use magic formulas, or astrology, or purification charms; you should not even wish to watch such things, for they all breed idolatry. My child, do not be a liar, for lying leads to stealing. Do not love money, and do not fall a prey to vain ambition, for all these things lead to theft. My child, do not grumble, for this leads to blasphemy; do not be self-willed or evil-minded, for all these things breed blasphemy. Be gentle-minded, for those of a gentle mind shall possess the earth. Be patient and have a loving heart. Be guileless. Be quiet and good, trembling in all things at the words you have heard. You shall not exalt yourself or allow your heart to be bold and presumptuous. Your heart shall not cling to the high and mighty, but turn to the good and humble folk. Accept as good whatever happens to you or affects you, knowing that nothing happens without God.
The Didache

Christianity suffers a bad reputation as a ‘bully boy’ religion, and rightly so in some cases.

This is the religion with an all-powerful God who smites whole nations because they won’t toe the line. This is the religion which traps people in abusive relationships with [pearls of wisdom] such as ‘wives submit to your husbands’ and ‘God hates divorce.’ This is the manipulative ego trip of ‘You are my friends if you do what I command.’ This is the violence of someone always having to pay the price for sin.

Christianity has taught such power abuse for centuries and then wondered why clergy abuse is rampant in the Church. A bully-boy God is likely to breed bully-boy Priests. The Church has addressed the issue of boundaries, but has failed to delve deep into the ideology it has built itself on.

Ian Lawton

Yet, when all this has been said, the present pain of living in the world is perhaps in some ways unprecedented. Consumerist ideology, which has become the most powerful and invasive on the planet, sets out to persuade us that pain is an accident, something that we can insure against. This is the logical basis for the ideology’s pitilessness.

John Berger

To make a prairie, it takes a clover and one bee.
Emily Dickinson

Eternity is very long, especially toward the end.
Woody Allen

Men grow tired of sleep, love, singing, and dancing sooner than of war.
Homer

People who consider themselves so different from their named enemies should plant a crop and work a field together. During the labor, they would talk about children and find the common ground of parenting. At the harvest, they would hold cooperation in their hands as they offer up with pride a melon or squash. ...Has the society of human beings become too complex to realize such simplicity?

Booker Jones

Hell is other people at breakfast.

Jean-Paul Sartre

Rebels and dissidents challenge the complacent belief in a just world, and...they are usually denigrated for their efforts. While they are alive, they may be called 'cantankerous,' 'crazy,' 'hysterical,' 'uppity,' or 'duped.' Dead, some of them become saints and heroes, the sterling characters of history. It's a matter of proportion. One angry rebel is crazy, three is a conspiracy, fifty is a movement.

Carol Tavis

Gerry's friends, you see, had no confidence in the United States judicial system. They did not seem comfortable in the courtroom, and this increased their unreliability in the eyes of judge and jury. If you trust the authorities, they trust you back, it seems.

Louise Erdrich

The real measure of our wealth is how much we'd be worth if we lost all our money.

John Henry Jowett

You find lots of little things going on in every community in the country. If there is a world here in a hundred years, it will not be due to any big organization of any sort, no big political group, no big church, no big government. It is going to be saved by millions upon millions of little organizations. It might just be that what Jesus and Jeremiah and Mohammed and Buddha talked about will come true.

Pete Seeger

Reality is above all else a variable, and nobody is qualified to say that he or she knows what it is. As a matter of fact, with a firm enough commitment, you can sometimes create a reality which did not exist before.

Margaret Halsey

'Let the jury consider their verdict,' the King said, for about the twentieth time that day. 'No, no!' said the Queen. 'Sentence first—verdict afterwards.'

Lewis Carroll

Men copied the realities of their hearts when they built prisons.

Richard Wright

All revolutionary changes are unthinkable until they happen—and then they are

understood to be inevitable.

Theodore Roszak

Humans—despite their artistic pretensions, their sophistication, and their many accomplishments—owe their existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains.

Source Unknown

We must, in short, make it economically possible for people to act upon their own best moral values.

Michael Harrington

Whatever you do, don't give up. Because all you can do once you've given up is bitch. I've known some great bitches in my time. With some it's a passion; with others, an art.

Molly Ivins

As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of being.

Carl Jung

If human beings are perceived as potentials rather than problems, as possessing strengths instead of weaknesses, as unlimited rather than dull and unresponsive, then they thrive and grow to their capabilities.

Barbara Bush

Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.

Mother Teresa

It is easy enough to vote right and be consistently with the majority ...but it is more often more important to be ahead of the majority and this means being willing to cut the first furrow in the ground and stand alone for a while if necessary.

Patsy Mink

Women must try to do things men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others.

Amelia Earhart

The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn.

Gloria Steinem

We have the capacity and ability to change our reality. Even in all the crap and tragedy of life, there are beautiful lessons if only we can see them.

Sarah McLachlan

We are now at a point where we must educate our children in what no one knew yesterday, and prepare our schools for what no one knows yet.

Margaret Mead

The highest reward for man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it.
John Ruskin

Children keep showing me things I have never seen before. One child found a tiny cocoon 1/8' long under a piece of bark on a tree trunk. We put it in a little jar in our classroom and it hatched out the next day as a tiny cream-colored moth. Several children were playing in a stream one day and found caddis fly larvae inside their little stick-and-stone houses. We enjoyed watching them poke their heads and front legs out to catch their food. I would never have seen them because they blended in so well with the sticks and stones at the bottom of the stream.

If you take the time, you too can, as William Blake put it, 'see a world in a grain of sand and a heaven in a wild flower, hold infinity in the palm of your hand and eternity in an hour.'

Wanda Wareham

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Surrender to love is the hardest damn work I have ever done in my life. Put me working in prisons to teach murderers how to give good massages or give me tortured women who haven't slept without nightmares in ten years, but don't ask me to be open and receive tender loving care or someone who is going to know all my dirty laundry and stick around anyway!

Why is it so hard? Well, I guess I've just been on the road so long I don't know the difference between my feet and my boots and here comes someone to offer a foot rub and I gotta feel how tired my feet are and how long I've been wanting some good touch and lay down all those other times of disappointment and confusion and let this in without overwhelming myself or anyone else with grief and longing. I didn't learn how to do this at home or school. ...Did you? It takes a combination of mercy and love we give ourselves.

John Calvi

We need not strive for a color blind—color neutral—society, but a society that neutralizes the bigotry, biases, and value judgments based on color.
The Rev. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson

Religion without humanity is very poor human stuff.
Sojourner Truth

There are, after all, far too many pleasures available to be able to sample them all: too many wild and intriguing places to ever visit, people to meet birds to watch, symphonies to hear, and so on. The riches embarrass our poor ability to enjoy them. Pessimism in the short term is its own punishment, since it vitiates the will and makes one a pawn of

circumstance.

Robert Michael Pyle

Erase the lines: I pray you not to love classifications.

The thing is like a river, from source to sea-mouth

One flowing life.

Robinson Jeffers

All compassion, all sympathy is irrational. That's the point. Love is irrational. The rational is stressing I-thou opposites. The mind is in the world of separateness and angular structures. It's a world put together in a way that can't be calculated.

Compassion, love—these jump mathematics.

Joseph Campbell

Who walks with beauty has no need of fear;

The sun and moon and stars keep pace with him;

Invisible hands restore the ruined year,

And time, itself, grows beautifully dim.

David Morton

Painting is much on my mind. I seem not to be able to solve the problem which has baffled me all my life. How to express myself. I imitate nature, giving the illusion of light, air, form of things, texture, planes, movement—this is not enough, yet it is primal and essential. What gives grace to a picture? It is any unconscious reflection of the grace in an artist's mind. I have lost my innocence. Yet even in my early painting I was not satisfied. 'This is not it,' I said to myself, and began the unending search. At times I had glimpses of that for which I was searching, but I never achieved more than glimpses. Yet looking back, I see it there—good stuff in spite of myself.

Harlan Hubbard

I honor your gods,

I drink at your well,

I bring an undefended heart to our meeting place.

I have no cherished outcomes,

I will not negotiate by withholding,

I am not subject to disappointment.

Ralph Blum

All that is gold does not glitter;

Not all who wander are lost;

The old that is strong does not wither;

Deep roots are not reached by the frost.

From the ashes a fire shall be kindled;

A light from the shadows shall spring;

Renewed shall be blade that was broken;

The crownless again shall be king.
J.R.R. Tolkien

Lord, take me where you want me to go;
Let me meet whom you want me to meet;
Tell me what you want me to say;
And keep me out of your way!
Fr. Mychal Judge, OFM

Q: What's the difference between religion and patriotism?

A: When a dog howls at the moon, that's religion. When a dog barks at a stranger, that's patriotism.
Source Unknown

Making weapons is what we know how to do best, the supreme achievement of late-twentieth-century American civilization. To this blessed work we assign our finest intellect and the largest share of our treasure, and in the magnificence of an aircraft carrier or a cruise missile we find our moral and aesthetic equivalent of the Sistine ceiling and Chartres Cathedral.
Lewis Lapham

I was provided with additional input that was radically different from the truth. I assisted in furthering that version.
Colonel Oliver North

We've got to pause and ask ourselves: How much clean air do we need?
Lee Iacocca

The more I see of democracy the more I dislike it. It just brings everything down to the mere vulgar level of wages and prices, electric light and water closets, and nothing else.
D.H. Lawrence

Grown don't mean nothing to a mother. A child is a child. They get bigger, older, but grown? What's that supposed to mean? In my heart it don't mean a thing.
Toni Morrison

Money is better than poverty, if only for financial reasons.
Woody Allen

The only real struggle in the history of the world...is between the vested interest and social justice.
Arnold Toynbee

Whenever I watch TV and see those poor starving kids all over the world, I can't help but cry. I mean I'd love to be skinny like that, but not with all those flies and death and stuff.
Mariah Carey

Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country.
Mayor Marion Barry

When people talk, listen completely. Most people never listen.
Ernest Hemingway

We want people to feel with us more than to act for us.
George Eliot

‘When I use a word,’ Humpty Dumpty said, in a rather scornful tone, ‘it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less.’
Lewis Carroll

First, we can recognize that religion is not simply a set of beliefs. Religion also offers the possibility of experiencing a relationship with the divine that transcends sets of doctrines. Second, [The Gospel of] Thomas is not a specifically Christian book, if by Christianity one means believing that Jesus is the only Son of God. Thomas is not about Jesus, but about the recognition of the light within us all. In this way, Thomas has a close affinity with Jewish mysticism. Finally, Thomas leads us to recognize that there are ways to spiritual discovery other than, and including, the canonical.
Elaine Pagels

Forgiveness means that I am continually willing to forgive the other person for not being God—for not fulfilling all my needs. I, too, must ask forgiveness for not being able to fulfill other people’s needs...The interesting thing is that when you can forgive people for not being God, then you can celebrate that they are a reflection of God.
Henri Nouwen

One of Vladimir de Pachmann’s favorite tricks before a recital was to play about with the piano stool, adjusting and readjusting it, until the audience became desperate. Then he would rush into the wings to fetch a large book, place it on the seat, and try that. He would indicate that all was still not satisfactory and would tear one page from the book and try again.

Little, Brown Book of Anecdotes

My mother thought it would make us feel better to know that animals had no souls, and thus their deaths were not to be taken seriously. But it didn’t help, and when I think of some of the animals I have known, I wonder. The only really ‘soulful’ eyes in the world belong to the dog or cat who sits on your lap or at your feet, commiserating when you cry.

Liz Smith

Animals give us their constant, unjaded faces, and we burden them with our bodies and civilized ordeals.

Gretel Ehrlich

In spite of illness, in spite of that archenemy sorrow, one can remain alive long past the usual date of disintegration, if one is unafraid of change, if one has an insatiable intellectual curiosity, if one remains interested in the big things and happy in the small things.

Edith Wharton

The big difference with this so-called high-tech revolution—contrasted with previous developments such as the telegraph, broadcasting, and the like—is the moral poverty accompanying the technological progress. We are witnessing what Jacques Ellul predicted: people chasing after faster and more efficient ‘means’ of communication while at the same time experiencing a declining interest in the ‘ends’ to which these technologies are directed.

Quentin Schultze

As George Orwell and many other observers of imperialism have pointed out, empires imprison their rulers as well as their subjects. In today’s America, where people are increasingly disinclined to venture beyond the borders, this has already come to pass. But perhaps, in these accelerated times, it won’t be long before most Americans begin to long for an escape from the imprisonment of absolute power.

Amitav Ghosh

It came to me recently in a blinding vision that I am an apatheist. ...I used to call myself an atheist, and I still don’t believe in God, but the larger truth is that it has been years since I cared one way or another. I’m—that’s when it hit me—an apatheist!’ That got a chuckle, but the point was serious. Apatheism—a disinclination to care all that much about one’s own religion, and an even stronger disinclination to care about other people’s—may or may not be something new in the world, but its modern flowering, particularly in ostensibly religious America, is worth getting excited about.

Jonathan Rauch

I do not think much of ‘spiritual’ communities. They do not last. People are friends for a while, but it eventually ends. Anything that is going to last must have a much deeper foundation than some kind of spiritual experience. Unless we have community in the body, in things material, we will never have it in spiritual matters (Acts 2:42–47). We are not mere spirits. We are human beings of flesh and blood. Every day we need to eat. We need clothing for every season. We must share our tools; we must work together; we must work communally and not each for himself. Otherwise we can never become one.

Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt

It’s all this cold-hearted fucking that is death and idiocy.

D.H. Lawrence

Race is for me a more onerous burden than AIDS. My disease is the result of biological factors over which we have had no control. Racism is entirely made by people, and therefore it hurts infinitely more.

Arthur Ashe

I've looked on a lot of women with lust. I've committed adultery in my heart many times. This is something God recognizes I will do—and I have done it—and God forgives me for it.

Jimmy Carter

It's all this cold-hearted fucking that is death and idiocy.

D.H. Lawrence

I'm sorry he's gone, but I'm not surprised. He had lived a long life and his time had come.

That could be a pretty average response to the obituary of someone born in 1920. The assumption would be that he was getting old; his best days were behind him and therefore his death was not a catastrophe.

I was born in 1920, and I think that is a dreadful response. I may die in 2003, but if I do, I don't want anyone to say or think it was 'good', a sort of mercy killing, carried out by Mother Nature. I would rather have everyone understand that the last year has been the best year of my life. Rochet also agrees that this last year has been the best of the sixty we have lived together.

Many people, probably young, have assumed that if you plotted the quality of your life on graph paper, the result would be some sort of 'bell curve'. It would start at zero when you were born, peak at age 49, and then nosedive into a steady decline until it bottomed out at zero again when you died.

We are old and we show it. Rochet had a devastating stroke some 37 years ago, and now is either in her recliner beside her books and crossword puzzle or in a wheelchair. I have two cancers, one of which is lying low; the other is showing signs of life. Apart from that, and the normal aches and pains that come with the years, we feel fine. We live in an apartment in a retirement center, and have never been happier to be alive. If we drew a graph of our lives together, that curve would be headed up and show no signs of decline. Even if the bottom drops out of our lives tomorrow, today is a high plateau.

What has made old age so good for us, and our aged marriage so much fun? Our oldest son is a clergyman and can say a lot in a few words. He says, 'The greatest diamonds are found under the deepest piles of (manure).'

I am sure he is right. It takes years of living and years of marriage to get that pile deep enough to hatch real diamonds.

Marriage seems designed to produce a pretty big pile of something, at least as a by-product. It begins when a male and a female are put in a room together, the door is locked and the key is thrown away. That is a design for sure and certain trouble. The only way to avoid very serious marital trouble is not to get married. My encouraging word is that the first 50 years are the hardest. After that it gets easy. I submit that this is so because those early years are spent working through the impossibilities of this thing called marriage. Once that is done, life can begin.

As soon as the honeymoon is over, you have to decide who is in charge. That is never really decided. It takes years to stumble into an unspoken compromise that divides responsibilities and seems somehow to work. But the rocky path that leads to that

compromise is part of the process that leads to diamonds.

As the years go by, you know that no one is going anywhere. The old man isn't going to take off with some trophy blond. The old girl isn't apt to find some prince charming. In the midst of some really hot exchange, both will break out laughing, because you both know you wouldn't leave the other for anything in the world.

As the years go by, you might decide you are too tired to keep up the struggle to be the one in charge. You decide that it is easier to muddle through, being thankful when you get your way, but knowing it won't last long.

As the years go by, there is always the chance that you each might give up the hope of reforming the other. You could even accept each other, warts and all.

As the years go by, time, medicine or surgeons may well have done sex in. That's bad. But if you can find some way to live without sex, life starts to get simpler.

As the years go by, the need for money, a bigger house, bigger job, and a better name are likely to expire. You might be able to just relax and enjoy living.

As the years go by, children go off on their own, no longer occupying center stage. You don't want to live with them. They don't want to live with you. That uncomplicates life.

As the years go by, you have been through better and worse, sickness and health, richer and poorer, hell and high water. What binds you together is deeper and broader and higher than you ever imagined was possible. Now you can begin to know what love is.

As the years go by, the notion of immortality dies and the fact of mortality becomes obvious. You know you have only a finite number of days left, so you don't want to mess up any more days than you have to.

As the years go by, a lot of the old had died and made way for new life to appear.

I am pretty sure that this always comes as a surprise. C.S. Lewis called one of his books, *Surprised by Joy*. That is the way it is. Much to our surprise, these last years turn out not to be some sorrowful tapering off, but rather a time of joy in a new life.

The particular turning point in our life was Rochet's stroke. That changed the whole way we looked at life. We expected it would be the end. And it was. The end of the old way of living together. Much to our amazement, the new life, which then began, was better than the old had ever been. The stroke took place on March 13. We celebrate that date every year. It is our Easter.

We would not wish that same path on anyone. We share it to underline the fact that, amazingly enough, life can and does come out of death, in whatever guise death may assume.

You can never tell what is around the next curve, and it can be great.

Thom (and Rochet) Blair

A mother's love for her child is like nothing else in the world. It knows no law, no pity; it dares all things and crushes down remorselessly all that stands in its path.

Agatha Christie

Compassion is not a relationship between the healer and the wounded. It's a relationship between equals. Only when we know our own darkness well can we be present with the darkness of others. Compassion becomes real when we recognize our shared humanity.

Pema Chodron

I am still looking for the modern equivalent of those Quakers who ran successful businesses, made money because they offered honest products and treated their people decently, worked hard, spent honestly, saved honestly, gave honest value for money, put back more than they took out, and told no lies. This business creed, sadly, seems long forgotten.

Anita Roddick

The mother's yearning...feels the presence of the cherished child even in the debased, degraded man.

George Eliot

Expect to have hope rekindled. Expect your prayers to be answered in wondrous ways. The dry seasons in life do not last. The spring rains will come again.

Sarah Ban Breathnach

My father was very sure about certain matters pertaining to the universe. To him, all good things—trout as well as eternal salvation—come by grace and grace comes by art and art does not come easily.

Norman Maclean

The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been two hundred years. These nations have progressed through this sequence: From bondage to spiritual faith; from spiritual faith to great courage; from courage to liberty; from liberty to abundance; from abundance to selfishness; from selfishness to complacency; from complacency to apathy; from apathy to dependence and back into bondage.

Fraser Tyler

Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half have never voted for president. One hopes it is the same half.

Gore Vidal

When, before the beauty of a sunset or a mountain, you pause and exclaim 'Ah,' you are participating in divinity.

Joseph Campbell

The name of God should no longer come from the mouth of man. This word that has been so long degraded by usage no longer means anything. To use the word 'God' is more than sloth; it is a refusal to think, a kind of short cut, a hideous shorthand.

Arthur Adamov

The truth dazzles gradually, or else the world would be blind.

Emily Dickinson

I feel so miserable without you, it's almost like having you here.

Stephen Bishop

Every government, whatever its form, character, or color be it absolute or constitutional, monarchy or republic, Fascist, Nazi, or Bolshevist—is by its very nature conservative, static, intolerant of change and opposed to it.

Emma Goldman

The man who sees two or three generations is like one who sits in the conjuror's booth at a fair and sees the tricks two or three times. They are meant to be seen only once.

Arthur Schopenhauer

Deep down, all of us are probably aware that some kind of mystical evolution is our true task. Yet we suppress the notion with considerable force because to admit it is to admit that most of our political gyrations, religious dogmas, social ambitions, and financial ploys are not merely counterproductive but trivial.

Tom Robbins

If you're condemned to death they have to give you one last meal of your choice. What is that all about? A group of people plans to kill you, so they want you to eat something you like? Do they think the food part will take your mind off the dying part? Or do they prefer to kill you when you're just coming off a peak experience and full of positive energy?

George Carlin

Never work just for money or for power. They won't save your soul or help you sleep at night.

Marian Wright Edelman

There will always be some curve balls in your life. Teach your children to thrive in that adversity.

Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe

It is always the same: once you are liberated, you are forced to ask who you are.

Jean Baudrillard

The great thieves punish the little ones.

Thomas Fuller

People pay for what they do, and still more for what they have allowed themselves to become. And they pay for it very simply; by the lives they lead.

James Baldwin

When I read great literature, great drama, speeches or sermons, I feel that the human mind has not achieved anything greater than the ability to share feelings and thoughts through language.

James Earl Jones

What we call evil is only a necessary moment in our endless development.

Franz Kafka

He is a self-made man and worships his creator.
John Bright

The first step is to measure whatever can be easily measured. That is OK as far as it goes. The second step is to disregard that which can't be measured or give it an arbitrary quantitative value. This is artificial and misleading. The third step is to presume that what can't be easily measured really isn't very important. This is blindness. The fourth step is to say that what can't be easily measured doesn't exist. This is suicide.
Daniel Yankelovich

When science finally locates the center of the universe, some people will be surprised to learn they're not it.
Source unknown

Our imagination is stretched to the utmost, not, as in fiction, to imagine things which are not really there, but just to comprehend those things which are there.
Richard Feynman

Faith is not being sure. It is not being sure, but betting with your last cent.
Mary Jean Iron

Every time you don't follow your inner guidance, you feel a loss of energy, loss of power, a sense of spiritual deadness.
Shakti Gawain

We have to be able to be gods, lovers and artists, we have to be soulful if we're going to be happy if we want peace—and the soul is the part of us that is the creative process.
Gabrielle Roth

You are the instrument
not the music.
If you think you are the music
you will stop at
the final bar.
John Squadra

Ants are so much like human beings as to be an embarrassment. They farm fungi, raise aphids as livestock, launch armies into wars, use chemical sprays to alarm and confuse enemies, capture slaves. They do everything but watch television.
Lewis Thomas

The irony of our modern way of living and exercising was well put in a recent issue of *Business Week*. It is worth sharing: 'We're the quirky civilization that rides elevators to the second floor and buys electronic stair steppers to condition our thighs. We drive to convenience stores and hurry back to our tread-mills. Yes, we rely on machines to save

us from working, then buy other machines to save our bodies from the terminal flab.’
Janet Luhers

What is a thunderstorm, to a bird?
John Hay

Rembrandt and Shakespeare, Tolstoy and Gauguin, possessed, I believe, powerful hearts, not powerful wills. They loved the range of materials they used. The work’s possibilities excited them; the field’s complexities fired their imaginations. The caring suggested the tasks; the tasks suggested the schedules. They learned their fields and then loved them. They worked, respectfully, out of their love and knowledge, and they produced complex bodies of work that endure. Then, and only then, the world flapped at them some sort of hat, which, if they were still living, they ignored as well as they could, to keep at their tasks.
Annie Dillard

They wrote in the old days that it is sweet and fitting to die for one’s country. But in modern war, there is nothing sweet nor fitting in your dying. You will die like a dog for no good reason.
Ernest Hemingway

A mother...is forever surprised and even faintly wronged that her sons and daughters are just people, for many mothers hope and half expect that their newborn child will make the world better, will somehow be a redeemer. Perhaps they are right, and they can believe that the rare quality they glimpsed in the child is active in the burdened adult.
Florida Scott-Maxwell

Ants use touching and smelling to communicate, constantly giving and receiving news about food, danger, and events crucial for survival of their group. Two approaching ants communicate by feeling antennae for identification, then by touching mouths, then, if suspicious, they raise their pincers. If one ant determines the other to be a faker, the enlightened ant might yank a body part from the impostor — or simply drag the impostor away to be dealt with by the captor’s relatives. Some ants can fake their way into an unsuspecting colony by disguising themselves with a familiar scent. Once in, the con ants release chemicals to confuse the community, during which the invaders take slaves back to their own group. The tricksters may also take larvae back to their own colony, raised as slaves to work for the good of their community.
Cathie Katz

In our society, we’ve become myopic and obsessive with one particular kind of love: dyadic love, which takes the form of romance, sex, marriage. As a result we end up asking all the wrong questions. Books about relationships talk about how to ‘get’ the love you need, how to ‘keep’ love, and so on. But the right question to ask is, ‘How do I become a more loving human being?’ When you ask that question it changes the way you think about pursuing love, making it much more complex.

Sam Keene

The only reason that we don't open our hearts and minds to other people is that they trigger confusion in us that we don't feel brave enough or sane enough to deal with. To the degree that we look clearly and compassionately at ourselves, we feel confident and fearless about looking into someone else's eyes.

Perna Chodron

It was quite incomprehensible to me...why in my evening prayers I should pray for human beings only. So when my mother had prayed with me and had kissed me goodnight, I used to add silently a prayer that I had composed myself for all living creatures. It ran thus: 'O Heavenly Father, protect and bless all things that have breath; guard them from all evil, and let them sleep in peace.'

Albert Schweitzer

The lower animals are our brethren. I include among them the lion and the tiger. We do not know how to live with these carnivorous beasts and poisonous reptiles because of our ignorance. When man learns better, he will learn to befriend even these. Today he does not even know how to befriend a man of a different religion or from a different country.

Mohandas K. Gandhi

In nothing does man, with his grand notions of heaven and charity, show forth his innate, wild animalism more clearly than in his treatment of his brother beasts. From the shepherd with his lambs to the red-handed hunter, it is the same: no recognition of rights—only murder in one form or another.

John Muir

It's great that we can run out for hamburgers, instead of running down a wild boar. It's nice to watch television instead of chop-ping wood or fetching water. But the risks are enormous to people genetically built for the Stone Age.

Dean Hamer

Sam's Big Brother Brian, who still takes him every Tuesday for a few hours, is married to a very funny Southern woman named Diane, who's bleached fabulously blonde, sober fifteen years, very Eve Arden-ish. She says that we're all so nuts amid so much beauty that it's like we're at the circus. In one ring is an amazing array of clowns and bears doing all this great stuff, and in the middle ring is a woman who does breathtaking tricks on horseback, and in the far ring are elephants or seals and maybe more clowns, and above us are trapeze artists, doing these death-defying precision feats, and we're sitting in our seats looking around crabbily, going, 'Where's that damn peanut vendor? I want my goddamn peanuts!'—even when we're not particularly hungry.

Annie Lamott

Some people dance cool, all angles and swaying hips,
Sensual as all get out and in.

Me, I'm a hick, and I dance like one,

I just kind of jump around and grin.
Greg Brown

Everyone searches desperately for happiness but the price that we must pay for it is
generosity.
Jean Giono

The law is above the law, you know.
Dorothy Salisbury Davis

I always had a decent sense of outrage.
Bella Abzug

Even if everything that has come down to us about the past by report were true and
known to someone, that would be nothing compared with what we do not know.
Michel de Montaigne

There is nothing so absurd but some philosopher has said it.
Cicero

Modern art touches a sore spot, or several sore spots, in the ordinary citizen of which he
is totally unaware. The more irritated he becomes at modern art the more he betrays the
fact that he himself, and his civilization, are implicated in what the artist shows him.
William Barrett

Ethiopians make their gods black and snub-nosed, Thracians red-haired and with blue
eyes; so also they conceive the spirits of the gods to be like themselves.
Xenophanes

You do pay a price for stating it simply, namely it's easier for the professionals to
misunderstand it.
John Searle

The people who live in a Golden Age usually go around complaining how yellow
everything looks.
Randall Jarrell

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

Nothing exists except atoms and empty space; everything else is opinion.
Democritus

There are two things to remember about a revolution: first, we're gonna get our asses
kicked, and second, we're gonna win.
Source unknown

It is hard to believe that a man is telling the truth when you know that you would lie if you were in his place.

H. L. Mencken

This land is your land and this land is my land, sure, but the world is run by those that never listen to music anyway.

Bob Dylan

An environmental setting developed over millions of years must be considered to have some merit. Anything so complicated as a planet, inhabited by more than a million and a half species of plants and animals, all of them living together in a more or less balanced equilibrium in which they continually use and reuse the same molecules of the soil and air, cannot be improved by aimless and uninformed tinkering.

E.F. Schumacher

It seems to me that our three basic needs for food and security and love are so mixed and mingled and entwined that we cannot straightly think of one without the others.

M.F.K. Fisher

There's little risk in becoming overly proud of one's garden, because gardening by its very nature is humbling. It has a way of keeping you on your knees.

JoAnn R. Bartwick

There is a little voice in all of us that is just a whisper. A tiny whisper. When you go into nature, into the wilds, especially alone, the whisper can come out and talk more. Inside each of us is the spirit that whispers. This little voice is our true self. If we can listen, it will start to get louder. Eventually, that whisper will be our normal voice. That's when I really live. That is when dreams become reality. When I live from that deep intuitive place.

Jennifer Hahn

I have one longing only: to grasp what is hidden behind appearance. What is my work? To let the mind fall silent that I may hear the invisible calling.

Nikos Kazantzakis

Practice has been described by a Tibetan teacher as the wearing out of an old pair of shoes. Wearing the soles thin. Wearing through ego and delusion. You may approach Zen thinking that you are going to become enlightened, become a great teacher and have fantastic powers that people will respect. Doing the practice, you come to realize that you don't give a damn whether people respect you or not. You really don't want to be a great teacher. What you want is to be helpful. To be of assistance...a benevolent entity.

The Rev. Kobutsu Kevin Malone

/Nobody can deny but religion is a comfort to the distressed, a cordial to the sick, and sometimes a restraint on the wicked; therefore whoever would argue or laugh it out

of the world without giving some equivalent for it ought to be treated as a common enemy.

Lady Mary Worley Montagu

What is religion? That which is never spoken.

Henry David Thoreau

We live in a truly marvelous world. A really, really interesting, diverse, marvelous place to have visited for a short time. Some get more out of it than others. Some of us try to get more out of it than others. I think you should make a conscientious effort to try. To be nosy. To look and to marvel. And not only to look but to see. Not only listen but hear on all different levels. It is indeed a marvelous world. Part of what makes it marvelous is our own kind. Part of what makes it incredibly marvelous to me are other than our own kind. I think it is important biologically to have them, but it's also important for my quality of life. I would not want to live in a world that had only people in it. I like snakes and frogs and creepy, crawly things and marvelous birds that can fly 200 miles an hour and free my spirit.

Len Soucy

You need to claim the events of your life to make yourself yours. When you truly possess all you have done, which may take some time, you are fierce with reality.

Florida Scott-Maxwell

I just love silence. I love lying quietly in the afternoon with the sun streaming in through the windows of my cabin. Just being very quiet.

Ninety-nine times out of a hundred, when I climb the hill up to the cabin, I stop and either throw myself down to the ground or look up to the stars and say, 'This is fabulous. I am so happy, happy, happy that I am doing this. It is so nice to live close to the Earth.' Every time I see the new crescent moon, the little sliver, I bow down and acknowledge it. I always have the same feeling—another thirty days to try it again. Another thirty days to see if I can get a little closer.

Ethan Hubbard

Those people who I most admire are those who have turned away from the cluttered materialism and returned to the beauty of the natural world and objects made by human hands, the texture of wood, the woven basket, the mixing of compost into soil in the back garden, a good soup cooking on the stove, an evening around the table with family and friends. Rediscovering this kind of beauty involves a slowing down, doesn't it? And it certainly involves listening to the priorities of the heart.

JoAnna Macy

Many interviewers when they come to talk to me, think they're being progressive by not mentioning in their stories any longer that I'm black. I tell them, 'Don't stop now. If I shot somebody you'd mention it.'

Colin Powell

A reverence for life is a reverence for wildness. A reverence for life beyond your control. Something you don't dominate. That is the native habitat of new ideas. Of real humanity — to expose yourself to things beyond your control. And just ride out the circumstances. That is what I seek and want to protect. Elements that are beyond our control.

Doug Peacock

Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow.

Jeff Valdez

What I learned from the Dene [Indians] was that nature is spiritual, that the roots of man are in nature, and that a life on the land, uncluttered with the products of the modern world, is a life connected to the spirit. The seasons go around. The water and the trees and the stones. The whole of creation is very spiritual. To the Dene the land is alive, a giver of gifts. A mother.

For a Dene the true reality of time is too precious and too important to be used as a reference for insignificant things. Time meant the rhythm of the Earth and human growth: the seasons, the families, the sun, and the cycle of life. They didn't break time into different chunks. They just lived. The Dene say, 'White men know how to make a living, but us, we know how to live.'

Our disconnection from the land is the root of our enslavement. You cannot enslave a people who are close to the land.

René Fumoleau

There is a quietness to a life lived in gratitude, a quiet joy.

Ralph H. Blum

i like to feel the spine
of your body and its bones, and the trembling
—firm—smoothness and which i will
again and again and again
kiss, i like kissing this and that of you
ee cummings

'There is no use trying,' said Alice, 'I cannot believe impossible things.'
'I dare say you haven't had much practice,' said the Queen. 'When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.'

Lewis Carroll

When you have to attend to things of that sort, to the mere incidents of the surface, the reality—the reality, I tell you—fades. The inner truth is hidden—luckily; luckily. But I felt it all the same; I felt often its mysterious stillness watching me.

Joseph Conrad

As the conversation turned to waiting, Brother Anthony leaned forward in his chair. 'Contemplative waiting is consenting to be where we really are,' he explained. 'People

recoil from it because they don't want to be present to themselves. Such waiting causes a deep existential loneliness to surface, a feeling of being disconnected from oneself and God. At the depths there is fear, fear of the dark chaos within ourselves.'

Brother Anthony was exactly right. Ultimately, we are fleeing our own dark chaos. We are fleeing ourselves.

Sue Monk Kidd

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Over the years I have learned that motherhood is much like an austere religious order, the joining of which obligates one to relinquish all claims to personal possessions.

Nancy Stahl

Being asked to decide between your passion for work and your passion for children was like being asked by your doctor whether you preferred him to remove your brain or your heart.

Mary Kay Blakely

Why not have your first baby at sixty, when your husband is already dead and your career is over? Then you can really devote yourself to it.

Fran Lebowitz

I figure when my husband comes home from work, if the kids are still alive, then I've done my job.

Roseanne Barr

Make visible what, without you, might perhaps never have been seen.

Robert Bresson

A good case can be made for our nonexistence as entities. We are not made up, as we had always supposed, of successively enriched packets of our own parts. We are shared, rented, occupied. At the interior of our cells, driving them, providing the oxidative energy that sends us out for the improvement of each shining day, are the mitochondria, and in a strict sense they are not ours. They turn out to be little separate creatures, the colonial posterity of migrant prokaryocytes, probably primitive bacteria that swam into ancestral precursors of our eukaryotic cells and stayed there. Ever since, they have maintained themselves and their ways, replicating in their own fashion, privately, with their own DNA and RNA quite different from ours. They are as much symbionts as the rhizobial bacteria in the roots of beans. Without them, we would not move a muscle, drum a finger, think a thought.

Lewis Thomas

The arc of the universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

On the first day of school, the teacher was given the roster of students in her new class. Near each student's name was a number, such as 154,136,142, and so on. The teacher was impressed. 'Look at these IQ scores!' she thought, 'What a terrific class this is going to be.' She immediately determined to work harder with this class than with any other class she ever taught. And sure enough, all that year, she came up with innovative lessons that she thought would challenge the students, not wanting to bore them with work that was too easy for them. And the class responded, outperforming every class she every had. At the end of the school year, the principal commended the teacher on what she had accomplished with her students.

'Thank you, but how could I miss,' the teacher said humbly, 'with the IQ scores of my students!'

'What IQ scores?' the principal asked.

'The IQ scores that were included on my class roster,' she said, pointing to her class list.

'Those are not their IQ scores,' the principal explained. 'Those are their locker numbers.'

Author unknown

Penetrating so many secrets, we cease to believe in the unknowable. But there it sits, nevertheless, calmly licking its chops.

H. L. Mencken

Money destroys human roots wherever it is able to penetrate, by turning desire for gain into the sole motive. It easily manages to outweigh all other motives, because the effort it demands of the mind is so very much less. Nothing is so clear and so simple as a row of figures.

Simone Weil

I could be whatever I wanted to be if I trusted that music, that song, that vibration of God that was inside of me.

Shirley MacLaine

You might say that certain words are only pegs to hang intonations on.

Ludwig Wittgenstein

Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction.

Blaise Pascal

Everybody thinks himself so well supplied with common sense that even those most difficult to please...never desire more of it than they already have.

Rene Descartes

I lay it down as a fact that if all men knew what others say of them, there would not be four friends in the world.

Blaise Pascal

History aside, the almost universal opinion that one's own religious convictions are the reasoned outcome of a dispassionate evaluation of all the major alternatives is almost demonstrably false for humanity in general. If that really were the genesis of most people's convictions, then one would expect the major faiths to be distributed more or less randomly or evenly over the globe. But in fact they show a very strong tendency to cluster...which illustrates what we all suspected anyway: that social forces are the primary determinants of religious belief for people in general. To decide scientific questions by appeal to religious orthodoxy would therefore be to put social forces in place of empirical evidence.

Paul Churchland

His mind is open; yes, it is so open that nothing is retained; ideas simply pass through him.

Francis Bradley

My grandmother knew what a painful life had taught her: success or failure, the truth of a life really has little to do with its quality. The quality of life is in proportion, always, to the capacity for delight. The capacity for delight is the gift of paying attention.

Julia Cameron

Sex is not the ultimate high, but the ultimate high hangs out around sex. The ultimate high is the dance with another person, played so deep down and with such abandon that glee returns to grown-ups.

Marianne Williamson

Happiness is not a matter of intensity, but of balance and order and rhythm and harmony.

Thomas Merton

Every society honors its live conformists and its dead troublemakers.

Mignon McLaughlin

I know what the great cure is: it is to give up, to relinquish, to surrender, so that our little hearts may beat in unison with the great heart of the world.

Henry Miller

What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?

Jean Jacques Rousseau

Say yes when nobody asked.

Lao proverb

Staying inside the house breeds a sort of insanity always. Every house is in this sense a hospital. A night and a forenoon is as much confinement to those wards as I can stand.

Henry David Thoreau

The most appalling cruelties are committed by apparently virtuous governments in expectation of a great good to come, never learning that the evil done now is the sure destroyer of the expected good.

Katherine Anne Porter

When I despair, I remember that all through history, the way of truth and love has always won. There have been murderers and tyrants, and for a time they can seem invincible. But in the end they always fall. Think of it, always.

Mohandas K. Gandhi

After the game, the king and pawn go into the same box.

Italian proverb

Acknowledging fear is not a cause for depression or discouragement. Because we possess such fear, we also are potentially entitled to experience fearlessness. True fearlessness is not the reduction of fear; but going beyond fear.

Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche

Only in Hollywood is 'literate' not a compliment.

Michael Blake

I am here to organize. I am here to be political. I am here to be a citizen in a pluralist democracy. ...When you don't act, you act. When you don't vote, you vote. When you accept the loony logic of some of the left that there is no political value in supporting the lesser of two evils, you open the door to the greater evil. That's what happens when you despair, you open the door to evil.

Tony Kushner

It can truly be said: Men are the devils of the earth, and the animals are the tormented souls.

Arthur Schopenhauer

I ask people why they have deer heads on their walls, and they say, 'Because it's such a beautiful animal.' There you go. Well, I think my mother's attractive, but I have photographs of her.

Ellen DeGeneres

We call them dumb animals, and so they are, for they cannot tell us how they feel, but they do not suffer less because they have no words.

Anna Sewell

One can be conscious of the body with head consciousness, and this is true of so many people who engage in physical culture. ...The body is seen then as the instrument of the ego.

Alexander Lowen

Nobody, but nobody, is as fat as she thinks she is.
Cynthia Heimel

A few of his disciples had decided to do a 'grape cure' and eat nothing but grapes and grape juice for a while. Paramahansa Yogananda smiled when he heard about this and remarked, 'Devotion is the greatest purifier.' His disciple Donald Walters asked, 'Is it your wish then, Sir, that we break this fast?' 'Well, I don't want you to break your wills,' said Yogananda, 'now that you have set them in this way. But your time would be better spent if you worked on developing devotion. A pure heart is the way to God, not a pure stomach.'

William Ashoka Ross

The poor have sometimes objected to being governed badly; the rich have always objected to being governed at all.
G.K. Chesterton

Love involves a peculiar, unfathomable combination of understanding and misunderstanding.
Diane Arbus

The world is wide, and I will not waste my life in friction when it could be turned into momentum.
Frances Willard

What value has compassion that does not take its object in its arms?
Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Men look at women. Women watch themselves being looked at.
John Berger

In asking forgiveness of women for our mythologizing of their bodies, for being unreal about them, we can only appeal to their own sexuality, which is different but not basically different, perhaps, from our own. For women, too, there seems to be that tangle of supplication and possessiveness, that descent towards infantile undifferentiation, that omnipotent helplessness, that merger with the cosmic motherwarmth, that flushed pulse-quicken leap into overestimation, projection, general mix-up.

John Updike Guys would sleep with a bicycle if it had the right color lip gloss on. They have no shame. They're like bull elks in a field. It's a scent to them, a smell.

Tori Amos

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supplication and possessiveness, that descent towards infantile undifferentiation, that omnipotent helplessness, that merger with the cosmic motherwarmth, that flushed pulse-quickened leap into overestimation, projection, general mix-up.

John Updike

I don't think that looking younger is very seductive. It seems to get the biggest publicity, to look younger than you are, or thinner, but I have found it not to be a particularly successful strategy.

Isabella Rossellini

Stories make us more alive, more human, more courageous, more loving. Why does anybody tell a story? It does indeed have something to do with faith, faith that the universe has meaning, that our little human lives not irrelevant, that what we choose or say or do matters, matters cosmically.

Madeleine L'Engle

To assert in any case that a man must be absolutely cut off from society because he is absolutely evil amounts to saying that society is absolutely good, and no one in his right mind will believe this.

Albert Camus

Nuclear bombs, whether they're used or not, violate everything that is humane. They alter the meaning of life itself. Why do we tolerate them? Why do we tolerate these men who use nuclear weapons to blackmail the entire human race?

Arundhati Roy

Compassion is a kind of fire...it disturbs, it surprises, it ignites, it burns, it sears, and it warms. Compassion incinerates denial; it especially warms and melts cold hearts, cold structures, frozen minds, and self-satisfied lifestyles. Those who are touched by compassion have their lives turned upside down. That is not necessarily a bad thing.

Matthew Fox

If we fix it so's you can't make money on war

We'll all forget what we're killing folks for.

Woody Guthrie

During the past hundred years there have been astounding developments in science and technology, developments that have completely changed the nature of the world in which we live. So far as I can see, the nature of diplomacy, of the conduct of international affairs, has changed very little.

Linus Pauling

What's been done in the name of Jesus

What's been done in the name of Buddha

What's been done in the name of Islam

What's been done in the name of man
What's been done in the name of liberation
And in the name of civilization
And in the name of race
And in the name of peace!
Everybody loves to see justice done on somebody else.
Bruce Cockburn

1. A worker is an asset, not an expense.
 2. Skilled labor offers a sharper competitive edge than cheap labor.
 3. A business has a moral responsibility to sustain its community.
 4. Workers accept justifiable layoffs but resent job weeding.
 5. Management commitment yields worker loyalty.
 6. Customers respond to quality and innovation above price.
 7. Profit is only one among many values a company strives to maximize.
- Aaron Feuerstein (Malden Mills)

The community of the living is the carriage of the Lord.
Hasidic proverb

America is addicted to wars of distraction.
Barbara Ehrenreich

All wars are civil wars, because all men are brothers.
Francois de Salignac de la Mothe Fenelon

The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.
Jozef Imrich

Religion has failed us. Christ was not a Christian. Buddha was not a Buddhist. Mohammed was not a Mohammedan. And yet ever since the dawn of history, we have engaged in conflict and war and terrorism and murder and racism and ethnocentrism and bigotry and prejudice in the name of God. I think the time has come for us to embrace spirituality as a domain of awareness where we all experience our universal nature, where we all experience our inseparability, where we all know love as the ultimate truth at the heart of creation.
Deepak Chopra

One must grieve, and one must go through periods of numbness that are harder to bear than grief. One must refuse the easy escapes offered by habit and human tradition. The first and most common offerings of family and friends are always distractions ('Take her out'—'Get her away'—'Change the scene'—'Bring in people to cheer her up'—'Don't let her sit and mourn,' when it is mourning one needs). ...Courage is a first step, but simply to bear the blow bravely is not enough. Stoicism is courageous, but it is only a

halfway house on the long road. It is a shield, permissible for a short time only. In the end one has to discard shields and remain open and vulnerable. Otherwise, scar tissue will seal off the wound and no growth will follow. To grow, to be reborn, one must remain vulnerable — open to love but also hideously open to the possibility of more suffering.
Anne Morrow Lindbergh

People defend violence as a tool for change. But I know from my own life what suffering it causes. Besides, it isn't radical enough. Love is more radical, and loving takes a lot more courage.
Alice Walker

Simone Weil once said, 'I would like to achieve the kind of radiance that can bring about nonviolently what other people might have to do violently.' And, of course, we see teachers like that. We see parents like that, who have a kind of radiance so that they don't have to raise their voice; they don't have to beat their children. ...They simply make a different atmosphere.
Sissela Bok

If one looks at a thing with the intention of trying to discover what it means, one ends up no longer seeing the thing itself, but thinking of the question that has been raised. One cannot speak about mystery; one must be seized by it.
Rene Magritte

There are times when you want to stop working at faith and just be washed in a blowing wind that tells you everything.
Don DeLillo

Stress is an ignorant state. It believes that everything is an emergency. Nothing is that important. Just lie down.
Natalie Goldberg

However fashionable despair about the world and about people may be at present, and however powerful despair may become in the future, not everybody, or even most people, thinks and lives fashionably; virtue and honor will not be banished from the world, however many popular moralists and panicky journalists say so. Sacrifice will not cease to be because psychiatrists have popularized the idea that there is often some concealed self-serving element in it; theologians always knew that. Nor do I think love as a high condition of honor will be lost; it is a pattern in the spirit, and people long to make the pattern a reality in their own lives, whatever means they take to do so.
Robertson Davies

Created to build colonial empires in service to kings, global corporations are ill suited to the task of building just, sustainable, and compassionate civil societies that nurture sufficiency, partnership, and respect for the whole of life. Corporate globalists and the corporate empires they serve may be at the cutting edge of technological innovation, but socially and environmentally they are relics of a bygone era of imperial colonial rule,

elite privilege, and state-sanctioned plunder.

David C. Korten

Few of us have looked long enough into ourselves to see that what seems to us and to others as normally attractive is actually as graceless as a scarecrow and even repulsive. It is an easy matter for the physical eye to spot physical deformity and blemishes in others and in oneself. It is not so easy for the eye of the spirit to spot a spiritual dwarf, hunchback, or cripple, although it is easier to see these spiritual deformities in others than in oneself.

This X-ray look at others is called 'naked truth,' 'unvarnished truth.' In literature and art it is called realism. But to spot it in one's self is not only difficult but painful, and no one wants to take the descending path to that naked, unvarnished truth, with all its unacceptable humiliations. It is much more comfortable to stay on the level of the plain and ordinary, to go on being just plain and ordinary.

Edna Hong

A heart that is on fire, even if it bewilders us at times, is equipped to serve. God freely chooses his saints from among the great sinners, but never from among those who are lukewarm—from those who do not risk anything.

Daniel Rops

We are not yet men; we are still on our way to humanity. Every pupil of Lao-tse, every disciple of Jesus, every follower of Francis of Assisi was much further ahead than the laws and reasoning of present-day civilization. Yet the sentence, 'Thou shalt not kill' has been honored faithfully and obeyed by thousands of people for thousands of years. There has always been a minority of well-meaning people who had faith in the future, and obeyed laws that are not listed in any worldly code. As soldiers they showed compassion and respected their enemies, even during the last, horrible war, or consistently refused to kill and hate when ordered to do so, suffering imprisonment and torture as a result. And we who believe in the future will raise the ancient demand again and again, 'Thou shalt not kill.' It is the basic demand of all progress, of all true humanity.

Hermann Hesse

Many things can wait.

Children cannot.

Today their bones are being formed,

their blood is being made,

their senses are being developed.

To them we cannot say 'tomorrow.'

Their name is today.

Gabriela Mistral

True individuality is measured by this: how long or how far one can endure being alone without the understanding of others. The person who can endure being alone is poles apart from the social mixer. He is miles apart from the man-pleaser, the one who manages successfully with everyone—he who possesses no sharp edges. God never uses

such people. The true individual, anyone who is going to be directly involved with God, will not and cannot avoid the human bite. He will be thoroughly misunderstood. God is no friend of cozy human gathering.

Søren Kierkegaard

Every form of addiction is bad, no matter whether the narcotic be alcohol or morphine or idealism.

Carl Gustav Jung

The darkest hour in the history of any young man is when he sits down to study how to get money without honestly earning it.

Horace Greeley

Only the truth is revolutionary.

Graffiti, Paris, May 1968

Stop thinking this is all there is. ...Realize that for every ongoing war and religious outrage and environmental devastation and bogus Iracri attack plan, there are a thousand counterbalancing acts of staggering generosity and humanity and art and beauty happening all over the world, right now, on a breathtaking scale, from flower box to cathedral. ...Resist the temptation to drown in fatalism, to shake your head and sigh and just throw in the karmic towel. ...Realize that this is the perfect moment to change the energy of the world, to step right up and crank your personal volume; right when it all seems dark and bitter and offensive and acrimonious and conflicted and bilious...there's your opening. Remember magic. And, finally, believe you are part of a groundswell, a resistance, a seemingly small but actually very, very large impending karmic overhaul, a great shift, the beginning of something important and potent and unstoppable.

Mark Morford

What better drug of choice than a perfect, all-powerful, all-knowing God out there who controls everything and everybody.

M. Linn, S. F. Linn, D. Linn

A modest little person, with much to be modest about.

Winston Churchill

I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial.

Irvin S. Cobb

It's all very well to run around saying regulation is bad, get the government off our backs, etc. Of course our lives are regulated. When you come to a stop sign, you stop; if you want to go fishing, you get a license; if you want to shoot ducks, you can shoot only three ducks. The alternative is dead bodies at the intersection, no fish, and no ducks. OK?

Molly Ivins

Money is like fire, an element as little troubled by moralizing as earth, air, and water.

Men can employ it as a tool, or they can dance around it as if it were the incarnation of a god. Money votes socialist or monarchist, finds a profit in pornography or translations from the Bible, commissions Rembrandt and underwrites the technology of Auschwitz. It acquires its meaning from the uses to which it is put.

Lewis H. Lapham

Years ago an Alabama grandmother gave the new bride the following recipe for washing clothes. It appears just as it was written, and despite the spelling, has a bit of philosophy. This is an exact copy as written and found in an old scrap book (with spelling errors and all).

1. Bild fire in backyard to heat kettle of rain water.
2. Set tubs so smoke wont blow in eyes if wind is pert.
3. Shave one hole cake of lie soap in boilin water.
4. Sort things, make 3 piles.
1 pile white,
1 pile colored,
1 pile work britches and rags.
5. To make starch, stir flour in cool water to smooth, then thin down with boilin water.
6. Take white things, rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard, and then bile. Rub colored don't bile, just wrinch and starch.
7. Take things out of kettle with broom stick handle, then wrinch, and starch.
8. Hang old rags on fence.
9. Spread tea towels on grass.
10. Pore wrinch water in flower bed.
11. Scrub porch with hot soapy water.
12. Turn tubs upside down.
13. Go put on clean dress, smooth hair with hair combs. Brew cup of tea, sit and rock a spell and count your blessings.
(Paste this over your washer and dryer and next time when you think things are bleak, read it again and give thanks for your blessings).

Author unknown

Gardening is not a rational act. What matters is the immersion of the hands in the earth, that ancient ceremony of which the Pope kissing the tarmac is merely a pallid vestigial remnant. In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.

Margaret Atwood

The rabbis taught that the purpose of Sabbath was threefold. The first purpose was to free the poor as well as the rich for at least one day a week, and that included the animals, too. Nobody had to take an order from anybody on the Sabbath. The second purpose was to give people time to evaluate their work as God evaluated creation to see if their work, too, is really life-giving. And the third reason for the Sabbath was to give people a space to contemplate the real meaning of life. If anything has brought the modern world to the brink of destruction, it must surely be the loss of Sabbath.

Joan Chittister

People ask you for criticism, but really all they want is compliments.
W Somerset Maugham

In the end it is not the words of our enemies we will remember, but the silence of our friends.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

History is a people's memory, and without a memory, man is demoted to the lower animals.
Malcom X

If you're interested in terror, you should look at its causes. ...[But] you're not allowed to look at the causes because that's considered rationalization or justification. ...And there's a good reason for that. As soon as you look at the causes, you start looking in the mirror.
Noam Chomsky

My wife was afraid of the dark, saw me naked, and now she's afraid of the light.
Rodney Danger field

True life is lived when tiny changes occur.
Leo Tolstoy

The great snare in human thought is unconditional acceptance of irrational assumptions.
Will Durant

Many things that human words have upset are set at rest again by the silence of animals. Animals move through the world like a caravan of silence. A whole world, that of nature and that of animals, is filled with silence. Nature and animals seem like protuberances of silence. The silence of animals and the silence of nature would not be so great and noble if it were merely a failure of language to materialize. Silence has been entrusted to the animals and to nature as something created for its own sake.
Max Picard

We have, I fear, confused power with greatness.
Stewart I. Udall

A civilization which tends to concentrate wealth and power in the hands of a fortunate few, and to make of others mere human machines, must inevitably evolve anarchy and bring destruction.
Henry George

The charm which Henry [Thoreau] uses for bird and frog and mink is patience. They will not come to him, or show him aright, until he becomes a log among logs, sitting still for hours in the same place; then they come around him and to him, and show themselves at

home.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The sense of smell in the animal is what intuition is to the human spirit. It tells you of the invisible, of what cannot be detected by any other means. It tells you the things that are not there, yet are coming. You see into the blind, opaque past and round the corner of time.

Laurens van der Post

Some animals, like some men, leave a trail of glory behind them. They give their spirit to the place where they have lived, and remain forever a part of the rocks and streams and the wind and sky.

Marguerite Henry

The basis of all animal rights should be the Golden Rule: we should treat them as we would wish them to treat us, were any other species in our dominant position.

Christine Stevens

Only a divinity could determine which is funnier, man's dream of woman, or woman as she is.

Miriam Beard

Then the cook enters and approaches our table. He bows low before me. He is grateful to me, he explains, because since his years as a cook in a Buddhist monastery, he has had little opportunity to cook vegetarian food for anyone who appreciates it. The wild mushrooms, he tells me, were picked in a nearby forest. The greens are from gardens known for the quality of their vegetables. ...He bows slowly, and thanks me once again. I stumble over my own words of gratitude as he quietly disappears into the kitchen. I never see him again. I didn't sleep that night. The cook's reverence and humility sliced through years of protective hardness and caught me without warning. His food was saturated with love, and its nurturance was almost too much to bear.

Anne Scott

The one thing that we know with a great deal of certainty is that the future is, of a necessity, unknown.

Alan Greenspan

The fulfillment in adulthood of childhood fantasies is the very definition of happiness.

Paul Theroux

Convictions are more dangerous enemies of truth than lies.

Friedrich Nietzsche

'Daddy, I want to color!' These are the first words out of my daughter's mouth every day when she dashes in our front door after kindergarten. I can tell she has something in her mind that needs to get on paper. She doesn't have time to take off her jacket or sit down,

or even go to the bathroom.

Watching my daughter, I have come to believe that my college psychology teacher was wrong. The fundamental human drive—what it is that we most want to do and need to do—is not to have sex, nor to have power. It is to create. That's what 'soul' is. That's what makes us human.

To create is to be happy. The only unhappy ones among us are those who lost their crayons somewhere along the way.

Tim Keiderling

I'm a great fan of her [Iris Murdoch], but I haven't read any of her books. I just don't have the time.

Kate Winslet

I say quite deliberately that the Christian religion, as organized in its Churches, has been and still is the principal enemy of moral progress in the world.

Bertrand Russell

Objective evidence and certitude are doubtless very fine ideals to play with, but where on this moonlit and dream-visited planet are they found?

William James

It's strange that people don't recognize the enormous decline in taste, melody, rhythm, harmony, and invention since the days of Elvis, Chuck Berry and The Beatles.

Roger Scruton

Statistics are the triumph of the quantitative method, and the quantitative method is the victory of sterility and death.

Hillaire Belloc

Words matter, but even more important is clear discussion and debate. We need fewer arguments about what to call cloned embryos, and more about whether to make them—unless what we really care about is discussing how many human embryos can fit on the head of a pin.

Jeffrey P Khan

I worry about the worth of philosophy done by philosophers who have been trained in nothing else.

David Papineau

I myself am human and free only to the extent that I acknowledge the humanity and liberty of all my fellows. ...I am properly free when all the men and women about me are equally free. Far from being a limitation or a denial of my liberty, the liberty of another is its necessary condition and confirmation.

Michael Bakunin

I have often wondered how it is that every man loves himself more than all the rest of

men, but yet sets less value on his own opinion of himself than on the opinion of others.
Marcus Aurelius

Man is condemned to be free.
Jean-Paul Sartre

We humans are, by our very nature, social beings, so the impulse to create community is literally programmed into our genes. All communities fall into two categories: those that are consciously created and those that are unconsciously created.
Ric Giardina

War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of the people. Only a small 'inside' group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few, at the expense of the very many. Out of war a few people make huge fortunes
General Smedley Butler (A two-time Medal of Honor recipient)

A woman's asking for equality in the church would be comparable to a black person's demanding equality in the Ku Klux Klan.
Mary Daly

The true definition of science is this: the study of the beauty of the world.
Simone Weil

I love the story of the rabbi who sent his disciple to learn from a fellow rabbi. When the disciple asked what he should learn, what parts of Torah, the teacher answered: 'I am sending you to learn from him—not words of Torah, but how he ties his shoelaces!' It's the details, the small daily things which we learn from our role models, not necessarily book knowledge, which we can glean for our own lives.
Dav Peretz Elkins

To own a bit of ground, to scratch it with a hoe, to plant seeds and watch their renewal of life—this is the commonest delight of the race, the most satisfactory thing a man can do.
Charles Dudley Warner

In nature there are neither rewards nor punishments—there are consequences.
R.D. Ingersoll

Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner.
James Bovard

Chaos is the law of nature, order the dream of man.
The Education of Henry Adams

You wouldn't think it would be so easy to forget who we really are or that death is always at our shoulder or that everything is alive or that God is everywhere singing!
Claudia Mauro

A brother who had sinned was turned out of the church by the priest; the abbot, Abba Bessarion, got up and went with him, saying, 'I, too, am a sinner.'
Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Sometimes you do just have to choose, flat out. And when you do, it's good to remember the distinction between failing and being a failure. 'Failing' because of your choice is a wonderful thing, a way of learning, and the sign of trying. It has nothing whatsoever to do with being a failure. If you keep those ideas totally separate, you can really enjoy choosing.
Henry Kimsey-House

He had delusions of adequacy.
Walter Kerr

I didn't have anybody, really, no foundation in life, so I had to make my own way. Always, from the start. I had to go out in the world and become strong, to discover my mission in life.
Tina Turner

Giving kids clothes and food is one thing but it's much more important to teach them that other people besides themselves are important, and that the best thing they can do with their lives is to use them in the service of other people.
Dolores Huerta

My grandfather once told me that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.
Indira Gandhi

One of the things my parents taught me is to not ever let anybody else define me; that for me to define myself. So someone could literally come up to me and say 'I think you're an SOB' and that's their deal, and that's their opinion, and that's separate from my own view of myself. I think that helped me a lot in assuming a leadership position.
Wilma Mankiller

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

Joan of Arc: I hear voices telling me what to do. They come from God.
Robert: They come from your imagination.

Joan: Of course. That is how the messages of God come to us.
George Bernard Shaw

O you, who love clear edges more than anything...watch the edges that blur.
Adrienne Rich

When nothing is for sure, we remain alert, perennially on our toes. It is more exciting not to know which bush the rabbit is hiding behind than to behave as though we knew everything.
Carlos Castaneda

What if you slept? And what if, in your sleep, you dreamed? And what if, in your dream, you went to heaven and plucked a strange and beautiful flower? And what if, when you awoke, you had the flower in your hand? Ah, what then?
Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Society is composed of two great classes—those who have more dinners than appetite, and those who have more appetite than dinners.
Sebastien-Rock Nicolas De Chamfort

A hungry man is not a free man.
Adlai Stevenson

My mother made me eat broccoli. I hate broccoli. I am the president of the United States. I will not eat any more broccoli.
George Bush

There's nothing wrong with you that reincarnation won't cure.
Jack E. Leonard

He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know.
Abraham Lincoln

At some point in life the world's beauty becomes enough. You don't need to photograph, paint, or even remember it. It is enough. No record of it needs to be kept and you don't need someone to share it with or tell it to. When that happens—that letting go—you let go because you can.
Toni Morrison

My main objection to the death penalty isn't about trying to save anybody on death row. It's about, 'If this is a democracy and the government kills somebody, then I'm killing somebody.' I object to the damage that it does to my spirit.
Steve Earle

The world needs a new weapon, the estrogen bomb. Imagine: You drop it on an area of violent conflict, and men throw down their guns, hug each other, apologize, say it was all

their fault, and then start to clean up the mess.

The Guerrilla Girls

Every day that we wake up is a good day. Every breath that we take is filled with hope for a better day. Every word that we speak is a chance to change what is bad into something good. We aren't slaves. ...This nation is at least a potential democracy. We need to wake up from this walking nightmare and realize that the sun is shining.

Walter Mosley

Only by shifting attention from the question 'How can the United States make itself secure?' to the question 'How can the world make itself secure?' can we begin to reverse the tide of events that are sweeping us into the world that Orwell foresaw. Whether our grandchildren feel pride or shame will be determined by whether we become the first great empire to have higher ambitions than to be a great empire.

Richard Rorty

Respect is carried not in great, bold proclamations, but in small moments of surprising intimacy and empathy.

Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot

Real art is without irony. Irony distances the author from his material. ...Irony is a cheap shot.

Robert Altman

The answer is never the answer. What's really interesting is the mystery. If you seek the mystery instead of the answer, you'll always be seeking. I've never seen anybody really find the answer—they think they have, so they stop thinking. The need for mystery is greater than the need for an answer.

Ken Kesey

When the judge calls the criminal's name out, he stands up, and they are immediately linked by a strange biology that makes them both opposite and complementary. The one cannot exist without the other. Which is the sun and which is the shadow? It's well known some criminals have been great men.

Jean Genet

One must give back the stare of the universe. Anybody can.

Hortense Calisher

Freedom lies beyond conformity or rebellion.

Sam Keen

It is better to conquer yourself than to win a thousand battles. Then the victory is yours. It cannot be taken from you, not by angels or by demons, heaven or hell.

The Buddha

We're far more concerned about the desecration of the flag than we are about the desecration of our land.

Wendell Berry

In order that people may be happy in their work, these three things are needed: they must be fit for it; they must not do too much of it; and they must have a sense of success in it...a sure sense that so much work has been done well, and fruitfully done, whatever the world may say or think about it.

John Ruskin

I'm not the heroic type. I was beaten up by Quakers.

Woody Allen

Freedom to cut down world's oldest trees
Freedom to make
Indians get down on their knees
And pray to your God and obey your FBI
And freedom to protest if you're not too scared to die.
Allen Ginsberg

I think the greatest legacy of the 1960s was the general feeling that not only can you fight the powers that be, but you can win.

Abbie Hoffman

In Japan, employees occasionally work themselves to death. It's called *Karoshi*. I don't want that to happen to anybody in my department. The trick is to take a break as soon as you see a bright light and hear dead relatives beckon.

Scott Adams

He who knows he has enough is rich.

Lao-Tzu

God is not a continent, like Antarctica, lying off somewhere, inert, without relation to human life till some Scott or Amundsen or Byrd finds him. God is not a mountain peak to which travelers must go and which they climb step by step. God is like the air we breathe or the earth beneath our feet. To discover God is simply to awaken to reality. It is like a plant discovering the sun and the rain that drew it from the earth or like children discovering the parents who gave them birth and love and nurture.

Luther A. Weigle

Power tends to confuse itself with virtue, and a great nation is peculiarly susceptible to the idea that its power is a sign of God's favor.

J. William Fulbright

There was a tradesman, a painter called Wayne, who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often would thin down paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the painting of one of their biggest buildings. Wayne put in a bid, and because his price was so low, he got the job. And so he set to erecting the trestles and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Well, Wayne was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, and the sky opened, the rain poured down, washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Wayne clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Wayne was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got on his knees and cried: 'Oh, God! Forgive me! What should I do?' And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke: 'Repaint, repaint and thin no more!'

Author unknown

I wonder if corporate executives appreciate the role workers play in their success. Free enterprise is a system of risks and rewards. As it now stands, employees suffer most of the risks, while executives enjoy most of the rewards.

Robert Hemsley

What so many people today fail to realize is that forgiveness is a door to peace and happiness. Forgiving is not ignoring wrongdoing, but overcoming the evil inside us—and in our world—with love.

Johann Christoph Arnold

'I think, therefore I am,' is the statement of an intellectual who underrates toothaches.

Milan Kundera

Work went on monotonously, and our constant hunger was wrenching. Rice powder and bran, which I sometimes roasted in an attempt to give it some flavor, had torn my insides to shreds. One morning I didn't have the strength to get up, and no one came to see what had happened to me. Everyone was so used to having people just disappear.

Molyda Szymusiak

Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.

Benjamin Franklin

Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one.

A.J. Liebling

'Ah, my dear, what sort of gladness is there for you, if you burn with fever all night and cough as if your lungs were about to burst?'

'Mama,' he answered her, 'do not weep, life is paradise, and we are all in paradise, but we do not want to know it, and if we did want to know it, tomorrow there would be paradise the world over.' And everyone marveled at his words, he spoke so strangely and

so decisively; everyone was moved and wept.
Fyodor Dostoevsky

An hourglass can be turned over when the upper part has emptied. This, however, cannot be done with time—time is irreversible. Another difference: by shaking the hourglass we can mix up the grains of sand, changing their positions in relation to each other. This we can do with time only in part: We can ‘shake up’ and change the future—and with the future, in the future, we can change even ourselves—but the past is fixed. In terms of the hourglass, it is as if the sand becomes rigid once it has passed through the narrowing opening of the present, as if it had been treated by a fixative, a preservative, a conservative.

Viktor Frankl

If we forgive God for his crime against us, which is to have made us finite creatures, he will forgive our crime against him, which is that we are finite creatures.

Simone Weil

It is isolation that is critical to war. You can’t be abusive when you realize your connectedness.

David Kadlec

May we remember, as we log on, that half the world’s people have never used a telephone, and recall, as we chatter, that most of those around us have no chance to speak or move as they choose. May we recall that more than half a million beings live without food, and that as many children live amidst poverty and war.

Pico Iyer

Don’t mourn, organize.

Joe Hill

Don’t call me a saint. I don’t want to be dismissed that easily.

Dorothy Day

There is a mysterious fact about the great words of our religious tradition: they cannot be replaced. ...All attempts to make substitution—including those I have tried myself—have failed. They have led to shallow and impotent talk. There are no substitutes for words like ‘sin’ and ‘grace.’ But there is a way of rediscovering their meaning, the same way that leads us down into the depth of our human existence. In that depth these words were conceived; and there they gained power for all ages; there they must be found again by each generation, and by each of us for himself.

Paul Tillich

A prisoner lived in solitary confinement for ten years. He saw and spoke to no one, and his meals were served through an opening in the wall. One day, an ant came into his cell. The man contemplated it in fascination as it crawled around the room. He held it in the palm of his hand the better to observe it, gave it a grain or two. ...It suddenly struck him

that it had taken him ten long years of solitary confinement to open his eyes to the loveliness of an ant.

Anthony De Mello

The first mystery is simply that there is a mystery, a mystery that can never be explained or understood, only encountered from time to time. Nothing is obvious. Everything conceals something else.

Lawrence Kushner

The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope.

Barbara Kingsolver

Have patience! In time, even grass becomes milk.

Charan Singh

Who has not sat before his own heart's curtain? It lifts, and the scenery is falling apart.

Rainer Maria Rilke

Some days, I feel like if there is a God, he's a lot like Woody Allen.

C.J. Gall

The crucial disadvantage of aggression, competitiveness, and skepticism as national characteristics is that these qualities cannot be turned off at five o'clock.

Margaret Halsey

I'm astounded by people who want to 'know' the universe when it's hard enough to find your way around Chinatown.

Woody Allen

It gives one a feeling of confidence to see nature still busy with experiments, still dynamic, and not through nor satisfied because a Devonian fish managed to end as a two-legged character with a straw hat. There are other things brewing and growing in the oceanic vat. It pays to know this. It pays to know that there is just as much future as there is past. The only thing that doesn't pay is to be sure of man's own part in it. There are things down there still coming ashore.

Loren Eiseley

All good qualities in a child are the result of environment, while all the bad ones are the result of poor heredity on the side of the other parent.

Elinor Goulding Smith

A man who has been the indisputable favorite of his mother keeps for life the feeling of a conqueror, that confidence of success that often induces real success.

Sigmund Freud

I believe that the greatest gift we can offer to each other is the telling of and listening to our stories. This empowers us to appropriate and live out our own stories, unifies us in diversity, and leads to reconciliation. ... This theme of story unifies all I do, including work with older adults and young adults, spiritual direction, and lay pastoral care training. ... I see story as being of tremendous importance. There are many others interested in the spiritual journey who share this perspective. Jean Shinoda Bolen says, 'To bring about a paradigm shift in the culture that will change assumptions and attitudes, a critical number of us have to tell the stories of our personal revelations and transformations. ... The stories people tell have a way of taking care of them. If stories come to you, care for them. And learn to give them away where they are needed. Sometimes a person needs a story more than food to stay alive.'

Lynn W. Huber

All the sorrows of life are bearable if only we can convert them into a story.

Isak Dinesen

I believe that we have little chance of averting an environmental catastrophe unless we recognize that we are not the masters of Being, but only a part of Being. ... We must recognize that we are related to more than the present moment and the present place, that we are related to the world as a whole and to eternity. We must recognize that, by failing to reflect universal, supra-individual and supra-temporal interests, we do a disservice to our specific, local, and immediate interests. Only people with a sense of responsibility for the world and to the world are truly responsible to and for themselves.

Vaclav Havel

Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows.

Martin Luther King Jr.

I love my daughter. She and I have shared my body. There is a part of her mind that is a part of mine. But when she was born, she sprang from me like a slippery fish, and has been swimming away ever since.

Amy Tan

Ordinary compassion and love give rise to a very close feeling, but it is essentially attachment. As long as the other person appears to you as beautiful or good, love remains, but as soon as he or she appears to you as less beautiful or good, your love completely changes. ... Instead of love, you now feel hostility. With genuine love and compassion, another person's appearance or behavior has no effect on your attitude. Real compassion comes from seeing the other's suffering. You feel a sense of responsibility, and you want to do something for him or her.

The Dalai Lama

No man should judge unless he asks himself in absolute honesty whether in a similar situation he might not have done the same.

Viktor Frankl

Whoever could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together.

Jonathan Swift

My mother was dead for five years before I knew that I had loved her very much.

Lillian Hellman

The dissenter is every human being at those moments of his life when he resigns momentarily from the herd and thinks for himself.

Archibald MacLeish

I sometimes feel appalled at the thought of the sum total of human misery all over the world at the present moment: the millions parted, fretting, wasting in unprofitable days—quite apart from torture, pain, death, bereavement, injustice. If anguish were visible, almost the whole of this benighted planet would be enveloped in a dense dark vapor, shrouded from the amazed vision of the heavens! And the products of it all will be mainly evil—historically considered. But the historic version is, of course, not the only one. All things and all deeds have a value in themselves, apart from their ‘causes’ and ‘effects.’ No man can estimate what is really happening *sub specie aeternitatis*. All we do know, and that to a large extent by direct experience, is that evil labors with vast power and perpetual success—in vain: preparing always the soil for unexpected good to sprout in.

J.R.R. Tolkien

In our post-Christian era death has recovered its old terrors, becoming unmentionable, as sex has become ever more mentionable. Private parts are public, but death is our dirty little secret.

Malcolm Muggeridge

Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance or a stranger.

Franklin P Jones

If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we would find in each person’s life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Addiction is fleeing from the terror of what the world is about.

River Sims

In this very breath that we take now lies the secret that all great teachers try to tell us.

Peter Matthiessen

I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something, and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the one thing I can do.

Edward Everett Hale

The world is full of hundreds of beautiful things we can never possibly have time to discover, and there is no time to be unkind or envious or ungenerous, and no sense in enslaving the mind to the trivialities of the moment. For you can be equal to the greatness of life only by marching with it; not by seeking love but by giving it, nor seeking to be understood but learning to understand. And when it is all over, there will be an agony of remorse because one spared the effort and did not make more of that little span of opportunity; and knowing reality at last, who knows but that one will look back with unassuageable regret upon one's pitiful little faith.

Vivienne de Watteville

Once I had abandoned the search for everyone else's truth, I quickly discovered that the job of defining my own truth was far more complex than I had anticipated.

Ingrid Bengis

Being the most powerful, richest nation has caused us to confuse ourselves with God. Although that's considered sin #1, it's not because it is so wicked, but because it is so usual. And so expensive. Believing we can control history always ends in the same way. The fear of God, knowing we are not God, is the beginning of wisdom. That fear, our dearest friend, is a companion of incalculable cost.

Blayne Colmore

The people want peace; indeed, I believe they want peace so badly that the governments will just have to step aside and let them have it.

Dwight Eisenhower

Certainly I can say that my own childhood was unhappy. This was due to a clash of wills between my mother and myself. My early life was a series of fierce battles, from which my mother invariably emerged the victor. If I could not be seen anywhere, she would say, 'Go and find out what Bernard is doing and tell him to stop it.'

Bernard Law Montgomery

Chief Roman Nose of the Cheyenne, and his people, believed he was immortal, and he, and they, were right every day of his life except one.

Richard Paul Haight

The great courage is to stare as squarely at the light as at death.

Albert Camus

Without your wounds where would your power be? The very angels themselves cannot persuade the wretched and blundering children on earth as can one human being broken in the wheels of living. In love's service, only the wounded soldiers can serve.

Thornton Wilder

Now you know the worst
we humans have to know

about ourselves, and I am sorry.
Wendell Berry

Even for our enemies in misery, there should be tears in our eyes.
Charan Singh

No matter how old a mother is, she watches her middle-aged children for signs of improvement.
Florida Scott-Maxwell

Tamed as it may be, sexuality remains one of the demonic forces in human consciousness—pushing us at intervals close to taboo and dangerous desires, which range from the impulse to commit sudden arbitrary violence upon another person to the voluptuous yearning for the extinction of one's consciousness, for death itself. Even on the level of simple physical sensation and mood, making love surely resembles having an epileptic fit at least as much as, if not more than, it does eating a meal or conversing with someone.
Susan Sontag

I'm no martyr. I just had a hard day at work. My feet were hurting, and I was too tired to give up my seat.
Rosa Parks

No person is your friend who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow.
Alice Walker

Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process he does not become a monster.
Nietzsche

Jesus was not a bird with broken wings. He was a raging tempest who broke all crooked wings. He feared not his persecutors nor his enemies. Free and brave and daring he was. He defied all despots and oppressors. He saw the contagious pustules and amputated them. He muted Evil and he crushed Falsehood and he choked Treachery.
Kahlil Gibran

Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough.
Franklin Delano Roosevelt

In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it? I have entered many Buddhist temples and stood respectfully before the statue of Buddha, his legs crossed, arms folded, eyes closed, the ghost of a smile playing round his mouth, a remote look on his face, detached from the agonies of the world. But each time after a while I have had to turn away.
John Stott

The willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life is the source from which self-respect springs.

Joan Didion

After the Easter Rebellion of 1916 in Ireland, Eamon De Valera was sentenced to penal servitude. En route to his prison, he took out his pipe and was about to light it when he stopped suddenly and said, 'I will not let them deprive me of this pleasure in jail!' He immediately threw away the pipe and from that day never smoked again.

Little, Brown Book of Anecdotes

Intent is not a thought, or an object, or a wish. Intent is what can make a man succeed when his thoughts tell him that he is defeated. It operates in spite of the warrior's indulgence. Intent is what makes him invulnerable. Intent is what sends a shaman through a wall, through space, to infinity.

Carlos Castaneda

We are always acting on what just finished happening. It happened at least 1/30th of a second ago. We think we're in the present, but we aren't. The present we know is only a movie of the past.

Tom Wolfe

That was a very racy remark for Gladys, whose idea of wild sex was Fred Astaire loosening his tie.

Susan Isaacs

Once, perhaps, the God-intoxicated few could abscond to the wild frontiers, the forests, the desert places to keep alive the perennial wisdom that they harbored. But no longer. They must now become a political force or their tradition perishes. Soon enough, there will be no solitude left for the saints to roam but its air will shudder with a noise of great engines that drowns out all prayers.

Theodore Roszak

If the First Amendment means anything, it means that the state has no business telling a man, sitting alone in his own house, what books he may read or what film he may watch.

Justice Thurgood Marshall

If there is no struggle, there is no progress.

Frederick Douglass

America may not be the best nation on earth, but it has conceived loftier ideals and dreamed higher dreams than any other nation. America is a heterogeneous nation of many different people of different races, religions, and creeds. Should this experiment go forth and prosper, we will have offered humans a new way to look at life; should it fail, we will simply go the way of all failed civilizations.

Nikki Giovanni

It's ill-becoming for an old broad to sing about how bad she wants it. But occasionally we do.

Lena Horne

If the landscape reveals one certainty, it is that the extravagant gesture is the very stuff of creation. After the one extravagant gesture of creation in the first place, the universe has continued to deal exclusively in extravagances, flinging intricacies and colossi down aeons of emptiness. ...The whole show has been on fire from the word go.

Annie Dillard

There it is. I don't believe in anything, but I'm always glad to wake up in the morning. It doesn't depress me. I'm never depressed. My basic nervous system is filled with this optimism. It's mad, I know, because it's optimism about nothing. I think of life as meaningless and yet it excites me. I always think something marvelous is about to happen.

Francis Bacon

I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure.

Clarence Darrow

Violence may murder the murderer, but it doesn't murder murder. Violence may murder the liar, but it doesn't murder lies; it doesn't establish truth. Violence may go to the point of murdering the hater, but it doesn't murder hate. It may increase hate. It is always a descending spiral leading nowhere. This is the ultimate weakness of violence: It multiplies evil and violence in the universe. It doesn't solve any problems.

Martin Luther King Jr.

He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary.

William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)

Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?

Ernest Hemingway (about William Faulkner)

Jesus was not killed by atheism and anarchy. He was brought down by law and order allied with religion, which is always a deadly mix. Beware those who claim to know the mind of God and who are prepared to use force, if necessary, to make others conform. Beware those who cannot tell God's will from their own. Temple police are always a bad sign. When chaplains start wearing guns and hanging out at the sheriff's office, watch out. Someone is about to have no king but Caesar.

Barbara Brown Taylor

The church must be prophetic or it will be pathetic.

The Rev. Cecil Murray

We only appear to be rooted in time. Everywhere, if you listen closely, the spitting fuse

of the future is crackling.
Carol Shields

It is useless to try to adjudicate a longstanding animosity by asking who started it or who is the most wrong. The only sufficient answer is to give up the animosity and try forgiveness, to try to love our enemies and to talk to them and (if we pray) to pray for them. If we can't do any of that, then we must begin again by trying to imagine our enemies' children who, like our children, are in mortal danger because of enmity that they did not cause.
Wendell Berry

The greatest event in American history? I can't say; however, I suspect that like so many 'great' events, it was something very simple and very quiet with little or no fanfare (such as forgiving someone else for a deep hurt) which eventually changed the course of history. The really important 'great' things are never the center stage of life's drama. They're always 'in the wings.' That's why it's so essential for us to be mindful of the humble and the deep rather than the flashy and the superficial.
Fred Rogers

I'm sure that President Johnson would never have pursued the war in Vietnam if he'd ever had a Fulbright to [travel to] Japan, or say Bangkok, or had any feeling for what these people are like and why they acted the way they did. He was completely ignorant.
Senator J. William Fulbright

What's the use of happiness? It can't buy you money.
Henny Youngman

I never had a problem with drugs, only with cops.
Keith Richards

Since most of us spend our lives doing ordinary tasks, the most important thing is to carry them out extraordinarily well.
Henry David Thoreau

Murder is a crime. Describing murder is not. Sex is not a crime. Describing sex is.
Gershon Legman

At best, most college presidents are running something that is somewhere between a faltering corporation and a hotel.
Leon Botstein

If you owe the bank \$100, that's your problem. If you owe the bank \$100 million, that's the bank's problem.
J. Paul Getty

Patience is a hard discipline. It is not just waiting until something happens over which we

have no control: the arrival of the bus, the end of the rain, the return of a friend, the resolution of a conflict. Patience is not waiting passively until someone else does something. Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest, to be completely present to the moment, to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient, we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later, and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.

Henri J. M. Nouwen

Erv had a gift for optimism. He believed what he wanted to. Ruth said that if Erv tossed a ball in the air three times, tried to hit it three times with a bat, and three times missed, he would, undisturbed, conclude: Wow, what a pitcher.

Steve Fishman

For all your ills I give you laughter.

Rabelais

Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, totally dominated her daughter's upbringing and clearly had ambitions to be the power behind the throne once Victoria became queen. The princess slept in her mother's room and was never allowed to talk to anyone except in the presence of her German governess or the duchess. The very day that William died and Victoria ascended the throne, the Duchess of Kent came to Victoria after the state dignitaries had departed and inquired if there was anything she could do for her. 'I wish to be left alone,' replied Victoria, and the same day she gave orders for her bed to be moved from the duchess's room.

The Little, Brown Book of Anecdotes

One can live at a low flame. Most people do. For some, life is an exercise in moderation (best china saved for special occasions), but given something like death, what does it matter if one looks foolish now and then, or tries too hard, or cares too deeply?

Diane Ackerman

Slipping on my shoes, boiling water, toasting bread, buttering the sky: that should be enough contact with God in one day to make anyone crazy.

Hafiz

The brain is not, and cannot be, the sole or complete organ of thought and feeling.

Alice Stone Blackwell

When we abolish the slavery of half of humanity, together with the whole system of hypocrisy it implies, then the 'division' of humanity will reveal its genuine significance and the human couple will find its true form.

Simone de Beauvoir

There is a volume of love poetry in the prison library. I've memorized it page by page and can recite it word for word. Now I need someone who will listen.

Jerome Washington

There is perhaps no phenomenon which contains so much destructive feeling as 'moral indignation,' which permits envy or hate to be acted out under the guise of virtue.

Erich Fromm

It is probably no mere historical accident that the word person, in its first meaning, is a mask [from the Etruscan]. It is rather a recognition of the fact that everyone is always and everywhere, more or less consciously, playing a role.

Robert Ezra Park

The envious man thinks that if his neighbor breaks a leg, he will be able to walk better himself.

Helmut Schoeck

And life is given to none freehold, but it is leasehold for all.

Lucretius

Language is a form of human reason and has its reasons which are unknown to man.

Claude Levi-Strauss

Plato having defined man to be a two-legged, animal without feathers, Diogenes plucked a cock and brought it into the Academy, and said, 'This is Plato's man.' On which account this addition was made to the definition: 'With broad flat nails.'

Diogenes Laertius

Why, then, do you walk as if you had swallowed a ramrod?

Epictetus

Our absurdity warrants neither that much distress nor that much defiance. At the risk of falling into romanticism by a different route, I would argue that absurdity is one of the most human things about us: a manifestation of our most advanced and interesting characteristics.

Thomas Nagel

The world is so exquisite, with so much love and moral depth, that there is no reason to deceive ourselves with pretty stories for which there's little good evidence. Far better, it seems to me, in our vulnerability, is to look Death in the eye and to be grateful every day for the brief but magnificent opportunity that life provides.

Carl Sagan

The basic anxiety, the anxiety of a finite being about the threat of non-being, cannot be eliminated. It belongs to existence itself.

Paul Tillich

Life is tragic simply because the earth turns and the sun inexorably rises and sets, and one

day, for each of us, the sun will go down for the last, last time. Perhaps the whole root of our trouble, the human trouble, is that we will sacrifice all the beauty of our lives, will imprison ourselves in totems, taboos, crosses, blood sacrifices, steeples, mosques, races, armies, flags, nations, in order to deny the fact of death, which is the only fact we have.
James Baldwin

Death is nothing to us, since when we are, death has not come, and when death has come, we are not.
Epicurus

A tyrant must put on the appearance of uncommon devotion to religion. Subjects are less apprehensive of illegal treatment from a ruler whom they consider god-fearing and pious. On the other hand, they do less easily move against him, believing that he has the gods on his side.
Aristotle

A healthy appetite for righteousness, kept in due control by good manners, is an excellent thing; but to 'hunger and thirst' after it is often merely a symptom of spiritual diabetes.
Charlie D. Broad

America was not established to create wealth but to realize a vision, to realize an ideal—to discover and maintain liberty among men.
Woodrow Wilson

Guys would sleep with a bicycle if it had the right color lip gloss on. They have no shame. They're like bull elks in a field. It's a scent to them, a smell.
Tori Amos

I have two enemies in all the world,
Two twins, inseparably pooled:
The hunger of the hungry and the fullness of the full.
Marina Tsvetaeva

The vices of the rich and great are mistaken for errors; and those of the poor and lowly, for crimes.
The Countess of Blessington

Sexual love is the most stupendous fact of the universe, and the most magical mystery our poor blind senses know.
Amy Lowell

A man running after a hat is not half so ridiculous as a man running after a woman.
G.K. Chesterton

Spiritual awakening is frequently described as a journey to the top of a mountain. We leave our attachments and our worldliness behind and slowly make our way to the top. At

the peak we have transcended all pain. The only problem with this metaphor is that we leave all the others behind. ...In the process of discovering our true nature, the journey goes down, not up. ...Instead of transcending the suffering of all creatures, we move toward the turbulence and doubt. ...We explore the reality and unpredictability of insecurity and pain, and we try not to push it away. If it takes years, if it takes lifetimes, we will let it be as it is. At our own pace, without speed or aggression, we move down and down and down. With us move millions of others, our companions in awakening from fear. At the bottom we discover water, the healing water of compassion. Right down there in the thick of things, we discover the love that will not die.

Pema Chodron

When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.

Helen Keller

In mirrors I see myself. But in mirrors made of glass and silver I never see the whole of myself. I see the me I want to see, and I ignore the rest.

Walter Wangerin

We started from scratch, every American an immigrant who came because he wanted change. Why are we now afraid to change?

Eleanor Roosevelt

In this world, we walk on the roof of hell, gazing at flowers.

Kobayashi Issa

On some positions, cowardice asks the question, is it expedient? And then expedience comes along and asks the question, is it politic? Vanity asks the question, is it popular? Conscience asks the question, is it right? There comes a time when one must take the position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but one must do it because conscience [says] it is right.

Martin Luther King Jr.

I have no objections to churches so long as they do not interfere with God's work.

Brooks Atkinson

Prophets are, by their nature, inconvenient party-poopers. It is a mistaken notion that prophets can see the future. Rather, they tell us what is true right *now*.

Thomas Cahill

There may still be two superpowers on the planet: the United States and world public opinion.

Patrick E. Tyler

Few misfortunes can befall a boy which bring worse consequences than to have a really affectionate mother.

W. Somerset Maugham

Nothing would have satisfied Amelia but complete possession of her son, to all intents and purposes returning him to the dark slyness of her womb.

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings

If a mother respects both herself and her child from his very first day onward, she will never need to teach him respect for others.

Alice Miller

There are three things which are real: God, human folly, and laughter. The first two are beyond our comprehension, so we must do what we can with the third.

The Ramayana

At the end of life, you may close your eyes saying, 'I have not been dominated by the Dominant Idea of my Age; I have mine own allegiance, and served it.'

Vouairine M. Cleyre

The human mind is a product of the Pleistocene age, shaped by wildness that has all but disappeared. If we complete the destruction of nature, we will have succeeded in cutting ourselves off from the source of sanity itself.

David Ork

Americans prefer showers because showering is a kind of job—you stand, you scrub, you shampoo. In comparison, bathing is inactive. You lie in a bathtub, your eyes closed. You accomplish nothing. By the end of a long bath, you're slightly older and slightly cleaner. So undervalued are baths in our culture that there is no word for 'taking a bath,' as there is for showering. (The word bathing covers all types of personal cleansing.) For this reason, I suggest the word bathifying, which conveys some of the leisurely thoughtfulness of the bathtub. Bathifying resembles edifying, meaning 'tending to educate or uplift.'

Sparrow

Despite having spent a decade and a half writing about radical social movements, I am only just beginning to see what has animated, motivated, and knitted together those gatherings of aggrieved folks. I have come to realize that once we strip radical social movements down to their bare essence and understand the collective desires of people in motion, freedom and love lie at the very heart of the matter.'

Robin Kelley

A love which depends solely on romance, on the combustion of two attracting chemistries, tends to fizzle out. A long-term marriage has to move beyond chemistry to compatibility, to friendship, to companionship. It is certainly not that passion disappears, but that it is conjoined with other ways of love.

Madeleine L'Engle

We had supposed ourselves...a better nation morally than the rest, safe at home, and without the old savage ambition, destined to exert great international influence by throwing in our 'moral weight,' etc. Dreams! Human nature is everywhere the same; and at the least temptation, all the military passions rise, and sweep everything before them.

William James

The soul that is attached to anything, however much good there may be in it, will not arrive at the liberty of divine union. For whether it be a strong wire rope or a slender and delicate thread that holds the bird, it matters not, if it really holds it fast; for until the cord be broken, the bird cannot fly.

Saint John of the Cross

The future is here. ...It's just not widely distributed yet.

William Gibson

It is supposed to be part of the American tradition that if we want to step out of line, we step out of line. Democracy isn't falling in line behind the president. Democracy is for people to think independently, be skeptical of government, look around and try to find out what's going on. And if they find out that government is deceiving them, to speak out as loudly as they can.

Howard Zinn

Ideally, one should have a great deal of courage and strength, but not boast or make a big show of it. Then, in times of need, one should rise to the occasion and fight bravely for what is right.

The Dalai Lama

Sometimes I wonder whether the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on or by imbeciles who really mean it.

Mark Twain

A person can start out aiming to be righteous and end up self-righteous; we walk around quite pleased with ourselves. We run the risk of thinking we're God's gift to humanity, those of us who struggle to be loyal to him. But that's the worst sin possible: the sin of pride.

Dorothy Day

The moral revival that certain people wish to impose will be much worse than the condition it is meant to cure. If our present suffering ever leads to revival, this will not be brought about through slogans, but in silence and moral loneliness, through pain, misery and terror, in the profoundest depths of each man's spirit.

Simone Weil

For one human being to love another: that is perhaps the most difficult of all our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation.

Rainer Maria Rilke

We are a spiritually impoverished generation; we search in all the places the Spirit ever flowed in the hope of finding water. But that is a valid impulse. For if the Spirit is living and never dies, he must still be present wherever he once was active. He is like a small but carefully tended spark, ready to flare, glow, and burst into flame the moment he feels the first enkindling breath.

Edith Stein

Life is pain. Anyone who says different is trying to sell you something.

William Goldman

All religions begin with the cry 'Help.'

William James

The kind of beauty I want most is the hard-to-get kind that comes from within—strength, courage, dignity.

Ruby Dee

It seems to me that trying to live without friends is like milking a bear to get cream for your morning coffee. It is a whole lot of trouble, and then not worth much after you get it.

Zora Neale Hurston

The pursuit of cool limits your options. You make decisions based on appearances, on fitting in, on doing the right thing or on gaining approval. Cool can become a prison that will cut you off from a whole world of opportunity. Being cool is hard work with short-lived rewards.

Derrick Ashong

The hardest thing we are asked to do in this world is to remain aware of suffering, suffering about which we can do nothing.

May Sarton

It's never too late to be what you might have been.

George Eliot

There is only one class in the community that thinks more about money than the rich, and that is the poor. The poor can think of nothing else.

Oscar Wilde

I am, and always have been, a revolutionary writer, because our laws make law impossible; our liberties destroy all freedom; our property is organized robbery; our morality is an impudent hypocrisy; our wisdom is administered by inexperienced or mal-experienced dupes, our power wielded by cowards and weaklings, and our honor false in all its points. I am an enemy of the existing order for good reasons.

George Bernard Shaw

Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.

Helen Keller

Do not believe the truth. The truth is tiny compared to what you have to do.

Leonard Cohen

Capitalism is an art form, an Apollonian fabrication to rival nature. It is hypocritical for feminists and intellectuals to enjoy the pleasures and conveniences of capitalism while sneering at it. ...Everyone born into capitalism has incurred a debt to it. Give Caesar his due.

Camille Paglia

On the deepest level, problems such as war and starvation are not solved by economics and politics alone. Their source is prejudice and fear in the human heart—and their solution also lies in the human heart.

Joseph Goldstein and Jack Kornfield

A book is a mirror; if a monkey peers into it, then it will not be an apostle that looks out.

Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

When you read a classic you don't see more in a book than you ever did before. You see more in you than you ever saw before.

Clifton Fadiman

Good travels at a snail's pace. Those who want to do good are not selfish, they are not in a hurry, they know that to impregnate people with good requires a long time.

Mohandas K. Gandhi

Let justice roll down like water. Let righteousness flow like an overflowing stream.

Micah

Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on the dreams of others. More serious still we may forget that God was there before our arrival.

Author unknown

All intelligent faith in God has behind it a background of humble agnosticism. The ultimate truth about the universe cannot be caught and cabined in our limited minds.

Harry Emerson Fosdick

The introduction of religious passion into politics is the end of honest politics, and the introduction of politics into religion is the prostitution of true religion.

Lord Hailsham

And this is the simple truth—that to live is to feel oneself lost. He who accepts it has already begun to find himself, to be on firm ground. Instinctively, as do the shipwrecked, he will look around for something to which to cling, and that tragic, ruthless glance, absolutely sincere, because it is a question of his salvation, will cause him to bring order into the chaos of his life. These are the only genuine ideas; the ideas of the shipwrecked. All the rest is rhetoric, posturing, farce.

Soren Kierkegaard

You do not see the river of mourning because it lacks one tear of your own.

Antonio Porchia

There is nothing stable in the world; uproar's your only music.

John Keats

Any real change implies the breakup of the world as one has always known it, the loss of all that gave one an identity, the end of safety.

James Baldwin

You desire to know the art of living, my friend? It is contained in one phrase: make use of suffering.

Henri Frederic Amiel

This work is about transformation—from the person we are to the person we really are. In the end, we can't be anyone else.

Marion Rosen

The thing you are ripening toward is the fruit of your life. It will make you bright inside, no matter what you are outside. It is a shining thing.

Stewart Edward White

All the gods are dead except the god of war.

Eldridge Cleaver

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.

Oscar Ameringer

The feeling remains that God is on the journey, too.

Teresa of Avila

There are plenty of good reasons for fighting...but no good reason ever to hate without reservation, to imagine that God Almighty Himself hates with you, too. Where's evil? It's that large part of every man that wants to hate without limit, that wants to hate with God on its side.

Kurt Vonnegut

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

In this world, you must be a bit too kind to be kind enough.
Pierre Carlet de Chamblain de Marivaux

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers and sisters, and to make music in the heart.
Howard Thurman

Have you become a farmer? Is it not pleasanter than to be shut up within four walls and delving eternally with the pen?
Thomas Jefferson

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.
John Muir

All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ.
Rule of Benedict, Chapter 53

In the days ahead we must not consider it unpatriotic to raise certain basic questions about our national character. We must begin to ask, 'Why are there forty million poor people in a nation overflowing with such unbelievable affluence? Why has our nation placed itself in the position of being God's military agent on earth...? Why have we substituted the arrogant undertaking of policing the whole world for the high task of putting our own house in order?'
Martin Luther King, Jr.

History is a vast early warning system.
Norman Cousins

Never think that wars are irrational catastrophes: they happen when wrong ways of thinking and living bring about intolerable situations. ...The root causes of conflict are usually to be found in some wrong way of life in which all parties have acquiesced, and for which everybody must, to some extent, bear the blame.
Dorothy L. Sayers

People want to be who they are. People don't want to assume a kind of identity...this persona that Americans think makes us the envy of the rest of the world. Even within our own borders there are three hundred different cultures who do not envy Americans so much

that they want to give up their tribal status.
Louise Erdrich

Oh, may I join the choir invisible
Of those immortal dead who live again
In minds made better by their presence; live
In pulses stirred to generosity,
In deeds of daring rectitude, in scorn
For miserable aims that end with self,
In thoughts sublime that pierce the night like stars,
And with their mild persistence urge men's search
To vaster issues. So to live is heaven:
To make undying music in the world,
Breathing a beauteous order that controls
With growing sway the growing life of man.
So we inherit that sweet purity
For which we struggled, failed, and agonised
With widening retrospect that bred despair.
Rebellious flesh that would not be subdued,
A vicious parent shaming still its child,
Poor anxious penitence, is quick dissolved;
Its discords, quenched by meeting harmonies,
Die in the large and charitable air,
And all our rarer, better, truer self
That sobbed religiously in yearning song,
That watched to ease the burden of the world,
Laboriously tracing what must be,
And what may yet be better, — saw within
A worthier image for the sanctuary,
And shaped it forth before the multitude,
Divinely human, raising worship so
To higher reverence more mixed with love, —
That better self shall live till human Time
Shall fold its eyelids, and the human sky
Be gathered like a scroll within the tomb
Unread forever. This is life to come, —
Which martyred men have made more glorious
For us who strive to follow. May I reach
That purest heaven, — be to other souls
The cup of strength in some great agony,
Enkindle generous ardour, feed pure love,
Beget the smiles that have no cruelty,
Be the sweet presence of a good diffused,
And in diffusion ever more intense!
So shall I join the choir invisible
Whose music is the gladness of the world.

Marion Evans (George Elliot)

We do not go to bed in single pairs; even if we choose not to refer to them, we still drag there with us the cultural impediments of our social class, our parents' lives, our bank balances, our sexual and emotional expectations, our whole biographies—all the bits and pieces of our unique existences.

Angela Carter

The most painful moral struggles are not those between good and evil, but between the good and the lesser good.

Barbara Grizzuti Harrison

It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on his not understanding it.

Upton Sinclair

We can have democracy in this country or we can have great wealth concentrated in the hands of a few, but we cannot have both.

Louis Brandeis

In the next voyage of the Mayflower, after she carried the Pilgrims, she was employed in transporting a cargo of slaves from Africa.

Nathaniel Hawthorne

You can't remember sex. You can remember the fact of it, and recall the setting, and even the details, but the sex of the sex cannot be remembered, the substantive truth of it; it is by nature self-erasing; you can remember its anatomy and be left with a judgment as to the degree of your liking of it, but whatever it is as a splurge of being, as a loss, as a charge of the conviction of love stopping your heart like your execution, there is no memory of it in the brain, only the deduction that it happened and that time passed, leaving you with a silhouette that you want to fill in again.

E.L. Doctorow

There are nine requisites for contented living:

health enough to make work a pleasure;

wealth enough to support your needs;

Strength to battle with difficulties and overcome them;

grace enough to confess your sins and forsake them.

Patience enough to toil until some good is accomplished;

charity enough to see some good in your neighbor;

love enough to move you to be useful and helpful to others;

faith enough to make real the things of God;

hope enough to remove all anxious fears concerning the future.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

He who knows that enough is enough will have enough.

Lao-Tzu

You've got to have life to love life, and you've got to love life to have life. It's what they call a vicious circle.

Our Town

Is not one of our problems today that we have separated ourselves from the poor and the wounded and the suffering? We have too much time to discuss and theorize, and have lost the yearning for God, which comes when we are faced with the sufferings of people.
Jean Vanier

I do not believe in telling people of one's faith, especially with a view to conversion. Faith must be lived, and when it is, it becomes self-propagating.

Mohandas K. Gandhi

Every war already carries within it the war which will answer it. Every war is answered by a new war, until everything, everything is smashed.

Kathe Kollwitz

I have seen a room, a city, a country so frenzied and intoxicated that it becomes a homogeneous mass, and all individuality is extinguished. In one great surge of unanimity, every previously distinct impulse merges into a single mass impulse, and hundreds, thousands, or millions are held captive as they express themselves first with heroic, selfless devotion, in tears and touching declarations, but then in madness and lust for war. My instinct as an artist has always warned me against this human capacity to become drunk on collective suffering, collective pride, collective hatred, or collective honor...Indeed, it snakes me shudder, for while others weep with rapture and enthusiasm, cheering and venting and crying out about brotherhood, I see blood flowing and cities going up in flames.

Hermann Hesse

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has his foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.

Desmond Tutu

The world dies over and over again, but the skeleton always gets up and walks.

Henry Miller

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity; it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.

Charles Dickens

Whatever you say about God you should be able to say standing over a pit full of burning

babies.

Elie Wiesel

Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do.

John Wooden

The spiritual life does not remove us from the world, but leads us deeper into it.

Henri J.M. Nouwen

I don't consider myself a pessimist at all. I think of a pessimist as someone who is waiting for it to rain. And I feel completely soaked to the skin.

Leonard Cohen

If we could read the secret history of our enemies we should find in each person's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Violence does not necessarily take people by the throat and strangle them. Usually it demands no more than an oath of allegiance from its subjects. They are required merely to become accomplices in its lies.

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

In my forty years as a rabbi, I have tended to many people in the last moments of their lives. ...The people who had the most trouble with death were those who felt that they had never done anything worthwhile in their lives, and if God would only give them another two or three years, maybe they would finally get it right. It was not death that frightened them; it was insignificance, the fear that they would die and leave no mark on the world.

Rabbi Harold Kushner

If I find myself entirely absorbed in the service of the community, the reason behind it was my desire for self-realization. I have made the religion of service my own as I felt God would only be realized through service. And service for me was India.

Mohandas K. Gandhi

Before you know what kindness really is, you must lose things, feel the future dissolve in a moment like salt in a weakened broth. What you held in your hand, what you counted and carefully saved, all this must go so you know how desolate the landscape can be between the regions of kindness. How you ride and ride thinking the bus will never stop, the passengers eating maize and chicken will stare out the window forever.

Before you learn the tender gravity of kindness, you must travel where the Indian in a white poncho lies dead by the side of the road. You must see how this could be you, how he too was someone who journeyed through the night with plans and the simple breath that kept him alive.

Before you know kindness as the deepest thing inside, you must know sorrow as the other deepest thing. You must wake up with sorrow. You must speak to it till your voice

catches the thread of all sorrows and you see the size of the cloth.

Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore, only kindness that ties your shoes and sends you out into the day to gaze at bread, only kindness that raises its head from the crowd of the world to say It is I you have been looking for, and then goes with you everywhere like a shadow or a friend.

Naomi Shihab Nye

The last of the human freedoms: to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances.

Viktor E. Frankl

Once we start home toward God—which happens the minute we start, actually—we simply do not ever turn around and head in a different direction. There is no other direction. And in the moments when we feel as if we are so turned around that we will never get home, somebody turns up and nudges us a couple of points to starboard, whichever direction that is. Suddenly, without being particularly conscious of it or faithful about it, we sense that we are headed toward God again full blast.

Robert Benson

He has Van Gogh's ear for music.

Billy Wilder

We should remember that it is easy and foolish to sneer at the mistakes or barbarities of remote ages.

Hermann Hesse

Times are bad. Children no longer obey their parents, and everyone is writing a book.

Cicero

There is a fifth dimension beyond those known to man. It is a dimension vast as space and timeless as infinity. It is the middle ground between light and shadow, between the pit of his fears and the summit of his knowledge. This is the dimension of imagination. It is an area called the Twilight Zone.

Rod Serling

If there is one door in the castle you have been told not to go through, you must.

Otherwise you'll just be rearranging furniture in rooms you've already been in.

Anne Lamott

I don't think, in our kind of society, we'll be able to develop a full-blown mystical religion or concept of God because we seek instant gratification, fast food, endless talk and noise. The silence in mysticism is alien. People want to do a few courses in mysticism, rather like the way you do French before going on holiday, and emerge a mystic. Mysticism isn't like that.

Karen Armstrong

Work for the triumph of the good, knowing you will lose.
Seneca

All birth is unwilling.
Pearl S. Buck

Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love.
Reinhold Niebuhr

If you oppress poor people, you insult the God who made them; but kindness shown to the poor is an act of worship.
Proverbs 14:31

Being a friend means mastering the art of timing. There is a time for silence. A time to let go and allow people to hurl themselves into their own history. And a time to pick up the pieces when it's all over.
Gloria Naylor

The friend who holds your hand and says the wrong thing is made of dearer stuff than the one who stays away.
Barbara Kingsolver

Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing.
Helen Keller

O God, help my words to be gracious and tender today, for tomorrow I may have to eat them.
Unknown

It is one thing to show a man that he is in an error, and another to put him in possession of truth.
John Locke

Sophia wished that Florence would not talk about the Almighty as if his real name was Godfrey, and God was just Florence's nickname for him.
Nancy Mitford

Evil is present, not only in human hearts, but also in human structures. And in those structures it can acquire an almost independent power of its own, so that good individuals with the best of intentions can be party to great corporate evil.
Robert McAfee Brown

It takes prejudices a long time to die...but they're dead...they're dying. Once you take a prejudice and begin to debate it publicly, it's doomed.

John Spong

To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved.

George MacDonald

Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place.

Zora Neale Hurston

In our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon our hearts until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.

Aeschylus

People wish to be settled, but only as far as they are unsettled is there any hope for them.

Source unknown

If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion.

The Dalai Lama

I get up.

I walk.

I fall down.

Meanwhile, I keep dancing!

Rabbi Hillel

If all the rich men in the world divided up their money amongst themselves, there wouldn't be enough to go round.

Christina Stead

Conservatives have historically seen people falling through the cracks in society and said, That's the way things work, survival of the fittest. Liberals see people falling through the cracks and say, We've got to do something about those people falling through the cracks, so we need a strong government that can provide programs and assist those people.

Populists say there shouldn't be any cracks; let's fix them.

Jim Hightower

To live the ordinary life well is the hardest of deeds.

A. E. Davidson

A professor of English once prescribed a set of rules for adequate living, which he called, 'The Grammar of Life.' He said: 'Live in the active voice, not the passive. Think more about what you make happen than what happens to you. Live in the indicative mood, rather than the subjunctive. Be concerned with things as they are, rather than as they

might be. Live in the present tense, facing the duty at hand without regret for the past or worry for the future. Live in the first person, criticizing yourself rather than finding fault with others. Live in the singular number, caring more for the approval of your own conscience than for the applause of the crowd. And, if you want a verb to conjugate, you cannot do better than to take the verb, to love.'

Source unknown

Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it.

Moses Hadas

He is not only dull himself, he is the cause of dullness in others.

Samuel Johnson

What black America needs isn't a leader, it is education. Giving speeches and marching, that's not the concept that brings about real freedom, equality, and justice. We need a philosophy that is adopted in every household that raising our children to be responsible for their own actions is a must. I don't see the leaders of the Jewish community; I don't see the leaders of the Korean community. Their strength is in local leaders, household leaders.

James Brown

Progress is nothing but the victory of laughter over dogma.

Benjamin DeCasseres

So how do you sit with a shattered soul? Gently, with gracious and deep respect. Patiently, for time stands still for the shattered, and the momentum of healing will be slow at first. With the tender strength that comes from an openness to your own deepest wounding, and to your own deepest healing.

Kathy Steele

If our society is to survive, helping 'me be me' won't cut it. There is an essential 'usness' about reality and about personhood. If the right wing of American politics and religion is fraught with individualism, it is up to those not so infected to rediscover the nature of community as the basis for the generative life.

Charles Bayer

One night when my two-and-a-half year-old granddaughter was staying with me, we were at home taking a bubble bath together and singing, 'Here we are taking a bubble bath, a bubble bath...' All of a sudden, no one was singing, and I experienced both of us looking deeply into each other's eyes, and there was no sound at all. It lasted but for a few moments, and I felt shivers up my spine. That was intimacy.

Lynn Moore

Summer Lee comes running into the living room, holding up something.

'Know what this is for?'

'What's it for?'

‘It’s for if you need something to look at.’
And so, in nine words the 3 ½-year-old sketches in a total philosophy of life.
‘Know what a symphony’s for?’
‘It’s for if you need something to listen to.’
‘Know what a friend is for?’
‘If you need somebody to love.’
Neil Lamper

Whatever America hopes to bring to pass in the world must first come to pass in the heart of America.
Dwight D. Eisenhower

My great ambition is to secure a speaking part in my own life.
Ashleigh Brilliant

Three kinds of prayer:
I am a bow in your hand, Lord; draw me lest I rot.
Do not overdraw me, Lord; I shall break.
Overdraw me, Lord, and who cares if I break.
Nikos Kazantzakis

Community is a quality of heart that doesn’t exclude anyone—because it’s the heart of Christ, the heart of God. Community is a place where we nurture one another and our relation to the Christ, where we forgive one another and come together around the word and sacraments. In community, sorrow and joy are never separate...we hold sorrow and joy connected and where they are connected is where there’s healing, where life bursts forth.
Henri Nouwen

The root meaning of ‘believe’—in both Greek and Latin—is ‘to give one’s heart to.’
Mark Dyer

Of the Seven Deadly Sins, anger is possibly the most fun. To lick your wounds, to smack your lips over grievances long past, to roll over your tongue the prospect of bitter confrontations still to come, to savor to the last toothsome morsel of both the pain you are given and the pain you are giving back—in many ways it is a feast fit for a king. The chief drawback is that what you are wolfing down is yourself. The skeleton at the feast is you.
Frederick Buechner

...The Catholic Church has learned, from a considerably longer experience in the matter, saints who at first seem appealing are not always comfortable people to have around in the long run. People of various stripes try to fit them into their own political agendas, but saints usually refuse to stay in line or obey orders from ideological commanders, while their strong sense of divine justice and mercy has an unnerving capacity to disturb even those who profess to admire them. And then their voices often become much less welcome than they seemed at first.

Mel Piehl

I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it.

Groucho Marx

He inherited some good instincts from his Quaker forebears, but by diligent hard work, he overcame them.

James Reston (about Richard Nixon)

Lyda was an exuberant, even a dramatic gardener. ...She was always holding up a lettuce or a bunch of radishes with an air of resolute courage, as though she had shot them herself.

Renata Adler

The miraculous is not extraordinary but the common mode of existence. It is our daily bread. Whoever really has considered the lilies of the field or the birds of the air and pondered the improbability of their existence in this warm world within the cold and empty stellar distances will hardly balk at the turning of water into wine—which was, after all, a very small miracle. We forget the greater and still continuing miracle by which water (with soil and sunlight) is turned into grapes.

Wendell Berry

There was a Zen master in Japan who never learned to read or write. So profound was his ignorance of the outside world that he didn't realize there were religions other than Buddhism until he heard some monks discussing Christianity. When he asked one of them to explain Christianity to him, the monk handed him the Bible.

'That's a thick book,' the master said, 'and I can't read. But you can read something to me.'

The monk turned to the Sermon on the Mount and began to read aloud. The more he read, the more the master was impressed. 'That is beautiful,' he kept saying. 'That is very beautiful.'

When the monk finished, the master said nothing for a while. The silence lasted so long that the monk put the Bible down and started meditating.

'Yes,' the teacher said finally. 'I don't know who wrote that, but what you read there is the essence of everything I have been trying to teach you here.'

Janwillem Van De Wetering

Sometime they'll give a war and nobody will come.

Carl Sandburg

I think that people want peace so much that one of these days government had better get out of the way and let them have it.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

There are only two powers in the world—the spirit and the sword; and in the long run, the sword will always be conquered by the spirit.

Napoleon Bonaparte

The only devils in this world are those running around in our own hearts, and that is where all our battles should be fought.

Mohandas K. Gandhi

Lay me on an anvil, O God.

Beat me and hammer me into a crowbar.

Let me pry loose old walls.

Let me lift and loosen old foundations.

Carl Sandburg

We are called to play the Good Samaritan on life's roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be beaten and robbed as they make their journey through life. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it understands that an edifice that produces beggars needs restructuring.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Every exit is an entry somewhere else.

Tom Stoppard

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

Crystal Eastman

A sailor, while bringing flowers to a cemetery, noticed an old Chinese man placing a bowl of rice on a nearby grave. The sailor walked up to the man and asked,

'When do you expect your friend to come up and eat the rice?'

The old Chinese man replied with a smile, 'Same time your friend comes up to smell the flowers.'

Instead of hating people you think are war-makers, hate the appetites and disorder in your own soul, which are the causes of war. If you love peace, then hate injustice, hate tyranny, hate greed—but hate these things in yourself, not in another.

Thomas Merton

The common characteristics of people make a community possible, but it is their uncommon qualities that make it better.

John H. Fischer

The sun, each second, transforms 4 million tons of itself into light. ...Human generosity is possible only because at the center of the solar system a magnificent stellar generosity pours forth free energy day and night without stop and without complaint and without the slightest hesitation.

Brian Swimme

Now I see the secret of making the best persons. It is to grow in the open air and to eat

and sleep with the earth.
Walt Whitman

To embrace the child may threaten the adult who values information above wonder, entertainment above play, and intelligence above ignorance. If we were really to care for the child, we would have to face our own lower natures—our indomitable emotions, our insane desires, and the vast range of our incapacity.
Thomas Moore

My husband's family was terribly refined. Within their circle you could know Beethoven, but God forbid if you were Beethoven.
Louise Nevelson

In our civilization, and under our republican form of government, intelligence is so highly honored that it is rewarded by exemption from the cares of office.
Ambrose Bierce

I never did give anybody hell. I just told the truth, and they thought it was hell.
Harry S Truman

The important thing is not to stop questioning.
Albert Einstein

After the earthquake and the fire comes the still, small voice.
Dorothy Thompson

For as long as space endures, and for as long as living beings remain, until then may I, too, abide to dispel the misery of the world.
The Dalai Lama

An enormous conflict between words and deeds is prevalent today: everyone talks about freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, about peace and saving the world from nuclear apocalypse; and at the same time, everyone, more or less, consciously or unconsciously, serves those values and ideals only to the extent necessary to serve himself and his 'worldly' interests, personal interests, group interests, power interests, property interests, and state or great-power interests. ...So the power structures apparently have no other choice than to sink deeper into this vicious maelstrom, and contemporary people apparently have no other choice than to wait around until the final inhibition drops away. But who should begin? Who should break this vicious circle? Responsibility cannot be preached but only borne, and the only possible place to begin is with oneself.
Vaclav Havel After the earthquake and the fire comes the still, small voice.
Dorothy Thompson

When the strongest words for what I have to offer come out of me sounding like words I remember from my mother's mouth, then I either have to reassess the meaning of everything I have to say now, or re-examine the worth of her old words.

Audre Lorde

An enormous conflict between words and deeds is prevalent today: everyone talks about freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, about peace and saving the world from nuclear apocalypse; and at the same time, everyone, more or less, consciously or unconsciously, serves those values and ideals only to the extent necessary to serve himself and his 'worldly' interests, personal interests, group interests, power interests, property interests, and state or great-power interests. ...So the power structures apparently have no other choice than to sink deeper into this vicious maelstrom, and contemporary people apparently have no other choice than to wait around until the final inhibition drops away. But who should begin? Who should break this vicious circle? Responsibility cannot be preached but only borne, and the only possible place to begin is with oneself.
Vaclav Havel

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Those with whom we should try to get even are those who have been good to us.

Author unknown

Deserves it! I daresay he does. Many that live deserve death. And some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment. For even the very wise cannot see all ends.

J.R.R. Tolkien

The childish idea that prayer is a handle, by which we can take hold of God and obtain whatever we desire, leads to easy disillusionment with both what we had thought to be God and what we had thought to be prayer.

Robert L. Short

My daily affairs are quite ordinary; but I'm in harmony with them. I don't hold on to anything; don't completely reject anything either; nowhere an obstacle or conflict.

Who cares about wealth and honor? Even the poorest thing shines. My inner strength and spiritual activity? — drawing water and carrying wood.

P'ang Yun

To laugh often and love much;
To win the respect of intelligent people
And the affection of children;
To earn the approbation of honest critics
And endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To give one's self;
To leave the world a little better,

Whether by a healthy child,
A garden patch,
Or a redeemed social condition;
To have played and laughed with enthusiasm
And sung with exultation;
To know even one life has breathed easier
Because you have lived...
This is to have succeeded.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dogma can in no way limit a limitless God.
Flannery O'Connor

The Duty of Hospitality:
People who are in need
and are not afraid to beg
give to people not in need
the occasion to do good
for goodness sake.
Modern society calls the beggar
bum and panhandler
and gives them the bum's rush.
But the Greeks used to say
that people in need
are the ambassadors of the gods.
Although you may be called
bums and panhandlers,
you are in fact the Ambassadors of God.
As God's Ambassadors
you should be given food,
clothing and shelter
by those who are able to give it.
Muslim teachers tell us
that God commands hospitality,
and hospitality is still practiced
in Muslim countries.
But the duty of hospitality
is neither taught nor practiced
in Christian countries.
Peter Maurin

The most significant thing about the Catholic Worker is poverty, some say. The most significant thing is community, others say. We are not alone any more. But the final word is love. At times it has been—in the words of Father Zossima—a harsh and dreadful thing, and our very faith in love has been tried through fire.
Dorothy Day

Why is life speeded up so? Why are things so terribly, unbearably precious that you can't enjoy them, but can only wait breathless in dread of their going?

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

We must travel in the direction of our fear.

John Berryman

I admire the serene assurance of those who have religious faith. It is wonderful to observe the calm confidence of a Christian with four aces.

Mark Twain

There is no such thing as inner peace. There is only nervousness or death.

Fran Lebowitz

It is morally as bad not to care whether a thing is true or not, so long as it makes you feel good, as it is not to care how you got your money as long as you have got it.

Edmund Way Teale

Silence is a constant source of restoration. Yet its healing power does not come cheaply. It depends on our willingness to face all that is within us, light and dark, and to heed all the inner voices that make themselves heard in silence.

The Rule of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist

There's something I've noticed about food: whenever there's a crisis, if you can get people to eating normally, things get better.

Madeleine L'Engle

We seem to have a compulsion these days to bury time capsules in order to give those people living in the next century some idea of what we are like. I have prepared one of my own. In it, I have placed some rather large samples of dynamite, gunpowder, and nitroglycerin. My time capsule is set to go off in the year 3000. It will show them what we are really like.

Alfred Hitchcock

To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable. Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything is hopeless.

G. K. Chesterton

He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.

Oscar Wilde

Never has anyone been a greater enemy of forms than Jesus—forms which stifle the spirit under the pretext of protecting it.

Ernst Renan

There is an old official path across the meadow of our spiritual heritage and it is still recommended by some. That old path is worn out and not very inviting to most people. But, the meadow itself is fresh and vibrant, always growing and changing. It would be a tragic mistake to abandon the meadow when we reject the old path. There can be many new refreshing paths into this magnificent landscape.

Br. Toby McCarroll

Christ, I love you,
not because you descended from a star,
but because you revealed to me
man's anguish and tears,
and showed me the keys that open
the closed doors of light.

Yes, you taught me
that man is God, a poor God
crucified like you.

The one at your left,
at Golgotha—the worst thief—
he, too, is God.

Leon Felipe

(This poem was found in Che Guevara's backpack after his execution, October 9, 1967)

Although the scribes could explain where the Messiah should be born, they remained quite unperturbed in Jerusalem. They did not accompany the Wise Men to seek him. Similarly we may be able to explain every article of our faith, yet remain spiritually motionless. The power that moved heaven and earth leaves us completely unmoved. What a contrast! The three kings had only a rumor to go by. But it spurred them to set out a long, hard journey. The scribes, meanwhile, were much better informed, much better versed. They had sat and studied the scriptures for years, like so many dons. But it didn't make any difference. Who had the more truth? Those who followed a rumor, or those who remained sitting, satisfied with all their knowledge?

Søren Kierkegaard

Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see a bunch of weeds that are going to take over my yard.

My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white fluff you can wish on.

When I look at an old drunk and he smiles at me, I see a smelly, dirty person who probably wants money and I look away.

My kids see someone smiling at them and they smile back.

When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm so I sit self-consciously and listen.

My kids feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them,

they make up their own.

When I feel wind on my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk.

My kids close their eyes, spread their arms and fly with it, until they fall to the ground laughing.

When I pray, I say thee and thou and grant me this, give me that.

My kids say, 'Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends. Please keep the bad dreams away tonight. Sorry, I don't want to go to Heaven yet. I would miss my Mommy and Daddy.'

When I see a mud puddle I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets.

My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross, and worms to play with.

Author Unknown

No one so thoroughly appreciates the value of constructive criticism as the one who's giving it.

Hal Chadwick

Without being forgiven, released from the consequences of what we have done, our capacity to act would, as it were, be confined to a single deed from which we could never recover; we would remain the victims of its consequences forever, not unlike the sorcerer's apprentice who lacked the magic formula to break the spell.

Hannah Arendt

To make us love our country, our country ought to be lovely.

Edmund Burke

What does it matter to the dead, the orphans, and the homeless whether the mad destruction is wrought in the name of totalitarianism or in the holy name of liberty or democracy?

Mohandas K. Gandhi

What do we mean by patriotism in the context of our time? I venture to suggest that what we mean is a sense of national responsibility, a patriotism which is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.

Adlai Stevenson

Leaving the church was no easy step, but the church simply was no solution to the problem of loving one's neighbor as one's self. That was, for me, impossible under a capitalist order, for I found that while I was giving of my surplus and not sharing all—whether of wealth, poverty, joy or pain—I was not really loving my neighbor, but demoralizing him. Of course I saw sincere individuals in the church, and would not cast a slur on anyone. But the church must be more than a collection of sincere individuals....

Kathleen Hasenberg

The loud little handful—as usual—will shout for the war. The pulpit will—warily and cautiously—object...at first. The great, big, dull bulk of the nation will rub its sleepy eyes

and try to make out why there should be a war, and will say, earnestly and indignantly, 'It is unjust and dishonorable, and there is no necessity for it.'

Then the handful will shout louder. A few fair men on the other side will argue and reason against the war with speech and pen, and at first will have a hearing and be applauded, but it will not last long; those others will outshout them, and presently the antiwar audiences will thin out and lose popularity.

Before long, you will see this curious thing: the speakers stoned from the platform, and free speech strangled by hordes of furious men...

Next the statesmen will invent cheap lies, putting the blame upon the nation that is attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing falsities, and will diligently study them, and refuse to examine any refutations of them; and thus he will by and by convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self-deception.

Mark Twain

Our last five minutes on earth are running out. We can spend those minutes in meanness...or we can spend them consciously embracing every glowing soul who wanders within our reach.

Alice Walker

What happiness would it be for those who live among us, if our external appearance were always a true mirror of our hearts; if decorum were but virtue; if the maxims we professed were the rules of our conduct; and if real philosophy were inseparable from the title of a philosopher!

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Whenever morality is based on theology, whenever right is made dependent on divine authority, the most immoral, unjust, infamous things can be justified and established.

Ludwig Feuerbach

In every adversity of fortune the most unhappy sort of misfortune is to have been happy.

Boethius

The ideas of Freud were popularized by people who only imperfectly understood them, who were incapable of the great effort required to grasp them in their relationship to larger truths, and who therefore assigned to them a prominence out of all proportion to their true importance.

Alfred North Whitehead

I have seen cruelty, persecution, and superstition increasing by leaps and bounds, until we have almost reached the point where praise of rationality is held to mark a man as an old fogy regrettably surviving from a bygone age.

Bertrand Russell

Philosophy poses the question: What should we do to have the best possible lives? I'm afraid we haven't made much progress in arriving at an answer to this question.

Jacques Derrida

Religion is but a desperate attempt to find an escape from the truly dreadful situation in which we find ourselves. Here we are in this wholly fantastic universe with scarcely a clue as to whether our existence has any real significance. No wonder then that many people feel the need for some belief that gives them a sense of security, and no wonder that they become very angry with people like me who say that this is illusory.

Fred Hoyle

Time heals what reason cannot.

Lucius Annaeus Seneca

The path of an honest fighter is a difficult one. And when the fighter grows cool in the evening of his life this is still no excuse to retire into games and amusement. Whoever remains faithful to his decision will realize that his whole life is a struggle. Such a person does not fall into the temptation of proudly telling others of what he has done with his life. Nor will he talk about the 'great decisions' he has made. He knows full well that at decisive moments you have to renew your resolve again and again and that this alone makes good the decision and the decision good.

Søren Kierkegaard

It was granted to me to carry away from my prison years on my bent back, which nearly broke beneath its load, this essential experience: how a human being becomes evil and how good. In the intoxication of youthful successes I had felt myself to be infallible, and I was therefore cruel. In the surfeit of power I was a murderer and an oppressor. In my most evil moments I was convinced that I was doing good, and I was well supplied with systematic arguments. It was only when I lay there on rotting prison straw that I sensed within myself the first stirrings of good.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

To deny, to believe, and to doubt absolutely—this is for man what running is for a horse.
Pascal

An e-mail from a friend in California thinks globalization is best illustrated by the death of Princess Diana. An English princess with an Egyptian boyfriend crashes in a French tunnel, driving a German car with a Dutch engine, driven by a Belgian who was high on Scotch whisky, followed closely by Italian paparazzi, on Japanese motorcycles, treated by an American doctor, using medicines from Brazil! And you are probably reading this on one of the IBM clones that use Taiwanese-made chips, and Korean-made monitors, assembled by Bangladeshi workers in a Singapore plant, transported by buses driven by Indians, and finally sold to you by Chinese.

With all its problems and growing pains, one world seems here to stay. And yet for all of that, this one world seems more and more to provoke divisions between individuals, tribes, religions, nations. Our increased interaction with one another as passengers together on this planet only increases friction and hostility, highlighting the eternal problem since Cain and Abel. Humans have trouble living together in peace.

Gil Bowen

The human mind is inspired enough when it comes to inventing horrors; it is when it tries to invent a Heaven that it shows itself cloddish.

Evelyn Waugh

Man's mind is so formed that it is far more susceptible to falsehood than to truth.

Desiderius Erasmus

We can and must believe not so much that the mysterious light of God can 'convert' the ones who are mostly responsible for the world's peace, but at least that they may, in spite of their obstinacy and their prejudices, be guarded against fatal error.

Thomas Merton

Have no fear of perfection—you'll never reach it.

Salvador Dali

We have learned to fly the air like birds and swim the sea like fish, but we have not yet learned the simple art of living together as brothers.

Martin Luther King

There is no greater glory than love, nor any greater punishment than jealousy.

Lope de Vega

Worrying is less work than doing something to fix the worry. Everybody wants to save the earth; nobody wants to help Mom with the dishes.

P.J. O'Rourke

This global civilization demands not only that we must live next to each other, but that we must live together. If we realize that love for our neighbor is the universal commandment for all cultures, even though these cultures are sometimes in conflict, perhaps we will be able to transcend the present experience of democracy as a mere battleground for individual interests.

Vaclav Havel

When I am hungry, give me someone I can feed.

When I am thirsty, give me someone who needs a drink.

When I am cold, give me someone to keep warm.

And when I grieve, give me someone to console.

Mother Teresa (adapted from Prayer of St. Francis)

He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts...for support rather than illumination.

Andrew Lang

If a voter has a choice between a Republican and a Democrat who acts like a Republican, he'll vote for the Republican every time.

Harry S. Truman

Speak your mind, even when your voice shakes.

Maggie Kuhn

The word God has become empty of meaning through thousands of years of misuse. I use it sometimes, but I do so sparingly. By misuse, I mean that people who have never even glimpsed the realm of the sacred, the infinite vastness behind that word, use it with great conviction, as if they knew what they are talking about. Or they argue against it, as if they knew what it is that they are denying. This misuse gives rise to absurd beliefs, assertions, and egoic delusions, such as 'My or our God is the only true God, and your God is false.'

Eckhart Tolle

Technologies which are environmentally more sustainable are less prone to being hijacked by those intent on harm. No terrorist is going to make governments tremble by threatening to bomb a wind turbine, or release clouds of compost over our cities.

Jonathon Porritt

The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the public alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary.

H. L. Mencken

It's important to remember...that our current happiness is not permanent and is not due to any intrinsic 'goodness' on our part. American society is uncomfortable with the idea that some people's lives are difficult past the point of sanity and that they aren't necessarily to blame.

George Saunders

I am struck once again by the unutterable beauty, terror, and strangeness of everything we think we know.

Edward Abbey

Love life, take great pleasure in small offerings. Believe that the world owes you nothing. Understand that every gift given to you is exactly that.

Maya Angelou

There are painters who transform the sun into a yellow spot, but there are others who, thanks to their art and their intelligence, transform the yellow spot into the sun.

Pablo Picasso

The Stone Age did not end because people ran out of stone. The Petroleum Age will not end because we run out of petroleum, but because we develop superior technologies.

Fritjof Capra

And the time came when the risk it took to remain in a tightly closed bud became

infinitely more painful than the risk it took to blossom.

Anais Nin

Every moment of our human life is a moment of crisis; for at every moment we are called upon to make an all-important decision—to choose between the way that leads to death and spiritual darkness and the way that leads towards light and life; between interests exclusively temporal and the eternal order; between our personal will, or the will of some projection of our personality, and the will of God. ...Here the aim is primarily to bring human beings to a state in which, because there are no longer any God-eclipsing obstacles between themselves and Reality, they are able to be aware continuously of the divine Ground of their own and all other beings; secondarily, as a means to this end, to meet all, even the most trivial circumstance of daily living without malice, greed, self-assertion, or voluntary ignorance, but consistently with love and understanding. ...For the lover of God, every moment is a moment of crisis.

Aldous Huxley

Just love your brother and drink a good glass of red wine every day.

Antonio Todde (at the age of 112)

I think it pisses God off if you walk by the color purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it.

Alice Walker

Faith is no safeguard against stupidity; indeed, most people are living proof that faith can lead to stupidity.

Christoph Friedrich Blumhardt

IT SOMETIMES HAPPENS that you go to your prayer after having spent the whole day dissipated and without recollection; it is no wonder you are distracted, for you well deserve it. You follow your own inclinations, you are cross-grained and resentful in your obedience, lacking in sweetness, and condescending towards your neighbor, and then you go boldly to prayer in order to unite yourself to God and to have consolation and sweetness. If you find the door shut, why should you be surprised?

St. Jeanne de Chantal

Christianity has been made so completely devoid of character that there is really nothing to persecute. The chief trouble with Christians, therefore, is that no one wants to kill them any more.

Soren Kierkegaard

No, I'm looking for loopholes.

W.C. Fields (when asked by a friend if he was reading the Bible for inspiration)

Humanity writhes in agony, on the verge of death, and the most obvious sin of its mortal sickness is private property. The root of property is separation and disintegration, decay and corruption. These ills arise through self-isolation, through the self-seeking of the

covetous will.

Private property destroys the relationships we have with each other and with God. Private property is the root of murder, the cause of war, the cause of vicious competition in business. It leads to prostitution and marrying for money, which are really the same thing, and is the cause of dishonesty in business and of every other kind of lie. Our entire economy is based on greed, on the profit motive, on people's urge to self-preservation and their craving for greater power.

Eberhard Arnold

Many a humble agnostic, worshipping an unknown God, is nearer to the Kingdom of God than is a theologian confident in his theology. ... Many an 'atheist' is rejecting false conceptions of God which he assumes to be orthodox beliefs about Him; many an agnostic has a reverence for the unknown God which puts to shame the pride of a superficial dogmatist.

Frederic Greeves

I know her face by heart. Sometimes I think nothing will break her spell.

Daphne Merkin

This terrible individualism must inevitably have an end, and all will suddenly understand how unnaturally they are separated from one another. It will be the spirit of the time, and people will marvel that they have sat so long in darkness without seeing the light.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky

I reason that in Heaven
Somehow, it will be even,
Some new Equation, given—
But, what of that?

Emily Dickinson

Oh God, only for so short a while have you loaned us to each other.

Because we take form in your act of drawing us, and we breathe in your singing us.

But only for a short while have you loaned us to each other.

Because even a drawing cut in crystalline obsidian fades, and the queen feathers, the crown feathers, of the Quetzal bird lose their color, and even the sounds of the waterfall die out in the dry season.

So, we too, because only for a short while have you loaned us to each other.

Native American Aztec prayer

Do not be too quick to assume that your enemy is an enemy of God just because he is your enemy. Perhaps he is your enemy precisely because he can find nothing in you that gives glory to God. Perhaps he fears you because he can find nothing in you of God's love and God's kindness and God's patience and mercy and understanding of the weaknesses of men.

Do not be too quick to condemn the man who no longer believes in God, for it is perhaps your own coldness and avarice, your mediocrity and materialism, your sensuality and

selfishness that have killed his faith.

Thomas Merton

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every missile fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children... This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

Dwight David Eisenhower

We have so little faith in the ebb and flow of life, of love, of relationships. We leap at the flow of the tide and resist in terror its ebb. We insist on permanency, on duration, on continuity; when the only continuity possible, in life as in love, is in growth, in fluidity... Security in a relationship lies neither in looking back to what it was in nostalgia, nor forward to what it might be in dread or anticipation, but living in the present relationship and accepting it as it is now. For relationships, too, must be like islands. One must accept them for what they are here and now, within our limits—islands, surrounded and interrupted by the sea, continually visited and abandoned by the tides.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

The juvenile sea squirt wanders through the sea searching for a suitable rock or hunk of coral to cling to and make its home for life. For this it has a rudimentary nervous system. When it finds its spot and takes root, it doesn't need its brain anymore so it eats it! (It's rather like getting tenure.)

Daniel Dennett

If we owned anything, we should have to have weapons to protect ourselves. That is what gives rise to contentions and lawsuits, and so often cause the love of God and neighbor to be interfered with. For ourselves, we are resolved to possess nothing temporal in this world.

St. Francis of Assisi

If you are always worried
about your children's safety,
you will bind yourself,
and them,
in cords of tension.

If you try to hold them
always close to you,
you will bring yourself,
and them,
only pain.

If you release them
to live their life fully,
and face their death serenely,

your nights will be filled
with restful sleep.
Lao Tzu

The sense of futility is one of the greatest evils of the day. ...People say, 'What can one person do? What is the sense of our small effort?' They cannot see that we can only lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time; we can be responsible only for the one action of the present moment.
Dorothy Day

There is a tremendous danger in which we find ourselves by being human, a danger that consists in the fact that we are placed between two tremendous powers. The choice is left to us. We must either love or hate, and not to love is to hate. So hostile are these two powers that the slightest inclination towards the one side becomes absolute opposition to the other. Let us not forget this tremendous danger in which we exist. To forget is to have made your choice.
Søren Kierkegaard

Those who, in the biblical phrase, would save their lives—that is, those who want to get along, who don't want commitments, who don't want to get into problems, who want to stay outside of a situation that demands the involvement of all of us—they will lose their lives.

What a terrible thing to have lived quite comfortably, with no suffering, not getting involved in problems, quite tranquil, quite settled, with good connections politically, economically, socially—lacking nothing, having everything.

To what good?

They will lose their lives.

Oscar Romero

Our universe is not made up only of beautiful trees, but also of stunted ones. Yet each tree is important. Television shows us movie stars, men and women with beautiful bodies and extravagant clothes. But that is not the reality of the majority of people! The beauty of human beings lies in their capacity to accept who they are, just as they are; not to live in a world of dreams or illusions, in anger or despair, wanting to be other than they are, or trying to run away from reality.

Jean Vanier

I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as an American to the leaders of my own nation. The great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours.

Martin Luther King Jr.

It is more difficult to stand up for a worthy cause when there is no general enthusiasm and thus no obligation; when, in short, one risks one's life on one's own. Perhaps genuine heroism lies in deciding to stubbornly defend the everyday and the immediate, after having been bombarded with so much oratory about great deeds.

Inge Scholl

Love makes everything that is heavy light.

Thomas a Kempis

The Duke of Cambridge protested that he wasn't arguing against change. He favored it, he said, when there was no alternative.

Source unknown

I made a New Year's resolution to stop dating my computer and go meet some more people face to face.

Author unknown

We kill at every step, not only in wars, riots, and executions. We kill when we close our eyes to poverty, suffering, and shame. For the consistent socialist all property is theft. In the same way all disrespect for life, all hardheartedness, all indifference, all contempt is, in the eyes of the believer, nothing else than killing. It is possible to kill not only what is in the present, but also what is in the future. With just a little skepticism we can kill a good deal of the future in a young person. Life is waiting everywhere. The future is flowering everywhere. We see only a small part of it and step on much of it with our feet. We kill with every step.

Hermann Hesse

As long as we do not pray for our enemies, we continue to see only our own point of view—our own righteousness—and to ignore their perspective. Prayer breaks down the distinctions between us and them. To do violence to others, you must make them enemies. Prayer, on the other hand, makes enemies into friends.

Jim Wallis

The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof. What I want is so simple I almost can't say it: elementary kindness. Enough to eat, enough to go around. The possibility that kids might one day grow up to be neither the destroyers nor the destroyed.

Barbara Kingsolver

The first thing I wish to discuss, as far as my limited understanding will allow, is the nature of the essence of perfect prayer. For we come across some people who believe that the whole thing consists in thought; and thus, if they are able to think a great deal about God, however much the effort may cost them, they immediately imagine they are spiritually minded; while, if they become distracted, and their efforts to think of good things fail, they at once become greatly discouraged and suppose themselves to be lost. ...The soul is not thought, nor is the will controlled by thought, it would be a great misfortune if it were. The soul's profit, then, consists not in thinking much, but in loving much.

Teresa of Ávila

When love beckons to you, follow him,
Though his ways are hard and steep.
And when his wings enfold you yield to him,
Though the sword hidden among his pinions may wound you.
And when he speaks to you believe in him,
Though his voice may shatter your dreams,
as the north wind lays waste the garden.
For even as love crowns you, so shall he crucify you.
Even as he is for your growth so is he for your pruning.
Even as he ascends to your height and
Caresses your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun,
So shall he descend to your roots
and shake them in their clinging to the earth.
Kahlil Gibran

Is it because we have become the world's alpha animal that so many nations are doing so much to keep us from having our way with the world? Or do they see something gone awry in us that we have lost sight of from which they wish to release us?
Blayne Colmore

Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in his shoes. That way, if he gets angry, he'll be a mile away...and barefoot.
Source unknown

To love is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will be wrung and possibly be broken. The only place outside heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers, all the perturbations of love, is hell.
C. S. Lewis

Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared with love in dreams. Love in dreams is greedy for immediate action, rapidly performed and in sight of all. Men will give their lives if only the ordeal does not last long but is soon over, with all looking on and applauding as if on the stage. But active love is labor and fortitude.
Fyodor Dostoevsky

But because truly being here is so much; because everything here apparently needs us, this fleeting world, which in some strange way keeps calling to us. Us, the most fleeting of all. Once for each thing. Just once; no more. And we too, just once. And never again. But to have been this once, completely, even if only once: to have been at one with the earth, seems beyond undoing.
Rainer Maria Rilke

When the imitation of Christ does not mean to live a life like Christ, but to live your life as authentically as Christ lived his, then there are many ways and forms in which a person can be a Christian. The minister is the one who can make this search for

authenticity possible, not by standing on the side as a neutral screen or an impartial observer, but as an articulate witness of Christ, who puts his own search at the disposal of others.

Henri J. M. Nouwen

A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it.

Max Planck

Humans ought to preserve for themselves an environment adequate to match their capacity to wonder.

Holmes Rolston III

Everyone must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or the darkness of destructive selfishness. Life's most persistent question is this: What are you doing for others?

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Don't let them tame you!

Isadora Duncan

What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from....

T.S. Eliot

About the Author

Thomas L. Jackson, M.Div, Ph.D., has been the Abbot of The Order of Christian Workers since 1990, and founded the “mother-house” of the Order—St. Dismas House—in 1993 in Tyler, Texas. A graduate of Culver Military Academy (Indiana), Washington University (St. Louis), the Protestant Episcopal Seminary in Virginia (Alexandria), and the American Institute (California), he has also studied at Ohio University, and completed his clinical training at the University of Michigan Medical Center. He has had the honor of studying with such mentors as Dr. Ian Alger, Dr. M. Scott Peck, Fr. Dan Berrigan, Fr. Richard Rohr, John Lee—as well as thousands of Companions who have offered their wisdom and stories to his life, as both priest and clinical counselor.

Over the past thirty-five years, he has actively worked as a priest in urban, suburban, campus, and specialized ministries; a counselor in private practice, mental health agencies, and diocesan settings; a businessman; a carpenter; a designer; and author.

“Fr. Tom”—as he is known to most of his world—is married to Patricia Jackson, and is the father of Jenny, Peter, and Lisa, as well as the stepfather of Patton; there have been many “foster children” in his life over the past thirty-five years.

For the past many years, he and the St. Dismas Community in Tyler have worked with/lived with people with AIDS, people in recovery, the poor and homeless, as well as immigrants. There are now nine Houses in Tyler, as well as several throughout the United States.

Fr. Tom also convenes “Gatherings” at sites and parishes throughout the United States, in which folks come together for one to three days to share their lives and stories; groups recently have included Congregational, Presbyterian, Episcopal, Unitarian, and Unity gatherings, as well as non-denominational groups; for further information: www.CommunityPilgrimage.org.

Fr. Tom also wrote and designed a six-color poster—*To Follow The Christ*—a thousand of which have already been shipped; information is available at the website: www.OrderOfChristianWorkers.org.

His odyssey in and through his various vocations and avocations has been recorded vividly in at least two books: *Go Back, You Didn't Say May I: The Diary of a Young Priest* and *In Any Given Moment*, both of which reflect the daily actions and the inner pilgrimage of his many callings. Three other books—*Moments of Clarity, Moments of Clarity, Volume II* and *Moments of Clarity, Volume III*—are so-called “commonplace books”: collections of stories and wisdom from throughout the world and history. A work that has been in progress for fifteen years, *Me, You, and Us*—a narrative and a “guide” for those seeking a reflection and consideration of their history, character, beliefs, and possibilities—has recently been published. Fr. Tom is also working on a larger edition of the spiritual book he’s written for use by the Order: *A Book of Prayers, Liturgies, and Learnings*.

Along with his other activities, Fr. Tom will also be traveling between Texas and Indiana, not only maintaining his role as Abbot of the Order in Tyler, but also working as “Chaplain to the Community” at the Culver Academies.