

I remember the story my friend Jerry told me once about this guy that he met on the street. d. in passing, Jerry said hi and the guy responded 'they're bastards, they're all bastards'....

- Trudy Gall

I reckon being ill as one of the great pleasures of life, provided one is not too ill and is not obliged to work till one is better.

- Samuel Butler

"The Law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich, as well as the poor, to sleep under the bridges, to beg in the streets, and to steal bread."

- Anatole France (The Red Lily)
- (elsewhere attributed to W.E.B. Du Bois)

AIR, n.

A nutritious substance supplied by a bountiful Providence for the fattening of the poor.

- Ambrose Bierce, "The Devil's Dictionary"

"Those who dance are considered insane by those who can't hear the music."

- George Carlin (Braindroppings)

Sedgwick, John "Uncle John," General (1813-1864) "They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist--." General John Sedgwick was a corps commander in the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War. At the battle of the Wilderness, while inspecting his troops, he approached a parapet and peered out over the surrounding countryside. His officers and men urged him to take cover from small arms fire, but Sedgwick scoffed at their concerns, "What! What men! This will never do, dodging from single bullets!" As the general spoke his last words, he was shot in the head by a Confederate sharpshooter.

Oderint dum metuant (Let them hate so long as they fear)

- Lucius Accius - Roman tragic poet (170 BC)

"It breaks your heart. It is designed to break your heart. The game begins in the spring, when everything else begins again, and it blossoms in the summer, filling the afternoon and evenings, and then as soon as the chill rains come, it stops and leaves you to face the fall alone. You count on it, you rely on it to buffer the passage of time, to keep the memory of sunshine and high skies alive, and then, just when the days are all twilight, when you need it most, it stops."

—A. Bartlett Giamatti, Commissioner of Baseball

"Hun!" he called out as he entered the living room. (She had always assumed his little nickname for her was an abbreviated form of 'honey'. It wasn't.)

- From *Happiness* by Will Ferguson

Norwegian Fairy Tale

The hero came to a crossroads where there are 3 signs: "He who travels down this road will return unharmed"; "He who travels this path may or may not return"; and, "He who travels here will never return". Of course, he chose the third. (Simms)

Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'
We are not now that strength which in old days
Moved earth and heaven, that which we are, we are,--
One equal temper of heroic hearts,
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

- from "Ulysses" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

"Let's go back to the teepee and eat, my son.
My new Snake wife cooks dog very well.
She also has a very soft skin.
The only trouble with Snake women is, they copulate with horses,
Which makes them strange to me.
She says she doesn't; that's why I call her "Doesn't Like Horses".
But of course, she's lying.

- Chief Dan George as Old Lodge Skins in "Little Big Man"

Spinoza noted, "If a triangle could speak, it would say . . . that God is eminently triangular."

"There is a race of men – all federal and state and bank employees, and most dentists – who are born to retire. They aspire to retirement from the moment they are born. Youth, sex, work, are only the necessary intermediary states: the subject progresses from larva to pupa to nymph until, at last, the miracle of metamorphosis is complete and gives the world the retired butterfly. Golf clubs, funny shoes, and designer sunglasses for the dentist, campers and gas-fired barbecue sets for the employees at the low end of the pay scale!"

- Louis Begley, "About Schmidt"

"Do you know who I am?"

"No, sir. But I shall make inquiries and inform you directly."

At one point the tutor of the future Edward the VIIIth reports slow progress due to the fact that "the abnormally dormant condition of his brain renders it impossible for him to concentrate on matters for more than a few moments".

- From 'Edward The Caresser' by Stanley Weintraub

"John Quincy Adams is well but the house in which he lives at the present time is becoming dilapidated. It's tottering on its foundations. Time and the seasons have nearly destroyed it. Its roof is pretty well worn out. Its walls are much shattered and tremble with every wind. I think John Quincy Adams will have to move out of it soon. But he himself is quite well, quite well."

- John Quincy Adams

"It's easy to preserve your integrity in opposition, and tempting to hoard it by remaining in opposition under any circumstance. Scarier and indeed riskier is engaging your integrity by investing hope in flawed [people] operating in an imperfect world. The cheap pleasures of cynicism are always in plentiful supply. Abandoning them is like going on a diet or giving up smoking. Hope, in other words, is the thing that takes work."

Michael Kinsey
TIME, April 19, 1993

"Heroes take journeys, confront dragons, and discover the treasure of their true selves. Although they may feel very alone during the quest, at its end their reward is a sense of community: with themselves, with other people, and with the earth. Every time we confront death-in-life we confront a dragon, and every time we choose life over nonlife and move deeper into the ongoing discovery of who we are, we vanquish the dragon; we bring new life to ourselves and to our culture. We change the world. The need to take the journey is innate in the species. If we do not risk, if we play prescribed social roles

instead of taking our journeys, we feel numb; we experience a sense of alienation, a void, an emptiness inside. People who are discouraged from slaying dragons internalize the urge and slay themselves by declaring war on their fat, their selfishness, or some other attribute they think does not please. Or they become ill and have to struggle to get well. In shying away from the quest, we experience nonlife and, accordingly, we call forth less life in the culture."

- from *The Hero Within* by Carol S. Pearson

On Risk; Comfort Zones: "To fight a bull when you're not scared is nothing," says a well-known bull fighter. "And not to fight a bull when you are scared is nothing. But to fight a bull when you are scared - that is something."

"We can never really comprehend the limitlessness of our influence in the world. To understand this is to understand infinity."

- Lao Tse (b. 604 B.C.)

"Our experience quite literally is defined by our assumptions about life. We make stories about the world and to a large degree live out their plots. What our lives are like depends to a great extent on the script we consciously, or more likely, unconsciously, have adopted."

- from *The Hero Within* by Carol S. Pearson

"I have always wanted to be somebody. I guess I should have been more specific."

- Lilly Tomlin (as the bag lady)

"Men love war because it allows them to look serious. Because they imagine it is the one thing that stops women laughing at them."

- John Fowles, *The Magus*

"Despite what seems to have been periodic bad judgment in pledging his affections in writing, Edward tried to keep up appearances. Langtry, for example, learned her time as a royal favorite had passed in an incident that might have come from a novel by Henry James.

Weintraub writes that Langtry made a fatal social error at a charity bazaar, taking a sip from a teacup before handing it to her prince. "[T]he gesture was too presumptuous before [Edward's wife and daughters] and [His Royal Highness] reacted accordingly. He set the cup down untasted. 'I should like a clean one, please,' he said."

- From a review of 'Edward The Caresser' by Stanley Weintraub

Caveo ab hominis unus libri

Cavi ab homini unus libri

WOMAN, n.

An animal usually living in the vicinity of Man, and having a rudimentary susceptibility to domestication. It is credited by many of the elder zoologists with a certain vestigial docility acquired in a former state of seclusion, but naturalists of the postsusananthony period, having no knowledge of the seclusion, deny the virtue and declare that such as creation's dawn beheld, it roareth now. The species is the most widely distributed of all beasts of prey, infesting all habitable parts of the globe, from Greenland's spicy mountains to India's moral strand. The popular name (wolfman) is incorrect, for the creature is of the cat kind. The woman is lithe and graceful in its movement, especially the American variety (felis pugnans), is omnivorous and can be taught not to talk.

- Ambrose Bierce, The Devil's Dictionary

"Savour your days and nights. Taste the gift of life. Love its mystery. Use the bronze of memory to preserve the moments of magic. Nurture your sense of wonder. Why? Because one morning you'll wake up and realize that whole decades have flickered past like last night's heat lightning all along the southern horizon. Because, in everyone's life, time moves slowly for a while, like a snowball on a mountainside, but then it tumbles faster and faster and, in a speeding avalanche, thunders to its end."

- Harry Bruce, Each Moment as it Flies

"The prime objective of fox hunting is not the killing of the fox, but the observance of good form during the pursuit and at the kill. The objective of polar explorations is to explore properly and not to evade the hazards of the game through the vulgar subterfuge of 'going native'".

In his magazine Household Words, Dickens chastised the explorer (John Rae) for believing "Esquimaux savages" on the subject of cannibalism: "The word of a savage is not to be taken for it, firstly because he is a liar; secondly because he is a boaster; thirdly

because he talks figuratively. . . . Even the sight of cooked and dismembered human bodies among this or that tattoo'd tribe is not proof. Such appropriate offerings to their barbarous, wide-mouthed, goggle-eyed gods, savages have been often seen and known to make."

"In the history of the world, no one has ever washed a rented car."

- Harvard's president, Larry Summers

". . . such as creation's dawn beheld, it roareth now."

- Balthasar Pober

"They were on it like a pack of dogs on a three-legged cat."

- Jeff Foxworthy

". . . the candle of knowledge he had set out with had burned down to a sorry stubb."

- Larry McMurtry, "Lonesome Dove"

"Few people who have stayed home and watched an old school pal go on to tailored suits, hip flasks, and long-stemmed beauties on distant boulevards are spiritually elevated by the spectacle of the hero's success."Russell Baker

"If you can't say something good about someone, sit right here by me."

- Alice Roosevelt Longworth (1884-1980)

"As they say, the truth is like the sun, its benefit is entirely dependent on our distance from it." - <http://belledejour-uk.blogspot.com/>

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

- Herman Goering at the Nuremberg trials

"Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a nice looking and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, " WOW! What A Ride! "

"August commencement to my administration, standing stymied outside a saloon beside a degenerate titlicker."

—E.B. Farnum (HBO's "Deadwood")

H. L. Mencken's epitaph: "If after I depart this vale you ever remember me and have thought to please my ghost, forgive some sinner, and wink your eye at some homely girl."

Neat but not gaudy, as the Devil said when he painted his arse pink and tied up his tail with pea-green ribbon.

"You want a rabbit? Take a rabbit. You want a deer? Take a rabbit."

- old Iraqi saying

Fresco como una lechuga

"The lore has not died out of the world, and you will still find people who believe that soup will cure any hurt or illness and is no bad thing to have for the funeral either."

- John Steinbeck, East of Eden

"I slouched back down into the saddle of my self and grimly rode against the night."

- Patrick F. McManus

"... crooked as a line of Russian infantry ..."

USA PATRIOT ACT is an acronym for "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism".

"We took space back quickly, expensively, with total panic and close to maximum brutality. Our machine was devastating. And versatile. It could do everything but stop."

- Michael Herr, war correspondent, writing about Vietnam

"If we do meet again, why, we shall smile;
If not, why then, this parting was well made."

- William Shakespeare, "Julius Caesar", Act V Scene I

The church is near, but the road is icy.
The tavern is far, but I will walk carefully.

--Ukranian proverb

In "Monty Python and the Holy Grail", members of a mob eager to burn a witch are asked by the wise Sir Bedevere how they know she's a witch.

"Well, she turned me into a newt," the villager played by John Cleese says.

"A newt?" Sir Bedevere asks, looking puzzled.

"I got better," he explains.

"Burn her anyway!" another villager shouts.

"That's not a lie; it's a terminological inexactitude. Also, a tactical misrepresentation."

- General Alexander Haig

"People rarely make use of the freedom they have, for example, freedom of thought; instead they demand freedom of speech as compensation."

- Soren Kierkegaard, *The Journals*

"What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty or democracy?"

- M. Gandhi

"You see, you learn something when you listen to old people. They ain't fools, see. You don't get to be old by being no fool, see. A lot of young wise men are deader than a motherfucker, ain't they?"

- Richard Prior as "Mudbone"

"Editorial writers are the people who come down from the hills after the battle to shoot the wounded." ~ Murray Kempton

"What the fuck does he think I'm supposed to do? Go down to EI? Hi there! Yeah, I haul shopping carts out of ponds and sell them back to the store for a living, I've been doing it for eighteen years, so give me a fucking cheque please. That's not going to fucking happen. I haven't been paying into UI . . . EI . . . whatever the fuck they call it these days."

- Bubbles

I can't fucking help it. Soon as I get a few drinks in me I get my guitar out and I start making silly songs up about people. I don't mean anything by them, but last Christmas Eve, for instance, I was at the Eastern Passage Legion and doing this song I do called "Liquor and Whores". I put Don's wife Sandra's name into it, just joking around. Holy fuck can she ever punch. She fucking gave me one, I went down, Donnie come over and cracked me a couple of times, I was too drunk to fight back. I didn't mean anything by it. But if Ricky wants me to get drunk I guess I have no choice. Might as well get on 'er.

- Bubbles

Liquor and Whores

Likker and whores, Likker and whores,
Sigrits and dope and mustard and bologna and likker and whores.

I was down, drinking at the legion,
i saw a girl, she was nice, she was pretty and pleasin.
She said hey boy, we should do some marrying,
i said sure but before we do there's something that you should know

I like Likker and whores, Likker and whores,
Sigrits and dope and mustard and bologna and likker and whores

An end-of-tour report by a colonel assigned to the Coalition Provisional Authority memorably summarized his office's work as "pasting feathers together, hoping for a duck."

"Sometimes when you're deep in Indian country, the only speeds available are full throttle and fuck it."

- James Lee Burke, Crusader's Cross

"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now."

- John XVI:12

Real Rickyisms:

"Because my name is Galiano, automatically they throw the towel at me."

- Alfonso Galiano

"That amount is just a kick in the bucket."

- David Kertin, CKOM radio

"Not all police should be tarnished with the same brush."

- Police spokesperson, Regina police

"... other countries have to come to the fold."

- Peter McKay, commenting on Canada's request for increased participation in the
combat role from other countries

"We're getting painted with the dirty end of the brush."

- Ed Vader, father of Travis Vader, a person of interest in the disappearance of the
McCanns, an elderly Alberta couple.

The first rule of using negatives is that negating a frame activates the frame. If you tell someone not to think of an elephant, he'll think of an elephant. When Richard Nixon said, "I am not a crook" during Watergate, the nation thought of him as a crook.

- *George Lakoff, professor of linguistics, University of California, Berkeley*

"We are all atheists about most of the gods that humanity has ever believed in. Some of us just go one god further." Richard Dawkins

Galloped into the lists . . .

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."

- Hebrews 12:1

No harm befalls the righteous, But the wicked are filled with trouble.

- Proverbs 12:21

An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who shames him is like rottenness in his bones.

- Proverbs 12:4

I used to work in Chicago
In a convenience store
I used to work in Chicago
I did but I don't any more
A lady walked in with some porcelain skin
I asked her what she came in for
"Liquor" she said and licker I did
And I don't work there any more.

Mr. E. Blackadder: "Our campaign will be fought on the basis of issues, not personalities!"

Interviewer: "And why is that?"

Mr. E. Blackadder: "Because our candidate doesn't have a personality."

Dulce bellum inexpertis: war is sweet to the inexperienced.

ave at·que va·le

Pronunciation: 'ä-"wA-"ät-kwe-'wä-"lA

: hail and farewell

"The things that will destroy us are: politics without principle; pleasure without conscience; wealth without work; knowledge without character; business without morality; science without humanity; and worship without sacrifice."

--Mahatma Gandhi

"Rum, sodomy and the lash"

The only traditions of the Royal Navy are rum, sodomy and the lash. - -- Churchill's assistant, Anthony Montague-Browne said that although Churchill had not uttered these words, he wished he had.

"You have sat here too long for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!"

--**Oliver Cromwell**, breaking up England's "Rump Parliament," 1653.

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

- "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery

"At one time, I believed as the Aztecs did, that the universe was created by two gods, Quetzalcoatl and Tezcatlipoca who attacked and ripped apart Hungry Woman to create the universe. Then I believed, as the Moriori do, that the universe was created when Papa and her husband Rangi hugged and bore children, and were subsequently separated by their son Tane who let light shine between them. However, my views have been swayed by the substantial evidence that the earth and universe was actually created relatively recently by the Flying Spaghetti Monster (FSM). I am firmly convinced that the evidence supporting this depiction of the origins of life, the universe, and everything has many of the trappings of science, and I therefore support the inclusion of FSM creation evidence in the Kansas science curriculum and standards."

– **Sebastian Wren, Ph.D**

"Common sense is what tells you the world is flat."

- anonymous

"Each one of you is perfect the way you are and you can use a little improvement."

- Shunryu Suzuki

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

"I've wondered why it took us so long to catch on. We saw it and yet we didn't see it. Or rather we were trained not to see it. Conned, perhaps, into thinking that the real action was metropolitan and all this was just boring hinterland. It was a puzzling thing. The truth knocks on the door and you say, "Go away, I'm looking for the truth," and so it goes away. Puzzling."

- Robert M. Pirsig

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

"Imagine that you are five years older. Imagine that, over the course of those five years, you got a tattoo. What would it say? Would you be embarrassed by it? Then why did you get it in the first place, for crying out loud? I don't see why you'd waste good money getting something you wouldn't want to show people. You're just a rotten spendthrift! Get your life together, already! Wow, that was cathartic. Okay, now imagine that you're ten years older."

- Francis Heaney

[some little fables to help you in your life](#)

"You fight your superficiality, your shallowness, so as to try to come at people without unreal expectations, without an overload of bias or hope or arrogance, as untanklike as you can be, sans cannon and machine guns and steel plating half a foot thick; you come at them unmenacingly on your own ten toes instead of tearing up the turf with your caterpillar treads, take them on with an open mind, as equals, man to man, as we used to say, and yet you never fail to get them wrong. You might as well have the brain of a tank. You get them wrong before you meet them, while you're anticipating meeting them; you get them wrong while you're with them; and then you go home to tell somebody else about the meeting and you get them all wrong again. Since the same generally goes for them with you, the whole thing is really a dazzling illusion empty of all perception, an astonishing farce of misperception. And yet what are we to do about this terribly significant business of other people, which gets bled of the significance we think it has and takes on instead a significance that is ludicrous, so ill-equipped are we all to envision one another's interior workings and invisible aims? Is everyone to go off and lock the door and sit secluded like the lonely writers do, in a soundproof cell, summoning people out of words and then proposing that these word people are closer to the real thing than the real people that we mangle with our ignorance every day? The fact remains that getting people right is not what living is all about anyway. It's getting them wrong that is living, getting them wrong and wrong and wrong and then, on careful reconsideration, getting them wrong again. That's how we know we're alive: we're wrong. Maybe the best thing would be to forget being right or wrong about people and just go along for the ride. But if you can do that - well, lucky you."

- Philip Roth

He who laughs

lasts.

The Two Secrets of Life:

1. Never tell everything you know
 - 2.
-

"There is a theory which states that if ever anyone discovers exactly what the Universe is for and why it is here, it will instantly disappear and be replaced by something even more bizarre and inexplicable.

There is another theory which states that this has already happened."

- Douglas Adams

Picasso is riding on a train and someone sits down next to him.

Recognizing who he is, the person asks,

"Why don't you paint people the way they really are?"

Picasso asks, "What do you mean by the way they really are?"

The man eagerly pulls out his wallet and shows Picasso a picture of his wife and says, "This is my wife."

Picasso responds, "She looks rather small and flat, don't you think?"

- Bonnie Myotai Treace Sensei

"I like to say that the essence of the Buddha's teaching can be found in two sayings: If possible, you should help others. If that is not possible, at least you should do no harm."

- the Dalai Lama

Eighty-three problems

"There is a story of a man who came to see the Buddha because he had heard that the Buddha was a great teacher. He had some problems in his life, and he thought the Buddha might be able to help him straighten them out.

The Buddha listened patiently to the man as he laid out all his difficulties and worries, and then waited for the Buddha to say the words that would put everything right for him.

The Buddha said, "I can't help you."

"What do you mean?" said the man.

"Everybody's got problems," said the Buddha. "In fact, we've all got eighty-three problems, each one of us. Eighty-three problems, and there's nothing you can do about it.

terrified, resentful and rageful though you may be - would not have missed this for the world."

- Penumbral Domains, an unseen Guide

"Listen to the mustnt's child,
listen to the dont's,
the shouldnt's, the impossibles,
listen to the wont's.
Listen to the never haves,
then listen close to me . . .
Anything can happen child,
anything can be."

- Shel Silverstein

"Someone once asked Aldous Huxley as he was dying if he could say what he had learned in all of his experience with many spiritual teachers and gurus and much of his own spiritual life, and he said, "It's embarrassing to tell you this, but it seems to come down mostly to just learning to be kinder."

- Jack Kornfield

"Most people think life sucks, and then you die. Not me. I beg to differ. I think life sucks, then you get cancer, then your dog dies, your wife leaves you, the cancer goes into remission, you get a new dog, you get remarried, you owe ten million dollars in medical bills but you work hard for thirty five years and you pay it back and then - one day - you have a massive stroke, your whole right side is paralyzed, you have to limp along the streets and speak out of the left side of your mouth and drool but you go into rehabilitation and regain the power to walk and the power to talk and then - one day - you step off a curb at Sixty-seventh Street, and BANG you get hit by a city bus and then you die. Maybe."

- Denis Leary

"A physicist visits a colleague and notices a horseshoe hanging on the wall above the entrance.

"Do you really believe that a horseshoe brings luck?" he asks.

"No", replies the colleague, "but I've been told that it works even if you don't believe in it."

- Niels Bohr

"If you can sit quietly after difficult news, if in financial downturns you remain perfectly calm, if you can see your neighbors travel to fantastic places without a twinge of

jealousy, if you can happily eat whatever is put on your plate and fall asleep after a day of running around without a drink or a pill, if you can always find contentment just where you are, you are probably a dog."

- Jack Kornfield

"If you never want to see the face of hell, when you come home from work every night, dance with your kitchen towel, and if you're worried about waking up your family, take off your shoes."

- Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav

Jack Kornfield's After the Ecstasy, the Laundry

"If the person you are talking to doesn't appear to be listening, be patient. It may simply be that he has a small piece of fluff in his ear."

Winnie and Piglet

"When you are in love - you know this, all of you - you are not yourself. You have no self. The world is a grid of shining correspondences. And the correspondences sing like angels. You cannot defile them with your intentions. You cannot undo that order that is suddenly revealed to you. All you can do is become part of it and move in hallowed light. Your friends make jokes about your absentmindedness. Your parents tell you you're deluded. All the people around ask you to come back to the person they know. But you are dead to them. The world has no meaning to you. Everything you once cherished is irrelevant, and you are far above it. The only truth you know is the truth around you. And you know, more than that, that whatever you love, you cannot fail to love. You can no more be argued out of your devotion than a compass can be told not to find the north, the tides instructed not to follow their moon."

- Pico Iyer

Abandon

"If you want to make a song more hummy, add a few tiddely poms."

Winnie the Pooh quote

""Well," said Pooh, "what I like best -- " and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called."

Winnie the Pooh quote

It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words but rather short, easy words like "What about lunch?"

Winnie the Pooh

Pooh's Little Instruction Book

"The people have spoken, the bastards."

-Dick Tuck, upon losing his election to the California state senate, November 1964

Homer: I'm normally not a praying man, but if you're up there, please save me Superman.

Oh Lisa! You and your stories! Bart is a vampire! Beer kills brain-cells! Now lets go back to that...building...thingy... where our beds and TV...is.

Alright Brain, you don't like me, and I don't like you. But let's just do this, and I can get back to killing you with beer."

"As long as war is regarded as wicked, it will always have its fascination. When it is looked upon as vulgar, it will cease to be popular."

- Oscar Wilde

"That is no country for old men."

- W.B. Yeats, *Sailing to Byzantium, I*

From ghoulies and ghosties,
Long-leggety beasties,
And things that go bump in the night,
Sweet Lord, deliver us.

- author unknown

We are confronted with insurmountable opportunities

- Pogo

"Against the assault of laughter nothing can stand."

- Mark Twain

"Under certain circumstances, profanity provides a relief denied even to prayer."

- Mark Twain

/=S=/

"Sometimes I think it should be a rule of war that you have to see somebody up close and get to know him before you can shoot him."

- Colonel Potter, M*A*S*H

"It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers are punished unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets."

- Voltaire

"Your footsteps are the path, and nothing else;
there is no path, paths are made by walking.
Walking makes the path, and on looking back
We see a trail that never can be walked again.
Traveler, there is no path,
Only a wake in the sea."

- Antonio Machado

Proverbios y Cantares

"Spend the afternoon. You can't take it with you."

- Annie Dillard

"Change is good. You go first."

- Dilbert

"If you give a man a fish he will eat for a day. But if you teach a man to fish he will buy an ugly hat. And if you talk about fish to a starving man then you are a consultant."

- Dilbert

"I'm slowly becoming a convert to the principle that you can't motivate people to do things, you can only demotivate them. The primary job of the manager is not to empower but to remove obstacles."

- Dilbert

Dogbert: "I've come to the conclusion that what's inside a person doesn't count because nobody can see it."

Dilbert: "I never knew you were such a philosopher."

Dogbert: "That's my point!"

- Dogbert's philosophy on life

"Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave
Gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind;
Quietly they go, the intelligent, the witty, the brave.
I know. But I do not approve. And I am not resigned."
- Edna St Vincent Millay

"Mountains should be climbed with as little effort as possible and without desire. The reality of your own nature should determine the speed. If you become restless, speed up. If you become winded, slow down. You climb the mountain in an equilibrium between restlessness and exhaustion. Then, when you're no longer thinking ahead, each footstep isn't just a means to an end but a unique event in itself. This leaf has jagged edges. This rock looks loose. From this place the snow is less visible, even though closer. These are things you should notice anyway. To live only for some future goal is shallow. It's the sides of the mountain which sustain life, not the top. Here's where things grow."

- Robert Pirsig

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance

"The best things in life are unseen. That's why we close our eyes when we kiss, cry and dream."

- anonymous

"Wish on everything. Pink cars are good, especially old ones. And stars of course, first stars and shooting stars. Planes will do if they are the first light in the sky and look like stars. Wish in tunnels, holding your breath and lifting your feet off the ground. Birthday candles. Baby teeth."

- Francesca Lia Block

"Do not meddle in the affairs of Wizards, for they are subtle and quick to anger."

- J.R.R. Tolkien

"How could we lose when we were so sincere?"

- Charlie Brown
-

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

- Franklin P. Jones
-

"There is no cannibalism in the British Navy, absolutely none, and when I say none, I mean there is a certain amount."

- Sir John Cunningham, Monte Python's Flying Circus

"I abhor the implication that the Royal Navy is a haven for cannibalism. It is well known that we now have the problem relatively under control, and that it is the RAF who now suffer the most casualties in this area."

- Capt. B.J. Smethicke, Monte Python's Flying Circus
-

"The thing about saying the wrong words is that A, I don't notice it and B, sometimes orange water gibbon bucket and plastic."

- Mr. Burrows, Monte Python's Flying Circus
-

"In fact, everything we encounter in this world with our six senses is an inkblot test. You see what you are thinking and feeling, seldom what you are looking at."

- Shiqin

"Necessity, they say, is mother of invention, but fear, too, is not barren of ingenious suggestions."

- Joseph Conrad, "The Secret Sharer"
-

'Governments, like underwear, should be changed regularly -- and for the same reason.'

- unknown
-

[why men don't ask for directions when they're lost]

Primarily, it's a pride thing: we're out there in our own vehicles, burning gas, got the sunglasses on, looking good. People seeing us going by would have no idea that we have no idea where we are. And we're not really excited about sharing that information. A man does not embrace the concept of going up to total strangers and saying, "You may not know this, but I'm a moron," whereas the woman he's with is only too happy to share that information. I think that helps ease her burden a little. See, to a woman, getting lost on a trip is just a blameless act of nature. But to

a man, it's a sign of personal failure. He knew where he was when left; he doesn't know where he is now. Somewhere along the way, he crossed the line between the world he knows and the world he doesn't know. And that's exactly how he felt about when he got married, and when he had kids. So if he admits he's lost in his car, he's gonna have to admit he's lost in those other areas as well. That's way too much to ask. So just sit there, bite your tongue, circle the block a couple of times. Men aren't lost, they just take the long way.

- Red Green

"When the going gets tough, switch to power tools."

- Red Green

"This is it. This is my personality, this is my body, this is my life. Just this life is it. It's hard to describe the feeling of accepting this a little more deeply. It's a feeling of settling in a little more, or settling down, or opening up, of ceasing to fight against what is. This is not to say that I don't keep working on my conduct, that I don't intend to keep studying and practicing, but somehow my attitude shifted a little lately. A little away from trying to be someone else, a little more squarely on just being this person. "Just be yourself" our teachers tell us.

Letting go of trying to be someone else is liberation. You don't need to apologize anymore. If you really accept that this is it you don't need to strive anymore, you don't need to fight what is. You make effort out of joy, out of curiosity, out of compassion for beings, out of the sheer pleasure of engagement with the world. And when things don't work out you aren't thrown, you understand that as part of what this is. You don't think, "oh there is trouble so I'm going about things the wrong way" rather you understand trouble as part of what this is. You adjust and react to the feedback of the universe but just as adjusting, just as reacting not as someone who has failed."

- Nomon Tim Burnett

Just Being Yourself dharma talk

The Melancholy Fart

"Yesterday I vented a fart so sad that I almost cried. It was sorrowful, baleful. It murmured in a low baritone, ever deeper, ever forelorn. It was heart breaking. It started powerfully, but then faded, like Robeson going hoarse.

Towards the last gasp, however, it rose meekly an octave, as if asking a plaintive question. A fillip, so to speak. It was as if it had looked into the abyss of despair, and withdrew a step. Optimism? Had its woeful cry reached a nadir, from which it must arise?

Hard to say. But I felt a little better after that."

- Velociman

"For my friends, anything. For my enemies, the law."

- Oscar Benavides

"Day by day we all meet events that seem to be most unfair, and we feel that the only way to handle an attack is to fight back; and the way we fight is with our minds. We arm ourselves with our anger and our opinions, our self-righteousness . . . And we think this is the way to live our life. All that we accomplish is to increase the separation, to escalate the anger, and to make ourselves and everyone else miserable."

- Charlotte Joko Beck

Everyday Zen

"I have opinions of my own - strong opinions - but I don't always agree with them."

- George W. Bush

"Border relations between Canada and Mexico have never been better."

- George W. Bush

"I want to send the signal to our enemy that you have aroused a compassionate and decent and mighty nation, and we're going to hunt you down."

- George W. Bush

"By day the frolic and the dance by night."

- Samuel Johnson

"I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."

- Mark Twain

"I try not to judge myself by the company that I keep."

- Earl Poole-Ball, "Living in a Cheap Motel"

"When enough people share a delusion, it loses its status as a psychosis and gets a religious tax exemption instead."

- Ronald de Sousa, "Why Think? Evolution and the Rational Mind"

"I see intelligence as just one of a variety of adaptations among tetrapods for survival. Running fast in a herd while being as dumb as shit, I think, is a very good adaptation for survival."

- Jack Sepkoski, evolutionary paleontologist

We do not live in a democracy, we live *under* a representative democracy where the majority of MPs win their seats by gaining the greatest minority of votes ensuring that the political party with the greatest minority of elected MPs forms the government.

- Stageleft

The best God joke ever – Emo Phillips

Once I saw this guy on a bridge about to jump. I said, "Don't do it!" He said, "Nobody loves me." I said, "God loves you. Do you believe in God?"

He said, "Yes." I said, "Are you a Christian or a Jew?" He said, "A Christian." I said, "Me, too! Protestant or Catholic?" He said, "Protestant." I said, "Me, too! What franchise?" He said, "Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?" He said, "Northern Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?"

He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region, or Northern Conservative Baptist Eastern Region?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region." I said, "Me, too!"

Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879, or Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912." I said, "Die, heretic!" And I pushed him over.

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.

- probable misquote ascribed to Edmund Burke
Irish orator, philosopher, & politician (1729 - 1797)

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket - safe, dark, motionless, airless - it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable."

- C.S Lewis

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

- H.L. Mencken

A woman once came up to William James, after he had delivered a lecture on cosmology, and assured him that the world rested on the back of a giant turtle. "But what does the turtle rest on?" James asked. "Another turtle," she replied. James paused, and the lady anticipated his question: "I know what you're going to ask, Professor James, and it's turtles all the way down."

"The path of the righteous man is beset on all sides with the iniquities of the selfish and the tyranny of evil men. Blessed is he who in the name of charity and good will shepherds the weak through the valley of darkness, for he is truly his brother's keeper and the finder of lost children. And I will strike down upon those with great vengeance and with furious anger those who attempt to poison and destroy my brothers. And you will know that my name is the Lord when I lay my vengeance upon thee."

- Samuel L. Jackson as Jules in "Pulp Fiction"

"What kills me is that everybody thinks I like jazz."

- Samuel L. Jackson

Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts.

- Daniel Patrick Moynihan

"Goebbels was in favor of free speech for views he liked. So was Stalin. If you're in favor of free speech, then you're in favor of freedom of speech precisely for views you despise. Otherwise, you're not in favor of free speech."

- Noam Chomsky, Manufacturing Consent
-

"Some people make it real hard for you to know how to love them."

- Raymond Alexander Joseph Hebb
-

"The very few wealthy and powerful have a seat at the table, and the rest of us are on the menu."

- Joe Biden
-

"[I could not lose unless I was] caught in bed with a dead girl or a live boy."

- Edwin W Edwards, Governor of Louisiana (on 1983 race against David C Treen, recalled on his grand jury indictment for racketeering and fraud, Time 11 Mar 85)
-

"Screw the Red Book... Don't tell me what's in the Red Book. I wrote the goddamned thing. And I know that it's a lot of crap."

- Paul Martin, criticizing those who dared to mention the Red Book after he readily abandoned the book of popular promises once the Liberals used it to win the 1993 election.
-

"I never meant to say that the Conservatives are generally stupid. I meant to say that stupid people are generally Conservative. I believe that is so obviously and universally admitted a principle that I hardly think any gentleman will deny it. "

--John Stuart Mill, Letter to the Conservative MP, Sir John Pakington (March 1866)

"Res Ipsa Loquetur" – the thing stands for itself.

Response to (drunk) Labour Foreign Secretary (1966-68) George Brown at diplomatic reception: I shall not dance with you for three reasons. First because you are drunk, second, because this is not a waltz but the Peruvian national anthem and third, because I am not a beautiful lady in red; I am the Cardinal Bishop of Lima.

The phrase "The law is an ass" originates in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, when the character Mr. Bumble is informed that "the law supposes that your wife acts under your direction". Mr. Bumble replies "If the law supposes that... the law is a [sic] ass—a idiot. If that's the eye of the law, the law is a bachelor; and the worst I wish the law is that his eye may be opened by experience—by experience."

"Once you can accept the universe as matter expanding into nothing that is something, wearing stripes with plaid comes easy."

- Zuma

"You buy good, you got good."

- Cindy Miazga

"Hello, babies. Welcome to Earth. It's hot in the summer and cold in the winter. It's round and wet and crowded. At the outside, babies, you've got about a hundred years here. There's only one rule that I know of, babies — 'God damn it, you've got to be kind.' "

-Kurt Vonnegut

"The point of public relations slogans like "Support Our Troops" is that they don't mean anything. That's the whole point of good propaganda. You want to create a slogan that nobody's going to be against, and everybody's going to be for. Nobody knows what it means, because it doesn't mean anything. Its crucial value is that it diverts your attention from a question that does mean something: Do you support our policy? That's the one you're not allowed to talk about."

- Noam Chomsky

In Praise of Dreams

In my dreams
I paint like Vermeer van Delft.

I speak fluent Greek
and not with just the living.

I drive a car
that does what I want it to.

I am gifted
and write mighty epics.

I hear voices
as clearly as any venerable saint.

My brilliance as a pianist
would stun you.

I fly the way we ought to,
i.e., on my own.

Falling from the roof,
I tumble gently to the grass.

I've got no problem
breathing under water.

I can't complain:
I've been able to locate Atlantis.

It's gratifying that I can always
Wake up before dying.

As soon as war breaks out,
I roll over on my other side.

I'm a child of my age,
but I don't have to be.

A few years ago
I saw two suns.

And the night before last a penguin,
clear as day.

- Wislawa Szymborska, "3 quarks daily"

"The great question that has never been answered and which I have not yet been able to answer, despite my 30 years of research into the feminine soul, is, What does a woman want?"

- Sigmund Freud

"War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives."

- General Smedley D. Butler

Quicker than a minnow can swim a dipper.

"Neat but not gaudy," as the devil said when he painted his arse pink and tied up his tail with pea-green ribbon.

"It's all over, Mary. Pull your dress down."

"We are all of us as God made us, and many of us much worse."

- Henry Fielding

"Yes, alcohol kills brain cells, but it's very selective. It only kills the brain cells that contain good sense, shame, embarrassment and restraint."

- P.J. O'Rourke

"Red light stop, green light go, yellow light go very fast."

- Starman

". . . it is perfectly possible to be living in a dictatorship and not experience it as such as long as you are either uninvolved in politics or are a genuine supporter of the regime. . . . in a free country, you don't prevent pacifists from getting on airplanes because you're trying to prevent terrorists from flying, and you don't refuse entry into the country to

journalists from friendly nations. Neither do you incarcerate people for lengthy periods without trial, let alone torture them. Saddam was a dictator, but many Iraqis went about their daily business without encountering any trouble with him and his government. Millions of Soviet citizens did the same under the USSR, but that wasn't a free country, either. Pretending that nothing is wrong because you don't personally know any of the people who are being abused this way does not provide evidence that the country you live in is, in fact, free."

- Avedon Carol, Harper's Magazine

Wake up and piss. The world's on fire.

"There are a thousand miles - I would say, of mist - between us. That we can hear each other at all is the extraordinary power of language."

- George Oppen

"We're fools whether we dance or not,
So we might as well dance."
- Japanese proverb

"The first principle is that you must not fool yourself - and you are the easiest person to fool."

- Richard Feynman

"In the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods. It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and waver and will continue to think that there may be some other explanation. For the grossly impudent lie always leaves traces behind it, even after it has been nailed down, a fact which is known to all expert liars in this world and to all who conspire together in the art of lying."

- Adolph Hitler, "Mein Kampf"

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

- Franklin P. Jones
-

From "The Pythonic Verses"

"Our experts describe you as an appallingly dull fellow, unimaginative, timid, lacking in initiative, spineless, easily dominated, no sense of humour, tedious company, and irrepressibly drab and awful; and whereas in most professions, these would be considerable drawbacks, in chartered accountancy, they're a positive boon!"

- Vocational Guidance Counsellor, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"There is no cannibalism in the British Navy, absolutely none, and when I say none, I mean there is a certain amount."

- Sir John Cunningham, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"A bull is heavy, violent, abusive, and aggressive, with four legs and great sharp teeth – whereas a bullfighter is only a small, greasy Spaniard."

- Narrator of "Probe", Monty Python's Flying Circus

"We have a lot of trouble with these oldies. Pension day's the worst – they go mad! As soon as they get their hands on their money, they blow it all on milk, bread, tea, a tin of meat for the cat ..."

- Policeman, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"It's easy for us to judge Dinsdale Piranha too harshly. After all, he only did what most of us simply dream of doing. A murderer is only an extroverted suicide."

- Criminologist, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"Your cat is suffering from what we vets haven't found a word for yet."

- Veterinarian, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"The randiest of the gastropods is the limpet. This hot-blooded little beast, with its tent-like shell, is always on the job. Its extramarital activities are something startling. Frankly, I don't see how the female limpet finds time to adhere to the rock face."

- Mollusk Documentary Producer, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"I abhor the implication that the Royal Navy is a haven for cannibalism. It is well known that we now have the problem relatively under control, and that it is the RAF who now suffer the most casualties in this area."

- Capt. B.J. Smethicke, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"The thing about saying the wrong words is that A, I don't notice it, and B, sometimes orange water gibbon bucket and plastic."

- Mr. Burrows, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"I don't think any of our contestants this evening have succeeded in encapsulating the intricacies of Proust's masterwork, so I'm going to award the first prize this evening to the girl with the biggest tits."

- Arthur Me, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"Please excuse my wife. She may not be very beautiful, and she may have no money, and she may be talentless, boring and dull, but on the other hand ... Sorry I can't think of anything."

- Douglas, Restaurant Patron, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"Sheep are very dim. Once they get an idea into their head, there's no shifting it!"

- Farmer to city neighbour, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"No you may not give urine instead of blood ... We have quite enough of it without volunteers coming in donating it."

- Doctor, Monty Python's Flying Circus

"Hello, babies. Welcome to Earth. It's hot in the summer and cold in the winter. It's round and wet and crowded. At the outside, babies, you've got about a hundred years here. There's only one rule that I know of, babies — 'God damn it, you've got to be kind.' "

- Kurt Vonnegut

"I will be your child to hold
And you be me when I am old
The world grows cold
The heathen rage
The story's told
Turn the page."

- Cormac McCarthy, "Cities of the Plain"

"We're not retreating; we are advancing in another direction."

- Maj. Gen. Oliver Prince Smith

"It's ugly. It's a win. We'll work on pretty next week."

- Ken Miller

"It's true I'm getting older, but there are still many good hugs left in me."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"A handsome reward is offered to anybody who can prove I'm wrong, but refrains from doing so."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I try to take one day at a time, but sometimes several days attack me at once."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Satisfaction guaranteed but please don't be hard to satisfy."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"We guarantee satisfaction, (but we reserve the right to decide whether or not you are satisfied)."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I make rules for myself quite easily, but often have great difficulty in enforcing them."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Reports of my being alive and well have been grossly exaggerated."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I am eagerly awaiting my next disappointment."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"If we all work together, we can totally disrupt the system."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Why is everybody behaving as if there were no reason to panic?"

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"If you're careful enough, nothing bad or good will ever happen to you."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Anybody who tries to get between me and my work has a good chance of succeeding."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Things are gradually falling into place on top of me."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"We ought to be more careful – our love could drag on for years and years."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Please don't ask me what the score is – I'm not even sure what game we're playing."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Slowly but surely, I'm getting nowhere."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I don't need a great deal of love but I do need a steady supply."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Please don't ask me to keep in step – It's hard enough just to stay in line."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"If you can't learn to do it well, learn to enjoy doing it badly."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"There has been an alarming increase in the number of things I know nothing about."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I don't have any solution, but I certainly admire the problem."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Incredible as it seems, my life is based on a true story."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"It's possible that my whole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I recently had my problems on the run, but now they've re-grouped, and are making another attack."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Thank you for giving me the pleasure of giving pleasure to you!"

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Cheer Up! Things may be getting worse at a slower rate."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I happened to see you passing through my life, so I thought I'd love you."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Be careful, or I'll include you in my plans."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Accept me for what I am -- completely unacceptable."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Forgive me now -- tomorrow I may no longer feel guilty."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I'm not getting paid much for staying alive but it's good experience."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I think I'll just sit here and wait till life gets easier."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I'm writing to tell you I have nothing to say."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Isn't it a nice coincidence that you and I are both alive at the same time!"

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"All I want is a little more than I'll ever get."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Single-handedly, I have fought my way into this hopeless mess."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first, and, whatever you hit, call it the target."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Please don't tell me to relax - it's only my tension that's holding me together."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I always know the right thing to say, after the right time to say it has passed."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"If God had approved of the metric system, he'd have given us ten fingers."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Please remain calm - it's no use both of us being hysterical at the same time."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I want it clearly understood that I'm totally confused."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"No man is an island, but some of us are long peninsulas."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"What I like most about myself is that I'm so understanding when I do something wrong."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"By doing just a little every day, I can gradually let the task completely overwhelm me."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Communication with the dead is only a little more difficult than communication with some of the living."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Our meetings are held to discuss many problems which would never arise if we held fewer meetings."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"My life is a performance for which I was never given any chance to rehearse."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Inside every older person there's a younger person wondering what happened."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Sometimes the best way to be useful is to get out of somebody's way."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Life is the only game in which the object of the game is to learn the rules."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Words are a wonderful form of communication, but they will never replace kisses and punches."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"My life is already complicated enough, without trying to introduce organization into it."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"To be sure of winning, invent your own game, and never tell any other player the rules."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I too have known joy and sadness, and, on the whole, I prefer joy."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Most of my problems either have no answer, or else the answer is worse than the problem."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"If you postpone a pleasure long enough, it may melt, spoil, die, evaporate, or move away."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Watch out! It's quite possible that some of my best mistakes haven't yet been made."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"My struggle to remain healthy is gradually killing me."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Keep smiling! (but not so much that people begin to wonder if you are mentally unbalanced)."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Sometimes I make a mental note, but then forget where I put it."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Never resist a mad impulse to do something nice for me."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Correct me if I'm wrong, at your own risk."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Doing it wrong fast is at least better than doing it wrong slowly."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"It's human to make mistakes and some of us are more human than others"

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"Please don't lie to me, unless you're absolutely sure I'll never find out the truth."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"I'm not yet desperate enough to do anything about the conditions that are making me desperate"

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"How can I be sure I've succeeded, if I can't remember what I was trying to do"

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"It's good to know that if I behave strangely enough, society will take full responsibility for me."

- Ashleigh Brilliant

"It's not easy taking my problems one at a time when they refuse to get in line."
- Ashleigh Brilliant

"There is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

- "The Wind In The Willows" by Kenneth Grahame

Casey Stengel Quotes

"Been in this game one-hundred years, but I see new ways to lose 'em I never knew existed before."

"Being with a woman all night never hurt no professional baseball player. It's staying up all night looking for a woman that does him in."

"Don't cut my throat, I may want to do that later myself."

"I don't know if he throws a spitball but he sure spits on the ball."

"I was not successful as a ball player, as it was a game of skill."

"If we're going to win the pennant, we've got to start thinking we're not as good as we think we are."

"It's wonderful to meet so many friends that I didn't used to like."

"Most games are lost, not won."

"Never make predictions, especially about the future."

"Now there's three things you can do in a baseball game: You can win or you can lose or it can rain."

"The key to being a good manager is keeping the people who hate me away from those who are still undecided."

"There comes a time in every man's life, and I've had plenty of them."

"When you are younger you get blamed for crimes you never committed and when you're older you begin to get credit for virtues you never possessed. It evens itself out."

"You gotta learn that if you don't get it by midnight, chances are you ain't gonna get it, and if you do, it ain't worth it."

"For the great majority of mankind are satisfied with appearances, as though they were realities, and are more often influenced by things that seem than by things that are."

- Niccolo Machiavelli

"It's such a fine line between stupid, and clever."

- Spinal Tap

"Well - the arse is out of 'er now"

- Newfoundland expression

"Whatever way you put it, I am here only because my world is here. When I took my first breath, my world was born with me. When I die, my world dies with me. In other words, I wasn't born into a world that was already here before me, nor do I live simply as one individual among millions of other individuals, nor do I leave everything behind to live on after me. People live thinking of themselves as members of a group or society. However, this isn't really true. Actually, I bring my own world into existence, live it out, and take it with me when I die."

- Kosho Uchiyama
Opening the Hand of Thought

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

- Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe
Twi Chi

"My suggestion is you have somebody next to you that is willing at any time to transform the moment. That is called dog."

- Cesar Millan
-

The future is here. It's just not widely distributed yet."

- William Gibson, author of "Neuromancer"
-

"Every normal man must be tempted at times to spit up on his hands, hoist the black flag, and begin slitting throats."

- H.L. Mencken
-

"When you start taking flak, you know you are over the target."

- old Air Force phrase
-

"Trust everyone. But cut the cards."

Brett Maverick

(h/t pogge)

"A life without sausages! That's terrible! Sausages are like oxygen. Sausages are a many-splendored thing. Sausages lift us up where we belong. All you need are sausages."

- from "Moulin Rouge" (h/t Heather Ebbs)
-

"Men are afraid of being laughed at, women are afraid of being killed."

- Margaret Atwood
-

"Everyone who believes in telekinesis, raise my hand"

- Kurt Vonnegut
-

"The mind is not a passive machine. Once you believe in something—once you expect something—it changes the way you perceive information and the way your memory recalls it."

- Itiel Dror, cognitive psychologist

"It's a league game, Smokey."

- Walter Sobchak, "The Big Lebowski"

For those of you who disagree with me, may you come in the fullness of time to see the error of your ways and the rightness of my thinking.

"Sometimes the things that may or may not be true are the things a man needs to believe in the most. That people are basically good; that honor, courage, and virtue mean everything; that power and money, money and power mean nothing; that good always triumphs over evil; and I want you to remember this, that love... true love never dies. You remember that, boy. You remember that. Doesn't matter if it's true or not. You see, a man should believe in those things, because those are the things worth believing in."

- Robert Duvall as Hub in "Secondhand Lions"

"I like your Christ. I do not like your Christians. They are so unlike your Christ."

- Ghandi

"The truth is what matters," he said. "They practiced every form of torture on my son and on many others as well. What was the result? What facts did they find? They found nothing. They learned nothing. They accomplished nothing."

- General Al-Zahrani, on the reported suicide of his son at Guantanamo prison

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read"

--Groucho Marx

"You can't kill your way to victory."

- Maj. Mark Popov, Canadian Armed Forces, Afghanistan

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."

- Voltaire

"Ninety-nine percent of the world's lovers are not with their first choice. That's what makes the jukebox play."

- Willie Nelson

Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give the appearance of solidity to pure wind.

- George Orwell

"Try the direct approach.

What's that?

Well, like this friend of mine. Went up to this girl and said I sure would like to have a little pussy.

No shit? What'd she say?

She said I would too. Mine's as big as your hat."

- Cormac McCarthy, "Suttree"

"Going up or coming down, it's only rock and roll."

- Dave Robicheaux

Never meddle in the affairs of dragons, for thou art crunchy and go well with ketchup.

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

- Upton Sinclair

"Who's 'im, Bill? / A Stranger! / 'Eave 'arf a brick at 'im."

- Punch, British humour magazine, Feb. 25, 1854
-

"You mean now?"

- Yogi Berra, after being asked what time it was.
-

Many a mickle maks a muckle.

"Democracy cannot be maintained without its foundation: free public opinion and free discussion throughout the nation of all matters affecting the state within the limits set by the criminal code and the common law."

- The Supreme Court of Canada, 1938
-

"Man has no right to kill his brother. That he chooses to do so in uniform merely adds the infamy of servitude to the crime of murder."

- Percy Shelley
-

"What war does, even if it starts with an injustice, is multiply the injustice. If it starts on the basis of violence, it multiplies the violence. If it starts on the basis of defending yourself against brutality, then you end up becoming a brute."

- Howard Zinn
-

; ^)
;

"Next to sex, the strongest human instinct seems to be to form groups and hate other groups. I have long suspected that the bulk of humanity has more glands than neurons. It never changes. I need a drink."

- Fred Reed

"Somewhere, and I can't find where, I read about an Eskimo hunter who asked the local missionary priest, "If I did not know about God and sin, would I go to hell?" "No," said the priest, "not if you did not know." "Then why," asked the Eskimo earnestly, "did you tell me?"

- Annie Dillard

"I'm not a consensus leader... I do not determine what is right and wrong by looking at the budget of my organization or by taking a Gallup poll of the majority opinion. Ultimately a genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus. On some positions a coward has asked the question is it safe? Expediency asks the question, is it politic? Vanity asks the question, is it popular? But conscience asks the question is it right? And there come a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right, and that is where I find myself today."

- Martin Luther King, in speaking about his opposition to the Vietnam War

<http://pnhp.org/blog/2010/01/19/martin-luther-king-jr-a-proper-sense-of-priorities/>

"Men, it has been well said, think in herds; it will be seen that they go mad in herds, while they only recover their senses slowly, one by one."

- Charles Mackay

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

"The Harper government's policies are moving our country backwards toward a vision of society, the role of government, and the nature of the federation reminiscent of the 1920's."

- Bruce Campbell, Executive Director, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, preface to "The Harper Record"

"To those who have much, more shall be given; to those who have not, less is only plenty."

- old adage

"You should know that our leaders are big belly people, and they care about themselves more than anyone else."

- OSMAN SHENWARI, a village mayor in Afghanistan.

"One of the striking differences between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives."

- Mark Twain

"True patriotism means to love your country always but love your Government only conditionally."

- Mark Twain, 1835 – 1910

Maintain thy altitude, lest the earth arise and smite thee.

"Traveling through hyperspace ain't like dusting crops, boy."

- Han Solo

"As God is my witness, I thought turkeys could fly."

- Arthur Carlson

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPNwwSNYVeE>

"The reason angels can fly is because they take themselves lightly."

- G. K. Chesterton

44 Praised be to His Noodly Appendages!! (PBTHNA) Ramen

"Anyway, no drug, not even alcohol, causes the fundamental ills of society. If we're looking for the source of our troubles, we shouldn't test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed and love of power."

- P.J. O'Rourke

"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys."

- P. J. O'Rourke

Not fair? Of course it's not fair. Name me one thing that is.

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to gather wood, divide the work and give orders. Instead teach them to long for the vast and endless sea."

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

"Men have to make love to feel loved.
Women have to feel loved to make love. "

- Billy Connolly

"Marriage is a wonderful invention; but, then again, so is a bicycle repair kit."

- Billy Connolly

There's no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing.

"He's a politician. It's like being a hooker. You can't be one unless you can pretend to like people while you're fucking them."

- Shit My Dad Says
-

"What soap is to the body, laughter is to the soul."

- Yiddish Proverb
-

"Inter armis silent leges" (in time of war, the laws fall silent)

- Cicero

"One of the problematic questions about nonviolence is the inevitable involvement of hidden aggressions and provocations. I think this is especially true when there are... elements that are not spiritually developed... There is the danger one observes subtly in tight groups like families and monastic communities, where the martyr for the right sometimes thrives on making his persecutors terribly and visibly wrong. He can drive them in desperation to be wrong, to seek refuge in the wrong, to seek refuge in violence... In our acceptance of vulnerability, we play [on the guilt of the opponent]. There is no finer torment. This is one of the enormous problems of our time... all this guilt and nothing to do about it except finally to explode and blow it all out in hatreds, race hatreds, political hatreds, war hatreds. We, the righteous, are dangerous people in such a situation... We have got to be aware of the awful sharpness of truth when it is used as a weapon, and since it can be the deadliest weapon, we must take care that we don't kill more than falsehood with it."

[The Hidden Ground of Love: The Letters of Thomas Merton on Religious Experience and Social Concerns, Farrar Straus & Giroux, New York; pp. 262-4]

The 49th parallel was nicknamed the Medicine Line because of its seemingly magical ability to prevent U.S. soldiers from crossing it.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/49th_parallel_north

Democracy: Four wolves and a lamb voting on lunch.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."

- Laurence Binyon, "For The Fallen"
-

"I knew my days were numbered when o'er the trenches lumbered
More modern machinations de la guerre
No match for rapid fire or the steel birds of the sky
With a final rear guard action I retreat
No match for barbered wire or the armoured engines whine
Reluctant I retire and take my leave"

- Corb Lund, "Horse Soldier"

"Facts and evidence seem not to be important to the government when it comes to criminal justice. Nor, apparently, is cost. The following examination of the legislation and of past experience shows that the Conservative approach to crime will cost billions and will probably produce less rather than more public safety. There will be a burgeoning of inmate populations, the building of new jails, and an American-style "throw away the key" attitude".

Paula Mallea, B.A., M.A., LL.B, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

<http://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2010/11/Tough%20on%20Crime.pdf>

"You can't be a real country unless you have a beer and an airline. It helps if you have some kind of a football team, or some nuclear weapons, but at the very least you need a beer."

- Frank Zappa
-

"What happens if a big asteroid hits Earth? Judging from realistic simulations involving a sledge hammer and a common laboratory frog, we can assume it will be pretty bad."

- Dave Barry (h/t Candice!)
-

A Zen master had hundreds of disciples. They all prayed at the right time, except one, who was always drunk.

The master was growing old. Some of the more virtuous pupils began to wonder who would be the new leader of the group, the one who would receive the important secrets of the Tradition.

On the eve of his death, however, the master called the drunkard disciple and revealed the hidden secrets to him.

A veritable revolt broke out among the others.

"How shameful!" they cried in the streets, "We have sacrificed ourselves for the wrong master, one who can't see our qualities."

Hearing the commotion outside, the dying master remarked:

"I had to pass on these secrets to a man that I knew well. All my pupils are very virtuous, and showed only their qualities. That is dangerous, for virtue often serves to hide vanity, pride and intolerance. That is why I chose the only disciple whom I know really well, since I can see his defect: drunkenness."

- Paulo Coelho's blog

<http://paulocoelhoblog.com/>

"Be true to your work, your word, and your friend."

- Paulo Coelho

(h/t Wendy)

"It is almost impossible to carry the torch of truth through a crowd without singeing somebody's beard."

- George Christopher Lichtenberg, scientist and philosopher (1742-1799)

"The most important gift we received from him was not words, but deeds. He believed in Truth, and had dared to speak up. We all knew that he upset certain powerful people with it. But that was John. He couldn't have been any other way. If he were here now, I think he would still be shouting the truth. Without the truth, there would be no way to achieve world peace."

- Yoko Ono

"... love's power to shrink
the wide world to the size of a bedchamber ..."

- Billy Collins, <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poem.html?id=240504>

Take time to fill your lamp.

"Riding the (Ducati) Streetfighter is like partying with Keith Richards. Common sense tells you that nothing good can come of it and at some point there will be discomfort, periods of intrigue mixed with revulsion and probable interaction with paramedics and law enforcement."

- Steve Bond, reviewer, "The Star"
-

"La unica razon por la que las personas se pierden en sus pensamientos es porque se trata de un territorio poco familiar." (The only reason people get lost in thought is because it is unfamiliar territory.)

"In a Democracy, the people get the government they deserve."

- Alexis de Tocqueville
-

In the immortal words of George Castanza: "There was shrinkage"

- The Galloping Beaver
-

"colder than a gut-shot bitch wolf dog with nine sucking pups pulling a number-four trap up a hill in the dead of winter in the middle of a snowstorm with a mouth full of porcupine quills"

- Tom Waits
-

RUMCYMHMD

"Are You On Medication Cause You Must Have Missed A Dose"

"Europe is on fire?"

Bugger, that's where I keep all my stuff."

- DidiHylobates, commenting on Glenn Beck's Youtube video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7I0GfLh4SGU>) in which he describes countries in Europe and Africa as being in flames.
-

"You think you will never forget any of this, you will remember it always just the way it was. But you can't remember it the way it was. To know it, you have to be living in the presence of it right as it is happening. It can return only by surprise. Speaking of these things tells you that there are no words for them that are equal to them or that can restore them to your mind. And so you have a life that you are living only now, now and now and now, gone before you can speak of it, and you must be thankful for living day by day, moment by moment, in this presence.

But you have a life too that you remember. It stays with you. You have lived a life in the breath and pulse and living light of the present, and your memories of it, remember now, are of a different life in a different world and time. When you remember the past, you are not remembering it as it was. You are remembering it as it is. It is a vision or a dream, present with you in the present, alive with you in the only time you are alive."

- Wendell Berry
-

We're always attracted to the edges of what we are, out by the edges where it's a little raw and nervy.

E. L. Doctorow

We want them to have self-worth
So we destroy their self-worth

We want them to be responsible
So we take away all responsibility

We want them to be positive and constructive
So we degrade them and make them useless

We want them to be trustworthy
So we put them where there is no trust

We want them to be non-violent
So we put them where violence is all around them

We want them to be kind and loving people
So we subject them to hatred and cruelty

We want them to quit being the tough guy
So we put them where the tough guy is respected

We want them quit hanging around losers
So we put all the losers in the state under one roof

We want them to quit exploiting us
So we put them where they exploit each other

We want them to take control of their lives, own problems and quit being a parasite on
society
So we make them totally dependent on us

- Judge Dennis Challeen (ret.)

LMK = Let Me Know
MTFBWY = May The Force Be With You
AYEC = At Your Earliest Convenience

"True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is
running the country."

- Kurt Vonnegut

"...Tut, I have done a thousand dreadful things
As willingly as one would kill a fly,
And nothing grieves me heartily indeed
But that I cannot do ten thousand more."

...Aaron - Titus Andronicus

- ACT V, SCENE I.

To A Friend Whose Work Has Come To Nothing

Now all the truth is out,
Be secret and take defeat from any brazen throat,
For how can you compete,
Being honor bred, with one
Who, were it proved he lies,
Were neither shamed in his own
Nor in his neighbors' eyes?

Bred to a harder thing
Than triumph, turn away
And like a laughing string
Where on mad fingers play
Amid a place of stone,
Be secret and exult,
Because of all things known,
That is most difficult.

- W.B. Yeats

FIGJAM = "Fuck I'm Good Just Ask Me"

"I always thought the point of evidence was that if you didn't have enough, you're not allowed to keep them in prison. It's one of the many differences we have in this country between prisons and zoos. You don't really need anything on an aardvark."

- Jon Stewart

"The Force is strong with this one."

- Darth Vader, "Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope (1977)"

"Don't bother me with facts, son. I've already made up my mind."

- Foghorn Leghorn

"You can't have a light without a dark to stick it in."

- Arlo Guthrie

The tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy.

- Charles de Montesquieu (1689-1755)

□□□□□□□□

"The United States remains among the world's leading executioners, along with China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and North Korea."

- Amy Goodman, "U.S. death penalty system is broken beyond repair", March 30, 2011

<http://rabble.ca/columnists/2011/03/us-death-penalty-system-broken-beyond-repair>

"Nothing in his life
Became him like the leaving it".

- Macbeth Act 1, scene 4
-

"I don't know where bin Laden is. I have no idea and really don't care. It's not that important. It's not our priority." – George W. Bush, 3/13/02

KMAG YOYO = Kiss My Ass Guys, You're On Your Own
FIGJAM = Fuck I'm Good, Just Ask Me

"All governments, without exception, lie all the time, on every subject. They lie constantly, impenitently, and unashamedly. Nothing that any government ever says, at any time, can be assumed to be true. The sooner you recognize this fact, the easier and more pleasant your life will become."

I.F. Stone, Brandeis University (h/t Ted)

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.

~Bishop Desmond Tutu

The Japanese had a reputation for producing incredibly tight fits in their bodywork, with no unsightly gaps around hood, trunk and doors. To test the car's air tightness, Toyota engineers would leave a cat in the car overnight.

"If the cat was active and chipper next day, there was obviously too much air entering the car somewhere. But if the cat was limp, listless or near dead, this indicated a tightly built car. Hearing of this test, a GM assembly plant also placed a feline in a just assembled car, shut all the vents and doors and awaited the morning. But when the engineers came back to check the next day the cat was gone!"

- Bob (a.k.a. "Maximum Bob") Lutz, former CEO of GM
-

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak, Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

- Sir Winston Churchill, a conference in Washington DC
-

"Never forget that everything Hitler did in Germany was legal."

- Martin Luther King
-

"In any field, especially the arts, there are always two things--'genius' and 'very clever.' There's no in-between. You're either a genius or very clever. I'm going to throw out two names at you. John Lennon--genius, right? And Mick Jagger? Very clever. See what I'm saying? I'll give you another example. Einstein--genius. And George Thorogood--very clever."

- George Thorogood
-

"You're not to be so blind with patriotism that you can't face reality. Wrong is wrong, no matter who does it or says it."

- Malcolm X
-

"Common sense is in spite of, not as the result of education."

- Victor Hugo (h/t Marisa Currey)

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and not clothed... The 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."

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1953
-

"Bogart's a hell of a nice guy until around 11.30 p.m. After that, he thinks he's Bogart."

- LA restaurant owner, on Humphrey Bogart
-

"There's a scene in the World War II novel when some officer or other reproves the novel's anti-hero, Capt. Yossarian, for trying to escape another of the ever-escalating number of dangerous bombing missions he's ordered to fly.

"Suppose everybody on our side felt that way," the officer demands, echoing Kant's imperative—that one should decide how to act by envisioning the consequences if everyone else acted that way. It's a maxim much beloved by parents. Mine, anyway.

So, if everybody else acted that way? "Then I'd certainly be a damned fool to feel any other way," Yossarian says."

- Ron Rosenbaum, "Seeing Catch-22 Twice"
-

"Undocumented immigrants are not, contrary to myth, people who show up to take advantage of social assistance. The risk and expense of migration are too great to make idleness an ambition."

- Doug Saunders, on migration
-

"Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

- Einstein (h/t Fraser Milne)

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important than fear."

- James Hollingsworth
-

"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing."

- Arundhati Roy
-

"For once you have tasted flight, you will walk the Earth with your eyes turned skywards."

- Leonardo da Vinci
-

"A kiss is a lovely trick designed by nature to stop speech when words become superfluous."

- Ingrid Bergman
-

There is a story about a Russian Jewish mother seeing her son off to serve in the czar's army against the Turks.

"Don't overexert yourself," she says. "Kill a Turk and take a rest. Kill another Turk and rest again."

"But mother," he said. "What if the Turk kills me?"

"Kill you?" she exclaimed, "Why? What have you done to him?"

"Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything -- all external

expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure - these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart. ... Stay hungry. Stay foolish."

- Steve Jobs, Stanford University commencement address, June 2005

"If you work hard, and become successful, it does not necessarily mean you are successful because you worked hard, just as if you are tall with long hair it doesn't mean you would be a midget if you were bald."

- Lemony Snicket (<http://occupywriters.com/by-lemony-snicket>)

"The soul would have no rainbow if the eyes had no tears."

- Native Spirits Tribal Community

"May the stars carry your sadness away,
May the flowers fill your heart with beauty,
May hope forever wipe away your tears,
And, above all, may silence make you strong."

- Chief Dan George

"She's marrying you for the exact opposite reason you're marrying her: she thinks you'll change. She thinks you'll change, for the BETTER. Things don't get better as they get older. Look at your truck. Look at your roof. Look in the MIRROR!"

- Red Green: [advice on why not to re-marry]

It is winter. When I was young, we never had fights in hockey. But we also never had helmets or protective padding or shields on our skate blades or smooth ice. We used broken, splintered sticks and a brick for a puck and big, hard rocks for the posts. But we didn't have fights. We didn't *need* fights.

- Red Green

"We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

- George Orwell
-

"When the waterhole starts to dry up – the animals begin to look at one another differently."

- old African proverb
-

"Socialism never took root in America because the poor see themselves not as exploited proletariat but as temporarily embarrassed millionaires."

- John Steinbeck
-

"The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much it is whether we provide enough for those who have little."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt
-

"Stay in E-major and keep gliding on that oldtime rock and roll."

- James Lee Burke
-

"The notion of speaking truth to power sounds courageous and bold. The problem is that power doesn't care and isn't listening."

- Murray Dobbin
-

"A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul."

- George Bernard Shaw, *Everybody's Political What's What?* (1944) ch. 30
-

"I hate it when they say, 'He gave his life for his country.' Nobody gives their lives for anything. We steal the lives of these kids. We take it away from them. They didn't die for the honor and glory of their country. We kill them.

- Admiral Gene LaRocque

REMF = Rear Echelon Mother Fucker

"... an MP who will lower the tone of any municipal wiener roast you invite him to."

- Heather Mallick, *Toronto Star* columnist with reference to Conservative backbencher Larry Miller, MP for Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
-

"The truly powerful feed ideology to the masses like fast food while they dine on the most rarified delicacy of all: impunity."

- Naomi Klein (h/t Lee Deranger)
-

"Least I ain't chicken."

- Leeroy Jenkins
-

"One can never have enough socks," said Dumbledore. "Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn't get a single pair. People will insist on giving me books."

"Socks are Dobby's favourite, favourite clothes, sir!"

"As the great bass player Ray Brown once said: 'I just came to town to help with the fuckin'.' "

May you have warm words on a cold evening,
a full moon on a dark night,
and the road downhill all the way to your door.

- Irish blessing (<http://tacomaweekly.tripod.com/Irish-Quotations.html>)
-

There's an old saying that God exists in your search for him. I just want you to understand that I ain't looking.

~ Leslie Nielsen (h/t Lee Deranger)

What do we want?

A CURE FOR TOURETTE'S!!!

When do we want it?

FUCKING CUNT!!!

- Michael Methot, bless him.
-

Disastrophe

"There are only two kinds of people in the world: me, and the barbarians. And the only way for you to become less barbarian is to become more like me."

- Harold Tribe
-

"But I don't want to go among mad people," Alice remarked.

"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat: "we're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."

"How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice.

"You must be," said the Cat, "or you wouldn't have come here."

Ain't no power like the power of the people cause the power of the people don't stop
Say what?

"No. Politicians don't wanna scare you, they wanna keep you stupid. Fear is just the smell when ignorance takes a shit."

- Shit My Dad Says

"Have a drink, get stoned, fuck a stranger, eat a Twinkie. You're gonna die anyway. If you're back for the second show and I get that sequence mixed up, please have management get me off the stage. Oh, I'll eat a stranger, but I'm not fuckin' the Twinkie."

- Ron Shock

"Jesus jumped-up Christ."

- Karla Lysne Broadfoot's late father

"Saw a bare-breasted young lady on Rideau St yesterday. Call me old-fashioned but boys & men should have to pay to see breasts."

- Sooeey Says

(After reading "When I grow up") Aimee: "When you grow up, do you want to be an archeologist like Dora's Mommy? Or maybe a teacher like Mommy and Daddy?"
Emma (age 3): "Or a bumblebee?"

"In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this 19th day of June in the year of grace two thousand and twelve."

"Yes, reason has been a part of organized religion, ever since two nudists took dietary advice from a talking snake."

- Jon Stewart

"I have always believed that there was a big difference between Conservative and stupid. Boy is it getting harder to prove that one by the minute."

- Rick Mercer

"Live a good life. If there are gods and they are just, then they will not care how devout you have been, but will welcome you based on the virtues you have lived by. If there are gods but unjust, then you should not want to worship them. If there are no gods, then you will be gone, but will have lived a noble life that will live on in the memories of your loved ones." (Marcus Aurelius via Grant Sexsmith)

<http://www.quotesbuddy.com/>

John Cleese on allies' response to terrorist threat levels:

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent terrorist threats and have therefore raised their security level from "Miffed" to "Peeved." Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to "Irritated," or even "A Bit Cross."

The English have not been "A Bit Cross" since "The Blitz" in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out.

Terrorists have been re-categorized from "Tiresome" to "A Bloody Nuisance." The last time the British issued a "Bloody Nuisance" warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots have raised their threat level from "Pissed Off" to "Let's get the Bastards." They don't have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years.

The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from "Run" to "Hide." The only two higher levels in France are "Collaborate" and "Surrender." The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France's white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country's military capability.

Italy has increased the alert level from "Shout Loudly and Excitedly" to "Elaborate Military Posturing." Two more levels remain: "Ineffective Combat Operations" and "Change Sides."

The Germans have increased their alert state from "Disdainful Arrogance" to "Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs." They also have two higher levels: "Invade thy Neighbor" and "Lose."

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual; the only

threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels .

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy.

Australia, meanwhile, has raised its security level from "No worries" to "She'll be alright, Mate." Two more escalation levels remain: "Crikey! I think we'll need to cancel the barbie this weekend!" and "The barbie is canceled." So far no situation has ever warranted use of the final escalation level.

John Cleese, the British Comedian and Actor

"We were all lying down on the ground and a cameraman from a Belgrade TV station crawled up to me and, as he put his camera in my face, asked, "Who fired the first shot?" I answered, "Some son of a bitch 400 years ago."

- Major General Lewis MacKenzie (ret'd). On the floor of the Sarajevo Airport under incoming fire.
-

"Closer you get to Canada the more things eat your horses."

- from "The Missouri Breaks" starring Jack Nicholson and Marlon Brando
-

"Censorship is telling a man he can't have a steak just because a baby can't chew it."

- Mark Twain
-

"Pray for rain all you like, but dig a well as you do it."

- Stephen King, "The Wind Through The Keyhole"
-

"I will come to a time in my backwards trip when November eleventh, accidentally my birthday, was a sacred day called Armistice Day. When I was a boy, and when Dwayne Hoover was a boy, all the people of all the nations which had fought in the First World War were silent during the eleventh minute of the eleventh hour of Armistice Day, which was the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

It was during that minute in nineteen hundred and eighteen, that millions upon millions of human beings stopped butchering one another. I have talked to old men who were on

battlefields during that minute. They have told me in one way or another that the sudden silence was the Voice of God. So we still have among us some men who can remember when God spoke clearly to mankind.

Armistice Day has become Veterans' Day. Armistice Day was sacred. Veterans' Day is not.

So I will throw Veterans' Day over my shoulder. Armistice Day I will keep. I don't want to throw away any sacred things.

What else is sacred? Oh, Romeo and Juliet, for instance.

And all music is."

- Kurt Vonnegut Jr., author, and former German P.O.W. who witnessed the Fire-bombing of Dresden firsthand. Breakfast of Champions, 1973
-

"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another, with no loss of enthusiasm."

- Winston Churchill
-

"If all insects were to disappear from the earth, within 50 years all life on earth would end. If all human beings disappeared from the earth, within 50 years all forms of life would flourish."

- Jonas Salk
-

"We may be surprised at the people we find in heaven. God has a soft spot for sinners. His standards are quite low."

- Desmond Tutu (h/t Lee Deranger)
-

"I Love politics and have always enjoyed getting a cabinet minister or PM to step outside their comfort zone.....This has proved more difficult of late with the advent of the electrical shock collars the PMO insists that all cabinet ministers wear under their trousers. Not only does it make for a boring interview, but when some kid in the PMO pushes the button that emits the shock to the minister, it interferes with our microphones.. As a result, I have basically stopped talking to cabinet ministers. Instead, I decided I would much prefer to interview a lobster fisherman or a cowboy. It was a good call; turns out Canadians like lobster fishermen and cowboys way better than politicians, and unlike politicians, they are funny and have an opinion."

Rick Mercer - "A Nation Worth Ranting About"

"fucking debunkers! can't we all just enjoy a child being carried off into the clear blue sky by a giant fucking eagle for a few minutes before someone has to spoil everything? lol... it is inevitable, i know"

- Michael Scrivener (on the youtube video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CE0Q904gtMI&sns=fb>)
-

"The comfort of the rich depends upon an abundant supply of the poor."

- Voltaire
-

"Sometimes I think I must have a Guardian Idiot. A little invisible spirit just behind my shoulder, looking out for me...only he's an imbecile."

- Spider Robinson (h/t Lee Deranger)
-

"I'm probably in the top of the eighth inning or the bottom of the ninth, which means I don't have a lot to lose."

James Lee Burke, "Feast Day of Fools", p. 130

There Is No Indispensable Man
by Saxon N. White Kessinger, Copyright 1959

Sometime when you're feeling important;
Sometime when your ego's in bloom
Sometime when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified in the room,

Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow these simple instructions
And see how they humble your soul;

Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it up to the wrist,
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining

Is a measure of how you will be missed.

You can splash all you wish when you enter,
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop and you'll find that in no time
It looks quite the same as before.

The moral of this quaint example
Is do just the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself but remember,
There's no indispensable man.

"How elegant! How choice! How gay!
To think one doesn't have to pay.

- Edward Gorey

OLD MEN

People expect old men to die,
They do not really mourn old men.
Old men are different. People look
At them with eyes that wonder when ...
People watch with unshocked eyes;
But the old men know when an old man dies.

- Ogden Nash

"Drink! for you know not whence you came nor why: drink! for you know not why you
go, nor where."

- Omar Khayyam

"I sail by stubborn stars, let rocks take heed,
and should I sink ... then sinking be my creed!!"

- Kenneth Leslie

May the blessing of light be on you—

light without and light within.
May the blessed sunlight shine on you
and warm your heart
till it glows like a great peat fire.

- an old Celtic blessing

"Nothin' matters and what if it did."

- John Cougar

I am not afraid of death. At my age, a good night's sleep is a rare and precious thing.

Nonetheless, I AM still afraid of dying.

Even at my age, I look both ways before I cross the street.

"The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house."

- Audrey Lorde

"Half the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don't mean to do harm; but the harm does not interest them. Or they do not see it, or they justify it because they are absorbed in the endless struggle to think well of themselves."

- T. S. Eliot, journal of a nobody

"The poor sometimes object to being governed badly; the rich object to being governed at all."

- G.K. Chesterton

"A journal is more your brain on the page, where a diary is more your heart on the page."

- David Sedaris
-

"When the politicians complain that TV turns the proceedings into a circus, it should be made clear that the circus was already there, and that TV has merely demonstrated that not all the performers are well trained."

- Edward R. Murrow
-

"Let us be practical in our expectations of the Criminal Law ... [For] we have merely to imagine, by some trick of time travel, meeting our earliest hominid ancestor, Adam, a proto-man, short of stature, luxuriantly furred, newly bipedal, foraging about on the African savannah three million or so years ago. Now, let us agree that we may pronounce whatever laws we like for this clever little creature, still it would be unwise to pet him."

- Reynard Thompson, *A General Theory of Human Violence* (1921)
-

"Have you ever heard of confirmation bias? Confirmation bias is the tendency to see things in your environment that confirm your preconceived ideas and not see things that conflict with what you already believe."

- William Landay, *Defending Jacob*
-

"Some people would complain if they were hung with a new rope."

"A basic component of the broader North American corporate agenda is to convince us that we are consumers, not citizens, and eliminating any notion of commerce free days or spaces is completely entwined with that. From selling the naming rights of everything to corporations, to making sure that people can "shop" 365 days a year, genuine, collective, public spaces or days free from corporate and consumer influence are dramatically on the decline."

- <http://solchrom.tumblr.com/post/54254725944/a-basic-component-of-the-broader-north-american>

- <http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/michael-laxer/2013/06/not-home-holidays-assault-on-right-workers-to-collective-days>
-

"People who want to share their religious views with you almost never want you to share yours with them."

- Dave Barry
-

"The journey is there and every single one of us has got to go through it, and you can't dodge it, and the purpose of everything and the whole of existence is to equip you to take another step, and another step, and another step, and so on."

- Jesse Watkins
-

"Aha! said Pooh."

"It doesn't have to be true; it just has to be plausible."

- Tom Flanagan

<http://www2.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/opinion/story.html?id=ecdeed59-2c18-434a-900b-4ee8c675d811>

... Already long ago, from when we sold our vote to no man, the People have abdicated our duties; for the People who once upon a time handed out military command, high civil office, legions — everything, now restrains itself and anxiously hopes for just two things: bread and circuses.

- Juvenal, Satire 10.77–81
-

" Out beyond ideas
of wrongdoing and rightdoing,
there is a field.
I'll meet you there."

- Jelaluddin Rumi, 13th century (h/t Sadie)

The Veteran

When I was young and bold and strong,
Oh, right was right, and wrong was wrong!
My plume on high, my flag unfurled,
I rode away to right the world.
``Come out, your dogs, and fight!" said I,
And wept there was but once to die.

But I am old; and good and bad
Are woven in a crazy plaid
I sit and say, ``The world is so;
And he is wise who lets it go.
A battle lost, a battle won--
The difference is small, my son."

Inertia rides and riddles me;
The which is called philosophy.

- Dorothy Parker

"The most insightful thing I ever heard, was overheard. I was waiting for a rail replacement bus in Hackney Wick. These two old women weren't even talking to me - not because I'd offended them, I hadn't, I'd been angelic at that bus stop, except for the eavesdropping. Rail replacement buses take an eternity, because they think they're doing you a favour by covering for the absent train, you've no recourse.

Eventually the bus appeared, on the distant horizon, and one of the women, with the relief and disbelief that often accompanies the arrival of public transport said, 'Oh look, the bus is coming.' The other woman - a wise woman, seemingly aware that her words and attitude were potent and poetic enough to form the final sentence in a stranger's book - paused, then said, 'The bus was always coming.'

- Russell Brand, *My Booky Wook*

"What I fear most is power with impunity. I fear abuse of power, and the power to abuse."

- Isabel Allende

"To love. To be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To never get used to the unspeakable violence and the vulgar disparity of life around you. To seek joy in the saddest places. To pursue beauty to its lair. To never simplify what is complicated or complicate what is simple. To respect strength, never power. Above all, to watch. To try and understand. To never look away. And never, never to forget."

- Arundhati Roy

"Religion has convinced people that there's an invisible man ... living in the sky. Who watches everything you do every minute of every day. And the invisible man has a list of ten specific things he doesn't want you to do. And if you do any of these things, he will send you to a special place, of burning and fire and smoke and torture and anguish for you to live forever, and suffer, and suffer, and burn, and scream, until the end of time. But he loves you. He loves you. He loves you and he needs money."

- George Carlin

Mutato nomine de te fabula narratur. "Change only the name and this story is also about you."

"But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house."

- Mark 6:4

"Cornelius, you swine!"

- anon

"Combinations of wickedness would overwhelm the world did not those who have long practised perfidy grow faithless to each other."

- Dr. Samuel Johnson

"Of course it is exhausting, having to reason all the time in a universe which wasn't meant to be reasonable."

- Kurt Vonnegut, *Breakfast of Champions*

"It was the one question today to which I could give a clear, simple, straightforward, honest answer."

"Yes. Unfortunately, although the answer was indeed clear, simple and straightforward, there is some difficulty in justifiably assigning to it the fourth of the epithets you applied to the statement, inasmuch as the precise correlation between the information you communicated and the facts insofar as they can be determined and demonstrated is such as to cause epistemological problems of sufficient magnitude as to lay upon the logical and semantic resources of the English language a heavier burden than they can reasonably be expected to bear."

"Epistemological? What are you talking about?"

"You told a lie."

- Yes, Prime Minister

"Forgiveness is a delicate miracle that occurs when the unjustly treated receive back what has been taken from them"

- C.Levan (h/t Lorri Neilsen Glenn)

"I'm jumpier than a virgin at a prison rodeo and wound up tighter than a girdle on a Baptist minister's wife at an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast."

- Blanche Devereaux, *The Golden Girls*

"Here lies the body of George O'Day.
He died maintaining his right of way.
He was right, dead right as he rode along,
But he is just as dead as if he were wrong."

- anon

"We're all just walking each other home."

- Ram Dass
-

"I almost went to bed
without remembering
the four white violets
I put in the button-hole
of your green sweater

and how i kissed you then
and you kissed me
shy as though I'd
never been your lover"

- Leonard Cohen

"Drive your cart and plow over the bones of the dead."

- William Blake, "Proverbs of Hell"

"Shure, you're always goin' out! You go out three times, for wanst that you come in!"

- Irishman's remonstrance to his gad-about daughter

Roll Like Thunder Gone Like Smoke

"Dictionary, n. A malevolent literary device for cramping the growth of a language and making it hard and inelastic. This dictionary, however, is a most useful work."

- Ambrose Bierce

My safe word is "Help!"

- this isn't happiness™ Peteski

"My RE teacher told the class that Homosexuality was an illness. I asked him if I could go home early as I was feeling a bit gay. He said no."

- Ricky Gervais

"Atheism isn't "I claim no god exists" Atheism is "I don't accept your claim that god exists" No claim. Just no acceptance. You're welcome."

- Ricky Gervais

The label if-by-whiskey refers to a 1952 speech by Noah S. "Soggy" Sweat, Jr., a young lawmaker from the U.S. state of Mississippi, on the subject of whether Mississippi should continue to prohibit (which it did until 1966) or finally legalize alcoholic beverages:

"My friends, I had not intended to discuss this controversial subject at this particular time. However, I want you to know that I do not shun controversy. On the contrary, I will take a stand on any issue at any time, regardless of how fraught with controversy it might be. You have asked me how I feel about whiskey. All right, here is how I feel about whiskey:

If when you say whiskey you mean the devil's brew, the poison scourge, the bloody monster, that defiles innocence, dethrones reason, destroys the home, creates misery and poverty, yea, literally takes the bread from the mouths of little children; if you mean the evil drink that topples the Christian man and woman from the pinnacle of righteous, gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation, and despair, and shame and helplessness, and hopelessness, then certainly I am against it.

But, if when you say whiskey you mean the oil of conversation, the philosophic wine, the ale that is consumed when good fellows get together, that puts a song in their hearts and laughter on their lips, and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes; if you mean Christmas cheer; if you mean the stimulating drink that puts the spring in the old gentleman's step on a frosty, crispy morning; if you mean the drink which enables a man to magnify his joy, and his happiness, and to forget, if only for a little while, life's great tragedies, and heartaches, and sorrows; if you mean that drink, the sale of which pours into our treasuries untold millions of dollars, which are used to provide tender care for our little crippled children, our blind, our deaf, our dumb, our pitiful aged and infirm; to build highways and hospitals and schools, then certainly I am for it.

This is my stand. I will not retreat from it. I will not compromise."

"I thought such awful thoughts that I cannot even say them out loud because they would make Jesus want to drink gin straight out of the cat dish."

- Anne Lamott

An Irish Toast

May those that love us, love us.
And those that don't love us
May God turn their hearts
And if he doesn't turn their hearts
May he turn their ankles
So we'll know them by their limping!

Slainte!
(pronounced slantya)

Here's to a long life & a merry one.
A quick death & an easy one.
A pretty girl & an honest one.
A cold pint & another one!

Slainte!
(pronounced slantya)

" May those who love us, love us.
And those who don't love us, may God turn their hearts.
And if he doesn't turn their hearts, may he turn their ankles so that we'll know them
by their limping."

"It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them. "
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Political language is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to
give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

- George Orwell

Just once, I'd like for someone to call me "sir" without adding "you're making a scene".
- Homer Simpson

"Guns aren't toys! They're for family protection, hunting dangerous or delicious animals,
and keeping the King of England out of your face!"

- Krusty the Clown

There's a lovely ancient fable: a mosquito apologized to a buffalo for bothering it. The buffalo said, 'I didn't even know you were there.'

"An unsophisticated forecaster uses statistics as a drunken man uses lampposts — for support rather than for illumination."

- A. Lang

"Don't wax the stairs; father's drinking again."

- John Furlong's mother

"In the time-honoured traditions of this police force they did so without fear of prejudice, nor hope of advantage, favour or affection."

- Bob Paulson, Commissioner, RCMP

"Pray for rain all you like, but dig a well as you do it."

— Big Ross

"Wait for me at the clearing at the end of the road."

— Cuthbert Allgood

Next time you take Marnie in to Melfort for supper ask the waitress "What have you got that a man can drink with a minimum risk of blindness and death?" Tell her you're quoting Cormac McCarthy, a great American writer.

- Ted Spurgeon

"There are some politicians who, if their constituents were cannibals, would promise them missionaries for dinner."

- H.L. Mencken

"Mosquitoes remind us we are not as high up on the food chain as we think we are."

—Tom Wilson

"The camel does not see its own hump".

- Arab proverb

"To find out your dolphin name, lick your finger tips and rub a balloon."

- Shari VanderWerf

"Time to de-ass the area with the quickness."

- Mythbusters

"I love sleep. My life has the tendency to fall apart when I'm awake, you know?"

- Ernest Hemingway.

"Were this world to be sold on the market, I would not buy it for a loaf of bread, for all the troubles it contains."

- Imam Shafi'i

If you ain't cheatin, you ain't tryin.

"Live a good life. If there are gods and they are just, then they will not care how devout you have been, but will welcome you based on the virtues you have lived by. If there are gods, but unjust, then you should not want to worship them. If there are no gods, then you will be gone, but will have lived a noble life that will live on in the memories of your loved ones.

- Marcus Aurelius

Martin: : On my first day of law school, my professor says two things. "First, from this day forward, when your mother tells you she loves you - get a second opinion."

Jack Connerman: [chuckles] And?

Martin: "If you want justice, go to a whorehouse. If you wanna get fucked, go to court."

- *Primal Fear*

"If you're not in the arena also getting your ass kicked, I'm not interested in your feedback."

- Brene Brown

"Opinions - where observations go to die."

- Magnificent Ruin

"I felt once more how simple a thing is happiness: a glass of wine, a roast chestnut, a wretched little brazier, the sound of the sea. Nothing else. And all that is required to feel that here and now is happiness in a simple, frugal heart."

- Nikos Kazantzakis, *Zorba the Greek*

We must both have been hungry because we constantly led the conversation round to food.

"What is your favorite dish, grandad?"

"All of them, my son. It's a great sin to say this is good and that is bad."

"Why? Can't we make a choice?"

"No, of course we can't."

"Why not?"

"Because there are people who are hungry." I was silent, ashamed. My heart had never been able to reach that height of nobility and compassion.

- Nikos Kazantzakis, *Zorba the Greek*

"You ain't a cowboy if you ain't been bucked off." - Corb Lund

"Today's egg is better than tomorrow's hen." —Turkish proverb

"Fred Coyote tells the story of the anthropologist who came to Hopi country to record Hopi music. An old man sings the researcher a song and tells him it's about the times when the ancient spirits, the kachinas, came down into the mountains and clouds built up over the desert, bringing rain for the gardens, to feed the children. He plays another song, and the researcher asks its meaning. This one is about a spring the old man's wife visits for water and for medicine. A third song is also about water. The anthropologist is annoyed. Is water all you people sing about down here? Our need for water is great, says the old man. I notice all your people write about is love, he adds. Is it because you don't have much?"

Lorri Nielsen Glenn, *Threading Light*

"I speak of the soul and seven people rise from their chairs and leave the room. Seven others lean forward to listen."

- Mary Oliver

"Goodnight you princes of Maine, you kings of New England."

— John Irving, *The Cider House Rules*

"We are At War now — with somebody — and we will stay At War with that mysterious Enemy for the rest of our lives."

— Hunter S. Thompson

"Any man who can drive safely while kissing a pretty girl is simply not giving the kiss the attention it deserves."

- Albert Einstein

"A man may keep his house decent, but he will never - if he is a proper man - do much to decorate it. Marriage forces him to live with more ornament as well as sentiment, and it protects him, also, from the extremities of his own nature - from a frigid parsimony or a luxuriant sloth, from squalor and from excessive sleeping or reading, drinking, smoking, or freethinking."

Alice Munro, *Meneseteung*

"POLITICIAN, n. An eel in the fundamental mud upon which the superstructure of organized society is reared. When he wriggles he mistakes the agitation of his tail for the trembling of the edifice. As compared with the statesman, he suffers the disadvantage of being alive."

- Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*

"To call Mr. Calandra a clown is to do a disservice to the ancient profession of painted-face buffoonery."

- Globe and Mail editorial

"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."

- Maya Angelou.

"The jury in their infinite wisdom have declared that you are not guilty of sandbagging the deceased. In return for this, I would simply state that you would do me an inestimable favour if, after leaving the court house, you sandbag each and every one of that jury, and see that not one escapes. You can go."

- Matthew Baillie Begbie, who dismissed the accused in a Cariboo Gold Rush murder case

"If I had lived and died and your song be the only thing I ever heard, it would not have been a wasted life."

- Okawimaw Askiy

Q: How do you make God laugh?

A: Tell Him your plans.

"I like living. I have sometimes been wildly, despairingly, acutely miserable, racked with sorrow, but through it all I still know quite certainly that just to be alive is a grand thing."

- Agatha Christie

" I do not regard myself as a dead shot, but I am a pretty dangerous man with a wet towel."

- Raymond Chandler

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

"The game's afoot: follow your spirit, and upon this charge cry 'God for Harry, England, and Saint George!'"

- Henry V, Act III, Scene i

"Expecting a trouble-free life because you are a good person is like expecting the bull not to charge you because you are a vegetarian."

- Jeffrey R. Holland

"A gentleman is a man who can play the accordion but doesn't."

- Anon

"Should any American soldier be so base and infamous as to injure any [prisoner] ... I do most earnestly enjoin you to bring him to such severe and exemplary punishment as the enormity of the crime may require. Should it extend to death itself, it will not be disproportionate to its guilt at such a time and in such a cause ... for by such conduct they bring shame, disgrace and ruin to themselves and their country."

- George Washington, charge to the Northern Expeditionary Force, Sept. 14, 1775

"This," Humphrey told Elaine, "is why I don't travel in armour. A knight's work is never done. Rescuing damsels, fighting sorceresses, getting cats out of trees, opening tight jars. And all for honour, God's least fungible reward."

- Marie Phillips, *The Table of Less Valued Knights*

"Anger, fear, aggression; the dark side of the Force are they."

- Yoda

The Pledge

I may fuck up, but I will never be fucked up or a fuck up. I will only fuck around if there is fuck all else to do, and I will only fuck off if I think I am going to get fucked over.

- from this isn't happiness™ Peteski

"Trying to define yourself is like trying to bite your own teeth."

- Alan Watts

"Please do not shoot the pianist. He is doing his best."

- Oscar Wilde

"Go out there. Do the best you can. Then fuck it."

- Yogi Berra

"Get all the fools on your side and you can be elected to anything."

- Frank Dane

"The reason there are so few female politicians is that it is too much trouble to put makeup on two faces."

- Maureen Murphy

"He was the only man I ever knew who could get money from the rich and votes from the poor with the promise to protect them from each other."

- Tommy Douglas

"Crime does not pay ... as well as politics."
- Alfred E. Newman

"Since a politician never believes what he says, he is quite surprised to be taken at his word."
- Charles De Gaulle

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy."

- Ernest Benn

"Being in politics is like being a football coach. You have to be smart enough to understand the game, and dumb enough to think it's important."
- Eugene McCarthy

"Nothing is so admirable in politics as a short memory."
- John Kenneth Galbraith

"In politics you must always keep running with the pack. The moment that you falter and they sense that you are injured, the rest will turn on you like wolves."
- R. A. Butler

"Politics is perhaps the only profession for which no preparation is thought necessary."
- Robert Louis Stevenson

"Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first."

- Ronald Reagan

"Diplomacy --- the art of saying "Nice doggie" 'til you can find a stick."

- Wynn Catlin

"Power always has to be kept in check; power exercised in secret, especially under the cloak of national security, is doubly dangerous."

- William Proxmire

"Noise proves nothing--often a hen who has merely laid an egg cackles as if she had laid an asteroid."

- Mark Twain

"Those of you who come in with me now will receive a big piece of the pie. Those of you who delay, and commit yourselves later, will receive a smaller piece of pie. Those of you who don't come in at all will receive – Good Government!"

- Huey Long

"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."

- Winston Churchill

"We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office."

- Aesop

"Becoming a politician is the only step down I could take from being a journalist."

- Jim Hightower

"Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few." Jonathan Swift

"If somebody's gonna stab me in the back, I wanna be there."

- Allan Lamport

"Don't follow leaders
Watch the parkin' meters."

- Bob Dylan

"The poor sometimes object to being governed badly; the rich object to being governed at all."

- G.K. Chesterton

"Politics is the art by which politicians obtain campaign contributions from the rich and votes from the poor on the pretext of protecting each from the other."

- Oscar Ameringer (1870-1943)

Reporter: "What do you think of Western civilization?"

Mahatma Gandhi: "I think it would be a good idea."

After a hostess at a reception in Vienna apologized to undefeated British general Arthur Wellesley for the rudeness of French officers who had ignored him, Wellesley replied: "I have seen their backs before, madam."

"I've never killed a man, but I've read many an obituary with a great deal of satisfaction."

- Mark Twain

Member of British parliament: "Mr. Churchill, must you fall asleep while I'm speaking?"

Winston Churchill: "No, it's purely voluntary."

Lewis Morris, after not being chosen for Poet Laureateship: "There's a conspiracy against me, a conspiracy of silence, but what can one do? What should I do?"

Oscar Wilde: "Join it."

"It's not that I believe there are too many idiots in this world, just that lightning isn't distributed right."

- Mark Twain

When asked if online comics would replace actual books Stan Lee had this to say:

"Comics are like boobs. They look great on a computer, but I'd rather hold one in my hand."

Frisbeetarianism, n. The belief that, after death, the soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.

"Without followers, evil cannot spread."

Spock, "*And the Children Shall Lead*",
Star Trek, Season 3, Episode 4

“The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the population 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

“Maybe if you pick up a gun and go to another country and you get shot, it’s not that weird. Maybe if you get shot by the dude you were just shooting at, it’s a tiny bit your fault.”

- Louis C.K.

"The first principle is that you must not fool yourself and you are the easiest person to fool."

- Richard P. Feynman

"As long as I live under the capitalistic system, I expect to have my life influenced by the demands of moneyed people. But I will be damned if I propose to be at the beck and call of every itinerant scoundrel who has two cents to invest in a postage stamp.

This, sir, is my resignation."

- William Faulkner's resignation letter to the post office

To love someone is to show to them their beauty, their worth and their importance.

- Jean Vanier

"Now Jesus don't like killing / No matter what the reason for"

- John Prine, *Flag Decal*

I don't know who you are. I don't know what you want. If you are looking for ransom, I can tell you I don't have money. But what I do have are a very particular set of skills, skills I have acquired over a very long career. Skills that make me a nightmare for people like you. If you let my daughter go now, that'll be the end of it. I will not look for you, I will not pursue you. But if you don't, I will look for you, I will find you, and I will kill you.

“Common sense is nothing more than a deposit of prejudices laid down by the mind before you reach eighteen.”

- Albert Einstein

"The truth may be puzzling. It may take some work to grapple with it. It may contradict deeply held prejudices. It may not be consonant with what we deeply want to be true. But our preferences do not determine what's true."

- Carl Sagan

"You thought you could bury us.
You forgot we were seeds."

~ Mexican proverb

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."

- Isaiah 6:8

"If at the end of a war story you feel uplifted, or if you feel that some small bit of rectitude has been salvaged from the larger waste, then you have been made the victim of a very old and terrible lie."

- Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*

"Perhaps, when we remember wars, we should take off our clothes and paint ourselves blue and go on all fours all day long and grunt like pigs. That would surely be more appropriate than noble oratory and shows of flags and well-oiled guns."

— Kurt Vonnegut, *Cat's Cradle*

"I don't like country music, but I don't mean to denigrate those who do. And for the people who like country music, denigrate means 'put down'."

- Bob Newhart

"Nothing in politics ever happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

"There are two kinds of humor. One makes us chuckle about our foibles and shared humanity. The other holds people up to public ridicule."

- Molly Ivins

"Ever have a heavy-set aunt fall down the steps? Make a whole lot of fuckin' noise. It's scary, too, 'cause they be calling Jesus on the way down."

- From an Eddie Murphy bit in *Delirious*

"Why do people say 'grow some balls'? Balls are weak and sensitive. If you wanna be tough, grow a vagina. Those things can take a pounding."

— Betty White

"All a girl really wants is for one guy to prove to her that they are not all the same."

-Marilyn Monroe

- William Faulkner

" It's better to be a pirate than to join the navy."

- Steve Jobs

“Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.”

- Abraham Lincoln

"There are nights when the wolves are silent and only the moon howls."

- George Carlin (h/t Christine Kirouac)

"When you step on the brakes your life is in your foot's hands.:

- George Carlin

"I believe peace is the way but if needed, clumps of hair are coming out."

- Susan Mags @mysticalsusan

" The sole purpose of a child's middle name, is so he can tell when he's really in trouble."

- Bill Murray

i want to apologize to all the women
i have called pretty
before i've called them intelligent or brave.
i am sorry i made it sound as though
something as simple as what you're born with
is the most you have to be proud of
when your spirit has crushed mountains
from now on i will say things like, you are resilient
or, you are extraordinary.
not because i don't think you're pretty.
but because you are so much more than that

- rupi kaur

My friends, I had not intended to discuss this controversial subject at this particular time. However, I want you to know that I do not shun controversy. On the contrary, I will take a stand on any issue at any time, regardless of how fraught with controversy it might be. You have asked me how I feel about whiskey. All right, here is how I feel about whiskey:

If when you say whiskey you mean the devil's brew, the poison scourge, the bloody monster, that defiles innocence, dethrones reason, destroys the home, creates misery and poverty, yea, literally takes the bread from the mouths of little children; if you mean the evil drink that topples the Christian man and woman from the pinnacle of righteous, gracious living into the bottomless pit of degradation, and despair, and shame and helplessness, and hopelessness, then certainly I am against it.

But, if when you say whiskey you mean the oil of conversation, the philosophic wine, the ale that is consumed when good fellows get together, that puts a song in their hearts and laughter on their lips, and the warm glow of contentment in their eyes; if you mean Christmas cheer; if you mean the stimulating drink that puts the spring in the old gentleman's step on a frosty, crispy morning; if you mean the drink which enables a man to magnify his joy, and his happiness, and to forget, if only for a little while, life's great tragedies, and heartaches, and sorrows; if you mean that drink, the sale of which pours into our treasuries untold millions of dollars, which are used to provide tender care for our little crippled children, our blind, our deaf, our dumb, our pitiful aged and infirm; to build highways and hospitals and schools, then certainly I am for it.

This is my stand. I will not retreat from it. I will not compromise.

- Noah S. "Soggy" Sweat, Jr.

"The truth about my life is nobody's damn business but my own."

- John Ford:

"The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter."

- Winston Churchill

"Autumn; the year's last, loveliest smile. "

- William Cullen Bryant

"The demagogue is one who preaches doctrines he knows to be untrue to men he knows to be idiots."

- Mencken

"nothing worth having comes without some kind of fight/Got to kick at the darkness 'til it bleeds daylight."

- Bruce Cockburn (via Naheed Nenshi)

"Habit is habit, and not to be flung out the window by any man, but coaxed downstairs one step at a time. "

- Mark Twain

The snow it fell,
Lo, though it melted,
A broke-ed heart

Is what I felt.

- Den Esau

"Prejudices are what fools use for reason."

- Voltaire

FEAR stands for fuck everything and run.

- old AA saying

"Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so."

- Douglas Adams

"Every ambitious would-be empire clarions it abroad that she is conquering the world to bring it peace, security and freedom, and it is sacrificing her sons only for the most noble and humanitarian purposes.

That is a lie; and it is an ancient lie, yet generations still rise and believe it."

- Henry David Thoreau

"It would not be easy to believe that the corpses of the dead should sally (I know not by what agency) from their graves, and should wander about to the terror or destruction of the living, and again return to the tomb, which of its own accord spontaneously opened to receive them, did not frequent examples, occurring in our own times, suffice to establish this fact, to the truth of which there is abundant testimony.

- William of Newburgh, circa 1190

"I've never killed a man, but I've read many an obituary with a great deal of satisfaction."

- Mark Twain

"A politician divides mankind into two classes: tools and enemies."

- Friedrich Nietzsche

"God is a thought who makes crooked all that is straight."

- Friedrich Nietzsche

"Experience is the hardest kind of teacher. It gives you the test first and the lesson afterward."

- Oscar Wilde

"Death need not concern us because when we exist death does not, and when death exists we do not."

- Epicurus

"Kissing seems not a great matter, in a way. And yet in one way it speaks the million things which words can't."

- James Thurber

"You will never reach your destination if you stop and throw stones at every dog that barks."

= Winston Churchill

"And now," cried Max, "let the wild rumpus start!"

- Maurice Sendak, "Where the Wild Things Are"

□□□□□□□□□□

"The nicest thing for me is sleep, then at least I can dream."

- Marilyn Monroe

"People who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do."

- Isaac Asimov

"Let me only glance where you are, the voice dies, I can say nothing, but my lips are stricken to silence, underneath my skin the tenuous flame suffuses."

- Sappho

One of Secretary of State's aides once asked him for a pay raise.

The verbose Mr. Haig replied "Because of the fluctuational disposition of your position's productive capacity as juxtaposed to government standards, it would be momentarily injudicious to advocate an increment."

Perplexed, the aide replied, "I don't get it."

Mr. Haig: "That's right."

"Once again... welcome to my house. Come freely. Go safely; and leave something of the happiness you bring."

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

"There is nothing to writing.

All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed."

- Ernest Hemingway

" Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual. Yesterday, everybody smoked his last cigar, took his last drink, and swore his last oath. To-day, we are a pious and exemplary community. Thirty days from now, we shall have cast our reformation to the winds and gone to cutting our ancient short comings considerably shorter than ever. We shall also reflect pleasantly upon how we did the same old thing last year about this time. However, go in, community. New Year's is a harmless annual institution, of no particular use to anybody save as a scapegoat for promiscuous drunks, and friendly calls, and humbug resolutions, and we wish you to enjoy it with a looseness suited to the greatness of the occasion."

- Mark Twain

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace."

- Jimi Hendrix

"Zen pretty much comes down to three things -- everything changes; everything is connected; pay attention."

- Jane Hirshfield

"The only way out of the labyrinth of suffering is to forgive."

— John Green

"You should always believe what you read in the newspapers, for that makes them more interesting."

- Rose Macaulay

"Beer makes you feel the way you ought to feel without beer."

- Henry Lawson

"Let us see to it that ponderers, thinkers, feelers survive in our midst."

- Robert Walser

"But you cannot shut your eyes / when what you now must do / is gather the dead"

- Budge Wilson, *After Swissair* (h/t Lorri Neilsen Glenn)

"The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it."

- Flannery O'Connor

"I do not envy you the headache you will have when you awake. But for now, rest well and dream of large women."

- Man in Black, *The Princess Bride*

Buttercup: You mock my pain.

Man in Black: Life is pain, Highness. Anyone who says differently is selling something.

- from *The Princess Bride*

"Where do you begin telling someone their world is not the only one?"

- Lee Maracle, *Ravensong*

"Stay calm! Be brave! Wait for the signs!"

- from *The Dead Dog Cafe*

“We did not ask for this room or this music; we were invited in.
Therefore, because the dark surrounds us,
Let us turn our faces toward the light.
Let us endure hardship to be grateful for plenty.
We have been given pain to be astounded by joy.
We have been given life to deny death.
We did not ask for this room or this music.
But because we are here, let us dance.”

- Stephen King

“Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind; the second is to be kind;
and the third is to be kind.”

- Henry James

“The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds; and the pessimist
fears this is true.”

- James Branch Cabell

"Loveliness needs not the foreign aid of ornament, but is, when unadorned, adorned the
most."

- Thomson.

"I don't care if the door gaps are straight. When the driver steps on the gas I want him to
shit his pants."

- Enzo Ferrari

"It's hard to win an argument with a smart person, but it's damn impossible to win an argument with a stupid person."

- Bill Murray

In *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America*, Dr. King conveys what it feels like to be an Indian—an unexpectedly persistent obstacle to White settlers' exploitation of usurped land, despite centuries of policies devised to **exterminate**, relocate, educate or **assimilate** the original occupants. - See more at: <http://www.nyjournalofbooks.com/book-review/inconvenient-indian#sthash.ConKReWa.dpuf>

"Men of my generation have had Spain in our hearts. It was there that they learned...that one can be right and yet be beaten, that force can vanquish spirit, and that there are times when courage is not rewarded."

- Albert Camus

"Normal is an illusion. What is normal for the spider is chaos for the fly."

- Morticia Addams

"I enjoy democracy immensely. It is incomparably idiotic, and hence incomparably amusing. Does it exalt dunderheads, cowards, trimmers, frauds, cads? Then the pain of seeing them go up is balanced and obliterated by the joy of seeing them come down."

- H. L. Mencken

"Everywhere is walking distance if you have the time."

- Steven Wright

"We are all mortal until the first kiss and the second glass of wine."

- Eduardo Galeano

"We build a fire in a powder magazine, then double the fire department to put it out. We inflame wild beasts with the smell of blood, and then innocently wonder at the wave of brutal appetite that sweeps the land as a consequence."

- Mark Twain

"But everyone joins a band in this life. Only some of them play music."

- Mitch Albom, "the magic strings of Frankie Pesto"

"Everyone joins a band in this life. One way or another, the band breaks up."

- Mitch Albom, "the magic strings of Frankie Pesto"

Willard: [voiceover] Saigon... shit; I'm still only in Saigon... Every time I think I'm gonna wake up back in the jungle.

- Apocalypse Now

"[They] agreed that it was neither possible nor necessary to educate people who never questioned anything."

— Joseph Heller, Catch-22

100 % of firework displays end with someone's mom saying, "Is that it?"

- Sage Boggs (@sageboggs) July 5, 2016

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/j/jose_saramago.html

"Neither anger nor fear should find lodging in your mind."

- Skennenrahawi/Great Peacemaker/Mohawk

"I'd learned some things. I knew you weren't supposed to hold a good wine at the top - the paper bag falls off."

- Pat Paulsen

"If your answer to every failure of government is more government, you are like an alcoholic trying to drink yourself sober."

- Will Spencer

"Train people well enough so they can leave, treat them well enough so they don't want to."

- Richard Branson

"I used to be with it, but then they changed what 'it' was. Now what I'm with isn't 'it', and what's 'it' seems weird and scary to me. It'll happen to youuuu..."

- Grandpa Simpson

"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

- Winnie the Pooh

"Alice: How long is forever?"

White Rabbit: Sometimes, just one second."

- Lewis Carrol

The Mad Hatter: Have I gone mad?

Alice: I'm afraid so. You're entirely bonkers. But I'll tell you a secret. All the best people are.

- Lewis Carrol

I love you without knowing
how, or when, or from where.
I love you straightforwardly,
without complexities or pride;
so I love you because I know
no other way than this:
where I does not exist, nor you,
so close that your hand
on my chest is my hand,
so close that your eyes close
as i fall asleep.

SONNET XVII
Pablo Neruda

"If every instinct you have is wrong, then the opposite would have to be right.

- Jerry Seinfeld, speaking to George

“America is the wealthiest nation on Earth, but its people are mainly poor, and poor Americans are urged to hate themselves. To quote the American humorist Kin Hubbard, 'It ain't no disgrace to be poor, but it might as well be.' It is in fact a crime for an American to be poor, even though America is a nation of poor. Every other nation has folk traditions of men who were poor but extremely wise and virtuous, and therefore more estimable than anyone with power and gold. No such tales are told by the American poor. They mock themselves and glorify their betters. The meanest eating or drinking establishment, owned by a man who is himself poor, is very likely to have a sign on its wall asking this cruel question: 'if you're so smart, why ain't you rich?' There will also be

an American flag no larger than a child's hand – glued to a lollipop stick and flying from the cash register.

Americans, like human beings everywhere, believe many things that are obviously untrue. Their most destructive untruth is that it is very easy for any American to make money. They will not acknowledge how in fact hard money is to come by, and, therefore, those who have no money blame and blame and blame themselves. This inward blame has been a treasure for the rich and powerful, who have had to do less for their poor, publicly and privately, than any other ruling class since, say Napoleonic times. Many novelties have come from America. The most startling of these, a thing without precedent, is a mass of undignified poor. They do not love one another because they do not love themselves.”

- Kurt Vonnegut *Slaughterhouse Five*

"All empty souls tend towards extreme opinions."

- William Butler Yeats

"Never mind, lads, same time tomorrow, we must get a winner one day."

- The End of the World, *Beyond The Fringe*

"I believe that anyone who claims to know what's going on will lie about the little things too."

- Neil Gaiman. "American Gods" (h/t Lord Vanscoy)

"The most dangerous man, to any government, is the man who is able to think things out for himself, without regard to the prevailing superstitions and taboos. Almost invariably he comes to the conclusion that the government he lives under is dishonest, insane and intolerable, and so, if he is romantic, he tries to change it. And if he is not romantic personally, he is apt to spread discontent among those who are."

- H.L. Mencken

"The bitterness of poor quality is remembered long after the sweetness of low price has faded from memory."

- Aldo Gucci

“The most erroneous assumption is to the effect that the aim of public education is to fill the young of the species with knowledge and awaken their intelligence, and so make them fit to discharge the duties of citizenship in an enlightened and independent manner. Nothing could be further from the truth. The aim of public education is not to spread enlightenment at all; it is simply to reduce as many individuals as possible to the same safe level, to breed and train a standardized citizenry, to put down dissent and originality. That is its aim in the United States, whatever the pretensions of politicians, pedagogues and other such mountebanks, and that is its aim everywhere else.”

— H.L. Mencken

"Be good to people. Even the shitty ones. Let the assholes be assholes. You'll sleep better."

- Adam Gnade

"Trouble is, sheep are very dim. Once they get an idea in their 'eads, there's no shiftin' it."

- Monty Python <http://www.montypython.net/scripts/flysheep.php>

“Affectations, can be dangerous.”

- Gertrude Stein, after hearing dancer Isadora Duncan was strangled by her enormous silk scarf that got tangled in the rear hubcaps of her open car

"Go away. I'm all right."

- last words of H.G. Wells

"Brevity is the soul of lingerie."

- Dorothy Parker

"You've got to remember that these are just simple farmers. These are the people of the land. The common clay of the new West. You know - morons!"

- from "Blazing Saddles"

"Complacency is a state of mind that exists only in retrospective: it has to be shattered before being ascertained."

- Vladimir Nabokov

"When the facts change, I change my mind. What do you do, sir?"

- John Maynard Keynes

"All conflict is the tragic expression of unmet needs."

- Marshall Rosenberg

"Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that's troublesome."

- Isaac Asimov

"The IQ and the life expectancy of the average American recently passed each other in opposite directions."

- George Carlin

Before I joined the Salvation Army, I used to smoke a package of cigarettes a day. I used to drink a quart of whiskey a day. And I used to lie in the gutter all day.

With women.

BUT!

Since I joined the Salvation Army, I no longer smoke a package of cigarettes a day. I no longer drink a quarter of whiskey a day. And I no longer lie in the gutter all day.

With women.

I just stand here all day and beat on this god damn drum.

Students of history know, as do readers of the Bible, that sometimes “the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.”

- Dan Gardner

No one in this world, so far as I know ... has ever lost money by underestimating the intelligence of the great masses of the plain people.

- H.L. Mencken

"More tears are shed over answered prayers than unanswered ones."

- Saint Teresa of Ávila

“On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart’s desire at last, and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron.”

- H.L. Mencken, On Politics

"The race may not be to the swift nor the victory to the strong, but that's how you bet"

- Damon Runyon

(h/t Lord Vanscoy)

"One of the worst things that can happen in life is to win a bet on a horse at an early age"

- Danny McGoorty

(h/t Lord Vanscoy)

"Here we shall stay with our books and our music and our meditations, conserving the frail elegancies of a dying age"

- James Hilton

(h/t Lord Vanscoy)

No, no, no, no! Come, let's away to prison.
We two alone will sing like birds i' th' cage.
When thou dost ask me blessing, I'll kneel down
And ask of thee forgiveness. So we'll live,
And pray, and sing, and tell old tales, and laugh
At gilded butterflies, and hear poor rogues
Talk of court news, and we'll talk with them too—
Who loses and who wins, who's in, who's out—
And take upon 's the mystery of things
As if we were God's spies. And we'll wear out
In a walled prison packs and sects of great ones
That ebb and flow by the moon.

- King Lear, Act 5, Scene 3

h/t Ted

"If you don't have the decency to like or RT something, don't fucking @ people."

- Crazy Myra @OutOnTheMoors

“For those who understand, no explanation is needed. For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible.”

- Ziad K. Abdelnour, *Economic Warfare: Secrets of Wealth Creation in the Age of Welfare Politics*

" He disappeared in the dead of winter:
The brooks were frozen, the airports almost deserted,
And snow disfigured the public statues;
The mercury sank in the mouth of the dying day.
What instruments we have agree
The day of his death was a dark cold day.."

- W.H. Auden, *In Memory of W.B. Yeats*

<http://genius.com/W-h-auden-in-memory-of-w-b-yeats-annotated>

“If Molly McGee hadn’t gone down with broken ribs ... and a frog wouldn’t bump his ass if he had wings,” Dawson concludes. “If, if, if ...”

"si nos imponen la guerra - peharemos!"
(If war is imposed on us - we will fight!)

- Cuban billboard, 1964

Zsa Zsa got in trouble a few years ago for slapping a traffic cop or something, and ended up on Phil Donahue. A very pretty young woman stood up in the audience and said, "You're just getting a lot of free publicity from this. You're giving blondes a bad name." Zsa Zsa didn't bat an eye; she just smiled her most regal smile, and said, "You know,

you're a very attractive young woman, very attractive. You shouldn't be so jealous, it makes you seem stupid."

"We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be."

~ Kurt Vonnegut

"Those who are able to see beyond the shadows and lies of their culture will never be understood, let alone believed, by the masses."

- Plato (h/t @answerallman)

Post hoc ergo propter hoc. (After this, therefore, because of this.)

"You can't be brave if you've only had wonderful things happen to you."

- Mary Tyler Moore

Suppose one man likes strawberries and another does not; in what respect is the latter superior? There is no abstract and impersonal proof either that strawberries are good or that they are not good. To the man who likes them they are good, to the man who dislikes them they are not. But the man who likes them has a pleasure which the other does not have; to that extent his life is more enjoyable and he is better adapted to the world in which both must live. What is true in this trivial instance is equally true in more important matters. The man who enjoys watching football is to that extent superior to the man who does not. The man who enjoys reading is still more superior to the man who does not, since opportunities for reading are more frequent than opportunities for watching football. (Russell did not live to see ESPN.) The more things a man is interested in, the more opportunities of happiness he has and the less he is at the mercy of fate, since if he loses one thing he can fall back upon another. Life is too short to be interested in everything, but it is good to be interested in as many things as are necessary to fill our days.

- (Bertram Russell, The Conquest of Happiness, pp. 125-6)

h/t Siusaidh Chaimbeul @Zaganashikwe

JOE HELLER

True story, Word of Honor:
Joseph Heller, an important and funny writer
now dead,
and I were at a party given by a billionaire
on Shelter Island.

I said, "Joe, how does it make you feel
to know that our host only yesterday
may have made more money
than your novel 'Catch-22'
has earned in its entire history?"
And Joe said, "I've got something he can never have."
And I said, "What on earth could that be, Joe?"
And Joe said, "The knowledge that I've got enough."
Not bad! Rest in peace!

- Kurt Vonnegut

"In most poetic expressions of patriotism, it is impossible to distinguish what is one of the greatest human virtues from the worst human vice, collective egotism. The virtue of patriotism has been extolled most loudly and publicly by nations that are in the process of conquering others, by the Roman, for example, in the first century B.C., the French in the 1790s, the English in the nineteenth century, and the Germans in the first half of the twentieth. To such people, love of one's country involves denying the right of others, of the Gauls, the Italians, the Indians, the Poles, to love theirs."

- W.H. Auden

"Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower."

- Albert Camus

"How far away the stars seem, and how far is our first kiss, and ah, how old my heart."

- W.B. Yeats

" Peel your own image from the mirror.
Sit. Feast on your life."

- Derek Walcott

"I'm so busy I don't know whether I found a rope or lost my horse."

- Mark Schaefer

"All we have to believe with is our senses, the tools we use to perceive the world: our sight, our touch, our memory. If they lie to us, then nothing can be trusted. And even if we do not believe, then still we cannot travel in any other way than the road our senses show us; and we must walk that road to the end."

- Neil Gaiman, *American Gods* p. 139

America has invested her religion as well as her morality in sound income-paying securities. She has adopted the unassailable position of a nation blessed because it deserves to be blessed; and her sons, whatever other theologies they may affect or disregard, subscribe unreservedly to this national creed.

- Agnes Repplier, *Times and Tendencies*
