

FREE-MAN'S PERSPECTIVE

• PARALLEL SOCIETY •

We have it in our power to begin the world over again.

Paul's Quotes File, August 2024

This is my quotes file, as of late August, 2024. I've compiled this over many years, piece by piece, and I refer to it often.

These are in no particular order. They are imperfectly edited and there are a few repeats. And I don't wholeheartedly endorse all of them.

I include citations whenever possible these days, but I didn't in the early years, so there are a few gaps to be filled.

Enjoy.

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Civilization is not inherited; it has to be learned and earned by each generation anew; if the transmission should be interrupted for one century, civilization would die, and we should be savages again.

-- Will and Ariel Durant, *The Lessons of History*

A society that robs an individual of the product of his efforts, or enslaves him, or attempts to limit the freedom of his mind, or compels him to act against his own rational judgment - a society that sets up a conflict between its edicts and the requirements of man's nature is not, strictly speaking, a society, but a mob held together by institutionalized gang-rule.

-- Ayn Rand

He who regulates everything by laws, is more likely to arouse vices than reform them.

-- Spinoza

The welfare state is the oldest con game in the world. First you take people's money away quietly and then you give some of it back to them flamboyantly.

-- Thomas Sowell

Government never furthered any enterprise but by the alacrity with which it got out of its way.

-- Henry David Thoreau

If you give me six lines written by the most honest man, I'll find something in them to hang him.

--Cardinal Richelieu

Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.

-- Albert Einstein

Government, in its very essence, is opposed to all increase in knowledge. Its tendency is always towards permanence and against change ... the progress of humanity, far from being the result of government, has been made entirely without its aid and in the face if its constant and bitter opposition.

-- H.L. Mencken

The government consists of a gang of men exactly like you and me. They have, taking one with another, no special talent for the business of government; they have only a talent for getting and holding office. Their principal device to that end is to search out groups who pant and pine for something they can't get and to promise to give it to them. Nine times out of ten that promise is worth nothing. The tenth time is made good by looting A to satisfy B. In other words, government is a broker in pillage, and every election is sort of an advance auction sale of stolen goods.

-- H.L. Mencken

... so long as the people do not care to exercise their freedom, those who wish to tyrannize will do so; for tyrants are active and ardent, and will devote themselves in the name of any number of gods, religious and otherwise, to put shackles upon sleeping men.

-- Voltairine de Cleyre

Anyone who says that economic security is a human right, has been too much babied. While he babbles, other men are risking and losing their lives to protect him. They are fighting the sea, fighting the land, fighting disease and insects and weather and space and time, for him, while he chatters that all men have a right to security and that some pagan god -- Society, The State, The Government, The Commune -- must give it to them. Let the fighting men stop fighting this inhuman earth for one hour, and he will learn how much security there is.

-- Rose Wilder Lane, *The Discovery of Freedom*

The urge to save humanity is almost always a false front for the urge to rule.

-- H. L. Mencken

Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its waters. This struggle may be a moral one; or it may be a physical one; or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle! Power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did, and it never will. Find out just what people will submit to, and you have found out the exact amount of injustice and wrong which will be imposed upon them; and these will continue until they are resisted with either rods or blows, or with both. The limits of tyrants are prescribed by the endurance of those whom they oppress.

-- Frederick Douglass

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

-- H.L. Mencken

A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned.

-- Thomas Jefferson

If ye love wealth better than liberty, the tranquility of servitude better than the animating contest of freedom, go home from us in peace. We ask not your counsels or arms. Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains set lightly upon you, and may posterity forget that ye were our countrymen.

-- Samuel Adams

The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed -- and thus clamorous to be led to safety -- by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary.

-- H.L. Mencken

The advancement of freedom is not a matter of who wields political power over creative actions; rather, it depends upon the disassembling of such power.

-- Leonard E. Read

Government is not reason, it is not eloquence -- it is force. Like fire it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master; never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action.

-- George Washington (attributed)

The people of the various provinces are strictly forbidden to have in their possession any swords, short swords, bows, spears, firearms, or other types of arms. The possession of unnecessary implements makes difficult the collection of taxes and dues and tends to foment uprisings.

-- Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Japanese Shogun

It doesn't seem to me that people who are serious about freedom can indulge themselves too much longer in the fantasy that freedom can be advanced through politics without the risk of doing themselves substantial hurt. Politics are the dynamic of government, government is theft and slavery, and we can achieve freedom through political action like we can achieve celibacy through rape.

-- Victor Milan

Men stumble over the truth from time to time, but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing happened.

-- Winston Churchill

Timid men prefer the calm of despotism to the tempestuous sea of Liberty.

--Thomas Jefferson

I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than those attending too small a degree of it.

-- Thomas Jefferson, letter to Archibald Stuart, December 23, 1791

Where liberty is, there is my country.

-- Benjamin Franklin

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

-- Benjamin Franklin

Life, like a dramatic piece, should... finish handsomely. Being now in the last act, I began to look for something fit to end with... I settle a colony on the Ohio... to settle in that fine country a strong body of religious and industrious people!...

– Benjamin Franklin, letter to George Whitfield, July 2, 1756

Might it not greatly facilitate the introduction of pure religion among the heathen, if we could, by such a colony, show them a better sample of Christians than they commonly see in our Indian traders? The care of every man's soul belongs to himself. But what if he neglect the care of it? Well what if he neglect the care of his health or his estate, which would more nearly relate to the state. Will the magistrate make a law that he not be poor or sick? Laws provide against injury from others; but not from ourselves. God himself will not save men against their wills.

-- Thomas Jefferson

When law and morality contradict each other, the citizen has the cruel alternative of either losing his moral sense or losing his respect for the law.

-- Frederic Bastiat

The state is the great fictitious entity by which everyone seeks to live at the expense of everyone else.

-- Frederic Bastiat

By virtue of exchange, one man's prosperity is beneficial to all others.

-- Frederic Bastiat

It is impossible to introduce into society a greater change and a greater evil than this: the conversion of the law into an instrument of plunder.

-- Frederic Bastiat

The great virtue of free enterprise is that it forces existing businesses to meet the test of the market continuously, to produce products that meet consumer demands at lowest cost, or else be driven from the market. It is a profit-and-loss system. Naturally, existing businesses generally prefer to keep out competitors in other ways. That is why the business community, despite its rhetoric, has so often been a major enemy of truly free enterprise.

-- Milton Friedman

Adam Smith's key insight was that both parties to an exchange can benefit and that, so long as cooperation is strictly voluntary, no exchange can take place unless both parties do benefit.

-- Milton Friedman

Life, liberty, and property do not exist because men have made laws. On the contrary, it was the fact that life, liberty and property existed beforehand that caused men to make laws in the first place.

-- Frederic Bastiat

The natural effort of every individual to better his own condition is so powerful that it is alone, and without any assistance, not only capable of carrying on the society to wealth and prosperity, but of surmounting a hundred impertinent obstructions with which the folly of human laws too often encumbers its operations.

-- Adam Smith

If you want to kill any idea in the world today, get a committee working on it.

-- Charles F. Kettering

The proper function of man is to live, not to exist. I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them. I shall use my time.

-- Jack London

The only freedom which deserves the name, is that of pursuing our own good in our way, so long as we do not attempt to deprive others of theirs, or impede their efforts to obtain it.

-- John Stuart Mill

Almost everybody, including most politicians, still give lip service to "free enterprise," but the plain fact is that American business is seriously hobbled by an ever-expanding network of restrictions, regulations, and interferences, especially at the Federal level, and the mechanism of the market, indispensable to a free economy, is limping badly and no longer giving effective guidance in the utilization of resources.

-- W.A. Paton

The market economy involves peaceful cooperation. It bursts asunder when the citizens turn into warriors and, instead of exchanging commodities and services, fight one another.

-- Ludwig von Mises

When violence is covert, legal, and approved by a majority, it is more deadly by reason of its disguises. It works stealthily to increase friction in society and to erode and corrupt social bonds. The shadow lengthens, political intervention and control increases, men rely more and more on violence to gain their ends. We careen, unwittingly, toward the servile state. This eventually is not being forced upon us; we are doing it to ourselves, largely in ignorance of what it is we are really doing.

-- Edmund A. Opitz

The market economy -- capitalism -- is based on private ownership of the material means of production and private entrepreneurship. The consumers by their buying or abstention from buying ultimately determine what should be produced and in what quantity and quality. They render profitable the affairs of those businessmen who best comply with their wishes and unprofitable the affairs of those who do not produce what they are asking for most urgently ...

-- Ludwig von Mises

The fact throughout history is that whenever government dominates the economic affairs of its citizenry, a free society is eroded, then destroyed, and a minority government ensues.

Personal liberty without economic liberty is an absolute contradiction; the one cannot exist without the other.

-- William E. Simon

Civilization can only revive when there shall come into being in a number of individuals a new tone of mind independent of the one prevalent among the crowd and in opposition to it, a tone of mind which will gradually win influence over the collective one, and in the end determine its character. It is only an ethical movement which can rescue us from the slough of barbarism, and the ethical comes into existence only in individuals.

-- Albert Schweitzer

Let me give you a definition of ethics: It is good to maintain and further life — it is bad to damage and destroy life. And this ethic, profound and universal, has the significance of a religion. *It is religion.*

— Albert Schweitzer

The end of the law is, not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom.

-- John Locke

Trade between two individuals, entered into freely, always results in benefits to both parties.

Otherwise, why should they trade?

-- W.M. Curtis

Political freedom and the whole gamut of civil rights were impossible until there existed the freedom of property which emerged as the burdens of feudal tenure were cast off.

-- Bertel M. Sparks

The truth is that private ownership of property is the greatest instrument of freedom ever designed and it is sheer folly to speak of granting a man freedom while withholding that instrument from him.

-- Bertel M. Sparks

Man must have the right of choice, even to choose wrong, if he shall ever learn to choose right.

-- Josiah C. Wedgwood

Central planning will eventually destroy individual liberty by concentrating all political power in one person or in a committee; furthermore, it will eventually end our prosperity by laying the dead hand of state control on the economy.

-- Robert M. Thornton

None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free.

-- Goethe

Human beings will generally exercise power when they can get it; and they will exercise it most undoubtedly, in popular governments, under pretense of public safety.

-- Daniel Webster

The tyrant, who in order to hold his power, suppresses every superiority, does away with good men, forbids education and light, controls every movement of the citizens and, keeping them under a perpetual servitude, wants them to grow accustomed to baseness and cowardice,

has his spies everywhere to listen to what is said in the meetings, and spreads dissension and calumny among the citizens and impoverishes them, is obliged to make war in order to keep his subjects occupied and impose on them permanent need of a chief.

-- Aristotle

A democracy is always temporary in nature; it simply cannot exist as a permanent form of government. A democracy will continue to exist up until the time that voters discover that they can vote themselves generous gifts from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates who promise the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that every democracy will finally collapse due to loose fiscal policy.

-- Alexander Fraser Tyler, Scottish lawyer and writer, 1770

A people may prefer a free government, but if by momentary discouragement or temporary panic, or a fit of enthusiasm for an individual, they can be induced to lay their liberties at the feet of even a great man, or trust him with powers to subvert their institutions, in all these cases they are unfit for liberty.

-- John Stuart Mill

Despotism can be a development, often a late development and very often indeed the end of societies that have been highly democratic. A despotism may almost be defined as a tired democracy.

-- G.K. Chesterton

Since the general civilization of mankind, I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by the gradual and silent encroachment of those in power, than by violent and sudden usurpation.

-- James Madison

Does there exist a nobler inspiration than the desire to be free? It is by his freedom that a man knows himself, by his sovereignty over his own life. To violate freedom, to flout that sovereignty, is to deny man the right to live his life, to take responsibility for himself with dignity.

-- Elie Wiesel

The beneficial effect of state intervention, especially in the form of legislation, is direct, immediate, and so to speak, visible, while its evil effects are gradual and indirect and lay out of sight ... Hence the majority of mankind must almost of necessity look with undue favor upon governmental intervention.

-- A. V. Dicey

The right most valued by all civilized men is the right to be left alone.

-- Justice Louis Brandeis

It must be obvious that liberty necessarily means freedom to choose foolishly as well as wisely; freedom to choose evil as well as good; freedom to enjoy the rewards of good judgment, and freedom to suffer the penalties of bad judgment. If this is not true, the word "freedom" has no meaning.

-- Ben Moreell

There is nothing new in state interventionism. It is as old and reactionary as societal organization itself. Always, when it permeates the body politic, it kills the nation.

-- Spruille Braden

Liberty is meaningless if it is only the liberty to agree with those in power.

-- Ludwig von Mises

Liberty will not descend to a people; a people must rise themselves to liberty; it is a blessing that must be earned before it can be enjoyed.

-- Caleb C. Colton

The American businessmen, as a class, have demonstrated the greatest productive genius and the most spectacular achievements ever recorded in the economic history of mankind. What reward did they receive from our culture and its intellectuals? The position of a hated, persecuted minority. The position of a scapegoat for the evils of the bureaucrats.

-- Ayn Rand

I know that most men, including those at ease with problems of the greatest complexity, can seldom accept even the simplest and most obvious truth if it be such as would oblige them to admit the falsity of conclusions which they have delighted in explaining to colleagues, which they proudly taught to others, and which they have woven, thread by thread, into the fabric of their lives.

-- Leo Tolstoy

It seems that wherever the Welfare State is involved, the moral precept, "Thou shalt not steal," becomes altered to say: "Thou shalt not steal, except for what thou deemest to be a worthy cause, where thou thinkest that thou canst use the loot for a better purpose than wouldst the victim of the theft."

-- F. A. Harper

We must remember that the principal instrument of government is coercion and that our government officials are no more moral, omnipotent, nor omniscient than are any of the rest of us. Once we understand the basic principles which must be observed if freedom is to be safeguarded against government, we may become more hesitant in turning our personal problems and responsibilities over to that agency of coercion, with its insatiable appetite for power.

-- W. C. Mullendore

Property is the fruit of labor. Property is desirable, is a positive good in the world. That some should be rich shows that others may become rich and hence is just encouragement to industry and enterprise. Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him work diligently to build one for himself, thus by example assuring that his own shall be safe from violence.

-- Abraham Lincoln

The control of the production of wealth is the control of human life itself.

-- Hilaire Belloc

It is a psychological paradox that those who are most afraid to die are most afraid to live; and in seeking to cheat death, they defraud themselves of life.

-- Sydney J. Harris

An idealist believes the short run doesn't count. A cynic believes the long run doesn't matter. A realist believes that what is done or left undone in the short run determines the long run.

-- Sydney J. Harris, *Reader's Digest*, May 1979

The principal difference between love and hate is that love is an irradiation, and hate is a concentration. Love makes everything lovely; hate concentrates itself on the object of its hatred. All the fearful counterfeits of love — possessiveness, lust, vanity, jealousy — are closer to hate: they concentrate on the object, guard it, suck it dry.

-- Sydney J. Harris, *Strictly Personal*

The difference between faith and superstition is that the first uses reason to go as far as it can, and then makes the jump; the second shuns reason entirely — which is why superstition is not the ally, but the enemy, of true religion.

-- Sydney J. Harris, *Strictly Personal*

A cynic is not merely one who reads bitter lessons from the past; he is one who is prematurely disappointed in the future.

-- Sydney J. Harris, *On The Contrary*

Agnosticism is a perfectly respectable and tenable philosophical position; it is not dogmatic and makes no pronouncements about the ultimate truths of the universe. It remains open to evidence and persuasion; lacking faith, it nevertheless does not deride faith. Atheism, on the other hand, is as unyielding and dogmatic about religious belief as true believers are about heathens. It tries to use reason to demolish a structure that is not built upon reason; because, though rational argument may take us to the edge of belief, we require a "leap of faith" to jump the chasm.

-- Sydney J. Harris, *Pieces of Eight*

Character is something you forge for yourself; temperament is something you are born with and can only slightly modify. Some people have easy temperaments and weak characters; others have difficult temperaments and strong characters. We are all prone to confuse the two in assessing people we associate with.

-- Sydney J. Harris, *Clearing The Ground*

The essential quality of a free economy is that it cannot be planned. It leaves the solution of problems to the inspiration of the individuals in the untrammelled population. When something approaching a free economy has existed, it has always worked better than the schemes of any planners.

-- Thomas H. Barber

After having thus successively taken each member of the community in its powerful grasp and fashioned him at will, the government then extends its arm over the whole community. It covers the surface of society with a network of small, complicated rules, minute and uniform, through which the most original minds and the most energetic characters cannot penetrate, to rise above the crowd. The will of man is not shattered, but softened, bent, and guided; men

are seldom forced by it to act, but they are constantly restrained from acting. Such a power does not destroy, but it prevents existence: it does not tyrannize, but it compresses, enervates, extinguishes, and stupefies a people, till each nation is reduced to nothing better than a flock of timid and industrious animals, of which the government is the shepherd.

-- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Vol. 2, book 4, chapter 6

But how is ... legal plunder to be identified? Quite simply. See if the law takes from some persons what belongs to them, and gives it to other persons to whom it does not belong. See if the law benefits one citizen at the expense of another by doing what the citizen himself cannot do without committing a crime. Then abolish this law without delay, for it is not only an evil itself, but also it is a fertile source for further evils because it invites reprisals.

-- Frederic Bastiat

A new public opinion must be created privately and unobtrusively. The existing one is maintained by the press, by propaganda, by organization, and by financial and other influences which are at its disposal. The unnatural way of spreading ideas must be opposed by the natural one, which goes from man to man and relies solely on the truth of the thoughts and the hearer's receptiveness for new truth.

-- Albert Schweitzer

As one advances in life, one realizes more and more that the majority of men - and of women - are incapable of any other effort than that strictly imposed on them as a reaction to external compulsion. And for that reason, the few individuals we have come across who are capable of a spontaneous and joyous effort stand out isolated, monumentalized, so to speak, in our experience. These are the select men, the nobles, the only ones who are active and not merely reactive, for whom life is a perpetual striving, an incessant course of training.

-- José Ortega y Gasset

Do not consider Collectivists as "sincere but deluded idealists". The proposal to enslave some men for the sake of others is not an ideal; brutality is not "idealistic," no matter what its purpose. Do not ever say that the desire to "do good" by force is a good motive. Neither power-lust nor stupidity are good motives.

-- Ayn Rand

The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly, is to fill the world with fools.

--Herbert Spencer

If I could have convinced more slaves that they *were* slaves, I could have freed thousands more.

-- Harriet Tubman

Warriors don't always have to fight. They may just have to stand up.

-- Native American Saying

The thought of how far the human race would have advanced without government simply staggers the imagination.

-- Doug Casey

Progress comes from people who think against the grain. Without nonconformists, you don't advance.

-- Saw Ken Wye

The plain fact is that education is itself a form of propaganda -- a deliberate scheme to outfit the pupil, not with the capacity to weigh ideas, but with a simple appetite for gulping ideas ready-made. The aim is to make 'good' citizens, which is to say, docile and uninquisitive citizens.

-- H.L. Mencken

Education rears disciples, imitators, and routinists, not pioneers of new ideas and creative geniuses. The schools are not nurseries of progress and improvement, but conservatories of tradition and unvarying modes of thought.

-- Ludwig von Mises

There must be no barriers for freedom of inquiry. There is no place for dogma in science. The scientist is free, and must be free to ask any question, to doubt any assertion, to seek for any evidence, to correct any errors.

-- Robert Oppenheimer

Men are born ignorant, not stupid; they are made stupid by education.

-- Bertrand Russell

Whoever claims the right to redistribute the wealth produced by others is claiming the right to treat human beings as chattel.

-- Ayn Rand

Mankind is at its best when it is most free. This will be clear if we grasp the principle of liberty. We must recall that the basic principle of liberty is freedom of choice, which saying many have on their lips but few in their minds.

-- Dante Alighieri

It is hard to fight an enemy who has outposts in your head.

-- Sally Kempton

The decision having once been made not to let oneself be imposed on any longer by the extant and palpable, little scruple was felt about revolting against the existing State or overturning the existing laws; but to sin against the idea of the State, not to submit to the idea of law, who would have dared that?"

-- Max Stirner

This is the nature of human energy; individuals generate it, and control it. Each person is self-controlling, and therefore responsible for his acts. Every human being, by his nature, is free.

-- Rose Wilder Lane

Political freedom means the absence of coercion of a man by his fellow men.

-- Milton Friedman

...if we wish to preserve a free society, it is essential that we recognize that the desirability of a particular object is not sufficient justification for the use of coercion.

-- F.A. Hayek

The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.

-- Steve Biko

Necessity is the plea of every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves.

-- William Pitt

The ideal tyranny is that which is ignorantly self-administered by its victims. The most perfect slaves are, therefore, those which blissfully and unawaresly enslave themselves.

-- Dresden James

This I believe: that the free, exploring mind of the individual human is the most valuable thing in the world. And this I would fight for: the freedom of the mind to take any direction it wishes, undirected. And this I must fight against: any idea, religion, or government which limits or destroys the individual.

-- John Steinbeck

Life is a succession of lessons, which must be lived to be understood.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.

-- Walter Lippmann

Facts are stubborn things.

– Elliot

And remember, where you have a concentration of power in a few hands, all too frequently men with the mentality of gangsters get control. History has proven that. All power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely.

-- Lord Acton

I'm not a driven businessman, but a driven artist. I never think about money. Beautiful things make money.

-- Lord Acton

If some great catastrophe is not announced every morning, we feel a certain void. Nothing in the paper today, we sigh.

-- Lord Acton

Look at a day when you are supremely satisfied at the end. It's not a day when you lounge around doing nothing; it's when you've had everything to do, and you've done it.

-- Lord Acton

The danger is not that a particular class is unfit to govern. Every class is unfit to govern.

-- Lord Acton

To change one's life: Start immediately. Do it flamboyantly. No exceptions.

-- William James

Life is either a daring adventure, or else it is nothing.

-- Hellen Keller

The results you produce in life are inversely proportional to the degree to which you are intimidated.

-- Robert J. Ringer

Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, though checkered by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, living in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat.

-- Theodore Roosevelt

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.

-- Aristotle

One doesn't discover new lands without consenting to lose sight of the shore for a very long time.

-- Andre Gide

Every great advance in natural knowledge has involved the absolute rejection of authority.

-- Thomas Huxley

Good intentions will always be pleaded for every assumption of authority. It is hardly too strong to say that the Constitution was made to guard the people against the dangers of good intentions. There are men in all ages who mean to govern well, but they mean to govern. They promise to be good masters, but they mean to be masters.

-- Daniel Webster

The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people... This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people was the real American Revolution.

-- John Adams

An elective despotism was not the government we fought for.

-- Thomas Jefferson

The American Republic will endure, until politicians realize they can bribe the people with their own money.

-- Alexis de Tocqueville

The more corrupt the state, the more it legislates.

-- Tacitus

To the pioneers of civil and religious liberty. But bolder, they who first off-cast their moorings from the habitable east, and ventured chartless on the sea of storm-engendering liberty.

-- Inscription above the main entrance to the 1893 Chicago World's Fair

A wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government, and this is necessary to close the circle of our felicities.

-- Thomas Jefferson

Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself.

-- Mark Twain

Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

-- Mark Twain

It is curious--curious that physical courage should be so common in the world, and moral courage so rare.

– Mark Twain, *Eruption*

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a man and a dog.

-- Mark Twain

I love to see a young girl go out and grab the world by the lapels. Life's a bitch. You've got to go out and kick ass.

-- Maya Angelou

When you blame others, you give up your power to change. If you don't change your beliefs, your life will be like this forever. Is that good news?

-- Dr. Robert Anthony

Only I can change my life. No one can do it for me.

-- Carol Burnett

It takes courage to grow up and turn out to be who you really are.

-- E.E. Cummings

Most people never run far enough on their first wind to find out they've got a second. Give your dreams all you've got and you'll be amazed at the energy that comes out of you.

-- William James

Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing. Security does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than exposure.

-- Helen Adams Keller

I am in the world to change the world.

-- Muriel Rukeyser

The world is made up of stories, not atoms.

-- Muriel Rukeyser

If there is a feeling that something has been lost, it may be because much has not yet been used, much is still to be found and begun.

-- Muriel Rukeyser

However confused the scene of our life appears, however torn we may be who now do face that scene, it can be faced, and we can go on to be whole.

-- Muriel Rukeyser

In time of crisis, we summon up our strength. Then, if we are lucky, we are able to call every resource, every forgotten image that can leap to our quickening, every memory that can make us know our power. And this luck is more than it seems to be: it depends on the long preparation of the self to be used.

-- Muriel Rukeyser

In time of the crises of the spirit, we are aware of need, our need for each other and our need for ourselves. We call up our fullness; we turn, and act.

-- Muriel Rukeyser

Experience taken into the body, breathed-in, so that reality is the completion of experience, and poetry is what is produced. And life is what is produced.

To stand against the idea of the fallen world, a powerful and destructive idea overshadowing Western poetry. In that sense, there is no lost Eden, and God is the future. The child walled-up in our life can be given his growth. In this growth is our security.

-- Muriel Rukeyser

How can I look back and not speak of the stupid learning about birth? Of the stupid learning that people make love, and how it seemed the reason for all things, the intimacy of my wondering, the illumination that — to an adolescent — was the cause for life around me, the reason why the unhappy people I knew did not kill themselves?

-- Muriel Rukeyser

We would try to imagine them, try to find each other, To construct peace, to make love, to reconcile. Waking with sleeping, ourselves with each other, Ourselves with ourselves. We would try by any means To reach the limits of ourselves, to reach beyond ourselves, To let go the means, to wake.

-- Muriel Rukeyser

I heartily accept the motto, 'That government is best which governs least'; and I should like to see it acted upon more rapidly and systematically. Carried out, it finally amounts to this, which also I believe — That government is best which governs not at all; and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have.

-- Henry David Thoreau

The character inherent in the American people has done all that has been accomplished; and it would have done somewhat more, if the government had not sometimes got in its way.

Trade and commerce, if they were not made of india-rubber, would never manage to bounce

over obstacles which legislators are continually putting in their way; and if one were to judge these men wholly by the effects of their actions and not partly by their intentions, they would deserve to be classed and punished with those mischievous persons who put obstructions on the railroads.

-- Henry David Thoreau

There will never be a really free and enlightened State until the State comes to recognize the individual as a higher and independent power, from which all its own power and authority are derived, and treats him accordingly.

-- Henry David Thoreau

Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half of the people are right more than half of the time.

-- E.B. White

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

-- P.J. O'Rourke

The Democrats are the party that says government will make you smarter, taller, richer, and remove the crabgrass on your lawn. The Republicans are the party that says government doesn't work and then they get elected and prove it. Leadership presupposes that we, as a nation, are all going someplace together. I haven't noticed that we're going anywhere lately. And this is a free country, anyway - each of us should choose his own destination. In a truly American kind of leadership the president would be a person headed in two hundred fifty million different directions at once.

-- P.J. O'Rourke

Taxes are not levied for the benefit of the taxed.

-- Robert A. Heinlein

Does history record any case in which the majority was right?

-- Robert A. Heinlein

All men are created unequal.

-- Robert A. Heinlein

Political tags, such as royalist, communist, democrat, populist, fascist, liberal, conservative, and so forth, are never basic criteria. The human race divides politically into those who want people to be controlled and those who have no such desire.

-- Robert A. Heinlein

Throughout history, poverty is the normal condition of man. Advances which permit this norm to be exceeded, here and there, now and then, are the work of an extremely small minority, frequently despised, often condemned, and almost always opposed by all "right thinking" people. Whenever this tiny minority is kept from creating, or (as sometimes happens) is driven out of a society, the people then slip back into abject poverty. This is known as "bad luck."

-- Robert A. Heinlein

Better to be wise by the misfortunes of others than by your own.

-- Aesop

The man who insists on seeing with perfect clearness before he decides, never decides.

-- Henri-Frederic Amiel

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

-- Voltaire

Only the man who is below average in economic ability desires equality; those who are of superior ability desire freedom; and in the end superior ability has its way.

-- Will and Ariel Durant

Fanaticism in religion is the alliance of the passions she condemns with the dogmas she professes.

-- Lord Acton

We are always making God our accomplice so that we may legalize our own inequities.

-- Henri-Frederic Amiel

Religions are born and may die, but superstition is immortal. Only the fortunate can take life without mythology.

Will and Ariel Durant, *The Age Of Reason Begins*, 1961.

One strength of the Communist system...is that it has some of the characteristics of a religion and inspires the emotions of a religion.

-- Albert Einstein

The masses have never thirsted after truth. Whoever can supply them with illusions is easily their master; whoever attempts to destroy their illusions is always their victim.

-- Gustave Le Bon

A man is likely to mind his own business when it is worth minding. When it is not, he takes his mind off his own meaningless affairs by minding other people's business.

-- Eric Hoffer

Although man has many points of resemblance with the brute creation one characteristic is peculiar to himself – he improves: they are incapable of improvement.

-- Alexis de Tocqueville

The truth is incontrovertible. Malice may attack it and ignorance may deride it, but in the end, there it is.

-- Winston Churchill

Freedom and equality are sworn and everlasting enemies, and when one prevails the other dies.

-- Will and Ariel Durant

Unfortunately, most people do not love truth; instead, they try to make true that which they love.

-- Robert Ringer

Freeze or fry, the problem is always industrial capitalism, and the solution is always international socialism.

-- Malcolm Ross

Land... cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market. Private land ownership is also a principal instrument of accumulation and concentration of wealth and therefore contributes to social injustice.

-- The 1976 U.N. HABITAT I Conference

You have rights antecedent to all earthly governments; rights that cannot be repealed or restrained by human laws; rights derived from the Great Legislator of the Universe.

-- John Adams

The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground.

-- Thomas Jefferson

I believe that reaching into one's own pockets to help his fellow man is both laudable and praiseworthy. Reaching into another's pockets to help his fellow man is despicable and worthy of condemnation.

-- Walter Williams

Anyone taken as an individual is tolerably sensible and reasonable – as a member of a crowd, he at once becomes a blockhead.

-- Friedrich Schiller

Mankind is made great or little by its own will.

-- Friedrich Schiller

The greater part of men are much too exhausted and enervated by their struggle with want to be able to engage in a new and severe contest with error.

-- Friedrich Schiller, *On the Aesthetic Education of Man*

Satisfied if they themselves can escape from the hard labor of thought, they willingly abandon to others the guardianship of their thoughts.

-- Friedrich Schiller, *On the Aesthetic Education of Man*

When the wine goes in, strange things come out.

-- Friedrich Schiller, *Die Piccolomini*

The strong man is strongest when alone.

-- Friedrich Schiller, *William Tell*

Who reflects too much will accomplish little.

-- Friedrich Schiller, *William Tell*

To me there is only one appearance in nature—the thinking being. The great compound called the world is only remarkable to me because it is present to shadow forth symbolically the manifold expressions of that being.

-- Friedrich Schiller, *Theosophy of Julius*

Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back-- Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamed would have come his way. Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it. Begin it now.

-- Taken from Goethe and elaborated upon by an unknown benefactor

Make no small plans. They have no power to stir men's souls.

-- Napoleon

He who will not reason, is a bigot; he who cannot is a fool; and he who dares not, is a slave.

-- Sir William Drummond

Only the wise possess ideas; the greater part of mankind are possessed by them.

-- S.T. Coleridge

One of the greatest pains to human nature is the pain of a new idea.

-- Walter Bagehot

If you want a war, nourish a doctrine. Doctrines are the most fearful tyrants to which men ever are subject, because doctrines get inside of a man's own reason and betray him against himself. Civilized men have done their fiercest fighting for doctrines.

-- W.G. Sumner *War*, 1903

We think so because all other people think so. Or;

Because, after all, we think so. Or;

Because we were told so. Or;

Because we were told so and think we must think so. Or;

Because we once thought so, and think we still think so. Or;

Because, having thought so, we think we still think so.

-- Henry Sidgwick (ascribed)

Rule your mind or it will rule you.

-- Horace

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

-- Wendell Phillips

If you wish for peace, understand war.

-- B. H. Liddell Hart

History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak, or the timid.
-- Dwight D. Eisenhower

It is fatal to enter any war without the will to win it.
-- General Douglas MacArthur

Violence is an involuntary quest for identity.
-- Marshall McLuhan

We make war so we can live in peace.
-- Aristotle

War is evil but it is often the lesser evil.
-- George Orwell

Until they become conscious they will never rebel, and until after they rebelled they cannot become conscious.
– George Orwell

The further a society drifts from truth the more it will hate those who speak it.
– George Orwell

There never was a good war or a bad peace.
-- Benjamin Franklin

A believer is to be known not only by his peace and joy, but also by his warfare in distress.
-- Robert Murray M'Cheyne

We use violence against animals because no rational form of cooperation is possible with them.
-- Ayn Rand

Courage is rightly esteemed the first of human qualities because it is the quality which guarantees all others.
-- Winston Churchill

Freedom arises from within the individual: either you are determined to be free, in which case you have grasped the essential tool of your liberty, or not. Nobody else can free you; you must free yourself, if you mean to be free.
- Jim Davidson

Simple, clear purpose and principles give rise to complex and intelligent behavior. Complex rules and regulations give rise to simple and stupid behavior.
-- Dee Hock

Given the right circumstances, from no more than dreams, determination, and the liberty to try, ordinary people consistently do extraordinary things. To lead is to create those circumstances.
-- Dee Hock

If they can get you asking the wrong questions, they don't have to worry about the answers.
-- Thomas Pynchon

Videos destroyed the vitality of rock and roll. Before that, music said, "Listen to me." Now it says, "Look at me."
-- Billy Joel

My chief want in life is someone who shall make me do what I can.
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

They are able because they think they are able.
-- Virgil

Habits are either the best of friends or the bitterest of foes.
-- Margaret Thatcher

Real culture lives by sympathies and admirations, not by dislikes and disdain.
-- William James

I have often thought that the best way to define a man's character would be to seek out the particular mental or moral attitude in which, when it came upon him, he felt himself most deeply and intensely active and alive. At such moments there is a voice inside which speaks and says: "This is the real me!"

-- William James

The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitude.

-- William James

A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices.

-- William James

There is no more miserable human being than one in whom nothing is habitual but indecision.
-- William James

Keep the faculty of effort alive in you by a little gratuitous exercise every day. That is, be systematically ascetic or heroic in little unnecessary points, do every day or two something for no other reason than that you would rather not do it, so that when the hour of dire need draws nigh, it may find you not unnerved and untrained to stand the test. So with the man who has daily inured himself to habits of concentrated attention, energetic volition, and self-denial in unnecessary things. He will stand like a tower when everything rocks around him, and when his softer fellow-mortals are winnowed like chaff in the blast.

-- William James

Our self-feeling in this world depends entirely on what we *back* ourselves to be and do.
-- William James

There is very little difference between one man and another; but what little there is, is very important.

-- An unidentified carpenter, friend of William James

It makes a tremendous emotional and practical difference to one whether one accepts the universe in the drab discolored way of stoic resignation to necessity, or with the passionate happiness of Christian saints.

-- William James

Few men desire liberty; most men wish only for a just master.

-- Gaius Sallustius Crispus

Easy isn't for the free. Easy is for the willfully confined. So how easy do you want it?

-- Matthew Good

If all printers were determined not to print anything till they were sure it would offend nobody, there would be very little printed.

-- Benjamin Franklin

Read, every day, something no one else is reading. Think, every day, something no one else is thinking. Do, every day, something no one else would be silly enough to do. It is bad for the mind to be always part of unanimity.

-- Christopher Morley

No matter how worthy the cause, it is robbery, theft, and injustice to confiscate the property of one person and give it to another to whom it does not belong.

-- Walter Williams

See, when the Government spends money, it creates jobs; whereas when the money is left in the hands of Taxpayers, God only knows what they do with it. Bake it into pies, probably. Anything to avoid creating jobs.

-- Dave Barry

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.

-- Tolstoy

Business heals all wounds. I mean, look at our relationship with Germany or Japan. Who can even remember what all the fuss was about?

-- 30 Rock

Everyone has a plan, until they've been hit.

-- Joe Louis (World Champion Heavyweight Boxer)

Courage is not simply one of the virtues, but the form of every virtue at the testing point.

-- C.S. Lewis

Be daring, be different, be impractical, be anything that will assert integrity of purpose and imaginative vision against the play-it-safers, the creatures of the commonplace, the slaves of the ordinary.

--Cecil Beaton

Some people say they haven't yet found themselves. But the self is not something one finds; it is something one creates.

-- Thomas Szasz

You have attributed conditions to villainy that simply result from stupidity.

-- Robert Heinlein

Every law that was ever written opened up a new way to graft.

-- Robert Heinlein

Correct morality can only be derived from what man is — not from what do-gooders and well-meaning aunt Nellies would like him to be.

-- Robert Heinlein

I am free, no matter what rules surround me. If I find them tolerable, I tolerate them; if I find them too obnoxious, I break them. I am free because I know that I alone am morally responsible for everything I do.

-- Robert Heinlein

A zygote is a gamete's way of producing more gametes. This may be the purpose of the universe.

-- Robert Heinlein

All societies are based on rules to protect pregnant women and young children. All else is surplusage, excrescence, adornment, luxury, or folly, which can — and must — be dumped in emergency to preserve this prime function.

-- Robert Heinlein

Being intelligent is not a felony. But most societies evaluate it as at least a misdemeanor.

-- Robert Heinlein

Jealousy is invariably a symptom of neurotic insecurity.

-- Robert Heinlein

A society that gets rid of all its troublemakers goes downhill.

-- Robert Heinlein

Do not handicap your children by making their lives easy.

-- Robert Heinlein

There are hidden contradictions in the minds of people who "love Nature" while deplored the "artificialities" with which "Man has spoiled 'Nature.'" The obvious contradiction lies in their choice of words, which imply that Man and his artifacts are not part of "Nature" — but beavers and their dams are. But the contradictions go deeper than this *prima-facie* absurdity. In declaring his love for a beaver dam (erected by beavers for beavers' purposes) and his hatred for dams erected by men (for the purposes of men) the Naturist reveals his hatred for his own race — i.e., his own self-hatred.

-- Robert Heinlein

You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once.

-- Robert Heinlein

Anyone who clings to the historically untrue — and thoroughly immoral — doctrine that 'violence never settles anything' I would advise to conjure up the ghosts of Napoleon Bonaparte and of the Duke of Wellington and let them debate it. The ghost of Hitler could referee, and the jury might well be the Dodo, the Great Auk, and the Passenger Pigeon. Violence settled their fates quite nicely. Violence, naked force, has settled more issues in history than has any other factor, and the contrary opinion is wishful thinking at its worst. Breeds that forget this basic truth have always paid for it with their lives and freedoms.

-- Robert Heinlein

Americans are so enamored of equality that they would rather be equal in slavery than unequal in freedom.

-- Alexis de Tocqueville

Trying to determine what is going on in the world by reading newspapers is like trying to tell the time by watching the second hand of a clock.

-- Ben Hecht

If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it people will eventually come to believe it.

-- Joseph Goebbels

By a free country, I mean a country where people are allowed, so long as they do not hurt their neighbours, to do as they like. I do not mean a country where six men may make five men do exactly as they like.

-- Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury

On general grounds I object to Parliament trying to regulate private morality in matters which only affects the person who commits the offense.

-- Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marquess of Salisbury

Justice is incidental to law and order.

-- J. Edgar Hoover

Most people have the will to win, few have the will to prepare to win.

-- Bobby Knight

When the hares made speeches in the assembly and demanded that all should have equality, the lions replied, "Where are your claws and teeth?"

-- attributed to Antisthenes by Aristotle

A leader is a dealer in hope.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

Beware how you take away hope from another human being.

-- Oliver Wendell Holmes

He that lives upon hope will die fasting.

-- Benjamin Franklin

The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled.

-- Plutarch

From my grandfather's father, [I learned] to dispense with attendance at public schools, and to enjoy good teachers at home, and to recognize that on such things money should be eagerly spent.

-- Marcus Aurelius

The real nature of education is at variance with the account given of it by certain of its professors.

-- Socrates

We must become just by doing just acts.

-- Aristotle

I hated school so intensely. It interfered with my freedom. I avoided the discipline by an elaborate technique of being absent-minded during classes.

-- Sigrid Undset (Winner, 1928 Nobel Prize for literature)

Government schooling is the most radical adventure in history. It kills the family by monopolizing the best times of childhood and by teaching disrespect for home and parents.

-- John Taylor Gatto

A general State education is a mere contrivance for molding people to be exactly like one another: and the mould in which it casts them is that which pleases the predominant power in the government.

-- John Stuart Mill

Of all our institutions public education is the most important... we must be able to cast a whole generation in the same mold.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

We want one class to have a liberal education. We want another class, a very much larger class of necessity, to forego the privilege of a liberal education and fit themselves to perform specific difficult manual tasks.

-- Woodrow Wilson

Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything he learned in school.

-- Albert Einstein

It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows.

-- Epictetus

Any person capable of angering you becomes your master.

– Epictetus

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.

-- Mark Twain

The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.

-- Mark Twain

Drop out of school before your mind rots from exposure to our mundane educational system.

Forget about the Senior Prom; go to the library and educate yourself if you've got any guts.

-- Frank Zappa

Education, the great mumbo jumbo and fraud of the age purports to equip us to live and is prescribed as a universal remedy for everything from juvenile delinquency to premature senility.

-- Malcolm Muggeridge

Many are willing to suffer for their art. Few are willing to learn to draw.

-- Simon Munnery

Drawing is the honesty of art. There is no possibility of cheating. It is either good or bad.

-- Salvador Dali

In war, the morale is to the material as three is to one.

– Napoleon Bonaparte

It is missing the point to think that the martial art is solely in cutting a man down; it is in killing evil. It is in the stratagem of killing the evil of one man and giving life to ten thousand.

-- Yagyu Munemori

Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

There can only be peace [with the Arabs] when they will start to love their children more than they hate us.

-- Golda Meir

War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature, and has no chance of being free unless made or kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.

-- John Stuart Mill

War will not end until all of the violent people are killed.

-- Roger Langbecker

You must...*instantly* introduce mass terror, *shoot and transport* hundreds of prostitutes who get the soldiers drunk, ex-officers, etc. Not a minute to be wasted...You must act at full stretch: mass searches. Executions for possession of weapons.

-- Vladimir Lenin

As long as the majority of society acts by and large responsibly and there are no threats to the power elite, both sides tend to let sleeping dogs lie and leave it at that. That is, as long as the economy is booming and people are prospering. A few socialist professors at Universities can easily ruin it for everyone in a generation or two.

-- Robert Basco Ziegler

They were too busy for hypocrisy, and in love with honest plunder.

-- Written about the men of the Chicago stockyards, circa 1870.

Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it.

-- Justice Learned Hand

You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make good use of it.

-- John Quincy Adams

All men have a right to remain in a state of nature as long as they please; and in case of intolerable oppression, civil or religious, to leave the society they belong to, and enter into another.

-- Samuel Adams

The natural liberty of man is to be free from any superior power on Earth, and not to be under the will or legislative authority of man, but only to have the law of nature for his rule.

-- Samuel Adams

How strangely will the Tools of a Tyrant pervert the plain Meaning of Words!

-- Samuel Adams

We cannot make Events. Our Business is wisely to improve them. There has been much to do to confirm doubting Friends & fortify the Timid. It requires time to bring honest Men to think and determine alike even in important Matters. Mankind are governed more by their feelings than by reason.

-- Samuel Adams

Did the protection we received annul our rights as men, and lay us under an obligation of being miserable? Who among you, my countrymen, that is a father, would claim authority to make your child a slave because you had nourished him in infancy?

-- Samuel Adams

Our contest is not only whether we ourselves shall be free, but whether there shall be left to mankind an asylum on earth for civil and religious liberty.

-- Samuel Adams

And that the said Constitution be never construed to authorize Congress to infringe the just liberty of the press, or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens, from keeping their own arms; or to raise standing armies, unless

necessary for the defense of the United States, or of some one or more of them; or to prevent the people from petitioning, in a peaceable and orderly manner, the federal legislature, for a redress of grievances; or to subject the people to unreasonable searches and seizures of their persons, papers or possessions.

-- Samuel Adams

I learned very early the difference between knowing the name of something and knowing something.

-- Richard Feynman

Seldom ever was any knowledge given to keep, but to impart; the grace of this rich jewel is lost in concealment.

-- Wendell Phillips

The best education in the world is that got by struggling to get a living.

-- Wendell Phillips

To hear some men talk of the government, you would suppose that Congress was the law of gravitation, and kept the planets in their places.

-- Wendell Phillips

Two kinds of men generally best succeed in political life; men of no principle, but of great talent; and men of no talent, but of one principle - that of obedience to their superiors.

-- Wendell Phillips

Rooting in work is crucial to any accomplishment. Rooting in mere enthusiasm will in the long run force illusory measures to keep the fires of empty enthusiasm going. And this makes politics and politicians.

-- Wilhelm Reich

You are afraid of life, Little Man, deadly afraid. You will murder it in the belief of doing it for the sake of "socialism," or "the state," or "national honor," or "the glory of God."

-- Wilhelm Reich

The Little Man does not know that he is little, and he is afraid of knowing it. He covers up his smallness and narrowness with illusions of strength and greatness, of others' strength and greatness. He is proud of his great generals but not proud of himself. He admires thought which he did not have and not the thought he did have. He believes in things all the more thoroughly the less he comprehends them, and does not believe in the correctness of those ideas which he comprehends most easily.

-- Wilhelm Reich

No man-made law ever, no matter whether derived from the past or projected onto a distant, unforeseeable future, can or should ever be empowered to claim that it is greater than the Natural Law from which it stems.

-- Wilhelm Reich

Man's right to know, to learn, to inquire, to make bona fide errors, to investigate human emotions must, by all means, be safe, if the word *freedom* should ever be more than an empty political slogan.

-- Wilhelm Reich

Only the liberation of the natural capacity for love in human beings can master their sadistic destructiveness.

-- Wilhelm Reich

Where love rules, there is no will to power; and where power predominates, there love is lacking. The one is the shadow of the other.

-- Carl Jung

All the works of man have their origin in creative fantasy. What right have we then to deprecate imagination?

-- Carl Jung

Children are educated by what the grown-up is and not by his talk.

-- Carl Jung

Death is psychologically as important as birth... Shrinking away from it is something unhealthy and abnormal which robs the second half of life of its purpose.

-- Carl Jung

In the last analysis, the essential thing is the life of the individual. This alone makes history, here alone do the great transformations take place, and the whole future, the whole history of the world, ultimately springs as a gigantic summation from this hidden source in individuals.

– Carl Jung

It is always easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them.

-- Alfred Adler

Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.

-- John Adams

The only maxim of a free government ought to be to trust no man living with power to endanger the public liberty.

-- John Adams

Nip the shoots of arbitrary power in the bud, is the only maxim which can ever preserve the liberties of any people.

-- John Adams

The right of a nation to kill a tyrant, in cases of necessity, can no more be doubted, than to hang a robber, or kill a flea.

-- John Adams

The moment the idea is admitted into society, that property is not as sacred as the law of God, and that there is not a force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence. If "Thou shall not covet," and "Thou shall not steal," are not commandments of Heaven, they must be made inviolable precepts in every society, before it can be civilized or made free.

-- John Adams

Our Constitution was made only for a religious and moral people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other.

-- John Adams

When I went home to my family in May, 1770, from the town meeting in Boston, which was the first I had ever attended, and where I had been chosen in my absence, without any solicitation, one of their representatives, I said to my wife, "I have accepted a seat in the House of Representatives, and thereby have consented to my own ruin, to your ruin, and to the ruin of our children. I give you this warning, that you may prepare your mind for your fate." She burst into tears, but instantly cried out in a transport of magnanimity, "Well, I am willing in this cause to run all risks with you, and be ruined with you, if you are ruined." These were times, my friend, in Boston, which tried women's souls as well as men's.

-- John Adams

What do we mean by the Revolution? The war? That was no part of the revolution; it was only an effect and consequence of it. The revolution was in the minds of the people, and this was effected from 1760-1775, in the course of fifteen years, before a drop of blood was shed at Lexington.

-- John Adams

Power always thinks it has a great soul and vast views, beyond the comprehension of the weak.

-- John Adams

The Revolution was effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people; a change in their religious sentiments, of their duties and obligations... This radical change in the principles, opinions, sentiments, and affections of the people was the real American Revolution.

-- John Adams

What country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms.

-- Thomas Jefferson

There is no act, however virtuous, for which ingenuity may not find some bad motive.

-- Thomas Jefferson

Lay down true principles and adhere to them inflexibly. Do not be frightened into their surrender by the alarms of the timid.

-- Thomas Jefferson

Law is often but the tyrant's will, and always so when it violates the rights of the individual.

-- Thomas Jefferson

May it (the enacting of the Declaration of Independence) be to the world... the signal of arousing men to burst the chains under which monkish ignorance and superstition had persuaded them to bind themselves, and to assume the blessings and security of self-government.

-- Thomas Jefferson

... a wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government.

-- Thomas Jefferson

Freedom of religion; freedom of the press, and freedom of person under the protection of the *habeas corpus*, and trial by juries impartially selected. These principles form the bright constellation which has gone before us, and guided our steps through an age of revolution and reformation. The wisdom of our sages and the blood of our heroes have been devoted to their attainment. They should be the creed of our political faith, the text of civil instruction, the touchstone by which we try the services of those we trust; and should we wander from them in moments of error or alarm, let us hasten to retrace our steps and to regain the road which alone leads to peace, liberty, and safety.

-- Thomas Jefferson

I have sworn upon the altar of god eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.

-- Thomas Jefferson

Rightful liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others. I do not add "within the limits of the law" because law is often but the tyrant's will, and always so when it violates the rights of the individual.

-- Thomas Jefferson

I think myself that we have more machinery of government than is necessary, too many parasites living on the labor of the industrious.

-- Thomas Jefferson

All eyes are opened, or opening, to the rights of man. The general spread of the light of science has already laid open to every view the palpable truth, that the mass of mankind has not been born with saddles on their backs.

-- Thomas Jefferson

To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.

-- Thomas Jefferson

The unbounded exercise of reason and freedom of opinion would soon convince all men that they were born not to be ruled - but to rule themselves in freedom.

-- Thomas Jefferson

The body of our countrymen is substantially republican through every part of the union. it was the irresistible influence & popularity of Genl. Washington played off by the cunning of Hamilton which turned the government over to antirepublican hands, or turned the republican members chosen by the people into anti-republicans. he delivered it over to his successor in this state, and very untoward events since, improved with great artifice, have produced on the public mind the impression we see.

– Thomas Jefferson, letter to John Taylor, June 4, 1798

Let us therefore animate and encourage each other, and show the whole world that a Freeman, contending for liberty on his own ground, is superior to any slavish mercenary on earth.

-- George Washington

To place any dependence upon militia, is, assuredly, resting upon a broken staff.

-- George Washington

A people... who are possessed of the spirit of commerce, who see and who will pursue their advantages may achieve almost anything.

-- George Washington

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

-- George Washington

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.

-- George Washington

Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair; the rest is in the hands of God.

-- George Washington

The marvel of all history is the patience with which men and women submit to burdens unnecessarily laid upon them by their governments.

-- George Washington

Honesty is always the best policy.

-- George Washington

We cannot guarantee victory, but we can deserve it.

-- George Washington

Reading furnishes the mind only with materials for knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours.

-- John Locke

New opinions are always suspected, and usually opposed, without any other reason but because they are not already common.

-- John Locke

The people cannot delegate to government the power to do anything which would be unlawful for them to do themselves.

-- John Locke

Nothing appears more surprising to those, who consider human affairs with a philosophical eye, than the easiness with which the many are governed by the few; and the implicit submission, with which men resign their own sentiments and passions to those of their rulers.

-- David Hume

Truth springs from argument amongst friends.

-- David Hume

By virtue of exchange, one man's prosperity is beneficial to all others.

-- Frederic Bastiat

The state is the great fictitious entity by which everyone seeks to live at the expense of everyone else.

-- Frederic Bastiat

Everyone wants to live at the expense of the State. They forget that the State lives at the expense of everyone.

-- Frederic Bastiat

It is impossible to introduce into society a greater change and a greater evil than this: the conversion of the law into an instrument of plunder.

-- Frederic Bastiat

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.

-- H. L. Mencken

But under the play of all these opposites there is something fundamental and permanent—the basic delusion that men may be governed and yet be free.

-- H. L. Mencken

All government is a conspiracy against the superior man.

-- H. L. Mencken

There is always an easy solution to every human problem — neat, plausible and wrong.

-- H. L. Mencken

When a candidate for public office faces the voters he does not face men of sense; he faces a mob of men whose chief distinguishing mark is the fact that they are quite incapable of weighing ideas, or even of comprehending any save the most elemental — men whose whole thinking is done in terms of emotion, and whose dominant emotion is dread of what they

cannot understand. So confronted, the candidate must either bark with the pack or be lost... All the odds are on the man who is, intrinsically, the most devious and mediocre — the man who can most adeptly disperse the notion that his mind is a virtual vacuum.

-- H. L. Mencken

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.

-- H. L. Mencken

The fact is that the average man's love of liberty is nine-tenths imaginary, exactly like his love of sense, justice and truth. He is not actually happy when free; he is uncomfortable, a bit alarmed, and intolerably lonely. Liberty is not a thing for the great masses of men. It is the exclusive possession of a small and disreputable minority, like knowledge, courage and honor. It takes a special sort of man to understand and enjoy liberty — and he is usually an outlaw in democratic societies.

-- H. L. Mencken

One horse-laugh is worth ten thousand syllogisms. It is not only more effective; it is also vastly more intelligent.

-- H. L. Mencken

The basic fact about human existence is not that it is a tragedy, but that it is a bore. It is not so much a war as an endless standing in line. The objection to it is not that it is predominantly painful, but that it is lacking in sense.

-- H. L. Mencken

An idealist is one who, on noticing that roses smell better than a cabbage, concludes that it will also make better soup.

-- H. L. Mencken

Misogynist — A man who hates women as much as women hate one another.

-- H. L. Mencken

Every decent man is ashamed of the government he lives under.

-- H. L. Mencken

No one in this world, so far as I know—and I have researched the records for years, and employed agents to help me—has ever lost money by underestimating the intelligence of the great masses of the plain people. Nor has anyone ever lost public office thereby.

-- H. L. Mencken

Hanging one scoundrel, it appears, does not deter the next. Well, what of it? The first one is at least disposed of.

-- H. L. Mencken

The fact that I have no remedy for all the sorrows of the world is no reason for my accepting yours. It simply supports the strong probability that yours is a fake.

-- H. L. Mencken

Humor is the great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up, all our hardnesses yield, all our irritations and resentments flit away and a sunny spirit takes their place.

-- Mark Twain

It is curious—that physical courage should be so common in the world, and moral courage so rare.

-- Mark Twain

America is built on a tilt and everything loose slides to California.

-- Mark Twain

If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts he shall end in certainties.

-- Francis Bacon

Because the acts or events of true history have not that magnitude which satisfies the mind of man, poetry creates acts and events greater and more heroic.

-- Francis Bacon

The human understanding is of its own nature prone to suppose the existence of more order and regularity in the world than it finds.

-- Francis Bacon

He that will not apply new remedies must expect new evils.

-- Francis Bacon

If you would work any man, you must either know his nature and fashions, and so lead him; or his ends, and so persuade him or his weakness and disadvantages, and so awe him or those that have interest in him, and so govern him. In dealing with cunning persons, we must ever consider their ends, to interpret their speeches; and it is good to say little to them, and that which they least look for. In all negotiations of difficulty, a man may not look to sow and reap at once; but must prepare business, and so ripen it by degrees.

-- Francis Bacon

Glorious men are the scorn of wise men, the admiration of fools, the idols of parasites, and the slaves of their own vaunts.

-- Francis Bacon

Judges ought to remember, that their office is *jus dicere*, and not *jus dare*; to interpret law, and not to make law, or give law.

-- Francis Bacon

The general root of superstition is that men observe when things hit, and not when they miss, and commit to memory the one, and pass over the other.

-- Francis Bacon

Nature, in order to be commanded, must be obeyed.

-- Francis Bacon

Truth and utility are the very same thing.

-- Francis Bacon

To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them.

-- George Mason

Liberty is not a means to a higher political end. It is itself the highest political end.

-- Lord Acton

I saw in State Rights the only availing check upon the absolutism of the sovereign will, and secession filled me with hope, not as the destruction but as the redemption of Democracy.

-- Lord Acton

At every step we are met by arguments which go to excuse, to palliate, to confound right and wrong, and reduce the just man to the level of the reprobate.

-- Lord Acton

At all times sincere friends of freedom have been rare, and its triumphs have been due to minorities, that have prevailed by associating themselves with auxiliaries whose objects often differed from their own

-- Lord Acton

When Christ said: "*Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and unto God the things that are God's*," those words, spoken on His last visit to the Temple, three days before His death, gave to the civil power, under the protection of conscience, a sacredness it had never enjoyed, and bounds it had never acknowledged; and they were the repudiation of absolutism and the inauguration of freedom.

-- Lord Acton

It is a general popular error to imagine the loudest complainers for the public to be the most anxious for its welfare.

-- Edmund Burke

Just because something is inevitable, doesn't mean it is imminent.

-- Doug Casey

The market can remain irrational longer than you can remain solvent.

-- J.M. Keynes

A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.

-- Dwight D. Eisenhower

Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

-- Dr. Seuss

If there is a single theme [in postmodern legal theory], it is that law is an instrument of social, economic, and political domination, both in the sense of furthering the concrete interests of

the dominators and in that of legitimating the existing order. This approach emphasizes the ideological character of legal doctrine.

-- Mark Kelman, *A Guide to Critical Legal Studies*, 1987

Force shits on reason's back.

-- Benjamin Franklin

If Israel were to put down its arms there would be no more Israel. If the Arabs were to put down their arms there would be no more war.

-- Benjamin Netanyahu

Education (compulsory schooling, compulsory learning) is a tyranny and a crime against the human mind and spirit. Let all those who can, escape it any way they can.

-- John Holt

The public school system: Usually a twelve year sentence of mind control. Crushing creativity, smashing individualism, encouraging collectivism and compromise, destroying the exercise of intellectual inquiry, twisting it instead into meek subservience to authority.

-- Walter Karp

The true danger is when Liberty is nibbled away, for expedients.

-- Edmund Burke

Sooner or later, everyone sits down to a banquet of consequences.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

Reality bats last.

– Unknown

Then the first thing will be to establish a censorship of the writers of fiction, and let the censors receive any tale of fiction which is good, and reject the bad; and we will desire mothers and nurses to tell their children the authorized ones only.

-- Plato

I see no hope for the future of our people if they are dependent on frivolous youth of today, for certainly all youth are reckless beyond words... When I was young, we were taught to be discreet and respectful of elders, but the present youth are exceedingly disrespectful and impatient of restraint.

-- Hesiod, 8th century BC

If you waste money on doo-dads and simply have no self control regarding money, you will never be a 'steward of money' - in fact you will never be anything. If you find yourself in this category you must break yourself of it ASAP ... or you'll never have or be anything.

-- J.P. May

We're going to take things away from you on behalf of the common good.

-- Hillary Clinton (6/29/2004)

It's time for a new beginning, for an end to government of the few, by the few, and for the few..... And to replace it with shared responsibility for shared prosperity.

-- Hillary Clinton (5/29/2007)

We ...can't just let business as usual go on, and that means something has to be taken away from some people.

-- Hillary Clinton (6/4/2007)

We have to build a political consensus and that requires people to give up a little bit of their own ... in order to create this common ground.

-- Hillary Clinton (6/4/2007)

I certainly think the free-market has failed.

-- Hillary Clinton (6/4/2007)

I think it's time to send a clear message to what has become the most profitable sector in (the) entire economy that they are being watched.

-- Hillary Clinton (9/2/2005)

The essential element in personal magnetism is a consuming sincerity - an overwhelming faith in the importance of the work one has to do.

-- Bruce Barton

In the past, you could stand with a gun behind a man who had a pick and a spade and tell him to dig a hole two hundred meters long. But you can't put a man behind someone working creatively, behind a computer, and tell him, "Please devise something original." There is no way to do it, and I took advantage of that.

-- Lech Walesa

If you liberate people from the constraint of having to satisfy other people in order to advance themselves, people don't do good things.

-- Bueno de Mesquita

Life is tough, but it's tougher when you're stupid.

-- John Wayne

I've always followed my father's advice: he told me, first to always keep my word and, second, to never insult anybody unintentionally. If I insult you, you can be goddamn sure I intend to. And, third, he told me not to go around looking for trouble.

-- John Wayne

I have tried to live my life so that my family would love me and my friends respect me. The others can do whatever the hell they please.

-- John Wayne

There's right and there's wrong. You gotta do one or the other. You do the one and you're living. You do the other and you may be walking around, but in reality you're dead.

-- John Wayne, *The Alamo*

Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway.

-- John Wayne

I eat as much as I ever did, I drink more than I should, and my sex life is none of your goddamned business.

– John Wayne, *Playboy*, May 1971

There's a lot of things great about life. But I think tomorrow is the most important thing. Comes in to us at midnight very clean, ya know. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learned something from yesterday.

– John Wayne, *Playboy*, May 1971

The more men have to lose, the less willing are they to venture. The rich are in general slaves to fear, and submit to courtly power with the trembling duplicity of a spaniel.

-- Thomas Paine

Over himself, over his own body and mind, the individual is sovereign.

-- John Stuart Mill

The sole end for which mankind are warranted, individually or collectively, in interfering with the liberty of action of any of their number, is self-protection.

-- John Stuart Mill

Which is the best government? That which teaches us to govern ourselves.

-- Goethe

A useless life is an early death.

-- Goethe

A teacher who can arouse a feeling for one single good action, for one single good poem, accomplishes more than he who fills our memory with rows on rows of natural objects, classified with name and form.

-- Goethe

First and last, what is demanded of genius is love of truth.

-- Goethe

A collections of anecdotes and maxims is the greatest of treasures for the man of the world, for he knows how to intersperse conversation with the former in fit places, and to recollect the latter on proper occasions.

-- Goethe

All truly wise thoughts have been thoughts already thousands of times; but to make them truly ours, we must think them over again honestly, till they take root in our personal experience.

-- Goethe

As soon as you trust yourself, you will know how to live.

-- Goethe

Distrust those in whom the desire to punish is strong.

-- Goethe

Everybody wants to be somebody; nobody wants to grow.

-- Goethe

He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home.

-- Goethe

He who wishes to exert a useful influence must be careful to insult nothing. Let him not be troubled by what seems absurd, but concentrate his energies to the creation of what is good. He must not demolish, but build.

-- Goethe

If I accept you as you are, I will make you worse; however if I treat you as though you are what you are capable of becoming, I help you become that.

-- Goethe

Live dangerously and you live right.

-- Goethe

The crucial difficulty with which we are confronted lies in the fact that the development of man's intellectual capacities has far outstripped the development of his emotions. Man's brain lives in the twentieth century; the heart of most men lives still in the stone age. The majority of men have not yet acquired the maturity to be independent, to be rational, to be objective. They need myths and idols to endure the fact that man is all by himself, that there is no authority which gives meaning to life except man himself.

-- Erich Fromm

This identity with nature, clan, religion, gives the individual security. He belongs to, he is rooted in, a structuralized whole in which he has an unquestionable place. He may suffer from hunger or suppression, but he does not suffer from the worst of all pains – complete aloneness and doubt.

-- Erich Fromm

Man is born as a freak of nature, being within nature and yet transcending it. He has to find principles of action and decision-making which replace the principles of instincts.

-- Erich Fromm

Man's main task in life is to give birth to himself, to become what he potentially is. The most important product of his effort is his own personality.

-- Erich Fromm

Only the person who has faith in himself is able to be faithful to others.

-- Erich Fromm

Selfish persons are incapable of loving others, but they are not capable of loving themselves either.

-- Erich Fromm

A vast sector of modern advertising... does not appeal to reason but to emotion; like any other kind of hypnotic suggestion, it tries to impress its objects emotionally and then make them submit intellectually.

-- Erich Fromm

Destructiveness is the outcome of an unlived life.

-- Erich Fromm

The lust for power is not rooted in strength but in weakness. It is the expression of the inability of the self to stand alone and live. It is the desperate attempt to gain secondary strength where genuine strength is lacking.

-- Erich Fromm

A person can be entirely dominated by his sadist strivings and consciously believe that he is motivated only by his sense of duty.

-- Erich Fromm

This process of personification of the magic helper is to be observed frequently in what is called "falling in love."... For some reason or other – often supported by sexual desires – a certain other person assumes for him those magic qualities, and he makes that person into the being to whom and on whom his whole life becomes related and dependent.

-- Erich Fromm

A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else.

-- John Burroughs

Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.

-- Doug Casey

I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them.

-- Thomas Jefferson

The Earth is degenerating today. Bribery and corruption abound. Children no longer obey their parents, every man wants to write a book, and it is evident that the end of the world is fast approaching.

-- Assyrian tablet, circa1800 BC

The way to crush the bourgeoisie is to grind them between the millstones of taxation and inflation.

-- Vladimir Lenin

From childhood I was compelled to concentrate attention upon myself. This caused me much suffering, but to my present view, it was a blessing in disguise for it has taught me to appreciate the inestimable value of introspection in the preservation of life, as well as a means of achievement.

-- Nikola Tesla

I do not think there is any thrill that can go through the human heart like that felt by the inventor as he sees some creation of the brain unfolding to success ... Such emotions make a man forget food, sleep, friends, love, everything.

-- Nikola Tesla

Lee DeForest has said in many newspapers and over his signature that it would be possible to transmit the human voice across the Atlantic before many years. Based on these absurd and deliberately misleading statements, the misguided public ... has been persuaded to purchase stock in his company.

– A U.S. District Attorney, prosecuting Lee De Forest for selling stock fraudulently for his Radio Telephone Company in 1913

Naive trust in the power of words to command reality is found in all mass delusions.

-- Garet Garrett

Delusions are states of refuge. The mind, unable to comprehend realities or to deal with them, finds its ease in superstitions, beliefs and modes of irrational procedure. It is easier to believe than to think.

-- Garet Garrett

The important thing about winning, is knowing that you can.

-- David Weinstein

It came with a kind of surrealistic slowness...so gradually that, on the one hand, it was possible to live though a good part of it without realizing that it was happening, and, on the other hand, it was possible to believe one had experienced and survived it when in fact it had no more than just begun.

-- John Brooks, about the depression of the 1930s

Neither a lofty degree of intelligence nor imagination nor both together go to the making of genius. Love, love, love, that is the soul of genius.

-- Wolfgang A. Mozart

Genius is present in every age, but the men carrying it within them remain benumbed unless extraordinary events occur to heat up and melt the mass so that it flows forth.

-- Denis Diderot

The reason we have so few geniuses is that people do not have faith in what they know to be true.

-- Kevin Solway

The inventors of genius hasten the march of civilization. The fanatics and the hallucinated create history.

-- Gustave Le Bon

There is in every madman a misunderstood genius whose idea, shining in his head, frightened people, and for whom delirium was the only solution to the strangulation that life had prepared for him.

-- Antonin Artaud, of Van Gogh

It is frequently the tragedy of the great artist, as it is of the great scientist, that he frightens the ordinary man. If he is more than a popular story-teller it may take humanity a generation to absorb and grow accustomed to the new geography with which the scientist or artist presents us. Even then, perhaps only the more imaginative and literate may accept him.

Subconsciously the genius is feared as an image breaker; frequently he does not accept the opinions of the mass, or man's opinion of himself.

-- Loren Eiseley, in *The Mind as Nature*

The true genius is a mind of large general powers, accidentally determined to some particular direction.

-- Samuel Johnson

Man as an individual is a genius. But men in the mass form a Headless Monster, a great, brutish idiot that goes where prodded.

-- Charles Chaplin

Genius is the power of carrying the feelings of childhood into the powers of manhood.

– Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Men fear thought as they fear nothing else on earth - more than ruin - more even than death... Thought is subversive and revolutionary, destructive and terrible, thought is merciless to privilege, established institutions, and comfortable habit. Thought looks into the pit of hell and is not afraid. Thought is great and swift and free, the light of the world, and the chief glory of man.

-- Bertrand Russell

Society is a republic. When an individual endeavors to lift himself above his fellows, he is dragged down by the mass, either by means of ridicule or of calumny. No one shall be more virtuous or more intellectually gifted than others. Whoever, by the irresistible force of genius, rises above the common herd is certain to be ostracized by society, which will pursue him with such merciless derision and detraction that at last he will be compelled to retreat into the solitude of his thoughts.

-- Heinrich Heine

Thousands of geniuses live and die undiscovered - either by themselves or by others.

-- Mark Twain

Everyone is a genius at least once a year; a real genius has his original ideas closer together.

-- G. C. Lichtenberg

Geniuses experience a second adolescence, whereas other people are only young once.

-- Goethe

If children grew up according to early indications, we should have nothing but geniuses.

-- Goethe

Most people are only as intelligent as the knowledge they deem socially acceptable.

-- Wayne Thompson

Opportunity is missed by most people because it's dressed in overalls and looks like work.

-- Thomas Edison

We have no rules here: We're trying to accomplish something.

– Sign hanging over Thomas Edison's laboratory

Lenin was surely right. There is no subtler, no surer means of overturning the existing basis of society than to debauch the currency. The process engages all the hidden forces of economic law on the side of destruction, and does it in a manner which not one man in a million is able to diagnose.

-- John Maynard Keynes

I am free, no matter what rules surround me. If I find them tolerable, I tolerate them; if I find them too obnoxious, I break them. I am free because I know that I alone am morally responsible for everything I do.

-- Robert Heinlein

A human being should be able to change a diaper, plan an invasion, butcher a hog, conn a ship, design a building, write a sonnet, balance accounts, build a wall, set a bone, comfort the dying, take orders, give orders, cooperate, act alone, solve equations, analyze a new problem, pitch manure, program a computer, cook a tasty meal, fight efficiently, die gallantly. Specialization is for insects.

-- Robert Heinlein

It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education.

-- Albert Einstein

It is not enough merely to succeed; one's friends must also fail.

-- French proverb

To steal from a thief is not theft. It is merely irony.

-- Zorro, while retrieving money taxed from Californians

Better be wise by the misfortunes of others than by your own.

-- Aesop

Any excuse will serve a tyrant.

-- Aesop

Be content with your lot; one cannot be first in everything.

-- Aesop

It is easy to be brave from a safe distance.

-- Aesop

What good fortune for those in power that people do not think.

-- Adolf Hitler

You can't abolish corruption up high - unless you abolish up high.

– John Zube

Once wide coercive powers are given to governmental agencies for particular purposes, such powers cannot be effectively controlled by democratic assemblies.

-- Friedrich Hayek

Liberty not only means that the individual has both the opportunity and the burden of choice; it also means that he must bear the consequences of his actions.... Liberty and responsibility are inseparable.

-- Friedrich Hayek

It used to be the boast of free men that, so long as they kept within the bounds of the known law, there was no need to ask anybody's permission or to obey anybody's orders. It is doubtful whether any of us can make this claim today.

-- Friedrich Hayek

When bad men combine, the good must associate; else they will fall one by one, an unpitied sacrifice in a contemptible struggle.

-- Edmund Burke

In no country perhaps in the world is law so general a study [as in America]...This study renders men acute, inquisitive, dexterous, prompt in attack, ready in defense, full of resources...They augur misgovernment at a distance, and snuff the approach of tyranny in every tainted breeze.

-- Edmund Burke

I have never yet seen any plan which has not been mended by the observation of those who were much inferior in understanding to the person who took the lead in the business.

-- Edmund Burke

Whenever our neighbor's house is on fire, it cannot be amiss for the engines to play a little on our own.

-- Edmund Burke

Example is the school of mankind, and they will learn at no other.

-- Edmund Burke

If we command our wealth, we shall be rich and free; if our wealth commands us, we are poor indeed.

-- Edmund Burke

Free trade is not based on utility but on justice.

-- Edmund Burke

Never despair; but if you do, work on in despair.

-- Edmund Burke

No one could make a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.

-- Edmund Burke

To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting.

-- Edmund Burke

Society can overlook murder, adultery or swindling — it never forgives the preaching of a new gospel.

-- Frederic Harrison

The most radical revolutionary will become a conservative the day after the revolution.

-- Hannah Arendt

The sad truth is that most evil is done by people who never make up their minds to be good or evil.

-- Hannah Arendt

The aim of totalitarian education has never been to instill convictions but to destroy the capacity to form any.

— Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*

It may be true that you can't fool all the people all the time, but you can fool enough of them to rule a large country.

-- Will Durant

The future never just happened. It was created.

-- Will Durant

The love we have in our youth is superficial compared to the love that an old man has for his old wife.

-- Will Durant

The trouble with most people is that they think with their hopes or fears or wishes rather than with their minds.

-- Will Durant

To speak ill of others is a dishonest way of praising ourselves.

-- Will Durant

Woe to him who teaches men faster than they can learn.

-- Will Durant

No student takes seriously the seventeenth-century notion that states arose out of a “social contract” among individuals or between the people and the ruler.

-- Will and Ariel Durant

Accept the truth from whatever source it comes.

-- Maimonides

Teach your tongue to say "I do not know" and you will progress.

-- The Talmud

There is nothing so ridiculous but some philosopher has said it.

-- Cicero

Though silence is not necessarily an admission, it is not a denial, either.

-- Cicero

They refrain from murdering someone; then they boast that they have spared him!

-- Cicero

No one dances sober, unless he is insane.

-- Cicero

Advice is judged by results, not by intentions.

-- Cicero

Law stands mute in the midst of arms.

-- Cicero

Endless money forms the sinews of war.

-- Cicero

True law is right reason in agreement with nature; it is of universal application, unchanging and everlasting; it summons to duty by its commands, and averts from wrongdoing by its prohibitions.

-- Cicero

A life of peace, purity, and refinement leads to a calm and untroubled old age.

-- Cicero

The strictest law often causes the most serious wrong.

-- Cicero

Life is a petty thing unless it is moved by the indomitable urge to extend its boundaries.

-- Jose Gasset y Ortega

The evil of the world is made possible by nothing but the sanction you give it.

-- Ayn Rand

It is not death that we wish to avoid, but life that we wish to live.

-- Ayn Rand

Worry is a waste of emotional reserve.

-- Ayn Rand

Show me your achievement - and the knowledge will give me courage for mine.

-- Ayn Rand

I need no warrant for being, and no word of sanction upon my being. I am the warrant and the sanction.

-- Ayn Rand

There are only two means by which men can deal with one another: guns or logic. Force or persuasion. Those who know that they cannot win by means of logic, have always resorted to guns.

-- Ayn Rand

Aristotle may be regarded as the cultural barometer of Western history. Whenever his influence dominated the scene, it paved the way for one of history's brilliant eras; whenever it fell, so did mankind.

-- Ayn Rand

The hardest thing to explain is the glaringly evident which everybody has decided not to see.

-- Ayn Rand

Thought does not bow to authority.

-- Ayn Rand

Unjust laws have to be fought ideologically; they cannot be fought or corrected by means of mere disobedience and futile martyrdom.

-- Ayn Rand

When personal judgment is inoperative (or forbidden), men's first concern is not how to choose, but how to justify their choice.

-- Ayn Rand

The fear of man bringeth a snare.

-- Solomon

We don't tell people what to think – we tell them what to think *about*.

– Michael Gertner (then President of NBC News)

Ideas are more powerful than guns. We would not let our enemies have guns, why should we let them have ideas?

--Joseph Stalin

We have now sunk to a depth in which the restatement of the obvious is the first duty of intelligent men.

-- George Orwell

The American people will never knowingly adopt socialism, but under the name of liberalism they will adopt every fragment of the socialist program until one day America will be a socialist nation without ever knowing how it happened.

-- Norman Thomas, American socialist

Trade... makes for honesty, fair dealing, mutual comprehension, sanity and soundness, toleration of others, peace among men, aggregations of capital, division of labor, the ease and comfort and grace of life, the leisure for study, and the amelioration of customs and manners that produces so large a part of civilization.

-- John Maxcy Zane

As always, the honesty instituted by trade is far superior to any other conception of honest conduct.

-- John Maxcy Zane

Nothing is more silly to say that the law made private property. The fact is the exact opposite. Private property came to exist and it made the law.

-- John Maxcy Zane

Everything you want in life has a price connected to it. There's a price to pay if you want to make things better, a price to pay just for leaving things as they are, a price for everything.

-- Harry Browne

We can chart our future clearly and wisely only when we know the path which has led to the present.

-- Adlai E. Stevenson

The beginning of wisdom is to call things by their true names.

-- Chinese proverb

A person usually has two reasons for doing something: a good reason and the real reason.

-- J.P. Morgan

Go as far as you can see; when you get there, you'll be able to see farther.

-- J.P. Morgan

I owe the public nothing.

-- J.P. Morgan

When you expect things to happen - strangely enough - they do happen.

-- J.P. Morgan

A man I do not trust could not get money from me on all the bonds in Christendom.

-- J.P. Morgan

Hundreds of millions of people are going to starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now.

-- Paul Erlich, 1968, *The Population Bomb*

In 10 years, all important animal life in the sea will be extinct.

-- Paul Erlich, 1970

We have about five years at the outside to do something.

-- Kenneth Watt, ecologist, 1970

Civilization will end within 15 or 30 years unless immediate action is taken.

-- George Wald, Biologist at Harvard, 1970

Life can't be all bad when for ten dollars you can buy all the Beethoven sonatas and listen to them for ten years.

-- William F. Buckley Jr.

The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds new discoveries, is not 'Eureka!', but 'That's funny ...'

-- Isaac Asimov

Night was a wonderful time in Brooklyn in the 1930s. Air conditioning was unknown except in movie houses, and so was television. There was nothing to keep one in the house.

Furthermore, few people owned automobiles, so there was nothing to carry one away. That left the streets and the stoops. The very fullness served as an inhibition to crime.

-- Isaac Asimov

Self-education is, I firmly believe, the only kind of education there is.

-- Isaac Asimov

Although the time of death is approaching me, I am not afraid of dying and going to Hell or (what would be considerably worse) going to the popularized version of Heaven. I expect death to be nothingness and, for removing me from all possible fears of death, I am thankful to atheism.

-- Isaac Asimov

Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent.

-- Isaac Asimov

The Anarchists are right in everything; in the negation of the existing order, and in the assertion that, without Authority, there could not be worse violence than that of Authority under existing conditions. They are mistaken only in thinking that Anarchy can be instituted by a revolution. But it will be instituted only by there being more and more people who do not require the protection of governmental power...There can be only one permanent revolution - a moral one: the regeneration of the inner man.

-- Leo Tolstoy

The most difficult subjects can be explained to the most slow-witted man if he has not formed any idea of them already; but the simplest thing cannot be made clear to the most intelligent man if he is firmly persuaded that he knows already, without a shadow of doubt, what is laid before him.

– Leo Tolstoy, *The Kingdom of God Is Within You*

Understand then all of you, especially the young, that to want to impose an imaginary state of government on others by violence is not only a vulgar superstition, but even a criminal work. Understand that this work, far from assuring the well-being of humanity is only a lie, a more or less unconscious hypocrisy, camouflaging the lowest passions we possess.

– Leo Tolstoy, *The Law of Love and the Law of Violence*

All things behave according to their nature.

-- Kwai Chang Caine, in *Kung Fu*

The man is like the boy, only more so.

-- Kwai Chang Caine, in *Kung Fu*

Fear creates the victim.

-- Kwai Chang Caine, in *Kung Fu*

To suppress a truth is to give it force beyond endurance.

-- Master Kan, in *Kung Fu*

Our soul does not keep time; it merely records growth.

-- Master Kan, in *Kung Fu*

Use only that which works, and take it from any place you can find it.

-- Bruce Lee

The spirit of the individual is determined by his dominating thought habits.

-- Bruce Lee

The meaning of life is that it is to be *lived*, and it is not to be traded and conceptualized and squeezed into a pattern of systems.

-- Bruce Lee

Concentration is the ROOT of all the higher abilities in man.

-- Bruce Lee

What you habitually think largely determines what you will ultimately become.

-- Bruce Lee

Don't fear failure. — Not failure, but low aim, is the crime. In great attempts it is glorious even to fail.

-- Bruce Lee

A fight is not won by one punch or kick. Either learn to endure or hire a bodyguard.

-- Bruce Lee

Balance your thoughts with action. — If you spend too much time thinking about a thing, you'll never get it done.

-- Bruce Lee

In life, what more can you ask for than to be real? To fulfill one's potential instead of wasting energy on [attempting to] actualize one's dissipating image, which is not real and an expenditure of one's vital energy.

-- Bruce Lee

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-- Bruce Lee

The classical man is just a bundle of routine, ideas and tradition. If you follow the classical pattern, you are understanding the routine, the tradition, the shadow — you are not understanding yourself.

-- Bruce Lee

Do not deny the classical approach, simply as a reaction, or you will have created another pattern and trapped yourself there.

-- Bruce Lee

If one loves, one need not have an ideology of love.

-- Bruce Lee

If nothing within you stays rigid, outward things will disclose themselves.

-- Bruce Lee

Reality is apparent when one ceases to compare. — There is "what is" only when there is no comparison at all, and to live with what is, is to be peaceful.

-- Bruce Lee

A self-willed man obeys a different law, the one law I, too, hold absolutely sacred — the human law in himself, his own individual will.

-- Bruce Lee

Like everyone else you want to learn the way to win, but never to accept the way to lose — to accept defeat. To learn to die is to be liberated from it.

-- Bruce Lee

Know the difference between a catastrophe and an inconvenience.

-- Bruce Lee

Cease negative mental chattering. — If you think a thing is impossible, you'll make it impossible. Pessimism blunts the tools you need to succeed.

-- Bruce Lee

A new civilization is emerging in our lives, and blind men everywhere are trying to suppress it.

-- Alvin Toffler, *The Third Wave*

Why, of course, the people don't want war. Why would some poor slob on a farm want to risk his life in a war when the best that he can get out of it is to come back to his farm in one piece. Naturally, the common people don't want war; neither in Russia nor in England nor in

America, nor for that matter in Germany. That is understood. But, after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy or a fascist dictatorship or a Parliament or a Communist dictatorship. 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 danger. It works the same way in any country.

-- Hermann Göring

If there were no Jews, we would have to invent them.

-- Adolph Hitler¹

The cult of xenophobia is the cheapest and surest method of obtaining from the masses the ignorant and savage patriotism, which puts the blame for every political folly or social misfortune upon the foreigner.

-- Mao Zedong

Education is a weapon whose effects depend on who holds it in his hands and at whom it is aimed.

-- Joseph Stalin

I have not come into this world to make men better, but to make use of their weaknesses.

-- Adolph Hitler

You see, it's been our misfortune to have the wrong religion. Why didn't we have the religion of the Japanese, who regard sacrifice for the Fatherland as the highest good? The Mohammedan religion too would have been more compatible to us than Christianity. Why did it have to be Christianity with its meekness and flabbiness?

— Adolph Hitler, as quoted by Albert Speer, *Inside the Third Reich*

Reason in man is rather like God in the world.

-- Thomas Aquinas

We plan to eliminate the state of Israel and establish a purely Palestinian state. We will make life unbearable for Jews by psychological warfare and population explosion. . . . We Palestinians will take over everything, including all of Jerusalem.

-- Yasser Arafat

I may be President of the United States, but my private life is nobody's damn business.

-- Chester Arthur

¹Eric Hoffer attributed this quote to Hitler in the book "The True Believer." To quote the book—"When Hitler was asked whether he thought the Jew must be destroyed, he answered: "No—we should then have to invent him. It is essential to have a tangible enemy, not merely an abstract one."'" This appears in the 14th Chapter of the book, 65th passage. Hoffer uses this quote as an explanation of the need of a common subject of hatred in order to unify disparate elements(in this case the German people). Hoffer reference source was Hermann Rauschning "Hitler Speaks" New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1940), p. 234.

All the best stories in the world are but one story in reality - the story of escape. It is the only thing which interests us all and at all times, how to escape.

-- Walter Bagehot

History is strewn with the wrecks of nations which have gained a little progressiveness at the cost of a great deal of hard manliness, and have thus prepared themselves for destruction as soon as the movements of the world gave a chance for it.

-- Walter Bagehot

So long as war is the main business of nations, temporary despotism - despotism during the campaign - is indispensable.

-- Walter Bagehot

Being without an opinion is so painful to human nature that most people will leap to a hasty opinion rather than undergo it.

-- Walter Bagehot

I want to seize fate by the throat.

-- Ludwig van Beethoven

For the first time in history, the human species as a whole has gone into politics. Everyone is in the act, and there is no telling what may come of it.

-- Saul Bellow

Anxiety destroys scale, and suffering makes us lose perspective.

-- Saul Bellow

I don't believe that the public knows what it wants; this is the conclusion that I have drawn from my career.

-- Charles Chaplin

Timidity is the root of prudence in the majority of men.

-- Carl von Clausewitz

To introduce into the philosophy of war a principle of moderation would be an absurdity - war is an act of violence pushed to its utmost bounds.

-- Carl von Clausewitz

Do you realize that the cost of higher education has risen as fast as the cost of health care? And for the middle-class family, college education for their children is as much of a necessity as is medical care—without it the kids have no future. Such totally uncontrollable expenditures, without any visible improvement in either the content or the quality of education, means that the system is rapidly becoming untenable. Higher education is in deep crisis.

-- Peter Drucker

There is nothing more frightful than ignorance in action.

-- Goethe

Entrepreneurship is the last refuge of the trouble-making individual.

-- Natalie Clifford Barney

The truth is that many people set rules to keep from making decisions.

-- Mike Krzyzewski

History is the triumph of the ruthless over the mindless.

-- English proverb.

We become what we think about.

-- Earl Nightingale

Only the exploited seek relief from the unjust.

-- Daniel Fourwinds

Clowns to the left of me, jokers to the right; here I am, stuck in the middle with you.

-- Stealers Wheel

When even one American, who has done nothing wrong, is forced by fear to shut his mind and close his mouth, then all Americans are in peril.

-- Harry S. Truman

A world without failure is a world without freedom. A world without the possibility of sin is a world without the possibility of righteousness. A world without the possibility of crime is a world where you cannot prove you are not a criminal. A technology that can give you everything you want is a technology that can take away everything that you have. At some point, real soon now, some of us security geeks will have to say that there comes a point at which safety is not safe.

-- Dan Geer, 2008

Society expresses its sympathy for the geniuses of the past to distract attention from the fact that it has no intention of being sympathetic to the geniuses of the present.

-- Celia Green

Education by the State is a contradiction in terms. Intellectual development is only possible to those who have seen through society.

-- Celia Green

It is easier to make people appear equally stupid than to make them equally clever, so teaching methods are adopted which make it practically impossible for anyone to learn anything.

-- Celia Green

It is when the commercial factor enters into the situation that the possibility of genuine individual liberty arises.

-- Celia Green

Far from being moribund, Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytizing faith. It has already spread throughout Central Africa, raising fearless warriors at every step; and were it not that

Christianity is sheltered in the strong arms of science-the science against which it had vainly struggled-the civilization of modern Europe might fall, as fell the civilization of ancient Rome.
-- Winston Churchill

Millions are to be grabbed out here and your only competition is idiots. Don't let this get around.

-- Herman Mankiewicz, in Hollywood, to Ben Hecht, in New York, 1926

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedies.

-- Groucho Marx

You can call it mysticism if you want to, but I have always believed that there was some divine plan that placed this great continent between two oceans to be sought out by those who were possessed of an abiding love of freedom and a special kind of courage.

-- Ronald Reagan

The world stands on its head ...for those few and far between souls who devote 100 percent.

-- Andrew Carnegie

The ideas I stand for are not mine. I borrowed them from Socrates. I swiped them from Chesterfield. I stole them from Jesus. And I put them in a book. If you don't like their rules whose would you use?

-- Dale Carnegie

Remember happiness doesn't depend upon who you are or what you have; it depends solely on what you think.

-- Dale Carnegie

Life shrinks or expands according to one's courage.

-- Anais Nin

Life is a process of becoming, a combination of states we have to go through. Where people fail is that they wish to elect a state and remain in it. This is a kind of death.

-- Anais Nin

To lie, of course, is to engender insanity.

-- Anais Nin

When others asked the truth of me, I was convinced it was not the truth they wanted, but an illusion they could bear to live with.

-- Anais Nin

Creation which cannot express itself becomes madness.

-- Anais Nin

Press on. Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing in the world is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius

is a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent.

-- Calvin Coolidge

Academies that are founded at public expense are instituted not so much to cultivate men's natural abilities as to restrain them.

-- Baruch Spinoza

Ninety-nine [students] out of a hundred are automata, careful to walk in prescribed paths, careful to follow the prescribed custom. This is not an accident but the result of substantial education, which, scientifically defined, is the subsumption of the individual.

-- William Torrey Harris, US Commissioner of Education, 1906

'Parent choice' proceeds from the belief that the purpose of education is to provide individual students with an education. In fact, educating the individual is but a means to the true end of education, which is to create a viable social order to which individuals contribute and by which they are sustained. 'Family choice' is, therefore, basically selfish and anti-social in that it focuses on the "wants" of a single family rather than the "needs" of society.

-- Association of California School Administrators

When school children start paying union dues, that's when I'll start representing the interests of school children.

-- Albert Shanker, President of the American Federation of Teachers

Every teacher should realize he is a social servant set apart for the maintenance of the proper social order and the securing of the right social growth.

-- John Dewey, 1879

Capitalism is based on self-interest and self-esteem; it holds integrity and trustworthiness as cardinal virtues and makes them pay off in the marketplace, thus demanding that men survive by means of virtue, not vices. It is this superlatively moral system that the welfare statist propose to improve upon by means of preventative law, snooping bureaucrats, and the chronic goad of fear.

-- Alan Greenspan, *The Assault on Integrity*, 1963

The welfare state is nothing more than a mechanism by which governments confiscate the wealth of the productive members of a society to support a wide variety of welfare schemes.

-- Alan Greenspan

The financial policy of the welfare state requires that there be no way for the owners of wealth to protect themselves.

-- Alan Greenspan

There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.

-- Beverly Sills

Success doesn't come to you... you go to it.

-- Marva Collins

Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work.

-- Stephen King

Under-promise; over-deliver.

-- Tom Peters

Do not wait; the time will never be "just right." Start where you stand, and work with whatever tools you may have at your command, and better tools will be found as you go along.

-- Napoleon Hill

Effort only fully releases its reward after a person refuses to quit.

-- Napoleon Hill

Man, alone, has the power to transform his thoughts into physical reality; man, alone, can dream and make his dreams come true.

-- Napoleon Hill

War grows out of the desire of the individual to gain advantage at the expense of his fellow man.

-- Napoleon Hill

The Egyptians of old thought like giants.

-- Jean François Champollion, considered "the father of Egyptology"

Who remembers the Armenians?

-- Adolph Hitler

The man of genius and the aristocrat are frequently regarded as eccentrics because genius and aristocrat are entirely unafraid of and uninfluenced by the opinions and vagaries of the crowd.

-- Edith Sitwell

I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom.

-- Bob Dylan, *Biograph* interview

What a mistake to suppose that the passions are strongest in youth! The passions are not stronger, but the control over them is weaker! They are more easily excited, they are more violent and apparent; but they have less energy, less durability, less intense and concentrated power than in the maturer life.

-- Edward Bulwer-Lytton

The surest way to corrupt a youth is to instruct him to hold in higher esteem those who think alike than those who think differently.

-- Friedrich Nietzsche

Young people are in a condition like permanent intoxication, because youth is sweet and they are growing.

-- Aristotle

There is no enlightenment around the corner.

In our minds we are still cave dwellers, albeit in Armani suits, with iPods and faster chariots. We still bitch about the chief getting the cutest chicks, best piece of meat and biggest cave, but somehow accept it because everyone else seems to, and because the medicine man says it's how things are and we can always run for chieftainship next time.

Medicine man, High Priest, Bishop, Head Scientist, Media faces, take your pick, they are all the same.

The Internet, while seemingly empowering individuals does something else altogether. It makes it easy for the powers that are to isolate those that could pose a threat, while keeping all the other raving lunatics raving, rather than acting.

Every now and then they toss them a bread crumb by sacrificing a celeb of no consequence, or by letting a Judge overturn an inconsequential ruling.

Meanwhile they own you. Lock, stock, barrel and spotty underwear. Freedom happens in your head, if you keep it low enough. Resistance is futile and costly. Live with it. Then they'll let you.

Culture ended 1914.

-- Robert Basco Zeigler

Where you find the laws most numerous, there you will find also the greatest injustice.

-- Arcesilaus

Our power does not know liberty or justice. It is established on the destruction of the individual will.

-- Vladimir Lenin

Give me four years to teach the children and the seed I have sown will never be uprooted.

-- Vladimir Lenin

Without promotion something terrible happens... Nothing!

-- P.T. Barnum

Money is a terrible master but an excellent servant.

-- P.T. Barnum

You may not be interested in war, but war is interested in you.

-- Leon Trotsky

Think not of victory or of yourself, but only of cutting your enemy.

-- The Book of Five Rings

Everyone has talent. What is rare is the courage to follow that talent to dark place where it leads.

-- Erica Jong

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

-- Ashleigh Brilliant

The world is in a constant conspiracy against the brave. It's the age-old struggle—the roar of the crowd on one side and the voice of your conscience on the other.

-- Douglas MacArthur

A fool and his money are soon parted.

-- American proverb

Only suckers gripe.

-- Chicago proverb

Don't shit where you eat.

-- Old proverb

Practice what you know, and it will help to make clear what now you do not know.

-- Rembrandt

Fatigue makes cowards of us all.

-- Vince Lombardi

Your attention, please, ladies and gentlemen, Building Two is secure. There is no need to evacuate Building Two. If you are in the midst of evacuation, you may use the reentry doors and the elevators to return to your office.

-- Broadcast inside World Trade Center Tower #2 on the morning of September 11, 2001, before it collapsed

Don't worry, go back to your cabins, it's just an electrical fault.

— Crew members of the *Costa Concordia* to its passengers, after the ship had hit a rock and was sinking, January 2012

The current project to identify the humanity of the world will make identity theft the crime of the century. It's really extraordinarily simple: The more everything rests on identity, the more value identity will have. And the more value it has, the more it will be worth to steal.

-- Ian Grigg

The greatest pleasure is to vanquish your enemies and chase them before you, to rob them of their wealth and see those dear to them bathed in tears, to ride their horses and clasp to your bosom their wives and daughters.

-- Genghis Kahn

Fascism should more properly be called corporatism, since it is the merger of state and corporate power.

-- Benito Mussolini

Mercy to the guilty is cruelty to the innocent.

-- Adam Smith

A basically dishonest man can survive longer in the church or in the classroom than he can in the grain exchange or furniture business.

-- Be Rogge

The authoritarian's answer to everything is to demand more authority.

-- Jim Davidson

I love to hang with folks who think an education is something you do for your own curiosity as opposed to something inflicted on you to pass a test.

-- Wavyhill

I never was truly my own master but was always ruled by circumstances.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

A man becomes a creature of his uniform.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

The life of a citizen is the property of his country.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

Free trade favors all classes, excites all imaginations, and rouses the whole population; it is identical with equality, and tends naturally to independence.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

He who knows how to flatter also knows how to slander.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte Bonaparte

Religion is excellent stuff for keeping people quiet.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

If you start to take Vienna — take Vienna.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

You must not fear death, my lads; defy him, and you drive him into the enemy's ranks.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

You must not fight too often with one enemy, or you will teach him all your art of war.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

In early life he (Napoleon) may have been a sincere republican; but he hated anarchy and disorder, and, before his campaign in Italy was over, he had begun to plan to make himself ruler of France. He worked systematically to transform the people's earlier ardor for liberty into a passion for military glory and plunder.

-- Willis Mason West

It is not only [the juror's] right, but his duty...to find the verdict according to his own best understanding, judgment, and conscience, though in direct opposition to the direction of the court.

-- John Adams

When governments fear the people there is liberty. When the people fear the government there is tyranny.

-- Thomas Jefferson

On every question of construction [of the Constitution], let us carry ourselves back to the time when the Constitution was adopted, recollect the spirit manifested in the debates, and instead of trying what meaning may be squeezed out of the text, or invented against it, conform to the probable one in which it was passed.

-- Thomas Jefferson (letter to William Johnson) June 12, 1823

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

We forfeit three-fourths of ourselves in order to be like other people.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

The effect of music is so very much more powerful and penetrating than is that of the other arts, for these others speak only of the shadow, but music of the essence.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

Every child is in a way a genius; and every genius is in a way a child.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

Pride is an established conviction of one's own paramount worth in some particular respect, while *vanity* is the desire of rousing such a conviction in others, and it is generally accompanied by the secret hope of ultimately coming to the same conviction oneself. Pride works *from within*; it is the direct appreciation of oneself. Vanity is the desire to arrive at this appreciation indirectly, *from without*.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

National character is only another name for the particular form which the littleness, perversity and baseness of mankind take in every country.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

The less one, as a result of objective or subjective conditions, has to come into contact with people, the better off one is for it.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

Every parting gives a foretaste of death, every reunion a hint of the resurrection.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

A man's face as a rule says more, and more interesting things, than his mouth, for it is a compendium of everything his mouth will ever say, in that it is the monogram of all this man's thoughts and aspirations.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

The animal lacks both anxiety and hope because its consciousness is restricted to what is clearly evident and thus to the present moment: the animal is the present incarnate.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

Talent works for money and fame; the motive which moves genius to productivity is, on the other hand, less easy to determine. It isn't money, for genius seldom gets any. It isn't fame: fame is too uncertain and, more closely considered, of too little worth. Nor is it strictly for its own pleasure, for the great exertion involved almost outweighs the pleasure. It is rather an instinct of a unique sort by virtue of which the individual possessed of genius is impelled to express what he has seen and felt in enduring works without being conscious of any further motivation. It takes place, by and large, with the same sort of necessity as a tree brings forth fruit, and demands of the world no more than a soil on which the individual can flourish.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

Every man takes the limits of his own field of vision for the limits of the world.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

There is no more mistaken path to happiness than worldliness, revelry, high life.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

Talent hits a target no-one else can hit; genius hits targets no-one else can see.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

There is in the world only the choice between loneliness and vulgarity.

-- Arthur Schopenhauer

We are in a jungle and find our way by trial and error, building our road behind us as we proceed.

-- Max Born

It doesn't matter how beautiful your theory is, it doesn't matter how smart you are. If it doesn't agree with experiment, it's wrong.

-- Richard Feynman

Science is the belief in the ignorance of the experts.

– Richard Feynman

Art is a human activity consisting in this, that one consciously, by means of certain external symbols, conveys to others the feelings one has experienced, whereby people so infected by these feelings, also experience them.

-- Leo Tolstoy

[The object of art is] to make eternal the desperately fleeting moment.

-- Tennessee Williams

Increasingly, politics is not about "who gets what, when, how" but about values, each of them considered to be absolute. Politics is about "the right to life"...It is about the environment. It is about gaining equality for groups alleged to be oppressed...None of these issues is economic. All are fundamentally moral.

-- Peter Drucker

What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow: this is the whole Law; the rest is the explanation; go and learn.

-- Hillel The Elder

Every object the individual uses, every transaction they make and almost everywhere they go will create a detailed digital record. This will generate a wealth of information for public security organisations, and create huge opportunities for more effective and productive public security efforts.

-- EU Council Presidency paper

Never underestimate the power of stupid people in large groups.

-- George Carlin

The wavelike movement affecting the economic system, the recurrence of periods of boom which are followed by periods of depression, is the unavoidable outcome of the attempts, repeated again and again, to lower the gross market rate of interest by means of credit expansion. There is no means of avoiding the final collapse of a boom brought about by credit expansion. The alternative is only whether the crisis should come sooner as the result of a voluntary abandonment of further credit expansion, or later as a final and total catastrophe of the currency system involved.

-- Ludwig von Mises, *Human Action*

Persistence in error is the problem. ...Yet to recognize error, to cut losses, to alter course, is the most repugnant option in government.

-- Barbara Tuchman, *The March Of Folly*

What matters is not the allocation of portions out of a fund presented to man by nature. The problem is rather to further those social institutions which enable people to continue and to enlarge the production of all those things which they need.

-- Ludwig von Mises, *The Anti-Capitalistic Mentality*

Justice demands that the inhabitants of Asia and Africa, for example, should have the benefits of more machine production.

-- World Council of Churches, 1948

I am young, and you are very old; therefore I was afraid, and did not speak. I said, age should speak, and the multitude of years should teach wisdom. But there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the almighty gives understanding.

-- Elihu, *the book of Job*

Then first, we must set up a censorship over the fable-makers, and approve any good fable they make, and disapprove the bad; those which are approved we will persuade the mothers and nurses to tell the children, and to mold the souls of the children by the fables.

-- Plato

They (the guardians) must allow no innovations in gymnastic and music against the established order.

-- Plato

Often the rulers have really to use falsehood and deceit for the benefit of the ruled; and we said all such things were useful as a kind of drugs.

-- Plato

I've been broke but I've never been poor. Broke is a temporary state, poor is a state of mind.

-- Michael Todd

Persons not heeding evacuation orders... face certain death.

-- The National Hurricane Center, as Hurricane Ike approached Texas in 2008. Tens of thousands refused to evacuate; a few dozen (in nine states) died.

Life is a petty thing unless it is moved by the indomitable urge to extend its boundaries.

-- Jose Ortega y Gasset

Tell me to what you pay attention and I will tell you who you are.

-- Jose Ortega y Gasset

For each individual to be free is a constant struggle against the forces of authoritarianism and the sycophants among the servile. It requires secure lines of communication, intelligent management of assets, hard work, time, dedication, effort, alliances with people who can be relied upon, temporary deals with people who suck at reliability but have something useful to offer. There is no royal road to freedom.

-- Jim Davidson

Civilization has not yet begun.

-- Wilhelm Reich

The intelligence of the masses is small. Their forgetfulness is great. They must be told the same thing a thousand times.

-- Adolph Hitler

Society in every state is a blessing, but government even in its best state is but a necessary evil.

-- Thomas Paine

Our calamity is heightened by reflecting that we furnish the means by which we suffer.

-- Thomas Paine

When we are planning for posterity, we ought to remember that virtue is not hereditary.

-- Thomas Paine

There never yet was any truth or any principle so irresistibly obvious that all men believed it at once.

-- Thomas Paine

You can't conquer an idea with an army.

-- Thomas Paine

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.

-- Thomas Paine

Men should not petition for rights, but take them.

– Thomas Paine

Since we cannot protect them, we must give them their freedom.

-- Cato the Elder, as the Romans withdrew from Greece in 167 B.C.

We're all Jews now.

-- Lenny Bruce

Parents give up their rights when they drop the children off at public school.

-- Melinda Harmon, Federal Judge, 1996

Great spirits have always been violently oppressed by mediocre minds.

-- Albert Einstein

Written laws are like spider's webs; they will catch, it is true, the weak and poor, but would be torn in pieces by the rich and powerful.

-- Anacharsis, 6th Century BC

A man's character is his fate.

-- Heraclitus

Our love of what is beautiful does not lead to extravagance; our love of the things of the mind does not make us soft.

-- Pericles

Whenever God prepares evil for a man, He first damages his mind, with which he deliberates.

-- Anonymous, Ancient Greece

It is part of human nature to hate the man you have hurt.

-- Tacitus

In the country of the blind the one-eyed man is king.

-- Erasmus

I wish to preach, not the doctrine of ignoble ease, but the doctrine of the strenuous life.

-- Theodore Roosevelt

The great nations have always acted like gangsters, and the small nations like prostitutes.
-- Stanley Kubrick

Without a doubt: he was the greatest man I ever met. Or ever will meet, I am sure. His existence is proof that honesty, intelligence and decency are possible in a world that often makes that seem doubtful.

-- Craig Spencer, on Richard Feynman

There are two ways to slide easily through life: to believe everything or to doubt everything; both ways save us from thinking.

-- Alfred Korzybski

A ship has no freedom until the anchor is raised.

-- J.J. Luna

Sometimes I wonder if the world is being run by smart people who are putting us on, or by imbeciles who really mean it.

-- Mark Twain

People cannot stand too much reality.

-- Carl Jung

Moral laws are self-enforcing in the world of economics.

-- Lew Rockwell

But since this is not the sort of thing that bureaucrats can centrally manage with a masterful pull of a lever, it is obviously of no importance.

-- Peter Jones

The role of the public official, and in particular of the public school teacher, is to collect little plastic lumps of human dough from private households and shape them on the social kneadingboard.

-- Edward A. Ross, *Social Control*, 1914

Only the small secrets need to be protected. Big secrets are protected by public incredulity.

-- Marshall McLuhan, *Take Today: The Executive as Dropout*

Computers can do better than ever what needn't be done at all. Making sense is still a human monopoly.

-- Marshall McLuhan, *Take Today: The Executive as Dropout*

The name of a man is a numbing blow from which he never recovers.

-- Marshall McLuhan

There is absolutely no inevitability, so long as there is a willingness to contemplate what is happening.

-- Marshall McLuhan

Moral indignation is a technique used to endow the idiot with dignity.

-- Marshall McLuhan

The American bureaucracy ... was set up for very slow speeds of the printed word and railways. At electric speeds, nothing in the USA makes sense.

-- Marshall McLuhan

Native societies did not think of themselves as being in the world as occupants but considered that their rituals created the world and keep it operational.

-- Marshall McLuhan, *College and University Journal*, Volumes 6-7

The more data banks record about us, the less we exist.

-- Marshall McLuhan, *Playboy* interview, 1969

The user of the electric light -- or a hammer, or a language, or a book -- is the content. As such, there is a total metamorphosis of the user by the interface. It is the metamorphosis that I consider the message.

-- Marshall McLuhan, Letter to Edward T. Hall, 1971

Pornography and violence are by-products of societies in which private identity has been...destroyed by sudden environmental change.

-- Marshall McLuhan, Letter to Clare Westcott, November 26 1975

Pornography and obscenity... work by specialism and fragmentation. They deal with a figure without a ground -- situations in which the human factor is suppressed in favor of sensations and kicks.

-- Marshall McLuhan, Letter to Clare Westcott, November 26 1975

Any loss of identity prompts people to seek reassurance and rediscovery of themselves by testing, and even by violence. Today, the electric revolution, the wired planet, and the information environment involve everybody in everybody to the point of individual extinction.

-- Marshall McLuhan, Letter to Clare Westcott, November 26 1975

The more foreign to his nature the original command, the less guilt he feels about what it made him do.

-- Elias Canetti, *Crowds and Power*

Armed with a small stock of formulas and commonplaces learnt while we are young, we possess all that is needed to traverse life without the tiring necessity of having to reflect on anything whatever.

-- Gustave Le Bon

Not until I went into the Churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the greatness and the genius of America. America is good. And if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.

-- Alexis de Tocqueville

Simple, clear purpose and principles give rise to complex and intelligent behavior. Complex rules and regulations give rise to simple and stupid behavior.

-- Dee Hock

I tell you, freedom and human rights in America are doomed. The U.S. government will lead the American people, and the West in general, into an unbearable hell and a choking life.

-- Osama bin Laden, October, 2001 (quoted on NewsMax.com, 2/1/02)

The phase of civilization is inherent in the people, and is not due to the circumstances of their position.

-- Sir William Petrie, *The Revolutions of Civilisations*

At some point in the evolution of a society, continued investment in complexity as a problem solving strategy yields a declining marginal return.

-- Joseph Tainter, *The Collapse Of Complex Societies*

It used to be the boast of free men that, so long as they kept within the bounds of the known law, there was no need to ask anybody's permission or to obey anybody's orders. It is doubtful whether any of us can make this claim today.

-- Friedrich Hayek

Propaganda does not deceive people; it merely helps them to deceive themselves.

-- Eric Hoffer

The conventional view serves to protect us from the painful job of thinking.

-- John Kenneth Galbraith

School is the advertising agency which makes you believe that you need the society as it is.

-- Ivan Illich

School is the first impression children get of organized society. Like most first impressions it is the lasting one. Life is dull and stupid, only Coke provides relief. And other products, too, of course.

-- John Taylor Gatto

Growth and mastery come only to those who vigorously self-direct. Initiating, creating, doing, reflecting, freely associating, enjoying privacy—these are precisely what the structures of schooling are set up to prevent, on one pretext or another.

-- John Taylor Gatto

In 100 years we have gone from teaching Latin and Greek in high school to teaching Remedial English in college.

-- Joseph Sobran

Q: If you were Big Brother and wanted to create a surveillance society, where would you begin?

A: I would start by creating dossiers on kindergarten children so that the next generation could not comprehend a world without surveillance. I'd also scare the public with stories about terrorists, pedophiles and drug dealers. In fact, that's exactly what's going on right now.

-- André Bacard, 1996

If we keep on the way we're going, we're going to wind up where we're headed.
-- Anonymous

We're trying to teach obedience and conformity. We don't expect much resistance.
-- Joy Mack, Principal, Williamsburg Independent School District (Kentucky)

The child is regarded as a sort of a little beast, a kind of young ape, at best a little savage. The child, accordingly, is trained to act not by the light of reason, but by the command of superior force. The child is ruled by fear. Our young generation is trained by fear into discipline and obedience. We thus suppress the natural genius and originality of the child, we favor and raise mediocrity, and cultivate the philistine, the product of education, ruled by rod, not by thought.

-- Boris Sidis

It is time that the medical and teaching profession should realize that functional neurosis is not congenital, not inborn, not hereditary, but is the result of a defective, fear-inspiring education in early child life.

-- Boris Sidis

Gosh, it's a lot like school here, isn't it?

-- A new prison inmate, recounted by James Dale Davidson in *The Great Reckoning*

There is not, perhaps, in the kingdom, a more dogmatical, or luxurious set of men, than the pedantic tyrants who reside in colleges and preside at public schools.

-- Mary Wollstonecraft, 1792

Our whole constitutional heritage rebels at the thought of giving government the power to control men's minds.

-- Justice Thurgood Marshall

I suppose it is because nearly all children go to school nowadays, and have things arranged for them, that they seem so forlornly unable to produce their own ideas.

-- Agatha Christie

The African is my brother – but he is my younger brother by several centuries.

-- Albert Schweitzer

Any religion or philosophy which is not based on a respect for life is not a true religion or philosophy.

-- Albert Schweitzer

My life carries its own meaning in itself. This meaning lies in my living out the highest idea which shows itself in my will-to-live, the idea of reverence for life. With that for a starting-point I give value to my own life and to all the will-to-live which surrounds me, I persevere in activity, and I produce values.

-- Albert Schweitzer

I am life which wills to live, and I exist in the midst of life which wills to live.

-- Albert Schweitzer

All founders of religious or political creeds have established them solely because they were successful in inspiring crowds with those fanatical sentiments which have as result that men find their happiness in worship and obedience and are willing to lay down their lives for their idols.

-- Gustave Le Bon

The masses have never thirsted after truth. Whoever can supply them with illusions is easily their master; whoever attempts to destroy their illusions is always their victim.

-- Gustave Le Bon

An individual immersed for some length of time in a crowd soon finds himself - either in consequence of magnetic influence given out by the crowd or from some other cause of which we are ignorant - in a special state, which much resembles the state of fascination in which the hypnotized individual finds himself in the hands of the hypnotizer.

-- Gustave Le Bon

The study of money, above all other fields in economics, is one in which complexity is used to disguise truth or to evade truth, not to reveal it.

-- John Kenneth Galbraith

The process by which banks create money is so simple that the mind is repelled.

-- John Kenneth Galbraith

Money is the most important subject intellectual persons can investigate and reflect upon. It is so important that our present civilization may collapse unless it is widely understood and its defects remedied very soon.

-- Robert H. Hemphill, Credit Manager, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

If all the bank loans were paid, no one could have a bank deposit, and there would not be a dollar of coin or currency in circulation. This is a staggering thought. We are completely dependent on the commercial banks. Someone has to borrow every dollar we have in circulation, cash, or credit. If the banks create ample synthetic money we are prosperous; if not, we starve. We are absolutely without a permanent money system. When one gets a complete grasp of the picture, the tragic absurdity of our hopeless situation is almost incredible—but there it is.

-- Robert H. Hemphill, Credit Manager, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Forward to *100% Money*

Of all the contrivances for cheating the laboring classes of mankind, none has been more effective than that which deludes them with paper money.

-- Daniel Webster

I sincerely believe ... that banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies, and that the principle of spending money to be paid by posterity under the name of funding is but swindling futurity on a large scale.

-- Thomas Jefferson

When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men living together in society, they create for themselves in the course of time a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it.

-- Frederick Bastiat

By the 5th Century, men were ready to abandon civilization itself to escape the fearful load of taxes.

-- R.M. Adams

Decisions taken in the next few months or years about how the state may use these powers, and to what extent, are likely to be irreversible. We need to take great care not to fall into a way of life in which freedom's back is broken by the relentless pressure of a security state.

-- Ken MacDonald, Director of Public Prosecutions for England and Wales, 2008

[Some people presume that this] gives room for the supernatural to work. It may be, but then we have to give the probability that the supernatural will produce its effects as a function of the circumstances. So, it is equally analyzable, even if it is supernatural, provided you make enough experiments.

-- Richard Feynman

It is the fear of any radical, disruptive vision that keeps smart people from solving the world's issues.

-- Mathias Menk

Rules and regulations – who needs them? Open up the doors!

-- Graham Nash, *Immigration Man*

We have created an industrial order geared to automatism, where feeble-mindedness, native or acquired, is necessary for docile productivity in the factory; and where a pervasive neurosis is the final gift of the meaningless life that issues forth at the other end.

-- Lewis Mumford

In its first stage, mental standstill fixes the principles and boundaries governing a political problem. In the second stage, when dissonances begin to appear, the initial principles rigidify. This is the period when, if wisdom were operative, re-examination and rethinking and a change of course are possible, but they are rare as rubies in a backyard. Rigidifying leads to increase of investment and the need to protect egos; policy founded upon error multiplies, never retreats. The greater the investment and the more involved in it the sponsor's ego, the more unacceptable is disengagement. In the third stage, pursuit of failure enlarges the damage until it causes the fall of Troy, the defection from the Papacy, or the loss of a trans-Atlantic empire.

-- Barbara Tuchman, *The March Of Folly*

Disaster is rarely as pervasive as it seems from recorded accounts. The fact of being on the record makes it appear continuous and ubiquitous whereas it is more likely to have been sporadic both in time and place. Besides, persistence of the normal is usually greater than the effect of the disturbance, as we know from our own times. After absorbing the news of today, one expects to face a world consisting entirely of strikes, crimes, power failures, broken water mains, stalled trains, school shutdowns, muggers, drug addicts, neo-Nazis, and rapists. The

fact is that one can come home in the evening—on a lucky day—without having encountered more than one or two of these phenomena. This has led me to formulate Tuchman's Law, as follows: "The fact of being reported multiplies the apparent extent of any deplorable development by five- to tenfold" (or any figure the reader would care to supply).

-- Barbara Tuchman, *A Distant Mirror*

Since we cannot protect them, we must give them their freedom.

-- Hadrian, justifying Roman withdrawal from Greece in 167 B.C.

The very concept of the enemy has been banished from our moral and political vocabulary. An enemy was just a friend we hadn't done enough for yet.

-- Lee Harris, *Civilization And Its Enemies*

We are caught in the midst of a conflict between those for whom the category of the enemy is essential to their way of organizing human experience and those who have banished the idea from both public discourse and even their innermost thoughts.

-- Lee Harris, *Civilization And Its Enemies*

If a nation expects to be ignorant and free... it expects what never was and never will be.

-- Thomas Jefferson

What good fortune for those in power that people do not think.

-- Adolf Hitler

Society can overlook murder, adultery or swindling — it never forgives the preaching of a new gospel.

-- Frederic Harrison

For each individual to be free is a constant struggle against the forces of authoritarianism and the sycophants among the servile. It requires secure lines of communication, intelligent management of assets, hard work, time, dedication, effort, alliances with people who can be relied upon, temporary deals with people who suck at reliability but have something useful to offer. There is no royal road to freedom.

-- Jim Davidson

The current project to identify the humanity of the world will make identity theft the crime of the century. It's really extraordinarily simple: The more everything rests on identity, the more value identity will have. And the more value it has, the more it will be worth to steal.

-- Ian Grigg

That for which we blame others, let us not do ourselves.

-- Thales

Be rich, yes, for success is sweet. However, do not be rich badly.

-- Thales

A happy man is one who is healthy in body, resourceful in soul and of a readily teachable nature.

-- Thales

I know why you did it; you were afraid. Who wouldn't be? War, terror and disease. There were a myriad of problems that conspired to corrupt your reason and rob you of your common sense. Fear got the best of you.

-- *V For Vendetta*

Is that what you really think, or is that what they want you to think?

-- *V For Vendetta*

In a bureaucratic system, useless work drives out useful work.

-- Milton Friedman

Anyone who says that economic security is a human right, has been too much babied. While he babbles, other men are risking and losing their lives to protect him. They are fighting the sea, fighting the land, fighting disease and insects and weather and space and time, for him, while he chatters that all men have a right to security and that some pagan god – Society, The State, The Government, The Commune – must give it to them. Let the fighting men stop fighting this inhuman earth for one hour, and he will learn how much security there is.

-- Rose Wilder Lane, *The Discovery Of Freedom*

The more foreign to his nature the original command, the less guilt he feels about what it made him do.

-- Elias Canetti, *Crowds and Power*

From whatever aspect we consider the command... it is the most dangerous single element in the social life of man.

-- James P. Driscoll, *The Unfolding God of Jung and Milton*

He did it too!

-- Last cry of the dying lemming

The idea that there was something more powerful in life than the whim of kings, that there was a justice that the mind could impose on the might of nations, began with the Jews. The Jews were the artists and egoists of this idea. It was so powerful an idea that they, with artistic modesty, had to attribute it to God rather than to themselves.

-- Ben Hecht, *Guide For The Bedeviled*

Gentlemen, we are going to relentlessly chase perfection, knowing full well we will not catch it, because nothing is perfect. But we are going to relentlessly chase it, because in the process we will catch excellence. I am not remotely interested in just being good.

-- Vince Lombardi

I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle - victorious.

-- Vince Lombardi

Fatigue makes cowards of us all.

-- Vince Lombardi

It's not whether you get knocked down, it's whether you get up.

-- Vince Lombardi

It should be possible to get rid of anybody who is a nuisance....everybody should be called on every five years or so to justify their existence. There are many people in the world who ought to be liquidated.

-- George Bernard Shaw, *Dictators - Let us have more of them*, Liberty Magazine, Sept. 10, 1938, p. 7.

People of privilege will always risk their complete destruction rather than surrender any material part of their advantage.

-- John Kenneth Galbraith

By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

-- Socrates

I think a writer or intellectual is never as much himself as when he tries to bear witness to what the world has organized itself to ignore.

-- Bernard-Henri Levy

Society works precisely because conversation is ephemeral; because people forget, and because people don't have to justify every word they utter.

-- Bruce Schneier

Socialism in general has a record of failure so blatant that only an intellectual could ignore or evade it.

-- Thomas Sowell

Whenever you hear the consensus of scientists agrees on something or other, reach for your wallet, because you're being had.

- Michael Crichton

There are three principal ways to lose money: wine, women, and engineers. While the first two are more pleasant, the third is by far the more certain.

-- Baron Rothschild, ca. 1800

Skill without imagination is craftsmanship and gives us many useful objects such as wicker-work picnic baskets. Imagination without skill gives us modern art.

-- Tom Stoppard, *Artist Descending a Staircase*

The New Deal began, like the Salvation Army, by promising to save humanity. It ended, again like the Salvation Army, by running flophouses and disturbing the peace.

--H.L. Mencken

Prices aren't just made up.

-- Walter Williams

Reality is not optional.

-- Thomas Sowell

Some people say that money can't buy happiness. I've found that it usually does, and, when it doesn't, it buys the most interesting substitutes.

-- Rhett Butler, *Gone with the Wind*

The real object of all despotism is revenue.

--Thomas Paine

Communism is neither an economic or a political system - it is a form of insanity - a temporary aberration which will one day disappear from the earth because it is contrary to human nature. I wonder how much more misery it will cause before it disappears.

--Ronald Reagan

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

-- H.L. Mencken

Every election is a sort of advance auction of stolen goods.

-- H.L. Mencken

Every hairshirted goo-goo goes into a hand-wringing fit on the subject of voter turnout.

-- William Safire

No matter who you vote for, the government gets elected.

--Lizard

"When the hares made speeches in the assembly and demanded that all should have equality, the lions replied, "Where are your claws and teeth?"

-- attributed to Antisthenes by Aristotle, *Politics*, 3.7.2

Liberty not only means that the individual has both the opportunity and the burden of choice; it also means that he must bear the consequences of his actions and will receive praise or blame for them.

-- Friedrich Hayek, *The Constitution of Liberty*

The price of freedom is the probability of crime. The price of protection is the probability of slavery.

-- Dan Geer

Whatever acts cannot be destroyed.

-- Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz

When you men get home and face an anti-war protester, look him in the eye and shake his hand. Then wink at his girlfriend, because she knows she's dating a pussy.

--General Tommy Franks

Our claim to be left in the unmolested enjoyment of vast and splendid possessions, mainly acquired by violence, largely maintained by force, often seems less reasonable to others than to us.

-- Winston Churchill, January 1914

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

-- Dwight David Eisenhower April 16, 1953

War is God's way of teaching Americans about geography.

-- Ambrose Bierce

The direct use of physical force is so poor a solution to the problem of limited resources that it is commonly employed only by small children and great nations.

-- David Friedman, *The Machinery of Freedom*

Kings most commonly, though strong in legions, are but weak in arguments.

-- John Milton, *Iconoclast*

In an age where transcendence has to be abandoned and immanence suspended, one turns one's thought toward stupidity.

-- Avital Ronell

Never ascribe to malice that which is adequately explained by incompetence.

-- Napoleon Bonaparte

To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them.

-- Richard Henry Lee, author of the 2nd Amendment, on 'the militia'

People demand freedom of speech to make up for the freedom of thought which they avoid.

-- Soren Aabye Kierkegaard

The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good.

-- Samuel Johnson

In our age there is no such thing as 'keeping out of politics.' All issues are political issues, and politics itself is a mass of lies, evasions, folly, hatred and schizophrenia.

-- George Orwell

Of all the contrivances for cheating the laboring classes of mankind, none has been more effective than that which deludes them with paper money.

-- Daniel Webster

The decrease in purchasing power incurred by holders of money due to inflation imparts gains to the issuers of money

-- St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, *Review*, Nov. 1975

When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men living together in society, they create for themselves in the course of time a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it

-- Frederic Bastiat, *The Law*

If, however, a government refrains from regulations and allows matters to take their course, essential commodities soon attain a level of price out of the reach of all but the rich, the worthlessness of the money becomes apparent, and the fraud upon the public can be concealed no longer.

-- John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*

Bankers own the earth. Take it away from them, but leave them the power to create money and control credit, and with a flick of a pen they will create enough to buy it back.

-- Sir Josiah Stamp, Director, Bank of England (circa 1940)

Those who create and issue money and credit direct the policies of government and hold in the hollow of their hands the destiny of the people.

-- Rt. Hon. Reginald McKenna, former Chancellor of Exchequer, England

All the perplexities, confusion and distresses in America arise not from defects in the constitution or confederation, nor from want of honor or virtue, as much from downright ignorance of the nature of coin, credit, and circulation.

-- John Adams, letter to Thomas Jefferson

Money power denounces, as public enemies, all who question its methods or throw light upon its crimes.

-- Wm. Jennings Bryan

The Federal Reserve Act lets us print all we'll need. And it won't frighten the people. It won't look like stage money. It'll be money that looks like real money.

-- Treasury Secretary William H. Woodin, March 7, 1933

You don't understand, these people live in a Bubble World. They're protected from the real world by their staffs and by the system itself. You imagine that they would know what is going on. But they don't. They know less than we do. And they'll be the last to find out. They are so busy meeting constituents...dealing with donors...working out deals with their political parties and supporters...and feeling like big shots...they don't really have any time to study the issues. So they count on staff and party committees to tell them what to say, how to vote...and what to think.

-- A US Senate functionary, to Bill Bonner, May 2009

Failure is simply an opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently.

-- Henry Ford

People living deeply have no fear of death.

-- Anais Nin

How wrong is it for women to expect the man to build the world she wants, rather than set out to create it herself.

-- Anais Nin

You can only have power over people so long as you don't take everything away from them. But when you've robbed a man of everything he's no longer in your power – he's free again.

-- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The strength and power of despotism consists wholly in the fear of resistance.

-- Thomas Paine

The public good is disregarded in the conflicts of rival parties.

-- James Madison, Federalist #10

What a man! I have lost my heart!

-- Winston Churchill, on Benito Mussolini, 1927

The greatest genius of the modern age.

-- Thomas Edison, on Benito Mussolini.

There seems to be no question that he is really interested in what we are doing and I am much interested and deeply impressed by what he has accomplished and by his evidenced honest purpose of restoring Italy.

-- Franklin Roosevelt, on Benito Mussolini

The truth is that men are tired of Liberty. They have a surfeit of it. Liberty is no longer the virgin, chaste and severe, to be fought for ... we have buried the putrid corpse of liberty ... the Italian people are a race of sheep.

-- Benito Mussolini

I have sympathy for Mr. Roosevelt, because he marches straight toward his objectives over Congress, lobbies and bureaucracy.

-- Adolph Hitler

One may dislike Hitler's system and yet admire his patriotic achievement. If our country were defeated, I hope we should find a champion as indomitable to restore our courage and lead us back to our place among the nations.

-- Winston Churchill

The trouble with lying and deceiving is that their efficiency depends entirely upon a clear notion of the truth that the liar and deceiver wishes to hide. In this sense, truth, even if it does not prevail in public, possesses an ineradicable primacy over all falsehoods.

-- Hannah Arendt

The state can only survive as long as a majority is programmed to believe that theft isn't wrong if it's called taxation or asset forfeiture or eminent domain, that assault and kidnapping isn't wrong if it's called arrest, that mass murder isn't wrong if it's called war.

-- Bill St. Clair

We were given speech to hide our thoughts.

-- Charles Maurice Talleyrand

All that is exaggerated is insignificant.

-- Charles Maurice Talleyrand

I see no ethical standard by which to measure the whole unethical conception of a state, except in the amount of time, of thought, of money, of effort and of obedience, which a society extorts from its every member.

-- Ayn Rand, *The Fountainhead*

An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field.

-- Niels Bohr

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

-- Richard Feynman

Everything popular is wrong.

-- Oscar Wilde

I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened.

-- Mark Twain

The existential vacuum manifests itself mainly in a state of boredom.

-- Viktor Frankl

It is through creating, not possession, that life is revealed.

-- Vida D. Scudder

What man actually needs is not a tensionless state but rather the striving and struggling for a worthwhile goal, a freely chosen task.

-- Viktor Frankl

If you don't make mistakes, you're not working on hard enough problems.

-- Frank Wilczek

To be governed is to be watched, inspected, spied upon, directed, law-driven, numbered, regulated, enrolled, indoctrinated, preached at, controlled, checked, estimated, valued, censured, commanded, by creatures who have neither the right nor the wisdom nor the virtue to do so. To be governed is to be at every operation, at every transaction noted, registered, counted, taxed, stamped, measured, numbered, assessed, licensed, authorized, admonished, prevented, forbidden, reformed, corrected, punished. It is, under pretext of public utility, and in the name of the general interest, to be placed under contribution, drilled, fleeced, exploited, monopolized, extorted from, squeezed, hoaxed, robbed; then, at the slightest resistance, the first word of complaint, to be repressed, fined, vilified, harassed, hunted down, abused, clubbed, disarmed, bound, choked, imprisoned, judged, condemned, shot, deported, sacrificed, sold, betrayed; and to crown all, mocked, ridiculed, derided, outraged, dishonored. That is government; that is its justice; that is its morality.

-- P.J. Proudhon

The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance.

-- Cicero, 55 BC

All the good are friends of one another.

-- Zeno of Citium

Since at least the late Middle Ages, the battle has been between the forces of progress, individual freedom, competition, and free trade and the forces of stagnation, regulation of individual actions, monopoly, and trade protection.

-- David K. Levine and Michele Boldrin, *Against Intellectual Monopoly*

There is always a little piece of heaven in a disaster area.

-- Wavy Gravy

Enrich the troops; ignore everyone else.

-- Roman Emperor Septimius Severus (193-211 AD)

As long as we have this (pointing to his sword), we shall not run short of money.

-- Roman Emperor Caracalla (209-217 AD)

I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

-- Psalm 119:100

Good order results spontaneously when things are let alone.

-- Zhuangzi

Liberty... is not the daughter but the mother of order.

-- P. J. Proudhon

You cannot invade mainland United States. There would be a rifle behind each blade of grass.

-- Japanese Admiral Yamamoto, during World War Two

Cooperation is the opposite of rulership.

-- Spencer MacCallum

As a human being, you have no choice about the fact that you need a philosophy. Your only choice is whether you define your philosophy by a conscious, rational, disciplined process of thought and scrupulously logical deliberation -- or let your subconscious accumulate a junk heap of unwarranted conclusions, false generalizations, undefined contradictions, undigested slogans, unidentified wishes, doubts and fears, thrown together by chance, but integrated by your subconscious into a kind of mongrel philosophy and fused into a single, solid weight: *self-doubt*, like a ball and chain in the place where your mind's wings should have grown.

-- Ayn Rand, *Philosophy: Who Needs It*

It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man who knows what the law is today can guess what it will be tomorrow.

-- James Madison, *Federalist No. 62*, 1788

The sleeper must awaken.

-- *Dune*

If the mob had politics, they'd give up dope and prostitution.

-- Paul Greenfield

I am a rich man as long as I don't pay my creditors.

-- Titus Maccius Plautus

Constant and frequent questioning is the first key to wisdom ... For through doubting we are led to inquire, and by inquiry we perceive the truth.

-- Peter Abelard

After a long life, and thirty years in the public school trenches, I've concluded that genius is as common as dirt. We suppress our genius only because we haven't yet figured out how to manage a population of educated men and women. The solution, I think, is simple and glorious. Let them manage themselves.

-- John Taylor Gatto

If voting made a difference, it would be illegal.

-- American bumper sticker

Every ideology is contrary to human psychology.

-- Albert Camus

In order to cease being a doubtful case, one has to cease being, that's all.

-- Albert Camus

The history of human thought recalls the swinging of a pendulum which takes centuries to swing. After a long period of slumber comes a moment of awakening. Then thought frees herself from the chains with which those interested — rulers, lawyers, clerics — have carefully enwound her.

She shatters the chains. She subjects to severe criticism all that has been taught her, and lays bare the emptiness of the religious political, legal, and social prejudices amid which she has vegetated. She starts research in new paths, enriches our knowledge with new discoveries, creates new sciences.

But the inveterate enemies of thought — the government, the lawgiver, and the priest — soon recover from their defeat. By degrees they gather together their scattered forces, and remodel their faith and their code of laws to adapt them to the new needs.

-- Peter Kropotkin

Sociability is as much a law of nature as mutual struggle... if we resort to an indirect test, and ask Nature: "Who are the fittest: those who are continually at war with each other, or those

who support one another?" we at once see that those animals which acquire habits of mutual aid are undoubtedly the fittest.

-- Peter Kropotkin

Lenin is not comparable to any revolutionary figure in history. Revolutionaries have had ideals. Lenin has none. He is a madman, an immolator, wishful of burning, and slaughter, and sacrificing.

-- Peter Kropotkin

When we have but the will to do it, that very moment will Justice be done: that very instant the tyrants of the Earth shall bite the dust.

-- Peter Kropotkin

Men who long for freedom begin the attempt to obtain it by entreating their masters to be kind enough to protect them by modifying the laws which these masters themselves have created!

-- Peter Kropotkin

As man does not live in a solitary state, habits and feeling develop within him which are useful for the preservation of society and the propagation of the race. Without social feelings and usages life in common would have been absolutely impossible. It is not law which has established them; they are anterior to all law.

-- Peter Kropotkin

People who exercise their freedom to choose expand that freedom. People who fail to exercise their freedom to choose will find that it withers until they are literally 'being lived.' They are acting out the scripts written by parents, associates, and society.

-- Andrew Covey

Few things can help an individual more than to place responsibility on him, and to let him know that you trust him.

-- Booker T. Washington

It is a very grave mistake to think that the enjoyment of seeing and searching can be promoted by means of coercion and sense of duty.

-- Albert Einstein

If you are busy addressing the evil in the world, who is addressing the good?

-- Russell Means

Believe nothing, no matter where you read it. Or who said it, no matter if I have said it, unless it agrees with your own reason and your own common sense.

-- Buddha

The obscure we see eventually, the completely apparent takes longer.

-- Edward R. Murrow

Accounting is much like looking at a bikini on a beautiful girl. What it reveals is interesting, but what it conceals is vital.

-- Abraham J. Briloff

The real purpose of books is to trap the mind into doing its own thinking.
-- Christopher Morley

Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writings, so that you shall gain easily what others have labored hard for.

-- Socrates

A man will turn over half a library to make one book.

-- Samuel Johnson

Today politics may be our friend and tomorrow we may be its victims.

-- Owen D. Young

Capital is not a free gift of God or nature. It is the outcome of a provident restriction of consumption on the part of a man.

-- Ludwig Von Mises

To suppress a truth is to give it power beyond endurance.

-- Chinese proverb

There is nothing so well known as that we should not expect something for nothing – but we all do it and call it Hope.

-- Edgar Watson Howe

Under certain conditions, men respond as powerfully to fictions as they do to realities, and in many cases, they help to create the very fictions to which they respond.

-- Walter Lippman

Force always attracts men of low morality.

-- Albert Einstein

There is no telling to what extremes of cruelty and ruthlessness a man will go to when he is freed from the fears, hesitations, doubts and the vague stirrings of decency that go with individual judgment.

-- Eric Hoffer

The mob is man voluntarily descending to the nature of the beast.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

When the mass acts on its own, it does so in only one way, for it has no other: it lynches.

-- Jose Ortega y Gasset

These walls are funny. First you hate 'em, then you get used to 'em. Enough time passes, you get so you depend on 'em. That's institutionalized.

-- *The Shawshank Redemption*

Wars are caused by undefended wealth.

-- Douglas MacArthur

Before all else, be armed.

-- Machiavelli

It is no use saying, "We are doing our best." You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary.

-- Winston Churchill

All government is authoritarian; and the more democratic a government is the more authoritative it is; for with the people behind it, it can push authority further than any Tsar or foreign despot dare do.

-- George Bernard Shaw

The state represents violence in a concentrated and organized form. The individual has a soul, but as the state is a soulless machine, it can never be weaned from violence to which it owes its very existence.

-- Mahatma Gandhi

A man that should call everything by its right name would hardly pass the streets without being knocked down as a common enemy.

-- Sir George Saville

An important art of politicians is to find new names for institutions which under old names have become odious to the public.

-- Charles Maurice Talleyrand

Those who criticize the most are the ones who create nothing.

-- Helmut Schoeck

Government is an association of men who do violence to the rest of us.

-- Leo Tolstoy

Political power has a ratchet action; it works only one way, to augment itself.

-- Isabel Paterson

When politics corrupt business, modern reformers invariably demand the enlargement of the political power.

-- Isabel Paterson

Most of us would rather believe in the impossible than attempt the real.

-- Paul Von Ringelheim

Tell the truth and run.

-- Anonymous

We must think about things as they are, not as they are said to be.

-- George Bernard Shaw

We are corrupted by prosperity.

-- Tacitus

The state calls its own violence law, but that of the individual crime.

-- Max Stirner

It is legal because I wish it.

-- Louis XIV

There are a thousand hacking away at the branches of evil to one that is striking at the root.

-- Henry David Thoreau

If you destroy a free market you create a black market.

-- Winston Churchill

Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.

-- George Bernard Shaw

People do not lack strength, they lack will.

-- Victor Hugo

Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunities. They seem more afraid of life than death.

-- James F. Byrnes

Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication.

-- Leonardo da Vinci

When a small man casts a long shadow the sunset is near.

-- Lin Yutang

The 'right' to education, the 'right' to health care, the 'right' to food and housing. That's not freedom, that's dependency. Those aren't rights, those are the rations of slavery - hay and a barn for human cattle.

-- P.J. O'Rourke

Kindness is in our power, even when fondness is not.

-- Samuel Johnson

Life is mostly froth and bubble,

Two things stand like stone,

Kindness in another's trouble,

Courage in your own.

-- Adam Lindsay Gordon

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

-- George Washington Carver

Remember that everyone you meet is afraid of something, loves something and has lost something.

-- H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

The best practical advice I can give to the present generation is to practice the virtue which the Christians call love.

-- Bertrand Russell

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.

-- H.L. Mencken

I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again.

-- William Penn

The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own.

-- Benjamin Disraeli

In the simplicity of their minds, people 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 such impudence. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and continue to think that there may be some other explanation.

-- Adolph Hitler, *Mein Kampf*

Few of us can easily surrender our belief that society must somehow make sense. The thought that the state has lost its mind and is punishing so many innocent people is intolerable. And so the evidence has to be internally denied.

-- Arthur Miller

We tax everything that moves and doesn't move.

-- Hillary Clinton

Time lost is time when we have not lived a full human life, time unenriched by experience, creative endeavor, enjoyment, and suffering.

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

He only earns his freedom and his life Who takes them every day by storm.

-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Whatever liberates our spirit without giving us self-control is disastrous.

-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

If you are not free to choose wrongly and irresponsibly, you are not free at all.

-- Jacob Hornberger

Government is the great fiction through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else.

-- Frédéric Bastiat

Libertarianism is the view that each man is the absolute owner of his life, to use and dispose of as he sees fit; that all man's social actions should be voluntary, and that respect for every other man's similar and equal ownership of life, and by extension, the property and fruits of that life, is the ethical basis of a humane and open society.

-- Karl Hess

Nothing is more disgusting than the crowing about liberty by slaves, as most men are, and the flippant mistaking for freedom of some paper preamble like a Declaration of Independence, or the statute right to vote, by those who have never dared to think or to act.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Private property began the instant somebody had a mind of his own.

-- E. E. Cummings

Look at the tyranny of party -- at what is called party allegiance, party loyalty -- a snare invented by designing men for selfish purposes -- and which turns voters into chattles, slaves, rabbits, and all the while their masters, and they themselves, are shouting rubbish about liberty, independence, freedom of opinion, freedom of speech, honestly unconscious of the fantastic contradiction.

-- Mark Twain

We are living in a world in which nobody is free, in which hardly anybody is secure, in which it is almost impossible to be honest and to remain alive.

-- George Orwell

Power is not a means, it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship.

-- George Orwell

If thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought. Sometimes the first duty of intelligent men is the restatement of the obvious.

-- George Orwell

For just when ideas fail, a word comes in to save the situation.

-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The notion that there must exist final objective answers to normative questions, truths that can be demonstrated or directly intuited, that it is in principle possible to discover a harmonious pattern in which all values are reconciled, and that it is towards this unique goal that we must make; that we can uncover some single central principle that shapes this vision, a principle which, once found, will govern our lives – this ancient and almost universal belief, on which so much traditional thought and action and philosophical doctrine rests, seems to me invalid, and at times to have led (and still to lead) to absurdities in theory and barbarous

consequences in practice.

-- Isaiah Berlin

Let us face a pluralistic world in which there are no universal churches, no single remedy for all diseases, no one way to teach or write or sing, no magic diet, no world poets, and no chosen races, but only the wretched and wonderfully diversified human race.

-- Jacques Barzun, *Of Human Freedom*

The world does not have six billion mouths to feed — it has six billion hard-working human beings whose creativity and ingenuity must be unleashed.

-- Angeyo Kalambuka

I believe totally in a Capitalist System, I only wish that someone would try it.

-- Frank Lloyd Wright

Ideologies fight over the best solution to our problems. Capitalism is the recognition that this one best answer does not exist. Capitalism says that all peaceful ideas, projects and systems are welcome. It says "we don't know the one best way," so people have to decide themselves what might be best for them, what kind of ideas and dreams they want to realise and what kinds of goods and services they should or shouldn't consume. You are free to try anything so long as you don't use force against other people or force them to pay for your projects. Capitalism is the system that leaves the economic decisions to the people, instead of the system.

-- Johan Norberg *Capitalism, the creator*

Capitalism is not only a better form of organizing human activity than any deliberate design, any attempt to organize it to satisfy particular preferences, to aim at what people regard as beautiful or pleasant order, but it is also the indispensable condition for just keeping that population alive which exists already in the world.

-- F.A. Hayek

Nowhere and at no time has the large-scale ownership of land come into being through the working of economic forces in the market. It is the result of military and political effort.

Founded by violence, it has been upheld by violence and by that alone. As soon as the latifundia are drawn into the sphere of market transactions they begin to crumble, until at last they disappear completely. Neither at their formation or in their maintenance have economic causes operated. The great landed fortunes did not arise through the economic superiority of large-scale ownership, but by violent annexation outside the area of trade.... The non-economic origin of landed fortunes is clearly revealed by the fact that, as a rule, the expropriation by which they have been created in no way alters the manner of production. The old owner remains on the soil under a different legal title and continues to carry on production.

-- Ludwig von Mises, *Socialism*

I observe, that it will be for my interest to leave another in the possession of his goods, provided he will act in the same manner with regard to me. He is sensible of a like interest in the regulation of his conduct. When this common sense of interest is mutually expressed, and is known to both, it produces a suitable resolution and behavior.

--David Hume, *A Treatise on Human Nature*

Property rights are not the rights of property; they are the rights of humans with regard to property. They are a particular kind of human right.

-- David Friedman, *The Machinery of Freedom*

To manipulate men, to propel them towards goals which you - the social reformer - see, but they may not, is to deny their human essence, to treat them as objects without wills of their own, and therefore to degrade them.

-- Isaiah Berlin

All forms of tampering with human beings, getting at them, shaping them against their will to your own pattern, all thought control and conditioning is, therefore, a denial of that in men which makes them men.

-- Isaiah Berlin

Philosophers are adults who persist in asking childish questions.

-- Isaiah Berlin

Laws that forbid the carrying of arms ... disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes. ... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man.

-- Thomas Jefferson

There is no greater evil than the order of the king from his court.

-- Sun Tzu

To win one hundred victories in one hundred battles is not the acme of skill. To subdue the enemy without fighting is the acme of skill.

-- Sun Tzu

All warfare is based on deception. Hence, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must appear inactive; when we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near.

-- Sun Tzu

Opportunities multiply as they are seized.

-- Sun Tzu

The good fighters of old first put themselves beyond the possibility of defeat, and then waited for an opportunity of defeating the enemy.

-- Sun Tzu

What is of supreme importance in war is to attack the enemy's strategy.

-- Sun Tzu

When the enemy is at ease, be able to weary him; when well fed, to starve him; when at rest, to make him move. Appear at places to which he must hasten; move swiftly where he does not expect you.

-- Sun Tzu

Subtle and insubstantial, the expert leaves no trace; divinely mysterious, he is inaudible. Thus he is master of his enemy's fate.

-- Sun Tzu

The soul of another is a dark forest in which one must tread carefully.

-- Claude Debussy

The greatest gratitude is the gratitude that only free men have toward one another.

-- Baruch Spinoza

Thinking... is a talk which the soul has with itself.

-- Socrates

Human history is a record of the ways in which human nature has been sold short. The highest possibilities of human nature have practically always been underrated. Even when 'good specimens,' the saints and sages and great leaders of history have been available for study, the temptation too often has been to consider them not human but supernaturally endowed... If we want to know the possibilities for spiritual growth, value growth, or moral development in human beings, then I maintain that we can learn most by studying our most moral, ethical, or saintly people.

-- Abraham Maslow

Collective fear stimulates herd instinct, and tends to produce ferocity toward those who are not regarded as members of the herd.

-- Bertrand Russell

What is it that distinguishes man from animals? ... It is something altogether new, a previously unknown quality: self-awareness. Animals, too, have awareness. They are aware of objects; they know this is one thing and that another. But when the human being as such was born he had a new and different consciousness, a consciousness of himself; he knew that he existed and that he was something different, something apart from nature, apart from other people, too. He experienced himself. He was aware that he thought and felt. As far as we know, there is nothing analogous to this anywhere in the animal kingdom. That is the specific quality that makes human beings human.

-- Erich Fromm

Any clear way, though it lead to death, is mentally preferable to the tangle of uncertainty.

-- Charles Horton Cooley

The power to work on faith is what distinguishes great men.

-- Charles Horton Cooley, *Human Nature And The Social Order*

To get away from one's working environment is, in a sense, to get away from one's self; and this is often the chief advantage of travel and change.

-- Charles Horton Cooley, *Human Nature And The Social Order*

The quest for certainty blocks the search for meaning. Uncertainty is the very condition to impel man to unfold his powers.

-- Erich Fromm

Man's main task in life is to give birth to himself, to become what he potentially is. The most important product of his effort is his own personality.

-- Erich Fromm

The danger of the past was that men became slaves. The danger of the future is that men may become robots.

-- Erich Fromm

Our society is run by a managerial bureaucracy, by professional politicians; people are motivated by mass suggestion, their aim is producing more and consuming more, as purposes in themselves. All activities are subordinated to economic goals, means have become ends; man is an automaton — well fed, well clad, but without any ultimate concern for that which is his peculiarly human quality and function.

-- Erich Fromm

There will be a reaction against this communal dissociation. Man does not allow, forever, his nullification. My patients all seek their own existence, and to assure their own existence against that complete atomization, into nothingness, or into meaninglessness. Man cannot stand a meaningless life.

-- Carl Jung

It is fascinating to watch the unconscious does with the fact that it is apparently threatened with the complete end. It disregards it. Life behaves as if it were going on.

-- Carl Jung

When the individual remains undivided, and does not become conscious of his inner contradictions, the world must perforce act out the conflict.

-- Carl Jung

In order to turn the individual into a function of the state, his dependence on anything beside the state must be taken from him.

– Carl Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

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, and one by one.

-- Charles Mackay

I think their success gave confidence to do the things that they wouldn't have dared previously.

-- George Martin, on the Beatles in their most creative period.

It is hard enough to remember my opinions, without also remembering my reasons for them.

-- Nietzsche

For some curious reason or another, masses of people do not want to get to the root of the secret of war. They fear the truths that could bring them a painful cure.

-- Wilhelm Reich

All dictators have built their power on the social irresponsibleness of masses of people. They have made no bones about consciously exploiting this fact.

-- Wilhelm Reich

It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer.

-- Albert Einstein

The powers of financial capitalism had another far-reaching aim, nothing less than to create a world system of financial control in private hands able to dominate the political system of each country and the economy of the world as a whole. This system was to be controlled in a feudalist fashion by the central banks of the world acting in concert, by secret agreements arrived at in frequent private meetings and conferences. The apex of the system was to be the Bank for International Settlements in Basle, Switzerland, a private bank owned and controlled by the world's central banks which were themselves private corporations... Each central bank sought to dominate its government by its ability to control treasury loans, to manipulate foreign exchanges, to influence the level of economic activity in the country, and to influence co-operative politicians by subsequent rewards in the business world.

-- Carroll Quigley, *Tragedy and Hope: A History of the World in Our Time* (1966)

By 900 (A.D.)... there was no empire, no state, and no public authority... the state disappeared, yet society continued... It was discovered that man can live without a state... it was discovered that economic life, religious life, law, and private property can all exist and function effectively without a state.

-- Carroll Quigley, *Tragedy and Hope: A History of the World in Our Time* (1966)

The hope of the future does not rest, as is commonly believed, in winning the peoples of the "buffer fringe" to one superpower or another, but rather in the invention of new weapons and new tactics that will be so cheap to obtain and so easy to use that they will increase the effectiveness of guerrilla warfare so greatly that the employment of our present weapons of mass destruction will become futile and, on this basis, there can be a revival of democracy and of political decentralization in all three parts of our present world.

-- Carol Quigley

We no longer have intellectually satisfying relationships in our educational system, in art, or in anything else. Instead, we have slogans and ideologies. An ideology is a religious or emotional expression, it is not an intellectual expression. When a society is reaching its end, in the last couple of centuries you have what I call a misplacement of satisfactions.

-- Carol Quigley

My experience and study of the destruction of civilizations and the collapse of great empires has convinced me that empires and civilizations do not collapse because of deficiencies on the military or the political levels. The Roman army never met an army that was better than it was. But the Roman army could not be sustained when all these things had collapsed and no one cared. No one wanted to serve, no one wanted to pay taxes, no one cared.

-- Carol Quigley

There are only two good ways to die. One is for a friend, the other is in a wind sprint.

-- Dick Woit (who died 38 years later, while running wind sprints)

I wasn't an asshole, I was a prick. There's a difference.

-- Dick Woit

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

-- William Butler Yeats

The theory of the Communists may be summed up in a single sentence: Abolition of private property.

-- Karl Marx

In a country where the sole employer is the State, opposition means death by slow starvation. The old principle: Who does not work shall not eat, has been replaced by a new one: Who does not obey shall not eat.

-- Leon Trotsky

The secret wish of this English Russophile intelligentsia was to destroy the old, equalitarian version of Socialism and usher in a hierarchical society where the intellectual can at last get his hands on the whip.

-- George Orwell

A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both.

-- Dwight Eisenhower

Politics is a means of preventing people from taking part in what properly concerns them.

-- Paul Valery

It ain't what you don't know that gets you into trouble. It's what you know for sure that just ain't so.

-- Mark Twain

If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

-- Mark Twain

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.

-- Mark Twain

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

-- Mark Twain

I thought up the Seven Deadly Sins in one afternoon. The only thing I've come up with recently is advertising.

-- The Devil, in the film *Bedazzled*

To the scientific mind, experimental proof is all important and theory is merely a convenience in description, to be jacked when it no longer fits. To the academic mind, authority is everything and facts are jacked when they do not fit theory laid down by authority.

-- Robert Heinlein

An armed society is a polite society.

-- Robert Heinlein

Take sex away from people. Make it forbidden, evil. Limit it to ritualistic breeding. Force it to back up into suppressed sadism. Then hand the people a scapegoat to hate. Let them kill a scapegoat occasionally for cathartic release. The mechanism is ages old. Tyrants used it centuries before the word 'psychology' was ever invented. It works, too.

-- Robert Heinlein

The 3-legged stool of understanding is held up by history, languages, and mathematics.

Equipped with these three you can learn anything you want to learn. But if you lack any one of them you are just another ignorant peasant with dung on your boots.

-- Robert Heinlein

Once you can honestly say, "I don't know", then it becomes possible to get at the truth.

-- Robert Heinlein

More tax is collected by fear and intimidation than by the law.

-- David Patnoe, former IRS district chief

Truth... seldom has received much aid from the power of great men to whom she is rarely known and seldom welcome.

-- Thomas Jefferson

I had rather be shut up in a very modest cottage with my books, my family and a few old friends, dining on simple bacon, and letting the world roll on as it liked, than to occupy the most splendid post, which any human power can give.

-- Thomas Jefferson

I never submitted the whole system of my opinions to the creed of any party of men whatever in religion, in philosophy, in politics, or in anything else where I was capable of thinking for myself. Such an addiction is the last degradation of a free and moral agent.

-- Thomas Jefferson

I repeat, you must lay aside all prejudice on both sides, and neither believe nor reject anything, because any other persons, or description of persons, have rejected or believed it. Your own reason is the only oracle given you by heaven, and you are answerable, not for the rightness, but uprightness of the decision.

-- Thomas Jefferson

We are not to expect to be translated from despotism to liberty in a featherbed.

-- Thomas Jefferson

No man has a natural right to commit aggression on the equal rights of another.

-- Thomas Jefferson

Lay down true principles and adhere to them inflexibly. Do not be frightened into their surrender by the alarms of the timid.

-- Thomas Jefferson

Say nothing of my religion. It is known to my God and myself alone.

-- Thomas Jefferson

Rightful liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others.

-- Thomas Jefferson

It is not by the consolidation or concentration, of powers, but by their distribution that good government is effected.

-- Thomas Jefferson

Nations in general will go to war whenever there is a prospect of getting anything by it

-- John Jay

He errs as other men do, but he errs with integrity.

-- Thomas Jefferson, on George Washington

[John] Adams was always an honest man, often a great man, and sometimes absolutely insane.

-- Benjamin Franklin

When the government was first established, it was possible to have kept it going on true principles, but the contracted, English, half-lettered ideas of Hamilton destroyed that hope in the bud.

-- Thomas Jefferson

No rational argument will have a rational effect on a man who does not want to adopt a rational attitude.

-- Karl Popper

You can't go around building a better world for people. Only people can build a better world for people. Otherwise it's just a cage.

-- Terry Pratchett

We are at present working discreetly with all our might to wrest this mysterious force called sovereignty out of the clutches of the local nation states of the world. All the time we are denying with our lips what we are doing with our hands.

-- Arnold Toynbee, "The Trend of International Affairs Since the War," *International Affairs*, November 1931, p. 809

Mercy to the guilty is cruelty to the innocent.

-- Adam Smith

They are able because they think they are able.

-- Virgil

It is one thing to show a man that he is in error, and another to put him in possession of the truth.

-- John Locke

To understand political power aright, and derive from it its original, we must consider what estate all men are naturally in, and that is, a state of perfect freedom to order their actions, and dispose of their possessions and persons as they think fit, within the bounds of the law of Nature, without asking leave or depending upon the will of any other man.

-- John Locke

New scientific ideas never spring from a communal body, however organized, but rather from the head of an individually inspired researcher who struggles with his problems in lonely thought and unites all his thought on one single point which is his whole world for the moment.

-- Max Planck

If you can't explain it to a twelve year-old, you are a charlatan.

-- Max Planck (attributed)

The greatest anti-capitalists are university professors and big businessmen.

-- Milton Friedman

All safe deposit boxes in banks or financial institutions have been sealed...and may only be opened in the presence of an agent of the IRS.

-- President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1933

Education should aim at destroying free will so that after pupils are thus schooled they will be incapable throughout the rest of their lives of thinking or acting otherwise than as their school masters would have wished ... The social psychologist of the future will have a number of classes of school children on whom they will try different methods of producing an unshakable conviction that snow is black. When the technique has been perfected, every government that has been in charge of education for more than one generation will be able to control its subjects securely without the need of armies or policemen.

-- Bertrand Russell quoting Johann Gottlieb Fichte, the head of philosophy & psychology who influenced Hegel and others – Prussian University in Berlin, 1810

Scientific societies are as yet in their infancy. . . . It is to be expected that advances in physiology and psychology will give governments much more control over individual mentality than they now have even in totalitarian countries. Fitche laid it down that education should aim at destroying free will, so that, after pupils have left school, they shall be incapable, throughout the rest of their lives, of thinking or acting otherwise than as their schoolmasters would have wished. . . . Diet, injections, and injunctions will combine, from a very early age, to produce the sort of character and the sort of beliefs that the authorities consider desirable, and any serious criticism of the powers that be will become psychologically impossible. . . .

--Bertrand Russell, 1953

If you want to influence him [the student] at all, you must do more than merely talk to him; you must fashion him, and fashion him in such a way that he simply cannot will otherwise than you wish him to will.

-- Johann Gottlieb Fichte, *The General Nature of the New Education*

To manipulate men, to propel them towards goals which you - the social reformer - see, but they may not, is to deny their human essence, to treat them as objects without wills of their own, and therefore to degrade them.

-- Isaiah Berlin

All forms of tampering with human beings, getting at them, shaping them against their will to your own pattern, all thought control and conditioning is, therefore, a denial of that in men which makes them men and their values ultimate.

-- Isaiah Berlin

Those who have ever valued liberty for its own sake believed that to be free to choose, and not to be chosen for, is an inalienable ingredient in what makes human beings human.

-- Isaiah Berlin

Philosophers are adults who persist in asking childish questions.

-- Isaiah Berlin

In considering freedom, the starting-point must be not individuality, the single self-consciousness, but only the essence of self-consciousness; for whether man knows it or not, this essence is externally realized as a self-subsistent power in which single individuals are only moments. The march of God in the world, that is what the state is.

-- G.W.F. Hegel

I now say that the world has the technology – either available or well advanced in the research pipeline – to feed on a sustainable basis a population of 10 billion people. The more pertinent question today is whether farmers and ranchers will be permitted to use this new technology. While the affluent nations can certainly afford to adopt ultra low-risk positions, and pay more for food produced by the so-called “organic” methods, the one billion chronically undernourished people of the low income, food-deficit nations cannot.

-- Norman Borlaug, September 8, 2000

Gold and silver are money. Everything else is credit.

-- J.P. Morgan

A man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder – a waif, a nothing, a no man. Have a purpose in life; and, having it, throw such strength of mind and muscle into your work as God has given you.

-- Thomas Carlyle

I have often thought morality may perhaps consist solely in the courage of making a choice.

-- Leon Blum

We are here to be excited from youth to old age, to have an insatiable curiosity about the world.

-- Norman Vincent Peale

[T]he Soviet economy is proof that, contrary to what many skeptics had earlier believed, a socialist command economy can function and thrive.

-- Paul Samuelson, *Economics*, 1989 edition

Home-keeping youth always have homely wits. Were it not that affection chains your tender days to the sweet glances of thy honored love, I rather would entreat you to see the wonders of the world abroad, than, living dully, slatternized at home, wear out your youth in shapeless idleness.

-- William Shakespeare, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*

The most successful tyranny is not the one that uses force to assure uniformity but the one that removes the awareness of other possibilities, that makes it seem inconceivable that other ways are viable, that removes the sense that there is an outside.

-- Allan Bloom, *The Closing of The American Mind*

There is nothing wild, Dionysian, searching, in our promiscuity. It has a dull, sterilized, scientific character.

-- Allan Bloom, *National Review*, December 1982

Men may live more truly and fully in reading Plato and Shakespeare than at any other time, because then they are participating in essential being and are forgetting their accidental lives.

-- Allan Bloom, *The Closing of The American Mind*

Education in our times must try to find whatever there is in students that might yearn for completion, and to reconstruct the learning that would enable them autonomously to seek that completion.

-- Allan Bloom, *Books*

In ages like our own, when there is a poverty of living examples of the possible, high human types.

-- Allan Bloom, lecture at DePauw University, September 11, 1987

The greatest talents are the most difficult to perfect.

-- Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*

Class, race, national origin or culture all disappear or dim when bathed in the light of natural rights, which give men common interests and make them true brothers.

-- Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*

Indignation is the soul's defense against the wound of doubt about its own; it reorders the cosmos to support the justice of its cause.

-- Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*

A true political or social order requires the soul to be like a Gothic cathedral, with selfish stresses and strains helping to hold it up.

-- Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*

Institutions will try to preserve the problem to which they are the solution.

-- Clay Shirky

Sound money is not impossible, it is merely illegal.

-- Hans Sennholz

Banking was conceived in iniquity and was born in sin. The bankers own the earth. Take it away from them, but leave them the power to create money, and with the flick of the pen they will create enough deposits to buy it back again. However, take away from them the power to create money and all the great fortunes like mine will disappear and they ought to disappear, for this would be a happier and better world to live in. But, if you wish to remain the slaves of bankers and pay the cost of your own slavery, let them continue to create money.

-- Josiah Stamp, Director, Bank of England (circa 1940)

The government are very keen on amassing statistics. They collect them, add them, raise them to the nth power, take the cube root and prepare wonderful diagrams. But you must never forget that every one of these figures comes in the first instance from the village watchman, who just puts down what he damn pleases.

-- Josiah Stamp, Director, Bank of England (circa 1940)

Thou shalt not disfigure the soul.

– *Dune*

Whenever the legislators endeavor to take away and destroy the property of the people, or to reduce them to slavery under arbitrary power, they put themselves into a state of war with the people, who are thereupon absolved from any further obedience.

-- John Locke

In time of war laws are silent.

-- Cicero

Most tradition is just a succession of bad habits.

-- Orson Welles

Think of the press as a great keyboard on which the government can play.

-- Joseph Goebbels

The tragedy of life is what dies in the hearts and souls of people while they live.

-- Albert Einstein

These are the rules of big business. They have superseded the teachings of our parents and are reducible to a simple maxim: Get a monopoly; let Society work for you: and remember that the best of all business is politics, for a legislative grant, franchise, subsidy or tax exemption is worth more than a Kimberly or Comstock lode, since it does not require any labor, either mental or physical, for its exploitation.

-- Frederick C. Howe, *Confessions of a Monopolist* (1906)

Not until a majority finds the moral courage and the internal fortitude to reject the something-for-nothing con game and replace it by voluntary associations, voluntary communes, or local rule and decentralized societies, will the killing and the plunder cease.

-- Anthony C. Sutton, *Wall Street and The Rise of Hitler* (1976)

Freedom is irrelevant. Self-determination is irrelevant. You will comply.

-- The Borg, *Star Trek, The Next Generation*

Before I was nine, I had learned the basic canon of Arab life. It was me against my brother; me and my brother against our father; my family against my cousins and the clan; the clan against the tribe; the tribe against the world, and all of us against the infidel.

-- Leon Uris, *The Haj*

In the end more than they wanted freedom, they wanted security. When the Athenians finally wanted not to give to society but for society to give to them, when the freedom they wished for was freedom from responsibility, then Athens ceased to be free.

-- Edward Gibbon

There was a silly damn bird called a Phoenix back before Christ: every few hundred years he built a pyre and burned himself up. He must have been first cousin to Man. But every time he burnt himself up he sprang out of the ashes, he got himself born all over again. And it looks like we're doing the same thing, over and over, but we've got one damn thing the Phoenix never had. We know the damn silly thing we just did. We know all the damn silly things we've done for a thousand years, and as long as we know that and always have it around where we can see it, someday we'll stop making the Goddamn funeral pyres and jumping into the middle of them. We pick up a few more people that remember, every generation.

-- Ray Bradbury, *Farenheight 451*

Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are ruined.

--Patrick Henry

How we burned in the prison camps later thinking: What would things have been like if every security operative, when he went out at night to make an arrest, had been uncertain whether he would return alive?

--Alexander Solzhenitzyn, *The Gulag Archipelago*

We know enough, if we know we are the king's subjects. If his cause be wrong, our obedience to the king wipes the crime of it out of us.

-- Bates, in *Henry V* by William Shakespeare

If they can get you asking the wrong questions, they don't have to worry about answers.

-- Thomas Pynchon

They will do whatever we let them get away with.

-- Joseph Heller

The Constitution is not an instrument for government to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government, lest it come to dominate our lives and interests.

-- Patrick Henry

The real truth of the matter is, as you and I know, that a financial element in the larger centers has owned the Government ever since the days of Andrew Jackson.

-- Franklin Roosevelt, letter to Colonel House, November 21, 1933

There will be, in the next generation or so, a pharmacological method of making people love their servitude, and producing dictatorship without tears, so to speak, producing a kind of painless concentration camp for entire societies, so that people will in fact have their liberties taken away from them, but will rather enjoy it, because they will be distracted from any desire to rebel by propaganda or brainwashing, or brainwashing enhanced by pharmacological methods. And this seems to be the final revolution.

-- Aldous Huxley, California Medical School, 1961

Great is truth, but still greater, from a practical point of view, is silence about truth. By simply not mentioning certain subjects... totalitarian propagandists have influenced opinion much more effectively than they could have by the most eloquent denunciations. – Aldous Huxley

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

-- Flannery O'Connor

No more runnin'. I aim to misbehave.

-- Captain Mal, *Serenity*

In the event that I am reincarnated, I would like to return as a deadly virus, in order to contribute something to solve overpopulation.

-- Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, *If I Were an Animal*

The timid and fearful cannot defend liberty, or anything else.

-- G. Edward Griffin

There is scarcely one king in 100 who would not, if he could, follow the example of Pharaoh; get first all the people's money, then all their lands, & then make them & their children servants for ever.

-- Benjamin Franklin, at the Constitutional Convention, June 2, 1787.

The ideal American type is perfectly expressed by the Protestant, individualist, anti-conformist, and this is the type that is in the process of disappearing. In reality there are few left.

-- Orson Welles, 1971

If an honest man is wrong, after demonstrating that he is wrong, he either stops being wrong or he stops being honest.

-- Anonymous

There will not be *one* kind of community existing and one kind of life led in utopia. Utopia will consist of utopias, of many different and divergent communities in which people lead different kinds of lives under different institutions. Some kinds of communities will be more attractive to most than others; communities will wax and wane. People will leave some for others or spend their whole lives in one. Utopia is a framework for utopias, a place where people are at liberty to join together voluntarily to pursue and attempt to realize their own vision of the good life in the ideal community but where no one can *impose* his own utopian vision upon others.

-- Robert Nozick

Life does not understand politics and policies and differences. But we forget who we are. In desperate acts, we give ourselves names, fight over lines on maps, and pretend that our life is better than everyone else's.

-- Babylon 5, *And All My Dreams, Torn Asunder* (Edited)

In times of change learners inherit the earth; while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.

-- Eric Hoffer

Panics do not destroy capital; they merely reveal the extent to which it has been previously destroyed by its betrayal into hopelessly unproductive works.

-- John Stuart Mill

There are five main purposes of central bank cooperation...the provision of international credits and joint efforts to influence asset prices (especially gold and foreign exchange) in circumstances where this might be thought useful.

-- William S. White, head of the monetary and economic department of the Bank for International Settlements. Speech to a BIS conference in Basel, June 2005

The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe.

-- John Walter Wayland, 1899

Do not believe in anything simply because you have heard it. Do not believe in anything simply because it is spoken and rumored by many. Do not believe in anything simply because it is found written in your religious books. Do not believe in anything merely on the authority of your teachers and elders. Do not believe in traditions because they have been handed down for many generations. But after observation and analysis, when you find that anything agrees with reason and is conducive to the good and benefit of one and all, then accept it and live up

to it.

-- Buddha

We can continue to try and clean up the gutters all over the world and spend all of our resources looking at just the dirty spots and trying to make them clean. Or we can lift our eyes up and look into the skies and move forward in an evolutionary way.

-- Buzz Aldrin

Most ignorance is vincible ignorance. We don't know because we don't want to know.

-- Aldous Huxley

If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning.

-- Catherine Aird

He who cannot forgive breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.

-- George Herbert (1593-1633)

Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.

-- Pericles

Of all tyrannies, a tyranny exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their own conscience.

-- C. S. Lewis

When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first thing to be bought and sold are legislators.

-- P.J. O'Rourke

It's difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on him not understanding it.

-- Upton Sinclair

But when I am alone, I do not have the effrontery to consider myself an artist at all, not in the grand old meaning of the word: Giotto, Titian, Rembrandt, Goya were great painters. I am only a public clown--a mountebank. I have understood my time and have exploited the imbecility, the vanity, the greed of my contemporaries. It is a bitter confession, this confession of mine, more painful than it may seem. But at least and at last it does have the merit of being honest.

-- Pablo Picasso, 1952, in *Art/The Artist*

The superior man is distressed by the limitations of his ability; he is not distressed by the fact that men do not recognize the ability that he has.

-- Confucius

The superior man understands what is right; the inferior man understands what will sell.
-- Confucius

When a bank makes a loan, it simply adds to the borrower's deposit account by the amount of the loan. It does not take this money from anyone else's deposit; it was not previously paid in to the bank by anyone. It's new money, created by the bank for the use of the borrower.
-- Robert B. Anderson, Secretary of the Treasury under Eisenhower

Only idiots and infants need things. The language of needs is the native tongue of socialists, therapists, and paternalists of all sorts and is addressed to needy dependents. The language of wants is spoken by self-respecting adults and is addressed to other self-respecting adults.
-- Thomas Szasz

I criticize by creation, not by finding fault.
-- Cicero

The young man knows the rules, but the old man knows the exceptions.
--Oliver Wendell Holmes

People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf.
-- George Orwell

The Central Intelligence Agency owns everyone of any significance in the major media.
-- William Colby, former Director of the CIA, quoted in *Derailing Democracy: The America the Media Don't Want You to See*

The real rulers in Washington are invisible and exercise power from behind the scenes.
-- Justice Felix Frankfurter, U.S. Supreme Court Justice

For the first time in its history, Western Civilization is in danger of being destroyed internally by a corrupt, criminal ruling cabal which is centered around the Rockefeller interests, which include elements from the Morgan, Brown, Rothschild, Du Pont, Harriman, Kuhn-Loeb, and other groupings as well. This junta took control of the political, financial, and cultural life of America in the first two decades of the twentieth century.

-- Carroll Quigley, *Tragedy and Hope: A History of the World in Our Time*

Freedom is actually a bigger game than power. Power is about what you can control.
Freedom is about what you can unleash.
-- Harriet Rubin

The issue which has swept down the centuries and which will have to be fought sooner or later is the people versus the banks.
-- Lord Acton

The end move in politics is always to pick up a gun.
-- R. Buckminster Fuller

The 'private sector' of the economy is, in fact, the voluntary sector; and...the 'public sector' is, in fact, the coercive sector.

-- Henry Hazlitt

The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them.

-- Patrick Henry

The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth becomes the greatest enemy of the State.

-- Joseph Goebbels

The world which is arising is still half-buried in the ruins of the world falling into decay... and no one can know which of the old institutions... will continue to hold up their heads and which in the end will go under.

-- Alexis de Tocqueville

The general conclusion is that wealth and power have never been long permanent in any place... and that they travel over the face of the earth, something like a caravan of merchants. On their arrival everything is found green and fresh: while they remain, all is bustle and abundance, and when gone, all is left trampled down, barren and bare.

-- William Playfair, *An Enquiry Into The Permanent Causes of the Decline and Fall of Powerful and Wealthy Nations*

The treasury is the root of kings.

-- Ancient proverb

Society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness.

-- William Godwin

For the unskilled, the resort to violence is a shake-down operation. And transfer payments, make-work jobs, and the like can be understood as attempts to buy-off violence-prone, poorly skilled people.

-- James Davidson & William Rees-Mogg, *The Great Reckoning*

In the joint, they don't have to care for women, raise children, open bank accounts, plead for mortgages, bust their asses to make ends meet.

-- An unnamed New York City cop, quoted in *The Great Reckoning*

The decay and disintegration of this culture is astonishingly amusing if you are emotionally detached from it. I have always viewed it from a safe distance, knowing I don't belong; it doesn't include me, and it never has. No matter how you care to define it, I do not identify with the local group. Planet, species, race, nation, state, religion, party, union, club, association, neighborhood, improvement committee; I have no interest in any of it. I love and treasure individuals as I meet them, I loathe and despise the groups they identify with and belong to.

-- George Carlin, *Brain Droppings*

It is unfortunate, that the efforts of mankind to recover the freedom of which they have been so long deprived, will be accompanied with violence, with errors, and even with crimes. But while we weep over the means, we must pray for the end.

-- Thomas Jefferson to F. D. Ivernois, February 6, 1795

He [King George III] has waged a cruel war against human nature itself, violating it's most sacred rights of life & liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating & carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of *infidel* powers, is the warfare of the CHRISTIAN king of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce.

– Thomas Jefferson, 1st draft of the Declaration of Independence

The truth is too simple: one must always get there by a complicated route.

-- George Sand, Letter to Armand Barbcs, May 12, 1867

Nothing is more dangerous for man's private morality than the habit of command. The best man, the most intelligent, disinterested, generous, pure, will infallibly and always be spoiled at this trade. Two sentiments inherent in power never fail to produce this demoralization; they are: contempt for the masses and the overestimation of one's own merits.

-- Mikhail Bakunin, Power Corrupts the Best, 1867

The supreme law of the State is self-preservation at any cost. All States, ever since they came to exist upon the earth, have been condemned to perpetual struggle – a struggle against their own populations, whom they oppress and ruin. A struggle against all foreign States, every one of which can be strong only if the others are weak. And since the States cannot hold their own in this struggle unless they constantly keep on augmenting their power against their own subjects as well as against other States, it follows that the supreme law of the State is the augmentation of its power to the detriment of internal liberty and external justice.

-- Mikhail Bakunin, The Immorality of the State, 1870

Lying. Diplomacy has no other mission. Every time a State wants to declare war upon another State, it starts off by launching a manifesto addressed not only to its own subjects but to the whole world. In this manifesto it declares that right and justice are on its side, and it endeavors to prove that it is actuated only by love of peace and humanity and that, imbued with generous and peaceful sentiments, it suffered for a long time in silence until the mounting iniquity of its enemy forced it to bare its sword. At the same time it vows that, disdainful of all material conquest and not seeking any increase in territory, it will put an end to this war as soon as justice is reestablished. And its antagonist answers with a similar manifesto, in which naturally right, justice, humanity, and all the generous sentiments are to be found respectively on its side.

-- Mikhail Bakunin, The Immorality of the State, 1870

When ignorance reigns in society and disorder in the minds of men, laws are multiplied, legislation is expected to do everything, and each fresh law being a miscalculation, men are continually led to demand from it what can only proceed from themselves, from their own education and their own morality.

– M. Dalloy, quoted by Peter Kropotkin in *Law and Authority*, 1886

The minds of the Romans were very differently prepared for slavery. Oppressed beneath the weight of their own corruption and of military violence, they for a long while preserved the sentiments, or at least the ideas, of their free born ancestors.

-- Edward Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*

The most worthless of mankind are not afraid to condemn in others the same disorders which they allow in themselves; and can readily discover some nice difference of age, character, or station, to justify the partial distinction.

-- Edward Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*

The Roman government appeared every day less formidable to its enemies, more odious and oppressive to its subjects. The severe inquisition, which confiscated their goods and tortured their persons, compelled the subjects of Valentinian (425-455) to prefer the simple tyranny of the barbarians, to fly to the woods or the mountains, or to embrace the vile and abject condition of mercenary servants. They abjured and abhorred the name of Roman citizens, which had formerly excited the ambition of all mankind. If all the barbarian conquerors had been annihilated in the same hour, their total destruction would not have restored the empire of the West: and if Rome still survived, she survived the loss of freedom, of virtue, and of honour.

-- Edward Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*

The great masses of men, though theoretically free, are seen to submit supinely to oppression and exploitation of a hundred abhorrent sorts. Have they no means of resistance? Obviously they have. The worst tyrant, even under democratic plutocracy, has but one throat to slit. The moment the majority decided to overthrow him he would be overthrown. But the majority lacks the resolution; it cannot imagine taking the risks.

-- H.L. Mencken, *Notes on Democracy*, 1926

You can expel nature with a pitchfork, but it just comes back.

-- Horace

The great strength of the totalitarian state is that it forces those who fear it to imitate it.

-- Adolph Hitler

The Matrix is a system, Neo, and that system is our enemy. When you are inside, you look around, what do you see? Businessmen, teachers, lawyers, carpenters, the very minds we are trying to save. Until we do, these people are part of that system and that makes them our enemies. You have to understand that most of these people are not ready to be unplugged and many are so hopelessly dependent on the system, they will fight to protect it. The Matrix is everywhere. It is all around us. Even in this very room. You can see it when you look out your window or when you turn on your television. You can feel it when you go to work, when you go to church, when you pay your taxes. It is the world that has been pulled over your eyes to blind you from the truth.

– *The Matrix*

Terrorism is the best political weapon for nothing drives people harder than a fear of sudden death.

-- Adolf Hitler

Sometime around the year 2005, perhaps a few years before or after, America will enter the Fourth Turning. A spark will ignite a new mood. It will catalyze a Crisis. In retrospect, the spark might seem as ominous as a financial crash, as ordinary as a national election, or as trivial as a Tea Party. It could be a rapid succession of small events in which the ominous, the ordinary, and the trivial are commingled.

Remnants of the old social order will disintegrate. Political and economic trust will implode. Real hardship will beset the land, with severe distress that could involve questions of class, race, nation and empire. The very survival of the nation will feel at stake. Sometime before the year 2025, America will pass through a great gate in history, commensurate with the American Revolution, Civil War, and twin emergencies of the Great Depression

– Strauss & Howe, *The Fourth Turning*, 1997

Paper is a mortgage on wealth that does not exist, backed by a gun aimed at those who are expected to produce it. Paper is a check drawn by legal looters upon an account which is not theirs: upon the virtue of the victims.

– Ayn Rand

If I am proved correct, the Germans will call me a German, the Swiss will call me a Swiss citizen, and the French will call me a great scientist. If relativity is proved wrong, the French will call me a Swiss, the Swiss will call me a German, And the Germans will call me a Jew.

– Albert Einstein

There are perhaps 5% of the population that simply can't think.

There are another 5% who can, and do.

The remaining 90% can think, but don't.

– R. A. Heinlein

Thinking is man's only basic virtue, from which all others proceed. And his basic vice, the source of all his evils, is that nameless act which all of you practice, but struggle never to admit: the act of blanking out, the willful suspension of one's consciousness, the refusal to think -- not blindness, but the refusal to see; not ignorance, but the refusal to know. It is the act of unfocusing your mind and inducing an inner fog to escape the responsibility of judgment -- on the unstated premise that a thing will not exist if only you refuse to identify it, that A will not be A so long as you do not pronounce the verdict "It is." Non-thinking is an act of annihilation, a wish to negate existence, an attempt to wipe out reality. But existence exists; reality is not wiped out, it will merely wipe out the wiper. By refusing to say "It is," you are refusing to say "I am." By suspending your judgment, you are negating your person. When a man declares: "Who am I to know?" -- he is declaring: "Who am I to live?"

– Ayn Rand

The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise.

– Tacitus

The coin is a delicate meter of civil, social, and moral changes...It is the finest barometer of social storms, and announces revolutions.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Essay on Wealth*

Born often under another sky, placed in the middle of an always moving scene, himself driven by the irresistible torrent which draws all about him, the American has no time to tie himself to anything, he grows accustomed only to change, and ends by regarding it as the natural state of man. He feels the need of it, more he loves it; for the instability; instead of meaning disaster to him, seems to give birth only to miracles all about him.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *National Character of Americans*

I studied the Koran a great deal. I came away from that study with the conviction there have been few religions in the world as deadly to men as that of Muhammad. So far as I can see, it is the principal cause of the decadence so visible today in the Muslim world and, though less absurd than the polytheism of old, its social and political tendencies are in my opinion to be feared, and I therefore regard it as a form of decadence rather than a form of progress in relation to paganism itself.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Letter to Arthur de Gobineau*

Socialism is a new form of slavery.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Notes for a Speech on Socialism*

It is almost never when a state of things is the most detestable that it is smashed, but when, beginning to improve, it permits men to breathe, to reflect, to communicate their thoughts with each other, and to gauge by what they already have the extent of their rights and their grievances. The weight, although less heavy, seems then all the more unbearable.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Letter to Pierre Freslon*

The most critical moment for bad governments is the one which witnesses their first steps toward reform.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Old Regime*

The last thing a political party gives up is its vocabulary. This is because, in party politics as in other matters, it is the crowd who dictates the language, and the crowd relinquishes the ideas it has been given more readily than the words it has learned.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, Quoted in *The Viking book of Aphorisms*

I have come across men of letters who have written history without taking part in public affairs, and politicians who have concerned themselves with producing events without thinking about them. I have observed that the first are always inclined to find general causes whereas the second, living in the midst of disconnected daily facts, are prone to imagine that everything is attributable to particular incidents, and that the wires they pull are the same as those that move the world. It is to be presumed that both are equally deceived.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Recollections of Alexis de Tocqueville*

In politics... shared hatreds are almost always the basis of friendships.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Recollections of Alexis de Tocqueville*

God does not need to speak for himself in order for us to discover definitive signs of his will; it is enough to examine the normal course of nature and the consistent tendency of events. I know without needing to hear the voice of the Creator that the stars trace out in space the orbits which his hand has drawn.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume I*

The greatness of America lies not in being more enlightened than any other nation, but rather in her ability to repair her faults.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume I*

The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and of liberty so intimately in their minds, that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other; and with them this conviction does not spring from that barren traditional faith which seems to vegetate in the soul rather than to live.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume I*

The Americans never use the word peasant, because they have no idea of the class which that term denotes; the ignorance of more remote ages, the simplicity of rural life, and the rusticity of the villager have not been preserved among them; and they are alike unacquainted with the virtues, the vices, the coarse habits, and the simple graces of an early stage of civilization.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume I*

There is hardly a pioneer's hut which does not contain a few odd volumes of Shakespeare. I remember reading the feudal drama of Henry V for the first time in a log cabin.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume II*

Americans of all ages, all stations of life, and all types of disposition are forever forming associations.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume II*

What most astonishes me in the United States, is not so much the marvelous grandeur of some undertakings, as the innumerable multitude of small ones.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume II*

In democratic ages men rarely sacrifice themselves for another, but they show a general compassion for all the human race. One never sees them inflict pointless suffering, and they are glad to relieve the sorrows of others when they can do so without much trouble to themselves. They are not disinterested, but they are gentle.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume II*

Commerce is naturally adverse to all the violent passions; it loves to temporize, takes delight in compromise, and studiously avoids irritation. It is patient, insinuating, flexible, and never has recourse to extreme measures until obliged by the most absolute necessity. Commerce renders men independent of each other, gives them a lofty notion of their personal importance, leads them to seek to conduct their own affairs, and teaches how to conduct them well; it therefore prepares men for freedom, but preserves them from revolutions.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume II*

Two things in America are astonishing: the changeableness of most human behavior and the strange stability of certain principles. Men are constantly on the move, but the spirit of humanity seems almost unmoved.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume II*

I cannot help fearing that men may reach a point where they look on every new theory as a danger, every innovation as a toilsome trouble, every social advance as a first step toward revolution, and that they may absolutely refuse to move at all.

– Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America, Volume II*

Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great.

– Unknown

A man can do all things if he will.

– Leon Battista Alberti

Squeaky shoes are only a problem if you're a mugger.

--Cliff Clavin, *Cheers*

The last duty of a central banker is to tell the public the truth.

– Alan Blinder, Federal Reserve Vice Chairman, 1994

The smallest minority on earth is the individual. Those who deny individual rights cannot claim to be defenders of minorities.

– Ayn Rand

Contradictions do not exist. Whenever you think you are facing a contradiction, check your premises. You will find that one of them is wrong.

– Ayn Rand

I'd rather have (the habit of) tobacco than worry. Worry will kill you faster.

– Kenneth E. Hagin

If you believe breaking is possible, believe fixing is possible.

– Rebbe Nachman

Always remember: happiness is not a side matter in your spiritual journey - it is essential.

– Rebbe Nachman

When a person has a yearning for something and he brings it out into words, a soul is created. This soul flies in the air and reaches another person thereby awakening in him too a yearning.

– Rebbe Nachman

Anyone who wants to enter into the service of Hashem, the only way possible is to be like Avraham who considered himself to be the only one in the world.

– Rebbe Nachman

It is a great thing to hear music from a holy person playing on an instrument for the sake of heaven. Because through this, false fantasies are dismissed, the spirit of depression is dispelled, and the person merits happiness. Through this the memory is preserved, that is, the memory of the world to come, and a person is able to understand the hints that Hashem is constantly hinting to him everyday. Furthermore, through this a person can reach the level of the spirit of prophecy and divine inspiration, and he will be able to pour out his heart like water before Hashem.

– Rebbe Nachman

The world says that a person doesn't need to seek greatness. I say that you must certainly seek greatness.

– Rebbe Nachman

Whether or not you believe he was the son of God, this was one hell of a man.

– Armin H. (Hermie) Goodman, on Jesus

I have gained this by philosophy: that I do without being commanded what others do only from fear of the law.

– Aristotle

Created by the wars that required it, the machine now creates the wars it requires.

– Joseph Schumpeter

In any great organization it is far, far safer to be wrong with the majority than to be right alone.

– John Kenneth Galbraith

The illusion of freedom will continue as long as it's profitable to continue the illusion. At the point where the illusion becomes too expensive to maintain, they will just take down the scenery, they will pull back the curtains, they will move the tables and chairs out of the way, and you will see the brick wall at the back of the theater.

– Frank Zappa, 1977

By a continuing process of inflation, government can confiscate, secretly and unobserved, an important part of the wealth of their citizens.

—John Maynard Keynes, *Economic Consequences of Peace*

Unless a person has trained himself for his chance, his chance will only make him ridiculous.

– J. B. Matthews

It is our duty as men and women to proceed as though limits to our abilities do not exist. We are collaborators in creation.

– Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

I discovered the meaning of life: To seek your purpose and strive to achieve it. Anything less is a waste of existence.

– Jim Berkland

Intellectuals do not produce anything tangible, so it is more difficult for them to get the concrete satisfaction of making something happen that drives businessmen and other people who make concrete yet limited things happen. So intellectuals are more driven to have to reach for abstract and theoretical goals that are more grandiose to make up for the lack of tangible accomplishments. This is why the intellectual class leans left/fascist. They need something big to justify their existence.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Ordeal of Change*

How much easier is self-sacrifice than self-realization!

– Eric Hoffer, *The New York Times Magazine*, April 25, 1971

The reason for so much bad science is not that talent is rare, not at all; what is rare is character.

--Sigmund Freud

The world is always full of brilliant youth which fades into grey and embittered middle age: the first flowering takes everything. The great men are those who have developed slowly, or who have been able to survive the glamour of their early florescence and to go on learning from life.

– Willa Cather, *Joseph and His Brothers*

Give the people a new word and they think they have a new fact.

– Willa Cather, *Four Letters: Escapism*

The device of public credit was first systematically applied as an instrument of government... The rich, no longer able to rule by force, have invented this scheme that they may rule by fraud... The most despotic governments of antiquity were strangers to this invention, which is a compendious method of extorting from the people far more than praetorian guards, and arbitrary tribunals... could ever wring. Neither the Persian monarchy nor the Roman empire, where the will of one person was acknowledged as unappealable law, ever extorted a twentieth part the proportion now extorted from the property and labour of the inhabitants of Great Britain.

-- Percy Shelly, *Philosophical View*

If the impulse and opportunity be suffered to coincide, we well know that neither moral nor religious motives can be relied on as an adequate control.

– James Madison, *The Federalist Papers*

In order to become the master, the politician poses as the servant.

– Charles de Gaulle

The only real impact of compulsory morality is to engender hypocrites, those whose actions no longer reflect their inner convictions.

– Murray Rothbard, *Conceived In Liberty, Volume 1*

Man, once surrendering his reason, has no remaining guard against absurdities the most monstrous, and like a ship without rudder, is the sport of every wind. With such persons, gullibility, which they call faith, takes the helm from the hand of reason and the mind becomes a wreck.

--Thomas Jefferson

So much is a man worth as he esteems himself.

– Francois Rabelais

It shall be sufficient for my purpose to have told you the truth, and the truth I will tell you.

– Francois Rabelais

Laughter makes men human, and courageous.

– Francois Rabelais

Speak the truth and shame the Devil.

– Francois Rabelais

A social aggregate which has chosen the fatal path of organic evolution must succumb to the same law of organic development to which all organisms are subject, namely greater and greater organization, increase of structure, greater differentiation, decrease of critical, personal, consciousness, loss of individual liberty, increased activity of the subconscious forces, falling into a state of somnambulism which can only be redeemed by revolution or by death.

– Boris Sidis, *The Source and Aim of Human Progress* (1919)

No argument can compete with one dramatic demonstration.

– Claude Hopkins

I would rather discover a single fact, even a small one, than debate the great issues at length without discovering anything at all.

-- Galileo Galilei, c. 1640

To the size of the state there is a limit, as there is to plants, animals and implements, for none of these retain their facility when they are too large.

-- Aristotle

The baby has known the dragon intimately ever since he had an imagination. What the fairy tale provides for him is a St. George to kill the dragon.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Tremendous Trifles*

The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and left untried.

– G.K. Chesterton, *What's Wrong With The World*

Men do not differ much about what things they will call evils; they differ enormously about what evils they will call excusable.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Illustrated London*

I do not believe in a fate that falls on men however they act; but I do believe in a fate that falls on them unless they act.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Illustrated London News* (29 April 1922)

Fallacies do not cease to be fallacies because they become fashions.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Illustrated London News* (19 April 1930)

There runs a strange law through the length of human history — that men are continually tending to undervalue their environment, to undervalue their happiness, to undervalue themselves. The great sin of mankind, the sin typified by the fall of Adam, is the tendency, not towards pride, but towards this weird and horrible humility.

This is the great fall, the fall by which the fish forgets the sea, the ox forgets the meadow, the clerk forgets the city, every man forgets his environment and, in the fullest and most literal sense, forgets himself. This is the real fall of Adam, and it is a spiritual fall. It is a strange thing that many truly spiritual men, such as General Gordon, have actually spent some hours in speculating upon the precise location of the Garden of Eden. Most probably we are in Eden still. It is only our eyes that have changed.

– G.K. Chesterton, *The Defendant*

Every one of the great revolutionists, from Isaiah to Shelly, have been optimists. They have been indignant, not about the badness of existence, but about the slowness of men in realizing its goodness.

– G.K. Chesterton, *The Defendant*

All men can be criminals, if tempted; all men can be heroes, if inspired.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

Truths turn into dogmas the instant that they are disputed. Thus every man who utters a doubt defines a religion.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.

– G.K. Chesterton, *What's Wrong With The World*

Not only are we all in the same boat, but we are all seasick.

– G.K. Chesterton, *What's Wrong With The World*

A dead thing can go with the stream, but only a living thing can go against it.

– G.K. Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man*

We are perishing for want of wonder, not for want of wonders.

– G. K. Chesterton

The most unfathomable schools and sages have never attained to the gravity which dwells in the eyes of a baby of three months old. It is the gravity of astonishment at the universe, and astonishment at the universe is not mysticism, but a transcendent common-sense. The fascination of children lies in this: that with each of them all things are remade, and the universe is put again upon its trial. As we walk the streets and see below us those delightful bulbous heads, three times too big for the body, which mark these human mushrooms, we ought always primarily to remember that within every one of these heads there is a new universe, as new as it was on the seventh day of creation. In each of those orbs there is a new system of stars, new grass, new cities, a new sea.

– G. K. Chesterton, *A Defence of Baby-Worship*

It might reasonably be maintained that the true object of all human life is play. Earth is a task garden; heaven is a playground. To be at last in such secure innocence that one can juggle with the universe and the stars, to be so good that one can treat everything as a joke — that may be, perhaps, the real end and final holiday of human souls.

– G. K. Chesterton, *Oxford from Without*

It is not funny that anything else should fall down; only that a man should fall down. No one sees anything funny in a tree falling down. No one sees a delicate absurdity in a stone falling down. No man stops in the road and roars with laughter at the sight of the snow coming down. The fall of thunderbolts is treated with some gravity. The fall of roofs and high buildings is taken seriously. It is only when a man tumbles down that we laugh. Why do we laugh? Because it is a grave religious matter: it is the Fall of Man. Only man can be absurd: for only man can be dignified.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Spiritualism*

The value of myth is that it takes all the things you know and restores to them the rich significance which has been hidden by the veil of familiarity.

– C.S. Lewis, *The Lord of The Rings*

It has been discovered that the best way to ensure implicit obedience is to commence tyranny in the nursery.

– Benjamin Disraeli

John Burroughs has stated that experimental study of animals in captivity is absolutely useless. Their character, their habits, their appetites undergo a complete transformation when torn from their soil in field and forest. With human nature caged in a narrow space, whipped daily into submission, how can we speak of its potentialities?

– Emma Goldman

Man does not live by bread alone. I have known millionaires starving for lack of the nutriment which can alone sustain all that is human in man, and I know workmen, and many so-called poor men, who revel in luxuries beyond the power of those millionaires to reach... There is no class so pitifully wretched as that which possesses money and nothing else. Money can only be the useful drudge of things immeasurably higher than itself.

– Andrew Carnegie

Glorious men are the scorn of wise men, the admiration of fools, the idols of parasites, and the slaves of their own vaunts.

– Francis Bacon, *Of Vain-Glory*

Choose the best life; for habit will make it pleasant

– Epictetus

It is error alone which needs the support of government. Truth can stand by itself.

-- Thomas Jefferson

If Tyranny and Oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy.
– James Madison

In this theater of man's life it is reserved only for God and angels to be lookers on.
– Francis Bacon

The issue which has swept down the centuries and which will have to be fought sooner or later is the people versus the banks.
– Lord Acton

Ambition and avarice never lack plausible pretexts, to accomplish their end.
– Jonathan Mayhew

The junk merchant doesn't sell his product to the consumer, he sells the consumer to his product. He does not improve and simplify his merchandise. He degrades and simplifies the client.
– William S. Burroughs

There is simply no room left for 'freedom from the tyranny of government' since city dwellers depend on it for food, power, water, transportation, protection, and welfare. Your right to live where you want, with companions of your choosing, under laws to which you agree, died in the eighteenth century with Captain Mission. Only a miracle or a disaster could restore it.

– William S. Burroughs

Victimless crimes are the lifeline of the RIGHT virus. And there is a growing recognition, even in official quarters, that victimless crimes should be removed from the books or subject to minimal penalties. Those individuals who cannot or will not mind their business cling to the victimless-crime concept, equating drug use and private sexual behavior with robbery and murder. If the right to mind one's own business is recognized, the whole shit disposition is untenable and Hell hath no vociferous fury than an endangered parasite.

– William S. Burroughs

A functioning police state needs no police.
– William S. Burroughs

Bureaus die when the structure of the state collapse. They are as helpless and unfit for independent existence as a displaced tapeworm, or a virus that has killed the host.
– William S. Burroughs, *Naked Lunch*

You see control can never be a means to any practical end. ... Control can never be a means to anything but more control ... like Junk [heroin].
– William S. Burroughs, *Naked Lunch*

Democracy is cancerous, and bureaus are its cancer. A bureau takes root anywhere in the state, turns malignant like the Narcotic Bureau, and grows and grows, always reproducing more of its own kind, until it chokes the host if not controlled or excised. Bureaus cannot live without a host, being true parasitic organisms. (A cooperative on the other hand can live without the state. That is the road to follow. The building up of independent units to meet needs of the people who participate in the functioning of the unit. A bureau operates on

opposite principles of inventing needs to justify its existence.) Bureaucracy is wrong as a cancer, a turning away from the human evolutionary direction of infinite potentials and differentiation and independent spontaneous action to the complete parasitism of a virus. (It is thought that the virus is a degeneration from more complex life-form. It may at one time have been capable of independent life. Now has fallen to the borderline between living and dead matter. It can exhibit living qualities only in a host, by using the life of another — the renunciation of life itself, a falling towards inorganic, inflexible machine, towards dead matter.) Bureaus die when the structure of the state collapse. They are as helpless and unfit for independent existence as a displaced tapeworm, or a virus that has killed the host.

— William S. Burroughs

In the U.S., you have to be a deviant or die of boredom.

— William S. Burroughs

Politicians are always realistically maneuvering for the next election. They are obsolete as fundamental problem-solvers.

— Buckminster Fuller

I seem to be a verb.

— Buckminster Fuller

There will come a time when the proper education of children, by a glorified system of spontaneous education of choice, similar to the Montessori System, will be made possible. Children, as well as grown-ups, in their individual, glorified, drudgery-proof homes of Labrador, the tropics, the Orient, or where you will, to which they can pass with pleasure and expedition by means of ever-improving transportation, will be able to tune in their television and radio to the moving picture lecture of, let us say, President Lowell of Harvard; the professor of Mathematics of Oxford; of the doctor of Indian antiquities of Delhi, etc. Education by choice, with its marvelous motivating psychology of desire for truth, will make life ever cleaner and happier, more rhythmical and artistic.

— Buckminster Fuller, *4D Timelock* (1928)

All other living creatures are designed for highly specialized tasks. Man seems unique as the comprehensive comprehender and co-ordinator of local universe affairs.

— Buckminster Fuller

The physical is inherently entropic, giving off energy in ever more disorderly ways. The metaphysical is antientropic, methodically marshalling energy. Life is antientropic. It is spontaneously inquisitive. It sorts out and endeavors to understand.

— Buckminster Fuller

The youth of humanity all around our planet are intuitively revolting from all sovereignties and political ideologies. The youth of Earth are moving intuitively toward an utterly classless, raceless, omnicooperative, omniworld humanity. Children freed of the ignorantly founded educational traditions and exposed only to their spontaneously summoned, computer-stored and -distributed outflow of reliable-opinion-purged, experimentally verified data, shall indeed lead society to its happy egress from all misinformedly conceived, fearfully and legally imposed, and physically enforced customs of yesterday. They can lead all humanity into

omnisuccessful survival as well as entrance into an utterly new era of human experience in an as-yet and ever-will-be fundamentally mysterious Universe.

– Buckminster Fuller

Whether it is to be Utopia or Oblivion will be a touch-and-go relay race right up to the final moment. . . . Humanity is in 'final exam' as to whether or not it qualifies for continuance in Universe.

– Buckminster Fuller

The nearest each of us can come to God is by loving the truth.

– Buckminster Fuller

I think it's absolutely touch-and-go whether we're going to make it. But the point is, for me to tell you that you have an option is not to be optimistic... Time and again, of course I am running into millions who don't know we have the option, because it's invisible, and I feel I have tremendous responsibility. So when people ask me to come and talk to them, I do my best to let them know they do have the option. Of course they're pessimistic, not knowing that.

– Buckminster Fuller

I never try to tell anybody else what to do, number one. And number two, I think that's what the individual is all about. Each one of us has something to contribute. This really depends on each one doing their own thinking, but not following any kind of rule that I can give out, any command. We're all on the frontier, we're all in a great mystery — incredibly mysterious. Each one possesses exactly what each one is working out, and what each one works out relates to their particular set of circumstances of any one day, or any one place around the world.

– Buckminster Fuller

When I was born, humanity was 95 per cent illiterate. Since I've been born, the population has doubled and that total population is now 65 per cent literate. That's a gain of 130-fold of the literacy. When humanity is primarily illiterate, it needs leaders to understand and get the information and deal with it. When we are at the point where the majority of humans themselves are literate, able to get the information, we're in an entirely new relationship to Universe. We are at the point where the integrity of the individual counts and not what the political leadership or the religious leadership says to do.

– Buckminster Fuller

This Dark Ages prison has no steel bars, chains, or locks. Instead, it is locked by misorientation and built of misinformation. Caught up in a plethora of conditioned reflexes and driven by the human ego, both warden and prisoner attempt meagerly to compete with God. All are intractably skeptical of what they do not understand. We are powerfully imprisoned in these Dark Ages simply by the terms in which we have been conditioned to think.

– Buckminster Fuller

Every child has an enormous drive to demonstrate competence. If humans are not required to earn a living to be provided survival needs, many are going to want very much to be productive, but not at those tasks they did not choose to do but were forced to accept in order to earn money. Instead, humans will spontaneously take upon themselves those tasks that world society really needs to have done.

– Buckminster Fuller

Dear reader, traditional human power structures and their reign of darkness are about to be rendered obsolete.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Cosmography*, 1992

If I had to, I could clean out my desk in five seconds, and nobody would ever know that I'd ever been here. And I'd forget, too.

– Ryan, *The Office*

It is nothing new. We have a private revolution going on. A revolution of individuality and diversity that can only be private. Upon becoming a group movement, such a revolution ends up with imitators rather than participants...It is essentially a striving for realization of one's relationship to life and other people.

– Bob Stubbs, *Unicorn Philosophy*

Yes, it was sex, drugs, and rock & roll, but it was also spirituality and consciousness studies that eventually led to environmental/ecology movements, cognitive neuroscience, and psychoimmunology, as well as the increasing popularity of Buddhism in the United States and the development of world music appreciation... the hippie wannabes spoiled the scene, did not understand the ideologies nor the proper use of entheogens. The popular image of hippies was of them, not the more thoughtful, experimental, and realized post-Beats, the pioneers who led the way.

– Dr. Debra Jan Bibel

Faced with the choice between changing one's mind and proving that there is no need to do so, almost everyone gets busy on the proof.

– John Kenneth Galbraith, *Economics, Peace and Laughter*

America is like a healthy body and its resistance is threefold: its patriotism, its morality, and its spiritual life. If we can undermine these three areas, America will collapse from within.

– Joseph Stalin

My object in life is to dethrone God and destroy capitalism.

– Karl Marx

There is no news. There is only the truth of the signal. What I see. And, there's the puppet theater the Parliament jesters foist on the somnambulant public.

– Mr. Universe, *Serenity*

If you can't do something smart, do something right.

– Shepherd Book, *Serenity*

When I talk about belief, why do you always assume I'm talking about God?

– Shepherd Book, *Serenity*

People don't like to be meddled with. We tell them what to do, what to think, don't run, don't walk. We're in their homes and in their heads and we haven't the right. We're meddlesome.

– River Tam, *Serenity*

No more runnin'. I aim to misbehave.

– Captain Mal, *Serenity*

Shiny! Let's be bad guys.

– Jayne, *Serenity*

After you die, you wear what you are.

– St. Theresa of Avila

To live with small means, to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion; to be worthy, nor respectable, and wealthy not rich; to study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly; to listen to stars and birds, to babes and sages with an open heart; to bear all cheerfully, do all bravely, await occasions, hurry never. In a word to let the spiritual unbidden and unconscious grow up through the common. This is my symphony.

– William Ellery Channing

Cowardice asks 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 comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular - but one must take it simply because it is right.

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

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, 100 A.D.

As a child I received instruction both in the Bible and in the Talmud. I am a Jew, but I am enthralled by the luminous figure of the Nazarene.

– Albert Einstein

If they throw acid in your face for going to school, it means the school can give you something to free you from the acid throwers.

– Lilija Valis

...the small number of molds which society provides in order to save its members the trouble of forming their own character.

– J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*

In the home of the brave, Jefferson turnin' over in his grave,
Fools glorifying themselves, trying to manipulate Satan.

– Bob Dylan, *Slow Train Coming*

We're all born knowing the truth, but by the time you're four or five years old, they've beaten it out of you.

– Bob Dylan

The most important phenomena of human nature cannot even be conceived, except by a mind which has actively studied itself. They may be believed, but as a blind man believes the existence and properties of color. To *know* these truths is also to *discover* them.

– John Stuart Mill

Gentleman, I have had men watching you for a long time and I am convinced that you have used the funds of the bank to speculate in the breadstuffs of the country. When you won, you divided the profits amongst you, and when you lost, you charged it to the bank. You tell me that if I take the deposits from the bank and annul its charter, I shall ruin ten thousand families. That may be true, gentlemen, but that is your sin! Should I let you go on, you will ruin fifty thousand families, and that would be my sin! You are a den of vipers and thieves.

– Andrew Jackson, closing the Second Bank of the US in 1836

The first panacea for a mismanaged nation is inflation of the currency; the second is war. Both bring a temporary prosperity; both bring a permanent ruin. But both are the refuge of political and economic opportunists.

– Ernest Hemingway

The truth is that the State is a conspiracy designed not only to exploit, but above all to corrupt its citizens... Henceforth, I shall never serve any government anywhere.

– Leo Tolstoy, letter to Vasily Botkin

What the world needs is good *men*, not good institutions.

– John Humphrey Noyes

People who fail to exercise their freedom to choose will find that it withers until they are literally 'being lived.' They are acting out the scripts written by parents, associates, and society.

-- Andrew Covey

The virtues of thrift and temperance, and even of ordinary intelligence, are *sales-resistance*.

--C.S. Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*

Quigley found the explanation of disintegration in the gradual transformation of social "instruments" into "institutions," that is, the transformation of social arrangements functioning to meet real social needs into social institutions serving their own purposes regardless of real social needs. In an ideologically Platonistic society, social arrangements are molded to express a rigidly idealized version of reality. Such institutionalization would not have the flexibility to accommodate to the pressures of changing reality for which the ideology has no categories of thought that will allow perception, analysis, and handling. But the extraordinary distinction of Western civilization is that its ontology allows an open-ended epistemology. It is engaged in a constant effort to understand reality which is perceived as in constant change. Therefore, our categories of knowledge are themselves always subject to change. As a consequence reform is always possible.

– Harry J. Hogan, *The Evolution of Civilizations* (Forward)

You saw his weakness, and he will never forgive you.

– Friedrich Schiller, *Wilhelm Tell*

Rarely do we arrive at the summit of truth without running into extremes; we have frequently to exhaust the part of error, and even of folly, before we work our way up to the noble goal of tranquil wisdom.

– Friedrich Schiller, *The Philosophical Letters*

Wonder, or radical amazement... is our honest response to the grandeur and mystery of reality.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Who Is Man?*

Authentic thinking originates with an encounter with the world.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Who Is Man?*

Man's true fulfillment depends on communion with that which transcends him.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Who Is Man?*

Awe is more than an emotion; it is a way of understanding, insight into a meaning greater than ourselves. The beginning of awe is wonder, and the beginning of wisdom is awe.

Awe is an intuition for the dignity of all things, a realization that things not only are what they are but also stand, however remotely, for something supreme. Awe is a sense for transcendence, for the reference everywhere to mystery beyond all things. It enables us to perceive in the world intimations of the divine, to sense in small things the beginning of infinite significance, to sense the ultimate in the common and the simple: to feel in the rush of the passing the stillness of the eternal. What we cannot comprehend by analysis, we become aware of in awe.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Who Is Man?*

The loss of awe is the avoidance of insight. A return to reverence is the first prerequisite for a revival of wisdom.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Who Is Man?*

Language has been reduced to labels, talk has become double-talk. We are in the process of losing faith in the reality of words.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Moral Grandeur & Spiritual Audacity*

There are those who maintain that the good is within our reach everywhere; you have but to stretch out your arms and you will grasp it. But there are others who, intimidated by fraud and ugliness, sense scorn and ambushes everywhere and misgive all things to come. Those who trust develop a finer sense for the good, even at the high cost of blighted hopes. Charmed by the spell of love, faith is, as it were, imposed upon their heart.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Moral Grandeur & Spiritual Audacity*

Faith is something that comes out of the soul. It is not an information that is absorbed but an attitude, existing prior to the formulation of any creed.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Moral Grandeur & Spiritual Audacity*

Reason is not the measure of all things, not the all-inclusive power in the inner life of man.

The powers of will and emotion, the realm of the subconscious lie beyond the scope of knowledge. The rush of reason is an effort of limited strength. Faith is not the miniature of thinking but its model, not its shadow but its root. It is a spiritual force in man, not dealing with

the given, concrete limited, but directed upon the transcendent. It is the spring of our creative actions.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Moral Grandeur & Spiritual Audacity*

All action is vicarious faith.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Moral Grandeur & Spiritual Audacity*

All scientific conclusions are based on axioms, all reasoning depends ultimately upon faith. Faith is virgin thinking, preceding all transcendent knowledge. To believe is to abide at the extremities of spirit.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Moral Grandeur & Spiritual Audacity*

Nobody can rationally explain why he should sacrifice his life and his happiness for the sake of the good. The conviction that I must obey the ethical imperatives is not derived from logical argument but originates from an intuitive certitude, in a certitude of faith.

I have one talent, and that is the capacity to be tremendously surprised, surprised at life, at ideas.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Zookeeper's Wife*

It is the sense of the sublime that we have to regard as the root of man's creative activities in art, thought and noble living.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*

The attempt to convey what we see and cannot say is the everlasting theme of mankind's unfinished symphony.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*

We sense the ineffable in one realm, we name and exploit reality in another. Between the two we set up a system of references, but we can never fill the gap. They are as far and as close to each other as time and calendar, violin and melody, as life and that which lies behind the last breath.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*

Who lit the wonder before our eyes and the wonder of our eyes? Who struck the lightning in the minds and scorched us with an imperative of being overawed by the holy, as unquenchable as the sight of the stars?

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*

We know a fact, we understand a hint.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*

If not for His presence there would be no essence; if not for His concealment, there would be no appearance.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*

(Nature) is ablaze with a fire it barely contains.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*

For generations we have been investing life with ugliness.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*

The things which pass through our daily life should be valued according to whether or not they enrich the inner cistern.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*

Our theories will go awry, will all throw dust into our eyes, unless we dare to confront not only the world but the soul as well, and begin to be amazed at our lack of amazement in being alive, at taking our life for granted.

Confronting the soul is an intellectual exposure that tears open the mind to incalculable questions, the answers to which are not easily earned. Modern man, therefore, believes that his security lies in refraining from raising such issues. Ultimate questions have become the object of his favorite unawareness. Since the dedication to tangible matters is highly rewarded, he does not care to pay attention to imponderable issues and prefers to erect a tower of Babel on the narrow basis of deeper unawareness.

Unawareness of the ultimate is a possible state of mind as long as man finds tranquility in his dedication to partial objectives. But when the tower begins to totter, when death wipes away that which seemed mighty and independent, when in evil days the delights of striving are replaced by the nightmare of futility, he becomes conscious of the peril of evasiveness, of the emptiness of small objectives. His apprehension lest in winning small prizes he did not gamble his life away, throws open his soul to questions he was trying to avoid.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*

The essence of man is not in what he is, but in what he is able to be.

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Man Is Not Alone*

Even if there were no human intellects, there could be truths because of their relation to the divine intellect. But if, per impossible, there were no intellects at all, but things continued to exist, then there would be no such reality as truth.

Thomas Aquinas, *De Veritate*

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed.

– Albert Einstein, quoted in *Introduction to Philosophy* (1935)

One cannot help but be in awe when contemplating the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of the mystery every day. The important thing is not to stop questioning; never lose a holy curiosity.

– Albert Einstein, *Life Magazine*, May 1955

The most beautiful emotion we can experience is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion that stands at the cradle of all true art and science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead, a snuffed-out candle.

– Albert Einstein, *Mein Weltbild*

The restoration of our world-view can come only as a result of inexorably truth-loving and recklessly courageous thought. Such thinking alone is mature enough to learn by experience

how the rational, when it thinks itself out to a conclusion, passes necessarily over into the non-rational. World- and life-affirmation and ethics are non-rational. They are not justified by any corresponding knowledge of the nature of the world, but are the disposition in which, through the inner compulsion of our will-to-live, we determine our relation to the world.

– Albert Schweitzer

It is the fate of every truth to be an object of ridicule when it is first acclaimed.

– Albert Schweitzer

If I work incessantly to the last, nature owes me another form of existence when the present one collapses.

– Goethe, *Letter to Eckman*

Not only does the action of Governments not deter men from crimes; on the contrary, it increases crime by always disturbing and lowering the moral standard of society. Nor can this be otherwise, since always and everywhere a Government, by its very nature, must put in the place of the highest, eternal, religious law (not written in books but in the hearts of men, and binding on every one) its own unjust, man-made laws, the object of which is neither justice nor the common good of all but various considerations of home and foreign expediency.

– Leo Tolstoy, *The Meaning of The Russian Revolution*

Christianity in its true sense puts an end to the State. It was so understood from its very beginning, and for that Christ was crucified.

– Leo Tolstoy

A Frenchman is self-assured because he regards himself personally, both in mind and body, as irresistibly attractive to men and women. An Englishman is self-assured, as being a citizen of the best-organized state in the world, and therefore as an Englishman always knows what he should do and knows that all he does as an Englishman is undoubtedly correct. An Italian is self-assured because he is excitable and easily forgets himself and other people. A Russian is self-assured just because he knows nothing and does not want to know anything, since he does not believe that anything can be known. The German's self-assurance is worst of all, stronger and more repulsive than any other, because he imagines that he knows the truth — science — which he himself has invented but which is for him the absolute truth.

– Leo Tolstoy, *War And Peace*

All happy families resemble one another, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.

– Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

The assertion that art may be good art and at the same time incomprehensible to a great number of people is extremely unjust, and its consequences are ruinous to art itself...it is the same as saying some kind of food is good but most people can't eat it.

– Leo Tolstoy, *What Is Art?*

By words one transmits thoughts to another, by means of art, one transmits feelings.

– Leo Tolstoy, *What Is Art?*

Art is a human activity consisting in this, that one consciously, by means of certain external

symbols, conveys to others the feelings one has experienced, whereby people so infected by these feelings, also experience them.

– Leo Tolstoy, *What Is Art?*

He believed in no gods, but in many superstitions.

– Will Durant, on the Roman dictator Sulla, *Caesar & Christ*

A civilization or individual who cannot burst through its current abstractions is doomed to sterility after a very limited period of progress. Almost any idea which jogs you out of your current abstractions may be better than nothing.

– Alfred North Whitehead, *Process and Reality*

The consumer slowly evolves into a modern Sisyphus, trained to push the heavy boulder of hope for an identity, for purpose, acceptance, happiness, and fulfillment, to the summit of a steep hill. The boulder then rolls, once more, to the bottom. The consumer pushes it again to the top – again, again, and again until the end... The expectations promoted by the ad media, which lead to self-fulfilling prophecies, emphasize the short-comings, deficiencies, and weaknesses individuals perceive in themselves. Negative self-esteem is constantly enforced.

– Wilson Bryan Kelly, *The Age Of Manipulation*

I consider trial by jury as the only anchor yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution.

– Thomas Jefferson

If the jury have no right to judge of the justice of the law of the government, they plainly can do nothing to protect the people against the oppressions of government.

– Lysander Spooner

If the jury feels that the law under which the defendant is accused is unjust... or for any reason which appeals to their logic or passion, the jury has the power to acquit, and the courts must abide by that decision.

U.S. V Moylan, 1969

Education... now seems to me perhaps the most authoritarian and dangerous of all the social inventions of mankind. It is the deepest foundation of the modern slave state, in which most people feel themselves to be nothing but producers, consumers, spectators, and 'fans,' driven more and more, in all parts of their lives, by greed, envy, and fear. My concern is not to improve 'education' but to do away with it, to end the ugly and antihuman business of people-shaping and to allow and help people to shape themselves.

– John Holt, 1976

It is not just power, but impotence, that corrupts people. It gives them the mind and soul of slaves. It makes them indifferent, lazy, cynical, irresponsible, and, above all, stupid.

– John Holt, *Escape from Childhood*

The most important thing any teacher has to learn, not to be learned in any school of education I ever heard of, can be expressed in seven words: Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners.

– John Holt, *Growing Without Schooling* magazine, no. 40 (1984)

The anxiety children feel at constantly being tested, their fear of failure, punishment, and disgrace, severely reduces their ability both to perceive and to remember, and drives them away from the material being studied into strategies for fooling teachers into thinking they know what they really don't know.

– John Holt, *How Children Learn*

When I hear someone talking about political solutions, I know I am not listening to a serious person.

– George Carlin

Anyone can do any amount of work, provided it isn't the work he is supposed to be doing at that moment.

-- Robert Benchley, *Chips off the Old Benchley*, 1949

We are grateful to the Washington Post, The New York Times, Time Magazine and other great publications whose directors have attended our meetings and respected their promises of discretion for almost forty years. It would have been impossible for us to develop our plan for the world if we had been subjected to the lights of publicity during those years. But, the world is now more sophisticated and prepared to march towards a world government. The supranational sovereignty of an intellectual elite and world bankers is surely preferable to the national auto-determination practiced in past centuries. -- David Rockefeller, June 1991 at the Bilderberger Meeting in Baden, Germany

The interests behind the Bush Administration, such as the CFR, The Trilateral Commission -- founded by Brzezinski for David Rockefeller -- and the Bilderberger Group, have prepared for and are now moving to implement open world dictatorship within the next five years. They are not fighting against terrorists. They are fighting against citizens.

-- Dr. Johannes B. Koepll, PhD (former German defense ministry official and advisor to former NATO Secretary General Manfred Werne), interview with Michael C. Rupert, November 6, 2001

Open the books ... and you will be staggered to see how much American money has been taken from the United States Treasury for the benefit of Russia. Find out what business has been transacted for the State Bank of Soviet Russia, by its correspondent, the Chase Bank of New York.

-- Louis McFadden (Chairman of House Banking and Currency Committee), 1933. McFadden was poisoned in 1936.

Every central government worships uniformity.

-- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. 2, book 4, chapter 3

I cannot help fearing that men may reach a point where they look on every new theory as a danger, every innovation as a toilsome trouble, every social advance as a first step toward revolution, and that they may absolutely refuse to move at all.

-- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, vol. 2, book 3, chapter 21

Fish swim, birds fly, kids LEARN.

– Pat Farenga

It is not only his [a juror's] right, but his duty... to find the verdict according to his own best understanding judgment, and conscience, though in direct opposition to the direction of the court.

– John Adams

I must not fear. Fear is the mind-killer. Fear is the little-death that brings total obliteration. I will face my fear. I will permit it to pass over me and through me. And when it has gone past I will turn the inner eye to see its path. Where the fear has gone there will be nothing. Only I will remain.

– Frank Herbert, *Dune*

Art for the sake of art itself is an idle sentence. Art for the sake of truth, for the sake of what is beautiful and good — that is the creed I seek.

– George Sand

To suggest to governments that they should not haverecourse to violence, but should decide their misunderstandings inaccordance with equity, is inviting them to abolish themselves as rulers, and that no government can ever consent to do.

The specialty of government is not to obey, but to enforce obedience. And a government is only a government so long as it can make itself obeyed, and therefore it always strives for that and will never willingly abandon its power. But since it is on the army that the power of government rests, it will never give up the army, and the use of the army in war.

The error arises from the learned jurists deceiving themselves and others, by asserting that government is not what it really is, one set of men banded together to oppress another set of men, but, as shown by science, is the representation of the citizens in their collective capacity. They have so long been persuading other people of this that at last they have persuaded themselves of it; and thus they often seriously suppose that government can be bound by considerations of justice. But history shows that from Caesar to Napoleon, and from Napoleon to Bismarck, government is in its essence always a force acting in violation of justice, and that it cannot be otherwise. Justice can have no binding force on a ruler or rulers who keep men, deluded and drilled in readiness for acts of violence — soldiers, and by means of them control others. And so governments can never be brought to consent to diminish the number of these drilled slaves, who constitute their whole power and importance.

Such is the attitude of certain learned men to the contradiction under which our society is being crushed, and such are their methods of solving it. Tell these people that the whole matter rests on the personal attitude of each man to the moral and religious question put nowadays to everyone, the question, that is, whether it is lawful or unlawful for him to take his share of military service, and these learned gentlemen will shrug their shoulders and not condescend to listen or to answer you.

The solution of the question in their idea is to be found in reading addresses, writing books, electing presidents, vice-presidents, and secretaries, and meeting and speaking first in one town and then in another. From all this speechifying and writing it will come to pass, according to their notions, that governments will cease to levy the soldiers, on whom their whole strength depends, will listen to their discourses, and will disband their forces, leaving themselves without any defense, not only against their neighbors, but also against their own subjects. As though a band of brigands, who have some unarmed travelers bound and ready

to be plundered, should be so touched by their complaints of the pain caused by the cords they are fastened with as to let them go again.

Still there are people who believe in this, busy themselves over peace congresses, read addresses, and write books. And governments, we may be quite sure, express their sympathy and make a show of encouraging them. In the same way they pretend to support temperance societies, while they are living principally on the drunkenness of the people; and pretend to encourage education, when their whole strength is based on ignorance; and to support constitutional freedom, when their strength rests on the absence of freedom; and to be anxious for the improvement of the condition of the working classes, when their very existence depends on their oppression; and to support Christianity, when Christianity destroys all government.

To be able to do this they have long ago elaborated methods encouraging temperance, which cannot suppress drunkenness; methods of supporting education, which not only fail to prevent ignorance, but even increase it; methods of aiming at freedom and constitutionalism, which are no hindrance to despotism; methods of protecting the working classes, which will not free them from slavery; and a Christianity, too, they have elaborated, which does not destroy, but supports governments.

Now there is something more for the government to encourage – peace. The sovereigns, who nowadays take counsel with their ministers, decide by their will alone whether the butchery of millions is to be begun this year or next. They know very well that all these discourses upon peace will not hinder them from sending millions of men to butchery when it seems good to them. They listen even with satisfaction to these discourses, encourage them, and take part in them.

All this, far from being detrimental, is even of service to governments, by turning people's attention from the most important and pressing question: Ought or ought not each man called upon for military service to submit to serve in the army?

"Peace will soon be arranged, thanks to alliances and congresses, to books and pamphlets; meantime go and put on your uniform, and prepare to cause suffering and to endure it for our benefit," is the government's line of argument. And the learned gentlemen who get up congresses and write articles are in perfect agreement with it... And since it [this attitude] is that most beneficial to governments, it is also the most encouraged by all intelligent governments.

– Leo Tolstoy, *The Kingdom of God Is Within You*

Most men are scantily nourished on a modicum of happiness and a number of empty thoughts which life lays on their plates. They are kept in the road of life through stern necessity by elemental duties which they cannot avoid.

Again and again their will-to-live becomes, as it were, intoxicated: spring sunshine, opening flowers moving clouds, waving fields of grain — all affect it. The manifold will-to-live, which is known to us in the splendid phenomena in which it clothes itself, grasps at their personal wills. They would fain join their shouts to the mighty symphony which is proceeding all around them. The world seem beauteous...but the intoxication passes. Dreadful discords only allow them to hear a confused noise, as before, where they had thought to catch the strains of glorious music. The beauty of nature is obscured by the suffering which they discover in every direction. And now they see again that they are driven about like shipwrecked persons on the waste of ocean, only that the boat is at one moment lifted high on the crest of the waves and a moment later sinks deep into the trough; and that now sunshine and now darkening clouds lie on the surface of the water.

And now they would fain persuade themselves that land lies on the horizon toward which they are driven. Their will-to-live befools their intellect so that it makes efforts to see the world as it would like to see it. It forces this intellect to show them a map which lends support to their hope of land. Once again they essay to reach the shore, until finally their arms sink exhausted for the last time and their eyes rove desperately from wave to wave...
Thus it is with the will-to-live when it is unreflective.

But is there no way out of this dilemma? Must we either drift aimlessly through lack of reflection or sink in pessimism as the result of reflection? No. We must indeed attempt the limitless ocean, but we may set our sails and steer a determined course.

– Albert Schweitzer, *The Spiritual Life*

Markets allow for decisions to be made while maintaining a dispersion of power.

– Hannah M. Rosenberg

Internal dialogue is destiny.

– Hannah M. Rosenberg

Humanity is half men and half women. If you can't get along with half of humanity... It's not the other half of humanity that's the problem, it's you.

– Hannah M. Rosenberg

Publicity is about social relations, not objects. Its promise is not of pleasure, but of happiness: happiness as judged from the outside by others. The happiness of being envied is glamour.

Being envied is a solitary form of reassurance. It depends precisely upon not sharing your experience with those who envy you. You are observed with interest but you do not observe with interest - if you do, you will become less enviable. In this respect the envied are like bureaucrats; the more impersonal they are, the greater the illusion (for themselves and for others) of their power. The power of the glamorous resides in their supposed happiness: the power of the bureaucrat in his supposed authority. It is this which explains the absent, unfocused look of so many glamour images. The look out over the looks of envy which sustain them.

The spectator-buyer is meant to envy herself as she will become if she buys the product. She is meant to imagine herself transformed by the product into an object of envy for others, an envy which will then justify her loving herself.

– John Berger, *Ways of Seeing*

The authorities do their systematic best to keep fellow prisoners misinformed about what is happening in the world. The aim is not to activate them, but to remind them remorselessly that there is nothing in life but risk, and that Earth is an unsafe place. This is done with selected information, with misinformation, commentaries, rumors, fictions. The prison population is tricked into believing that the priority for each one of them is to make arrangements for their own personal protection and to acquire somehow their own particular exemption from the common fate. Mankind is presented as a coward.

– John Berger

The future ain't what it used to be.

– Yogi Berra

A smuggler is... a person who, though no doubt highly blamable for violating the laws of his country, is frequently incapable of violating those of natural justice, and would have been, in every respect, an excellent citizen had not the laws of his country made that a crime which nature never meant to be so.

– Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, Book Five, Chapter II, Article IV

It is a true proverb, that if you live with a lame man, you will learn a limp.

– Plutarch, *Moralia*

They were no longer enamored of freedom, but wearily wished for security and order; any man might rule them who guaranteed them games and bread.

– Will Durant, on the Romans as Octavian (Augustus) established the principate, *Caesar and Christ*.

There is no greater drama in the human record than the sight of a few Christians, scorned or oppressed by a succession of emperors, bearing all trials with a fierce tenacity, multiplying quietly, building order while their enemies generated chaos... and at last defeating the strongest state that history has known.

Caesar and Christ met in the arena, and Christ won.

– Will Durant, *Caesar and Christ*.

Old age overtakes him in his humble cottage. He follows the sheep, his son follows the lambs, while the good wife heats the water for his weary limbs. So let me live till the white hairs glisten on my head, and I tell in my old man's fashion of the days gone by.

– Albius Tibullus (1st century BC)

He that complies against his will is of his own opinion still.

– Samuel Butler, *Hudibras*

A man convinced against his will, is of the same opinion still.

– Twentieth century American proverb (derived from Samuel Butler)

The ideas I stand for are not mine. I borrowed them from Socrates. I swiped them from Chesterfield. I stole them from Jesus. And I put them in a book. If you don't like their rules whose would you use?

– Dale Carnegie

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.

– Dale Carnegie

There are more fools than knaves in the world, else the knaves would not have enough to live upon.

– Samuel Butler, *The Genuine Remains in Verse and Prose of Mr. Samuel Butler*

If one realizes that socialism is not a share-the-wealth program, but is in reality a method to consolidate and control the wealth, then the paradox of rich men promoting socialism becomes no paradox at all.

– Gary Allen

If you see ten troubles coming down the road, you can be sure that nine will run into the ditch before they reach you.

– Calvin Coolidge

The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country. ...We are governed, our minds are molded, our tastes formed, our ideas suggested, largely by men we have never heard of. This is a logical result of the way in which our democratic society is organized. Vast numbers of human beings must cooperate in this manner if they are to live together as a smoothly functioning society. In almost every act of our daily lives, whether in the sphere of politics or business, in our social conduct or our ethical thinking, we are dominated by the relatively small number of persons...who understand the mental processes and social patterns of the masses. It is they who pull the wires which control the public mind.

– Edward Bernays, *Propaganda*

The average citizen is the world's most efficient censor. His own mind is the greatest barrier between him and the facts. His own 'logic proof compartments,' his own absolutism are the obstacles which prevent him from seeing in terms of experience and thought rather than in terms of group reaction.

– Edward Bernays, *Crystallizing Public Opinion*

A golden race of mortal men who lived in the time of Kronos when he was reigning in heaven. And they lived like gods without sorrow of heart, remote and free from toil: miserable age rested not on them . . . The fruitful earth unforced bare them fruit abundantly and without stint. They dwelt in ease and peace upon their lands with many good things.

– Hesiod, *Works and Days*

In the beginning was the Golden Age, when men of their own accord, without threat of punishment, without laws, maintained good faith and did what was right. . . . The earth itself, without compulsion, untouched by the hoe, unfurrowed by any share, produced all things spontaneously. . . . It was a season of everlasting spring.

– Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Book I

The Golden Age was first; when Man, yet new,
No rule but uncorrupted Reason knew:
And, with a native bent, did good pursue.
Unforc'd by punishment, un-aw'd by fear.
His words were simple, and his soul sincere;
Needless was written law, where none opprest:
The law of Man was written in his breast

– Ovid, *Metamorphoses*, Book I

God forbid we should ever be 20 years without such a rebellion. The people cannot be all, & always, well informed. The part which is wrong will be discontented in proportion to the importance of the facts they misconceive. If they remain quiet under such misconceptions it is a lethargy; the forerunner of death to the public liberty. We have had 13 states independent 11 years. There has been one rebellion. That comes to one rebellion in a century & a half for each state. What country before ever existed a century & half without rebellion? & what country can preserve it's liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms. The remedy is to set them right as to facts, pardon and pacify them. What signify a few lives lost in a century or two? The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots & tyrants. It is it's natural manure.

– Thomas Jefferson on Shay's Rebellion. Letter to William Stephens Smith, November 13, 1787

He who dictates and formulates the words and phrases we use, he who is master of the press and radio, is master of the mind. Repeat mechanically your assumptions and suggestions, diminish the opportunity for communicating dissent and opposition. This is the formula for political conditioning of the masses.

– Joost Meerloo

If we understand the mechanisms and motives of the group mind, it is now possible to control and regiment the masses according to our will without their knowing it... In almost every act of our daily lives, whether in the sphere of politics or business, in our social conduct or our ethical thinking, we are dominated by the relatively small number of persons ... who understand the mental processes and social patterns of the masses. It is they who pull the wires which control the public mind.

– Edward Bernays

If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State.

– Joseph Goebbels

We are not ensnared or enslaved by guns and clubs – we are ensnared by words. Those who don't respect their dictionaries as much as their firearms, have little hope of being free.

– Alfred Adask

When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.

– Leonardo Da Vinci

I attribute the little I know to my not having been ashamed to ask for information, and to my rule of conversing with all descriptions of men on those topics that form their own peculiar professions and pursuits.

– John Locke

Self-preservation and self-development are common aspirations among all people. And if every- one enjoyed the unrestricted use of his faculties and the free disposition of the fruits of his labor, social progress would be ceaseless, uninterrupted, and unfailing.

But there is also another tendency that is common among people. When they can, they wish to live and prosper at the expense of others. This is no rash accusation. Nor does it come from a gloomy and uncharitable spirit. The annals of history bear witness to the truth of it: the incessant wars, mass migrations, religious persecutions, universal slavery, dishonesty in commerce, and monopolies. This fatal desire has its origin in the very nature of man — in that primitive, universal, and insuppressible instinct that impels him to satisfy his desires with the least possible pain.

– Federic Bastiat, *The Law*

Government is a disease masquerading as its own cure.

– Robert Lefevre

The illegal we do immediately; the unconstitutional takes a little longer.

-- Henry Kissinger

There's always free cheese in a mousetrap.

– North American proverb

I thought we'd go to the moon and put up a base, and stay there. We should have done that. If we had, the world would be infinitely better off than they are today. But we didn't.

– John Young, Apollo 16 Astronaut

Out there on another planet, I was looking back at the Earth, or I was looking back at the other stars in the universe – science and technology could no longer explain to me what I was feeling. Not just what I was seeing, it's what I was feeling. And I kept thinking, above all religions, there has to be a creator.

– Gene Cernan, Apollo 17 Astronaut

It was to me like I was just sitting on a rocking chair on a Friday evening, looking back home, sitting on God's front porch, looking back at the Earth; looking back home. It was really that simple, but it was an overpowering experience.

– Gene Cernan, Apollo 17 Astronaut

I'm sure that viewing the world from the moon only enriched me spiritually and also gave me a new vantage point on life . . . Anyone who walked on the moon had such a spiritual experience, similar to it or stronger.

– Gene Cernan, Apollo 17 Astronaut

On the way home... the earth, the moon, the sun and a whole 360 degree panorama of the heavens, and that was the powerful, overwhelming experience. And suddenly I realized that the molecules of my body, the molecules of the spacecraft, the molecules of the bodies of my partners, were prototyped, were manufactured in some ancient generation of stars. And that was an overwhelming sense of oneness and connectedness. It wasn't them and us, it was... one thing. And it was accompanied by an ecstasy.

– Edgar Mitchell, Apollo 14 Astronaut

On the return trip home, gazing through 240,000 miles of space toward the stars and the planet from which I had come, I suddenly experienced the universe as intelligent, loving, harmonious. My view of our planet was a glimpse of divinity... We went to the moon as technicians, we returned as humanitarians.

– Edgar Mitchell, Apollo 14 Astronaut

You develop an instant global consciousness, a people orientation, an intense dissatisfaction with the state of the world, and a compulsion to do something about it. From out there on the moon, international politics look so petty. You want to grab a politician by the scruff of the neck and drag him a quarter of a million miles out and say, 'Look at that, you son of a bitch'.

– Edgar Mitchell, Apollo 14 Astronaut

Since that time I have not complained about the weather one single time. I'm glad there is weather. I have not complained about traffic; I'm glad there are people around. One of the things I did when I got home; I went down to shopping centers, and I'd just go out there, get an ice cream cone or something, and just watch the people go by. And think "boy we're lucky to be here. Why do people complain about the Earth? We are living in the garden of Eden."

– Alan Bean, Apollo 12 Astronaut

A lot of things that used to seem important, by comparison, don't seem as much so. I'm not saying I'm able to face life with greater equanimity because I've flown to the moon, but I try to. And maybe some of our terrestrial squabbles don't seem as important after having flown to the moon, as before.

– Michael Collins, Apollo 11 Astronaut

I had an enormous feeling that there had to be a power greater than any of us—that there was a God, that there was indeed a beginning.

– Frank Borman, Astronaut

The world itself looks cleaner and so much more beautiful. Maybe we can make it that way - the way God intended it to be - by giving everyone, eventually, that new perspective from out in space.

– Roger Chaffee, Apollo X Astronaut

The Earth reminded us of a Christmas tree ornament hanging in the blackness of space. As we got farther and farther away it diminished in size. Finally it shrank to the size of a marble, the most beautiful marble you can imagine. That beautiful, warm, living object looked so fragile, so delicate, that if you touched it with a finger it would crumble and fall apart. Seeing this has to change a man, has to make a man appreciate the creation of God and the love of God.

– James Irwin, Apollo X Astronaut

To look out at this kind of creation out here and not believe in God is to me impossible, ... It just strengthens my faith. I wish there were words to describe what it's like.

– John Glenn

And I think that still is true of this business - which is basically research and development - that you probably spend more time in planning and training and designing for things to go

wrong, and how you cope with them, than you do for things to go right.

– Alan Shepard

But when I was selected, after my very first tour of squadron duty, to become one of the youngest candidates for the test pilot school, I began to realize, maybe you are a little bit better.

– Alan Shepard

I didn't mind studying. Obviously math and the physical science subjects interested me more than some of the more artistic subjects, but I think I was a pretty good student.

– Alan Shepard

I must admit, maybe I am a piece of history after all.

– Alan Shepard

I think all of us certainly believed the statistics which said that probably 88% chance of mission success and maybe 96% chance of survival. And we were willing to take those odds.

– Alan Shepard

I think the sense of family and family achievement, plus the discipline which I received there from that one-room school were really very helpful in what I did later on.

– Alan Shepard

I woke up an hour before I was supposed to, and started going over the mental checklist: where do I go from here, what do I do? I don't remember eating anything at all, just going through the physical, getting into the suit. We practiced that so much, it was all rote.

– Alan Shepard

I'd like to say I was smart enough to finish six grades in five years, but I think perhaps the teacher was just glad to get rid of me.

– Alan Shepard

It's a very sobering feeling to be up in space and realize that one's safety factor was determined by the lowest bidder on a government contract.

– Alan Shepard

It's been a long way, but we're here.

– Alan Shepard

I fully expected that, by the end of the century, we would have achieved substantially more than we actually did.

– Neil Armstrong

It's in the nature of the human being to face challenges. It's by the nature of his deep inner soul... we're required to do these things just as salmon swim upstream.

– Neil Armstrong

The important achievement of Apollo was demonstrating that humanity is not forever chained to this planet and our visions go rather further than that and our opportunities are unlimited.
– Neil Armstrong

Problems look mighty small from 150 miles up.
– Roger B. Chaffee

I believe that these extra-terrestrial vehicles and their crews are visiting this planet from other planets. Most astronauts were reluctant to discuss UFOs.
– Gordon Cooper

I don't think the space station will ever do anything for exploration. Putting people up there for a year or more is the only way you will get anywhere near the exploration concept.
– Wally Schirra

I've always thought space station is a great name. It should be like a gas station where we go for service and supplies before heading further out.
– Wally Schirra

Kennedy had made a mess in Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. He had to do something to look good. The Apollo program of going to the Moon was quite a goal.
– Wally Schirra

It's like trying to describe what you feel when you're standing on the rim of the Grand Canyon or remembering your first love or the birth of your child. You have to be there to really know what it's like.
– Jack Schmitt

The Roswell incident was true.
– Edgar Mitchell

Later, in my early teens, I used to ride my bike every Saturday morning to the nearest airport, ten miles away, push airplanes in and out of the hangars, and clean up the hangars.
– Alan Shepard

We can continue to try and clean up the gutters all over the world and spend all of our resources looking at just the dirty spots and trying to make them clean. Or we can lift our eyes up and look into the skies and move forward in an evolutionary way.
– Buzz Aldrin

There was a startling recognition that the nature of the universe was not as I had been taught... I not only saw the connectedness, I felt it.... I was overwhelmed with the sensation of physically and mentally extending out into the cosmos. I realized that this was a biological response of my brain attempting to reorganize and give meaning to information about the wonderful and awesome processes that I was privileged to view.
– Edgar Mitchell

On my four space shuttle flights... I struggled constantly to make sense of an avalanche of new sensations and perceptions.

– Thomas Jones

It was like drinking from a fire hose of information... I had heard of the Overview Effect but, having done many extreme things in my life... skydiving, mountain climbing, visiting the Titanic and Antarctica, I didn't think it would greatly affect me... That is until... I got into space! My life has changed because of my space experience.

– Richard Garriott , space tourist

Intellectually, I knew what to expect. I have probably looked at as many pictures from space as anybody...so I knew exactly what I was going to see.... But there is no way you can be prepared for the emotional impact... It brought tears to my eyes.

– Don. L. Lind, astronaut

The actual experience exceeds all expectations and is something that's hard to put to words... It sort of reduces things to a size that you think everything is manageable.... All these things that may seem big and impossible ... We can do this. Peace on Earth – No problem. It gives people that type of energy ... that type of power, and I have experienced that.

– Anousheh Ansari, space tourist

Something about the unexpectedness of this sight, its incompatibility with anything we have ever experienced on earth elicits a deep emotional response... Suddenly, you get a feeling you've never had before... That you're an inhabitant... of the Earth.

– Oleg Makarov, cosmonaut

The job of the Democrats is to turn the screw another quarter-turn, and the job of the Republicans is to make conservatives happy with the current position of the screw. The electoral system gives people a choice between these two options.

– Patrick Chkoreff

As a result of this exaction of taxes, city and countryside were full of laments and complaints, and all... sought the help of the barbarians.

– Zosimus, a late 5th century Roman

School is the advertising agency which makes you believe you need the society as it is.

– Marshall McLuhan, *The Book of Probes*

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

– Voltaire

I want to know what were the steps by which men passed from barbarism to civilization.

– Voltaire

It is hard to imagine a more stupid or more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong.

– Thomas Sowell

We associate truth with convenience, with what most closely accords with self-interest or personal well-being or promises best to avoid awkward effort or unwelcome dislocation of life.

– John Kenneth Galbraith

The state, in order to maintain itself, used and forged many instruments of indoctrination – the family, the church, the school – to bind in the soul of the citizen a habit of patriotic loyalty and pride. This saved thousands of policemen, and prepared the public mind for the docile coherence which is indispensable in war.

– Will Durant, *Our Oriental Heritage*

Above all, the ruling minority sought more and more to transform its forcible mastery into a body of law which, while consolidating that mastery, would afford a welcome security and order to the people, and would recognize the rights of the “subject” sufficiently to win his acceptance of the law and his adherence to the state.

– Will Durant, *Our Oriental Heritage*

All tyrannies rule through fraud and force, but once the fraud is exposed they must rely exclusively on force.

– George Orwell

I'd rather be ruled by one tyrant 3000 miles away, than 3000 tyrants one mile away.

– An American Tory, late 18th century

I am a fictionalizing philosopher, not a novelist. The core of my writing is not art but truth... I am basically analytical, not creative; my writing is simply a creative way of handling analysis.

– Phillip K. Dick

Thus, far and wide, they migrate either to the Goths or to the Bagaudae, or to other barbarians everywhere in power; yet they do not repent of having migrated. They prefer to live as freemen under an outward form of captivity, than as captives under the appearance of liberty. Therefore, the name of Roman citizens, at one time not only greatly valued, but dearly bought, is now repudiated and fled from, and it is almost considered not only base, but even deserving of abhorrence.

– Salvian the Presbyter, *The Governance Of God*

Then, indeed, the authors of base pleasures feasted at will in most places, but all things were filled and stuffed to overflowing. Nobody thought of the State's expenses, nobody thought of the State's losses, because the cost was not felt. The State itself sought how it might squander what it was already scarcely able to acquire. The heaping up of wealth which had already exceeded its limit was overflowing even into trifling matters. But what can be said of the present-day situation? That old abundances have gone from us. The resources of former times have gone. We are already poverty-stricken, yet we do not cease to be spendthrift.

– Salvian the Presbyter, *The Governance Of God* (circa 440 AD)

The noise of battle outside the walls and of the games within, the voices of the dying outside and the voices of the reveling within, were mingled. Perhaps there scarcely could be distinguished the cries of the people who fell in battle and the yelling of the people who shouted in the circus.

– Salvian the Presbyter, *The Governance Of God*

We are discreet sheep; we wait to see how the drove is going, and then go with the drove. We have two opinions: one private, which we are afraid to express; and another one – the one we use – which we force ourselves to wear to please Mrs. Grundy, until habit makes us comfortable in it, and the custom of defending it presently makes us love it, adore it, and forget how pitifully we came by it.

– Mark Twain

Humanity's most valuable assets have been the non-conformists. Were it not for the non-conformists, he who refuses to be satisfied to go along with the continuance of things as they are, and insists upon attempting to find new ways of bettering things, the world would have known little progress, indeed.

– Josiah William Gitt

The media I've had a lot to do with is lazy. We fed them and they ate it every day.

– Michael Deaver (Top aide to President Reagan)

Pessimism has become tiresome, so optimism is gaining a foothold.

– The Bank of International Settlements, in a report released June 24, 2012

Nobody takes power; they're given power by the rest of us, because we're stupid, or afraid, or both. The Germans in 1939, the Russians in 1917... they handed over power to people they thought could settle scores, get the trains running on time, restore their prestige. They did it because it was what they wanted. Afterwards, like children who have eaten too much candy after dinner, they denied that it was their fault. "No, it was them!" It's always 'them'.

– Babylon 5, *The Exercise of Vital Powers*

I will say than that I am not, nor ever have been in favor of bringing about in any way the social and political equality of the white and black races, that I am not nor ever have been in favor of making voters or jurors of negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people; and I will say in addition to this that here is a physical difference between the white and black races which I believe will forever forbid the two races living together on terms of social and political equality. And inasmuch as they cannot so live, while they do remain together there must be the position of superior and inferior, and I as much as any man am in favor of having the superior position assigned to the white race.

– Abraham Lincoln, Sept. 18, 1858 (Debate with Stephen Douglas)

If Mr. Jefferson's statement in the Declaration of Independence that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed is accepted, and if it justified the secession from the British Empire of Three Millions of colonists in 1776, we do not see why it would not justify the secession of Five Millions of Southerners from the Federal Union in 1861.

– New York Times editorial, December 17, 1860

We are reduced to the alternative of choosing an unconditional submission to the tyranny of irritated ministers, or resistance by force.—The latter is our choice—We have counted the cost of this contest, and find nothing so dreadful as voluntary slavery.—Honor, justice, and humanity, forbid us tamely to surrender that freedom which we received from our gallant ancestors, and which our innocent posterity have a right to receive from us. We cannot endure the infamy and guilt of resigning succeeding generations to that wretchedness which inevitably awaits them, if we basely entail hereditary bondage upon them.

– Thomas Jefferson, *Declaration of Causes & Necessities of Taking Arms*, July 6, 1775

It occurs to me that I can easily do the socially responsible thing and offset my entire carbon footprint simply by killing someone else who has a similar consumption pattern.

– Sean Hastings

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark. The real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

– Plato

One of the lessons that used to be at the center of a liberal education, and no longer is, is that life is tragic. And by that I do not mean that happy endings are impossible or that bad outcomes are guaranteed. What I mean is that *there are consequences* to the things that you do and that everything has a beginning and a middle and an end. And we have to get real with those.

– James Kuntzler, Interview, 7/14/2012

In such a psychology, one's ego is fragile because it is not one's own.

– Dr.Joel Wade, referring to “the psychology of the tribe or gang.”

Self-Esteem is the reputation that you build with yourself.

– Nathaniel Brandon

A fire broke out backstage in a theatre. The clown came out to warn the public; they thought it was a joke and applauded. He repeated it; the acclaim was even greater. I think that's just how the world will come to an end: to general applause from those who believe it's just a joke.

– Søren Kierkegaard

We destroy the most hallowed of relations, when we replace home education by social.

– The Communist Manifesto

It's better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you're not.

– Marilyn Monroe

Don't try to memorize. Just understand, then you can't help but memorize.

– Boris Sidis

So many parents I've seen have been completely contradictory in their approach toward their children. They treat them like babies, then spank them for not behaving like grandfathers.

– Sarah Sidis

The superman would develop himself automatically providing we start treating human beings right – that is stop forcing children in the early stages of their education.

– William James Sidis

One of the greatest realizations the infant prodigy must make: He is not wanted by the community.

– Norbert Wiener

What seems to be one of the disasters of our time is that we all appear to agree that the nation-state is the norm. ... Whether the state be Marxist or capitalist, it makes no difference. The dominant ideology is that of sovereignty.

– Jacques Ellul, *Anarchy and Christianity*

I can very well say without hesitation that all those who have political power, even if they use it well, have acquired it by demonic mediation and even if they are not conscious of it, they are worshippers of diabolos.

– Jacques Ellul, *Si tu es le Fils de Dieu*

We run heedlessly into the abyss after putting something in front of us to stop us from seeing it.

– Blaise Pascal, *Pensées*

Sexual interpretations of art and religion .. had a corrupting effect on Americans. They noticed the sublime less than the sex in sexual sublimation. What in Nietzsche was intended to lead to the heights was used here to debunk the heights in favor of present desire. Any explanation of the higher in terms of the lower has that tendency, especially in a democracy, where there is envy of what makes special claims, and the good is supposed to be accessible to all. And this is one of the deep reasons why Freud found such an immediate audience in America.

– Allan Bloom

Where is there a why, there is a how.

– Frederick Nietzsche

The most difficult subjects can be explained to the most slow-witted man if he has not formed any idea of them already; but the simplest thing cannot be made clear to the most intelligent man if he is firmly persuaded that he knows already, without a shadow of doubt, what is laid before him.

– Leo Tolstoy

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

– Aesop

The state has fallen upon such evil days that a man cannot be safe unless he is wicked.

– Salvian the Presbyter, *The Governance Of God* (circa 440 AD)

Apathy is a sort of living oblivion.

– Horace Greeley

Most propaganda is not designed to fool the critical thinker, but only to give moral cowards an excuse not to think at all.

– Michael Rivero

Blow up your TV, throw away your paper,
go to the country, build you a home.

Plant a little garden, eat a lot of peaches,
try and find Jesus on your own.

– John Prine

The worst part of living under communism is living a lie.

– Alexandre Solzhenitsyn

A policeman's job is only easy in a police state.

– *A Touch of Evil*, 1958

If voting made any difference, they wouldn't let us do it.

– Mark Twain

You never change anything by fighting the existing. To change something, build a new model and make the existing obsolete.

– Buckminster Fuller, quoted in *Beyond Civilization: Humanity's Next Great Adventure*.

Enthusiasm is the inspiration of everything great. Without it no man is to be feared, and with it none despised.

– Christian Nestell Bovee

When you are inspired by some great purpose, some extraordinary project, all your thoughts break your bonds: your mind transcends limitations, your consciousness expands in every direction, and find yourself in a new, great and wonderful world. Dormant forces, faculties and talents become alive, and you discover yourself to be a greater person by far than you ever dreamed yourself to be.

– Patanjali (2nd century B.C.)

Music can be all things to all persons. It is like a great dynamic sun in the center of a solar system which sends out its rays and inspiration in every direction. Music makes us feel that the heavens open and a divine voice calls. Something in our souls responds and understands.

– Leopold Stokowski

He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much; who has enjoyed the trust of pure women, the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a rescued soul; who has never lacked appreciation of Earth's beauty or failed to express it; who has always looked for the best in others and given them the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory a benediction.

– Bessie Anderson Stanley

Every man is more than just himself; he also represents the unique, the very special and always significant and remarkable point at which the world's phenomena intersect, only once in this way and never again.

– Herman Hesse

No man has ever been entirely and completely himself. Yet each one strives to become that — one in an awkward, the other in a more intelligent way, each as best he can.

– Herman Hesse

People with courage and character always seem sinister to the rest. It was a scandal that a breed of fearless and sinister people ran around freely, so they attached a nickname and a myth to these people to get even with them, to make up for the many times they had felt afraid.

– Herman Hesse

Homer is one of the men of genius who solve that fine problem of art — the finest of all, perhaps — truly to depict humanity by the enlargement of man: that is, to generate the real in the ideal.

– Victor Hugo, *William Shakespeare*

When old words die out on the tongue, new melodies break forth from the heart; and where the old tracks are lost, new country is revealed with its wonders.

– Rabindranath Tagore

The truth comes as conqueror only because we have lost the art of receiving it as guest.

– Rabindranath Tagore

O Woman, you are not merely the handiwork of God, but also of men; these are ever endowing you with beauty from their own hearts ... You are one-half woman and one-half dream.

– Rabindranath Tagore

Who are you, reader, reading my poems an hundred years hence?

I cannot send you one single flower from this wealth of the spring, one single streak of gold from yonder clouds.

Open your doors and look abroad.

From your blossoming garden gather fragrant memories of the vanished flowers of an hundred years before.

In the joy of your heart may you feel the living joy that sang one spring morning, sending its glad voice across a hundred years.

– Rabindranath Tagore

While God waits for his temple to be built of love, men bring stones.

– Rabindranath Tagore

I touch God in my song
as the hill touched the far-away sea
with its waterfall.

– Rabindranath Tagore

Life's errors cry for the merciful beauty
that can modulate their isolation
into a harmony with the whole.

– Rabindranath Tagore

Our passions and desires are unruly, but our character subdues these elements into a harmonious whole.

– Rabindranath Tagore

They who lack talent expect things to happen without effort. They ascribe failure to a lack of inspiration or ability, or to misfortune, rather than to insufficient application. At the core of every true talent there is an awareness of the difficulties inherent in any achievement, and the confidence that by persistence and patience something worthwhile will be realized. Thus talent is a species of vigor.

– Eric Hoffer, *Reflections On The Human Condition*

Amateurs think that if they were inspired all the time, they could be professionals.

Professional know that if they relied on inspiration, they'd be amateurs.

– Philip Pullman

If one looks with a cold eye at the mess man has made of history, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that he has been afflicted by some built-in mental disorder which drives him towards self-destruction.

– Arthur Koestler

In the social equation, the value of a single life is nil; in the cosmic equation, it is infinite.

– Arthur Koestler

The evolution of the brain not only overshot the needs of prehistoric man, it is the only example of evolution providing a species with an organ which it does not know how to use.

– Arthur Koestler, *The Ghost in the Machine*

The one mistake which is committed habitually by people who have the gift of half-genius, is waiting for inspiration.

– Philip Hamerton

In the creative act there is an *upward* surge from some unknown, fertile, underground layers of the mind.

– Arthur Koestler

Let them march all they want, so long as they continue to pay their taxes.

– Alexander Haig, 1982

The black market was a way of getting around government controls. It was a way of enabling the free market to work. It was a way of opening up, enabling people.

– Milton Friedman

Some Jews exhibit purity of life and much diligence and love of study.

– Ambrose of Milan, *Enarratio in Psalms*

What real wrong is there, after all, in destroying a synagogue, a 'home of perfidy, a home of impiety,' in which Christ is daily blasphemed?

– Ambrose of Milan, *Epistolæ to Theodosius*

(The US Constitution): the vilest of all traps that was ever set to ensnare the freedom of an unsuspecting people.

– William Maclay, 1st Senator from Pennsylvania, from his Journal

(Hamilton's true intent of his Assumption): to create a mass of debt, which will justify them in seizing legislatures and erecting an empire on the basis of consolidation.

— William Maclay, 1st Senator from Pennsylvania, from his Journal

July 15th (1790). — The President has become, in vile hands of Hamilton, the dishcloth of every dirty speculation, as his name goes to wipe away blame and silence all murmuring.

— William Maclay, 1st Senator from Pennsylvania, from his Journal

The love of fame, the ruling passion of the noblest minds.

— Alexander Hamilton

January 18th (1790). — Attended at the Hall at the usual time. The Senate met, but there was no business before them, and adjourned. Hawkins, of North Carolina, said as he came up he passed two expresses with very large sums of money on their way to North Carolina for purposes of speculation in certificates. Wadsworth has sent off two small vessels for the Southern States, on the errand of buying up certificates. I really fear the members of Congress are deeper in this business than any others. Nobody doubts but all commotion originated from the Treasury.

— William Maclay, 1st Senator from Pennsylvania, from his Journal

February 9th (1790). — Hamilton, literally speaking, is moving heaven and earth in favor of his [funding] system. The Rev. Dr. Rodgers called on me and General Muhlenberg this evening. He owed no visit, for that he had paid a day or two ago. Directly he began to extol Hamilton's system, and argued with it as if he had been in the pulpit. I checked him; he made his visit short. The Cincinnati is another of his [Hamilton's] machines and the whole city of New York.

— William Maclay, 1st Senator from Pennsylvania, from his Journal

February 15th (1790). — Hamilton, at the head of the speculators, with all the courtiers, are on one side. These I call the party who are actuated by interest. The opposition are governed by principle, but I fear in this case interest will outweigh principle.

— William Maclay, 1st Senator from Pennsylvania, from his Journal

March 9th (1790). — In the Senate chamber this morning Butler said he heard a man say he would give Vining one thousand guineas for his vote, but added, "I question whether he would do so in fact." So do I, too, for he might get it for a tenth part of the sum. I do not know that pecuniary influence has actually been used, but I am certain that every other kind of management has been practiced and every tool at work that could be thought of. Officers of Government, clergy, citizens, [Order of] Cincinnati, and every person under the influence of the Treasury

— William Maclay, 1st Senator from Pennsylvania, from his Journal

July 8th (1790). — Therefore New York (or I should rather write, Hamilton) labors incessantly to confuse, embarrass, and confound all settlement. The thing can not be openly denied, but they will involve it in so many difficulties as will either prevent it altogether, or render it useless if it should take place.

— William Maclay, 1st Senator from Pennsylvania, from his Journal

July 16th (1790). — I came down-stairs, and all the speculators, both of the Representatives and city, were about the iron rails. Ames and Sedgwick were conspicuous among them. The Secretary [Hamilton] and his group of speculators are at last, in a degree, triumphant. His gladiators, with the influence that has arisen from six dollars per day, have wasted us months in this place. But I can not see that I can do any further good here, and I think I had better go home. Everything, even to the naming of a committee, is prearranged by Hamilton and his group of speculators. I can not even find a single member to condole in sincerity with me over the political calamities of my country. Let me deliver myself from the society of such men, for I verily believe the sun never shone on a more abandoned composition of political characters.

— William Maclay, 1st Senator from Pennsylvania, from his Journal

July 22nd (1790). — Attended at the Hall this day, as much to take the wrinkles out of my face, which my yesterday's disappointment had placed on it, as for anything else. It is in vain to think of changing a vote anyway; a majority are sold, and Hamilton has bought them. I can be of no further use, and will absolutely leave them. It is certainly a defect in my political character that I can not help embarking my passions and considering the interest of the public as my own. It was so while I was at the bar, in respect of my clients, when I thought their cause just. Well, be it so. It has its inconvenience, and hurts my health, but I declare I never will endeavor to amend it.

— William Maclay, 1st Senator from Pennsylvania, from his Journal

I have known many who could not when they would, for they had not done it when they could.

— François Rabelais, *Pantagruel* (1532)

Want of will causes paralysis of every faculty. In spiritual things man is utterly unable because resolvedly unwilling.

— Charles Spurgeon

What men want (lack) is not talent, it is purpose; in other words, not the power to achieve, but the will to labor. I believe that labor judiciously and continuously applied becomes genius.

— Elizabeth Prentiss

Being limited to this one little backwater of a planet with its 200 squabbling nation-states spread over it like a scabrous disease is not very appealing to me. It's time to get off the damned planet.

— Doug Casey

Credit expansion is the government's foremost tool in their struggle against the market economy. In their hands is the magic wand designed to conjure away the scarcity of capital goods, to lower the rate of interest or to abolish it altogether, to finance lavish government spending, to expropriate the capitalists, to contrive everlasting booms, and to make everybody prosperous.

— Ludwig von Mises, *Human Action*

The difference between a welfare state and a totalitarian state is a matter of time.

— Ayn Rand

The Senate is a beast, the Senators are good men.

— Roman proverb

Selfishness is not living as one wishes to live; it is asking others to live as one wishes to live.
– Oscar Wilde, *The Soul of Man Under Socialism*

A ferocious animal has sucked the blood of my family. I tell you to rid yourselves of this beast, and you ask me what you shall put in its place?
– Voltaire

There are 47 percent who are with him [Obama], who are dependent upon government, who believe they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you name it.
– Mitt Romney, during the 2012 Presidential campaign

Intellectuals do not produce anything tangible, so it is more difficult for them to get the concrete satisfaction of making something happen that drives businessmen and other people who make concrete yet limited things happen. So intellectuals are more driven to have to reach for abstract and theoretical goals that are more grandiose to make up for the lack of tangible accomplishments. This is why the intellectual class leans left/fascist. They need something big to justify their existence.
– Erich Hoffer, *The Ordeal of Change*

To the academic mind, authority is everything and facts are juked when they do not fit theory laid down by authority.
– Robert Heinlein, *Life-Line*

We cannot predict the new forces, powers, and discoveries that will be disclosed to us when we reach the other planets and set up new laboratories in space. They are as much beyond our vision today as fire or electricity would be beyond the imagination of a fish.
– Arthur C. Clarke, *Space and the Spirit of Man*

As Neil and I first stood on the surface of the moon looking back at Earth—a bright blue marble suspended in the blackness of space—the experience moved us in ways that we could not have anticipated.
– Buzz Aldrin, *The Imperative to Explore*

You can't know how inefficient and corrupt and inept the government is unless it's held together by the force of somebody's personality. Robert Kennedy had that and did that.
– Robert Blakey, who then worked for the US Attorney General's office

A great civilization is not conquered from without, until it has destroyed itself from within. The essential causes of Rome's decline lay in her people, her morals, her class struggle, her failing trade, her bureaucratic despotism, her stifling taxes, her consuming wars.
- Will Durant, *The Story Of Civilization III, Epilogue*, 1944

We are trying to persuade people that no human has yet grasped 1% of what can be known about spiritual realities. So we are encouraging people to start using the same methods of science that have been so productive in other areas, in order to discover spiritual realities.
-- Sir John Templeton

I felt like I was an alien as I traveled through space, but when I got on the moon I didn't feel that at all; I felt at home there, even though the Earth was a long ways away. We could see it directly above, about the size of a marble, and realized that we were there, but by the grace of God. I felt like I was at the end of a thin cord that could be cut at any time. It was precarious but yet I felt comfortable. I felt something other than what we could visually sense; a spiritual presence was there. Perhaps it was because so many people on the Earth were focussing their attention; they were sending signals to us.

I sensed, in a way, maybe what the first man on the Earth would have sensed. Like Adam, or perhaps Eve. As they were standing on the Earth, I realized, they were all alone, there was no one else on the Earth, but yet they had that special communication. And I guess it was similar to the feeling I had, when I realized, probably, that Scott and I were the only two on this vast planet. Another world, we were the only two there. We felt an unseen love. We were not alone.

– James Irwin, Apollo 15

All news is lies and all propaganda is disguised as news.

– Willi Munzenberg

Little importance was attached to these writings, and the preservers, such Papias, greatly preferred oral tradition. As men still believed that the world was nearly at an end, they cared little to compose books for the future; it was sufficient merely to preserve in their hearts a lively image of him whom they hoped to soon see again in the clouds. Hence the little authority which the Gospel texts enjoyed during one hundred and fifty years. There was no scruple in inserting additions, in variously combining them, and in completing some by others. The poor man who has but one book wishes that it may contain all that is dear to his heart.

– Ernest Renan, *The Life of Jesus*

God, conceived simply as Father, was all the theology of Jesus... He did not preach his opinions, he preached himself.

– Ernest Renan, *The Life of Jesus*

It has not yet been given to insanity to influence seriously the progress of mankind.

– Ernest Renan, *The Life of Jesus*

Never has anyone been less a priest than Jesus, never a greater enemy of forms, which stifle religion under the pretext of defending it.

– Ernest Renan, *The Life of Jesus*

I will not hesitate to add also for you to my interpretations what I formerly learned with care from the Presbyters and have carefully stored in memory, giving assurance of its truth. For I did not take pleasure as the many do in those who speak much, but in those who teach what is true, nor in those who relate foreign precepts, but in those who relate the precepts which were given by the Lord to the faith and came down from the Truth itself. And also if any follower of the Presbyters happened to come, I would inquire for the sayings of the Presbyters, what Andrew said, or what Peter said, or what Philip or what Thomas or James or what John or Matthew or any other of the Lord's disciples, and for the things which other of the Lord's disciples, and for the things which Aristion and the Presbyter John, the disciples of the Lord, were saying. For I considered that I should not get so much advantage from matter in books as from the voice which yet lives and remains.

– Papias of Hierapolis, circa 109 AD, Fragment 2, Eusebius

For, last of these, John, surnamed the Son of Thunder, when he was now a very old man, as Irenaeus and Eusebius and a succession of trustworthy historians have handed down to us, about the time when terrible heresies had cropped up, dictated the Gospel to his own disciple, the virtuous Papias of Hierapolis, to fill up what was lacking in those who before him had proclaimed the word to the nations throughout all the earth.

– Papias of Hierapolis, circa 109 AD, Fragment 19

Mark, having become the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately everything that he remembered, without however recording in order what was either said or done by Christ. For neither did he hear the Lord, nor did he follow Him; but afterwards, as I said, (attended) Peter, who adapted his instructions to the needs (of his hearers) but had no design of giving a connected account of the Lord's oracles. So then Mark made no mistake, while he thus wrote down some things as he remembered them; for he made it his one care not to omit anything that he heard, or to set down any false statement therein.

– Papias of Hierapolis, circa 109 AD, Fragment 2, Eusebius

The Roman government appeared every day less formidable to its enemies, more odious and oppressive to its subjects. The severe inquisition, which confiscated their goods and tortured their persons, compelled the subjects of Valentinian (425-455) to prefer the simple tyranny of the barbarians, to fly to the woods or the mountains, or to embrace the vile and abject condition of mercenary servants. They abjured and abhorred the name of Roman citizens, which had formerly excited the ambition of all mankind. If all the barbarian conquerors had been annihilated in the same hour, their total destruction would not have restored the empire of the West: and if Rome still survived, she survived the loss of freedom, of virtue, and of honor.

– Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*

Give me the child until he is seven and I will give you the man.

– Francis Xavier (Jesuit Maxim)

As I stand here in the wonders of the unknown at Hadley, I realize there's a fundamental truth to our nature. Man must explore.

– Dave Scott, Apollo 15

A really efficient totalitarian state would be one in which the all-powerful executive of political bosses and their army of managers control a population of slaves who do not have to be coerced, because they love their servitude.

– Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

Ordinary people, simply doing their jobs, and without any particular hostility on their part, can become agents in a terrible destructive process. Moreover, even when the destructive effects of their work become patently clear and they are asked to carry out actions incompatible with fundamental standards of morality, relatively few people have the resources needed to resist authority.

– Stanley Milgram, *Obedience to Authority*

My life was beautiful. God gave me to know the works of genius in our time before they left the hands of their creators.

– Alma Mahler

In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations and epochs, it is the rule.

– Friedrich Nietzsche

On a certain day, each one, if he likes, puts in a small gift, but only if he wants to do so, and only if he be able, for there is no compulsion; everything is voluntary.

– Tertullian, *Apology*, 197 AD

For the people called Christians... contempt of death is obvious to us every day, and also their self-control in sexual matters... They also include people who, in self discipline... in matters of food and drink, and in their keen pursuit of justice, have attained a level not inferior to that of genuine philosophers.

– Galen, *Summary of Plato*, circa 200 AD

The husband... casts the wife out of his house; the father... disinherits his son; the master commands the slave to depart from his presence; it is a huge offense for anyone to be reformed by this hated name.

– Tertullian, *Apology*, 197 AD

We, out of every tribe of people... who used to take pleasure in promiscuity, now embrace chastity alone; we, who once had recourse to magic, dedicate ourselves to the good God; we, who valued above everything else acquiring wealth and possessions, now bring what we have into a common fund, and share with everyone in need; we who hated and killed other people, and refused to live with people of another tribe because of different customs, now live intimately with them.

– Justin Martyr, *Apology*, 155 AD

All those who live in the city or the country gather together in one place on the day of the sun, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read... Then we all rise together and pray, and then... bread, wine and water are brought.

– Justin Martyr, *Apology*, 155 AD

In *The Martyrdom of St. Justin and His Companions*, Justin says that he met with like-minded believers in his Roman apartment, “above the baths of Timothy,” to “discuss Christian philosophy.”

Since the Jews constantly made disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he (Claudius) expelled them from Rome.

– Suetonius, *Lives of The Twelve Caesars*, 121 AD

Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judæa, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find

their centre and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.

– Tacitus, *Annals* 15:44, circa 115 AD

It is a rule, Sir, which I inviolably observe, to refer myself to you in all my doubts; for who is more capable of guiding my uncertainty or informing my ignorance? Having never been present at any trials of the Christians, I am unacquainted with the method and limits to be observed either in examining or punishing them. Whether any difference is to be made on account of age, or no distinction allowed between the youngest and the adult; whether repentance admits to a pardon, or if a man has been once a Christian it avails him nothing to recant; whether the mere profession of Christianity, albeit without crimes, or only the crimes associated therewith are punishable in all these points I am greatly doubtful.

In the meanwhile, the method I have observed towards those who have been denounced to me as Christians is this: I interrogated them whether they were Christians; if they confessed it I repeated the question twice again, adding the threat of capital punishment; if they still persevered, I ordered them to be executed. For whatever the nature of their creed might be, I could at least feel no doubt that contumacy and inflexible obstinacy deserved chastisement. There were others also possessed with the same infatuation, but being citizens of Rome, I directed them to be carried thither.

These accusations spread (as is usually the case) from the mere fact of the matter being investigated and several forms of the mischief came to light. A placard was put up, without any signature, accusing a large number of persons by name. Those who denied they were, or had ever been, Christians, who repeated after me an invocation to the Gods, and offered adoration, with wine and frankincense, to your image, which I had ordered to be brought for that purpose, together with those of the Gods, and who finally cursed Christ none of which acts, it is said, those who are really Christians can be forced into performing these I thought it proper to discharge. Others who were named by that informer at first confessed themselves Christians, and then denied it; true, they had been of that persuasion but they had quitted it, some three years, others many years, and a few as much as twenty-five years ago. They all worshipped your statue and the images of the Gods, and cursed Christ.

They affirmed, however, the whole of their guilt, or their error, was, that they were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food, but food of an ordinary and innocent kind. Even this practice, however, they had abandoned after the publication of my edict, by which, according to your orders, I had forbidden political associations. I judged it so much the more necessary to extract the real truth, with the assistance of torture, from two female slaves, who were styled deaconesses: but I could discover nothing more than depraved and excessive superstition.

I therefore adjourned the proceedings, and betook myself at once to your counsel. For the matter seemed to me well worth referring to you, especially considering the numbers endangered. Persons of all ranks and ages, and of both sexes are, and will be, involved in the prosecution. For this contagious superstition is not confined to the cities only, but has spread through the villages and rural districts; it seems possible, however, to check and cure it. 'Tis certain at least that the temples, which had been almost deserted, begin now to be frequented; and the sacred festivals, after a long intermission, are again revived; while there is a general demand for sacrificial animals, which for some time past have met with but few purchasers. From hence it is easy to imagine what multitudes may be reclaimed from this error, if a door be left open to repentance.

– Pliny the younger, letter to Trajan (X.96), circa 110 AD

Alternate section: took an oath not to involve themselves in villainy, but rather to commit no theft, no fraud, no adultery; not to break faith, nor to deny money placed with them in trust.

The outcry is that the state is filled with Christians – that they are in the fields, in the cities, in the islands; and lament, as if for some calamity, that both men and women, of every age and condition, even high rank, are going over to profess the Christian faith.

– Tertullian, *Apology*, 197 AD

When they consider that “spiritual seed in everyone,” whenever they hit upon something new, they immediately call their audacity a spiritual gift – no unity, only diversity!

– Tertullian, *Apology*, 197 AD

When I found that I no longer believed everything I thought Christians were supposed to believe, I asked myself, Why not just leave Christianity- and religion – behind, as so many others have done? Yet I sometimes encountered, in churches and elsewhere – in the presence of a vulnerable Buddhist monk, in the cantor's singing at a bar mitzvah, and on mountain hikes – something compelling, powerful, even terrifying that I could not ignore, and I had come to see that, besides *belief*, Christianity involves *practice* – and paths toward transformation.

– Elaine Pagels, *Beyond Belief*

There existed, long before this time, certain men more ancient than all those who are esteemed philosophers, both righteous and beloved by God, who spoke by the Divine Spirit, and foretold events which would take place, and which are now taking place. They are called prophets. These alone both saw and announced the truth to men, neither reverencing nor fearing any man, not influenced by a desire for glory, but speaking those things alone which they saw and which they heard, being filled with the Holy Spirit. Their writings are still extant, and he who has read them is very much helped in his knowledge of the beginning and end of things, and of those matters which the philosopher ought to know, provided he has believed them. For they did not use demonstration in their treatises, seeing that they were witnesses to the truth above all demonstration, and worthy of belief; and those events which have happened, and those which are happening, compel you to assent to the utterances made by them, although, indeed, they were entitled to credit on account of the miracles which they performed, since they both glorified the Creator, the God and Father of all things, and proclaimed His Son, the Christ [sent] by Him: which, indeed, the false prophets, who are filled with the lying unclean spirit, neither have done nor do, but venture to work certain wonderful deeds for the purpose of astonishing men, and glorify the spirits and demons of error. But

pray that, above all things, the gates of light may be opened to you; for these things cannot be perceived or understood by all, but only by the man to whom God and His Christ have imparted wisdom.

– The old Christian who converted Justin Martyr, by the sea, perhaps 30 years earlier, and probably in Syria or Palestine, *Dialog with Typho*, 160 AD

One man's religion neither harms nor helps another man.

– Tertullian, *Ad Scapulam*

It is certainly no part of religion to compel religion.

– Tertullian, *Ad Scapulam*

It is impossible the world should continue long insensible to so evident a truth as that the right to have commerce & intercourse with our neighbors is a natural right. To suppress this neighborly intercourse is an exercise of force, which we shall have a just right to remove when the superior force.

– Thomas Jefferson, letter to Thomas Mann Randolph, May 30, 1790

Don't bury your thoughts, put your vision to reality. Wake Up and Live!

– Bob Marley

The field of human relations Freud's sense is similar to the market – it is an exchange of satisfaction of biologically given needs, in which the relationship to the other individual is always a means to an end but never an end of itself.

– Erich Fromm, *Escape From Freedom*

Why do certain definite changes of man's character take place in one historical epoch to another? Why is the spirit of the Renaissance different from that of the Middle Ages? Why is the character structure of man in monopolistic capitalism different from that in the nineteenth century?

– Erich Fromm, *Escape From Freedom*

History shows little alteration in the conduct of mankind. The Greeks of Plato's time behaved very much like the French of modern centuries; and the Romans behaved like the English. Means and instrumentalities change; motives and ends remain the same.

– Will & Ariel Durant, *The Lessons of History*

For sixteen centuries the Jewish enclaves in Christendom maintained their continuity and internal peace by a strict and detailed moral code, almost without help from the state and its laws.

– Will & Ariel Durant, *The Lessons of History*

The race of girls is getting bold, and run after the fellows into their rooms and chambers and wherever they can, and offer them free love.

– Martin Luther, complaining about the University of Wittenberg in 1544

Who will dare to write a history of human goodness?

– Will & Ariel Durant, *The Lessons of History*

The great only appear great because we are on our knees.

- Camille DesMoulins, French revolutionary, 1790

Democracy has proved only that the best way to gain power over people is to assure the people that they are ruling themselves. Once they believe that, they make wonderfully submissive slaves.

– Joseph Sobran

You can't make socialists out of individualists. Children who know how to think for themselves spoil the harmony of the collective society.

– John Dewey, the "father of modern education"

Actions are held to be good or bad, not on their own merits, but according to who does them. There is almost no kind of outrage, torture, imprisonment without trial, assassination, and bombing of civilians, which does not change its moral color when it is committed by our side. The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, he has remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them. – George Orwell

All great truths begin as blasphemies.

– George Bernard Shaw

Tyrants (rulers) preserve themselves by sowing fear and mistrust among the citizens by means of spies, by distracting them with foreign wars, by eliminating men of spirit who might lead a revolution, by humbling the people, and making them incapable of decisive action.

– Aristotle

Every law, either human or divine, was trampled under foot; and as long as the party was successful, its deluded followers appeared careless of private distress or public calamity.

-- Edward Gibbon, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Book IV

If one understands that socialism is not a share-the-wealth program, but is in reality a method to consolidate and control the wealth, then the seeming paradox of superrich men promoting socialism becomes no paradox at all. Instead it becomes the logical, even the perfect tool of power-seeking megalomaniacs. Communism, or more accurately, socialism, is not a movement of the downtrodden masses, but of the economic elite.

– Gary Allen

The ultimate obscenity is not caring, not doing something about what you feel, not feeling.

– Rod Serling

We are fast approaching the stage of the ultimate inversion: the stage where the government is free to do anything it pleases, while the citizens may act only by permission; which is the stage of the darkest periods of human history, the stage of rule by brute force.

– Ayn Rand

After all, most civilized and semi-civilized countries known to history and had a large class of slaves or serfs completely subordinate to their owners. There is nothing in human nature that makes the persistence of such a system impossible. And the whole development of scientific technique has made it easier than it used to be to maintain a despotic rule of a minority. When

the government controls the distribution of food, its power is absolute so long as they can count on the police and the armed forces. And their loyalty can be secured by giving them some of the privileges of the governing class. I do not see how any internal movement of revolt can ever bring freedom to the oppressed in a modern scientific dictatorship.

– Bertrand Russell, *The Impact Of Science On Society*

We must shift America, from a needs to a desires culture. People must be trained to desire, to want new things, even before the old had been entirely consumed. We must shape a new mentality in America; man's desires must overshadow his needs.

– Paul Mazer, Lehman Brothers, circa 1920

It is the BASIC EVASION OF THE ESSENTIAL which is the problem of man.

– Wilhelm Reich, *The Murder of Christ*

It has always been a mystery to me why people spend so much time deliberately fooling themselves by creating alibis to cover their weaknesses. If used differently, this same time would be sufficient to cure the weakness, then no alibis would be needed.

– Elbert Hubbard

He who is not contented with what he has, would not be contented with what he would like to have.

– Socrates

Happy are those who evolve from within.

– Amit Abraham

We should never forget that everything Adolph Hitler did in Germany was “legal” and everything the Hungarian freedom fighters did in Hungary was “illegal.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, 1963

The state must declare the child to be the most precious treasure of the people. As long as the government is perceived as working for the benefit of the children, the people will happily endure almost any curtailment of liberty and almost any deprivation.

– Adolph Hitler

People come to believe in and love the things they suffer for.

– Dr. Leon Festinger, researcher of cognitive dissonance theory

I've always subconsciously looked out for the total Christian and when I found him he turned out to be a non-practicing Jew.

– William F. Buckley, Jr., *Let Us Talk of Many Things*

The real criminals hide under the cloak of the accusers.

– Leon Trotsky

As for politics, I'm an anarchist. I hate governments and rules and fetters. Can't stand caged animals. People must be free.

– Charlie Chaplin

A lie is an act of self-abdication, because one surrenders one's reality to the person to whom one lies, making that person one's master, condemning oneself from then on to faking the sort of reality that person's view requires to be faked.

– Ayn Rand, *Atlas Shrugged*

Somewhere in every process of taxation, a pistol is involved.

– Jim Rogers, *Investment Biker*

Thanks to compulsory education and the rotary press, the propagandist has been able, for many years past, to convey his messages to virtually every adult in every civilized country. Today, thanks to radio and television, he is in the happy position of being able to communicate even with unschooled adults and not yet literate children.

– Aldous Huxley

There's only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self.

– Aldous Huxley, *Time Must Have a Stop*

Happiness is not achieved by the conscious pursuit of happiness; it is generally the by-product of other activities.

– Aldous Huxley, *Vedanta for the Western World*

At least two thirds of our miseries spring from human stupidity, human malice, and those great motivators and justifiers of malice and stupidity, idealism, dogmatism and proselytizing zeal on behalf of religious or political idols.

– Aldous Huxley, *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*

Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.

– Aldous Huxley, *Note on Dogma*

So long as men worship the Caesars and Napoleons, Caesars and Napoleons will duly rise and make them miserable.

– Aldous Huxley, *Ends and Means*

Liberty, as we all know, cannot flourish in a country that is permanently on a war footing, or even a near war footing. Permanent crisis justifies permanent control of everybody and everything by the agencies of central government.

– Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World Revisited*

It is in the social sphere, in the realm of politics and economics, that the Will to Order becomes really dangerous.

– Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World Revisited* (Ch. 3)

Assembled in a crowd, people lose their powers of reasoning and their capacity for moral choice.

– Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World Revisited*

Children are nowhere taught, in any systematic way, to distinguish true from false, or meaningful from meaningless, statements. Why is this so? Because their elders, even in the democratic countries, do not want them to be given this kind of education.

– Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World Revisited*

We now live in a nation where doctors destroy health, lawyers destroy justice, universities destroy knowledge, governments destroy freedom, the press destroys information, religion destroys morals, and our banks destroy the economy.

– Chris Hedges

From the conditions of frontier life came intellectual traits of profound importance... coarseness and strength combined with acuteness and inquisitiveness; that practical, inventive turn of mind, quick to find expedients; that masterful grasp of material things, lacking in the artistic but powerful to great ends; that restless, nervous energy, that dominant individualism, working for good and for evil.

– Frederick Turner

It is the miracle of civilized survival that the human cooperative urge reasserts itself so strongly and so repeatedly. There is so much working against it and yet it keeps on coming back. We like to think of this as the conquest bestial weaknesses by the powers of intellectual altruism, as if ethics and morality were some kind of modern invention. If this were really true, it is doubtful that we would be here today to proclaim it. If we did not carry in us the basic biological urge to cooperate with our fellow men, we would never have survived as a species. If our hunting ancestors had really been ruthless, greedy tyrants, loaded with 'original sin', the human success story would have petered out long ago. The only reason why we are always having the doctrine of original sin instilled into us, in one form or another, is that the artificial conditions of the super-tribe keep on working against our biological altruism, and it needs all the help it can get.

– Desmond Morris, *The Human Zoo*

Where the status race is hottest, the suicide rate is hottest.

– Desmond Morris, *The Human Zoo*

When the status race gets into difficulties at the top, there is an increase of re-directed aggression down the hierarchy.

– Desmond Morris, *The Human Zoo*

A thousand years hence, perhaps in less, America may be what Europe now is... The ruin of that liberty which thousands bled for or struggled to obtain may just furnish materials for a village tale or extort a sigh from rustic sensibility, whilst the fashionable of that day, enveloped in dissipation, shall deride the principle and deny the fact.

– Thomas Paine

Every human being has a fundamental obligation to discover for himself what is just and then to act according to his conscience, even if it contradicts the majority or law. It is precisely his moral conscience that makes a man fully human.

– Henry David Thoreau

The words most feared by those in authority are "I won't," and "no."

– Wendy McElroy, *The Art of Being Free*

The free man will find a way to be free.

– Bob LeFevre

No greater love hath a man than this, that a man go halfway around the world to murder complete strangers, because we told him to.

– Larkin Rose, *The Gospel According To Government*

In the beginning, there was chaos and mayhem, and people were as wild beasts. And there was great wailing, and gnashing of teeth throughout the land. Then it came to pass that politicians came down out of heaven, shining in glory, and spoke unto the people, saying, We are the Lord thy government, and we have decided to bless you with our presence, so that we may save you from your sins. Obey our commands, pay tribute to us, and salvation shall be yours. For you are but stupid, violent animals, and only through our benevolent domination shall you be transformed into a civilized, happy and prosperous people.

– Larkin Rose, *The Gospel According To Government*

The easiest way to turn your kids into geniuses, by the time they're seven, is just to front-load huge amounts of experience, including dangerous experience.

– John Taylor Gatto, interview July 2, 2011

It was roughly ninety days when classes that were considered the stupidest – people who'd never eaten off a table cloth in their lives – when they were actually hot to talk about ideas.

– John Taylor Gatto, interview July 3, 2011

(There were) a series of financial crises, in the 19th century, where the boot of the master was lifted off ordinary people, and they were recklessly inventive. America was producing more inventions than the rest of the world put together.

– John Taylor Gatto, interview July 3, 2011

Sensible children do not wish to be incomplete human beings. And so, when you impose a stage theory of human development upon them, you are, in effect, tormenting them; you're limiting their opportunity. The whole world, for all of history, knew that childhood was over at about the age of seven, and that if it persists beyond the age of twelve, you have a hopeless human being on your hands. Don't be your kid's enemy, because that's not a kid, that's your fellow human being. Be a partner, and enlarge their opportunities.

– John Taylor Gatto, interview July 3, 2011

The difference between smart and dumb is the difference between knowing what's real and what isn't.

– Daniel Greenfield

People who don't take risks generally make about two big mistakes a year. People who do take risks generally make about two big mistakes a year.

– Peter Drucker

It is undeniable that human beings have killed other human beings for as long as human beings have lived on this planet, but to kill other human beings efficiently and in large numbers takes a state.

— Gerard Cases, *Libertarian Anarchy*

Better for a man to go wrong in freedom than right in chains.

— Thomas H. Huxley, *Letters and Diaries*, 1866

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.

— Robert Louis Stevenson (attributed)

You can kill, but not hurt us.

— Justin Martyr, *First Apology*

I think cyberspace means...the end of innovation. This idea that the whole world is wired together is mass death. Every biologist knows that small groups in isolation evolve fastest. You put a thousand birds on an ocean island and they'll evolve very fast. You put ten thousand on a big continent, and their evolution slows down....And everybody on earth knows that innovation only occurs in small groups. Put three people on a committee and they may get something done. Ten people, and it gets harder. Thirty people, and nothing happens. Thirty million, it becomes impossible. That's the effect of mass media — it keeps anything from happening. Mass media swamps diversity. It makes every place the same....Regional differences vanish. All differences vanish. In a mass-media world, there's less of everything except the top ten books, records, movies, ideas....But we haven't figured that out, so now we're planning to put five billion people together in cyberspace. And it'll freeze the entire species. Everything will stop dead in its tracks. Everyone will think the same thing at the same time. Global uniformity.

— Michael Crichton, *The Lost World*

The fact that millions of people share the same vices does not make these vices virtues, the fact that they share so many errors does not make the errors to be truths, and the fact that millions of people share the same form of mental pathology does not make these people sane.

— Erich Fromm, *The Sane Society*

He that would speak truth must first have one foot in the stirrup.

— Turkish proverb

Tell the truth, then split.

— American proverb in the 1960s

The operators of the political system, and those who benefit from the practice of imposing externalities/entropy upon others, are able to sustain their racket only through years of conditioning people to accept, as *truths*, what are demonstrable *lies*. It has been the purpose of schools and academia, the mainstream media, the entertainment industry, and other institutional voices, to condition minds to accept, as true, whatever serves the interests of those who control the apparatus of the state. Those who expose the lies, or reveal deeper truths about the political system, become enemies of the state to be destroyed. This is why Ron Paul was so condemned: not for “speaking truth to power” — the slugs who exercise

political power already know the nature of their well-organized fakery – but for speaking truth to the powerless.

– Butler Shaffer, *I Go Pogo*

No passion so effectually robs the mind of all its powers of acting and reasoning as fear.

– Edmund Burke

The nobility are to the English poor... the poetry of life.

– G. K. Chesterton

Nietzsche might really have done some good if he had taught Bernard Shaw to draw the sword, to drink wine, or even to dance. But he only succeeded in putting into his head a new superstition, which bids fair to be the chief superstition of the dark ages which are possibly in front of us – I mean the superstition of what is called the Superman.

– G. K. Chesterton

No man's really any good until he knows how bad he is, or might be.

– G. K. Chesterton

The disturbing factor in the success of totalitarianism is rather the true selflessness of its adherents.

– Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, chapter 10

Everything had changed suddenly--the tone, the moral climate; you didn't know what to think, whom to listen to. As if all your life you had been led by the hand like a small child and suddenly you were on your own, you had to learn to walk by yourself. There was no one around, neither family nor people whose judgment you respected. At such a time you felt the need of committing yourself to something absolute--life or truth or beauty--of being ruled by it in place of the man-made rules that had been discarded. You needed to surrender to some such ultimate purpose more fully, more unreservedly than you had ever done in the old familiar, peaceful days, in the old life that was now abolished and gone for good.

– Boris Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago*

Even so, one step from my grave,
I believe that cruelty, spite,
The powers of darkness will in time
Be crushed by the spirit of light.

– Boris Pasternak

It is part of the general pattern of misguided policy that our country is now geared to an arms economy which was bred in an artificially induced psychosis of war hysteria and nurtured upon an incessant propaganda of fear.

– General Douglas MacArthur

Study without desire spoils the memory, and it retains nothing that it takes in.

– Leonardo da Vinci

Education isn't about how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's about being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't.

– Anatole France

Man... worships power, money, the sovereign state, the nation; while he pays lip service to the teachings of the great spiritual leaders of the human race, those of Buddha, the prophets, Socrates, Jesus, Mohammed – he has transformed these teachings into a jungle of superstition and idol-worship.

– Erich Fromm, *Escape From Freedom*

The problem, however, cannot be solved by skillful propaganda but only by the victory... of one fundamental truth: that ethical principles stand above the existence of the nation and that by adhering to these principles an individual belongs to the community of all those who share, who have shared, and who will share this belief.

– Erich Fromm, *Escape From Freedom*

Money is simply a means to an end. It's absolutely not an end to itself. The end is "the good life," as philosophers used to say.

– Doug Casey, *The Casey Report*, August 2013

What the government is good at is collecting taxes, taking away your freedoms and killing people. It's not good at much else.

– Tom Clancy

It is of dangerous consequence to represent to man how near he is to the level of beasts, without showing him at the same time his greatness. It is likewise dangerous to let him see his greatness without his meanness. It is more dangerous yet to leave him ignorant of either; but very beneficial that he should be made sensible of both.

– Blaise Pascal

This is the test of your manhood: How much is there left in you after you have lost everything outside of yourself?

– Orison Swett Marden

Life is too short to be little. Man is never so manly as when he feels deeply, acts boldly, and expresses himself with frankness and with fervor.

– Benjamin Disraeli

Manhood coerced into sensitivity is no manhood at all.

– Camille Paglia

The test of every religious, political, or educational system is the man which it forms.

– Henri-Frédéric Amiel

What a piece of work is a man! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculties! In form and moving, how express and admirable! In action, how like an angel! In apprehension, how like a God.

– Shakespeare

If I had asked the customers what they wanted, they would have said "A faster horse."

– Henry Ford

Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right.

– Henry Ford

In a highly developed society, the Establishment cannot survive without the obedience and loyalty of millions of people who are given small rewards to keep the system going: the soldiers and police, teachers and ministers, administrators and social workers, technicians and production workers, doctors, lawyers, nurses, transport and communications workers, garbage men and firemen. These people—the employed, the somewhat privileged—are drawn into alliance with the elite. They become the guards of the system, buffers between the upper and lower classes. If they stop obeying, the system falls.

– Howard Zinn, *A people's history of the United States*

He who joyfully marches in rank has already earned my contempt. He has been given a large brain by mistake, since for him the spinal cord would suffice.

– Albert Einstein

It is in vain to summon a people, which has been rendered so dependent on the central power, to choose from time to time the representatives of that power; this rare and brief exercise of their free choice, however important it may be, will not prevent them from gradually losing the faculties of thinking, feeling, and acting for themselves, and thus gradually falling below the level of humanity. ... It is, indeed, difficult to conceive how men who have entirely given up the habit of self-government should succeed in making a proper choice of those by whom they are to be governed; and no one will ever believe that a liberal, wise, and energetic government can spring from the suffrages of a subservient people.

– Alexis De Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Volume 2

Man is an idolater or symbol-worshipper by nature, which, of course, is no fault of his; but sooner or later all his local and temporary symbols must be ground to powder, like the golden calf—word-images as well as metal and wooden ones. Rough work, iconoclasm—but the only way to get at truth.

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Professor at the Breakfast-Table*

The power of words is bound up with the images they evoke, and is quite independent of their real significance. Words whose sense is the most ill-defined are sometimes those that possess the most influence. Such, for example, are the terms democracy, socialism, equality, liberty, etc., whose meaning is so vague that bulky volumes do not suffice to precisely fix it. Yet it is certain that a truly magical power is attached to those short syllables, as if they contained the solution of all problems. They synthesize the most diverse unconscious aspirations and the hope of their realization.

– Gustave Le Bon, *The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind*

A nation of slaves is always prepared to applaud the clemency of their master, who, in the abuse of absolute power, does not proceed to the last extremes of injustice and oppression.

– Edward Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*

It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such

incessant changes that no man who knows what the law is today, can guess what it will be tomorrow.

– James Madison

There are two methods, or means, and only two, whereby man's needs and desires can be satisfied. One is the production and exchange of wealth; this is the economic means. The other is the uncompensated appropriation of wealth produced by others; this is the political means. ... The State... is the organization of the political means.

– Albert J. Nock, *Our Enemy, The State*

In proportion as you give the state power to do things for you, you give it power to do things to you.

– Albert Jay Nock

America is at that awkward stage; it's too late to work within the system, but too early to shoot the bastards.

– Claire Wolfe, *101 Things to Do 'Til the Revolution*

In March, 1915, the J.P. Morgan interests, the steel, shipbuilding, and powder interest, and their subsidiary organizations, got together 12 men high up in the newspaper world and employed them to select the most influential newspapers in the United States and sufficient number of them to control generally the policy of the daily press. They found it was only necessary to purchase the control of 25 of the greatest papers. An agreement was reached. The policy of the papers was bought, to be paid for by the month, an editor was furnished for each paper to properly supervise and edit information regarding the questions of preparedness, militarism, financial policies, and other things of national and international nature considered vital to the interests of the purchasers.

– Congressman Oscar Callaway (D-Texas), *Report to Congress, 1917*

The true function of phantasy is to give the imagination a ground for limitless expansion, and to satisfy aesthetically the sincere and burning curiosity and sense of awe which a sensitive minority of mankind feel toward the alluring and provocative abysses of unplumbed space and unguessed entity which press in upon the known world from unknown infinities and in unknown relationships of time, space, matter, force, dimensionality, and consciousness.

– H.P. Lovecraft

So, here we are. We don't know what's next, or how it will end. We may not be able to finish the work, and see the promised land. But neither can we, in good conscience, desist from it. One day, as people continue to stand up and be counted, we as a people will reach the promised land. There is hope in the future, at the least in G-d's memory of us and our work, at the end of all things.

– Joe Katzman

Our politicians believe they can literally cast word spells and change reality.

– Joe Katzman, *The Inflection Point of Putin's "Evil Empire" Speech*

The truth is that schools don't really teach anything except how to obey orders. This is a great mystery to me because thousands of humane, caring people work in schools as teachers and

aides and administrators, but the abstract logic of the institution overwhelms their individual contributions.

– John Taylor Gatto, accepting the New York City Teacher of the Year Award, January 31, 1990

Western civilization, it seems to me, stands by two great heritages. One is the scientific spirit of adventure — the adventure into the unknown, an unknown which must be recognized as being unknown in order to be explored; the demand that the unanswerable mysteries of the universe remain unanswered; the attitude that all is uncertain; to summarize it — the humility of the intellect. The other great heritage is Christian ethics — the basis of action on love, the brotherhood of all men, the value of the individual — the humility of the spirit.

These two heritages are logically, thoroughly consistent. But logic is not all; one needs one's heart to follow an idea. If people are going back to religion, what are they going back to? Is the modern church a place to give comfort to a man who doubts God — more, one who disbelieves in God? Is the modern church a place to give comfort and encouragement to the value of such doubts? So far, have we not drawn strength and comfort to maintain the one or the other of these consistent heritages in a way which attacks the values of the other? Is this unavoidable? How can we draw inspiration to support these two pillars of western civilization so that they may stand together in full vigor, mutually unafraid? Is this not the central problem of our time?

– Richard Feynman, Caltech YMCA lunch forum, May 2, 1956

You can know the name of a bird in all the languages of the world, but when you're finished, you'll know absolutely nothing whatever about the bird... So let's look at the bird and see what it's doing — that's what counts. I learned very early the difference between knowing the name of something and knowing something.

– Richard Feynman, *The Physics Teacher* Vol. 7, issue 6 (1969)

One thing is that I can live with doubt and uncertainty and not knowing. I think it's much more interesting to live not knowing than to have answers which might be wrong. I have approximate answers and possible beliefs, in different degrees of certainty, about different things. But I'm not absolutely sure of anything and of many things I don't know anything about, such as whether it means anything to ask why we're here and what the question might mean. I might think about it a little bit, if I can't figure it out, then I go onto something else. But I don't have to know an answer. I don't feel frightened by not knowing things, by being lost in the mysterious universe without having any purpose, which is the way it really is, as far as I can tell, possibly. It doesn't frighten me.

– Richard Feynman, *BBC's Horizon*, 1981

Out of the cradle
onto dry land...
here it is standing...
atoms with consciousness
...matter with curiosity.
Stands at the sea...
wonders at wondering... I...
a universe of atoms...
an atom in the universe.

– Richard Feynman, *The Value of Science*, 1955

Theoretically, planning may be good. But nobody has ever figured out the cause of government stupidity — and until they do (and find the cure), all ideal plans will fall into quicksand.

– Richard Feynman, *What Do You Care What Other People Think?*

People search for certainty. But there *is* no certainty. People are terrified — how can you live *and not know*? It is not odd at all. You only think you know, as a matter of fact. And most of your actions are based on incomplete knowledge and you really don't know what it is all about, or what the purpose of the world is, or know a great deal of other things. It is possible to live and not know.

– Richard Feynman, *What is and What Should be the Role of Scientific Culture in Modern Society*

Over and over again, the courts have said there is nothing sinister in so arranging one's affairs as to keep taxes as low as possible. Everybody does so, rich and poor, and all do right, for nobody owes any duty to pay more tax than the law demands. Taxes are enforced exactions, not voluntary contributions. To demand more in the name of morals is mere cant.

– Judge Learned Hand, *COMMISSIONER V. NEWMAN*, 159 F.2D 848, 850-851 (CA2 1947)

The one pervading evil of democracy is the tyranny of the majority, or rather of that party, not always the majority, that succeeds, by force or fraud, in carrying elections.

– Lord Acton, *The History of Freedom and Other Essays*

Sycophancy toward those who hold power is a fact in every regime, and especially in a democracy, where, unlike tyranny, there is an accepted principle of legitimacy that breaks the inner will to resist. ... Flattery of the people and incapacity to resist public opinion are the democratic vices, particularly among writers, artists, journalists and anyone else who is dependent on an audience.

– Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*

Democratic decision making is a means for finding and implementing the will of the majority; it has no other function. It serves, not to encourage diversity, but to prevent it.

– David Friedman, *The Machinery of Freedom*

When people put their ballots in the boxes, they are, by that act, inoculated against the feeling that the government is not theirs. They then accept, in some measure, that its errors are their errors, its aberrations their aberrations, that any revolt will be against them. It's a remarkably shrewd and rather conservative arrangement when one thinks of it.

– John Kenneth Galbraith, *The Age of Uncertainty*

Democracies have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have, in general, been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths.

– James Madison, *Federalist #10*

It is almost universally felt that when we call a country democratic we are praising it: consequently the defenders of every kind of régime claim that it is a democracy, and fear that

they might have to stop using the word if it were tied down to any one meaning. Words of this kind are often used in a consciously dishonest way. That is, the person who uses them has his own private definition, but allows his hearer to think he means something quite different.
– George Orwell, *Politics and the English Language*

If they can get you asking the wrong questions, they don't have to worry about the answers.
– Thomas Pynchon, *Gravity's Rainbow*

War is one of the constants of history, and has not diminished with civilization or democracy.
– Will and Ariel Durant

In Italy, for thirty years under the Borgias, they had warfare, terror, murder, bloodshed, but they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance. In Switzerland, they had brotherly love; they had 500 years of democracy and peace -- and what did that produce? The cuckoo clock.

– Orson Welles, *The Third Man*

The first guy through the wall, he always gets bloody. Always... Really what it's threatening is their livelihood. It's threatening their jobs. It's threatening the way they do things. And every time that happens, whether it's a government, or a way of doing business, or whatever it is, the people who are holding the reigns, and have their hands on the switch, they go batshit crazy.

– *Moneyball*

Is there any community of like population or extent that pours into the stream of civilization such a profusion of gifts as flowed from the chaotic liberty of the Greeks?

– Will Durant, *The Life Of Greece*

Words whose sense is the most ill-defined are sometimes those that possess the most influence. Such, for example, are the terms democracy, socialism, equality, liberty, etc., whose meaning is so vague that bulky volumes do not suffice to precisely fix it. Yet it is certain that a truly magical power is attached to those short syllables, as if they contained the solution of all problems. They synthesize the most diverse unconscious aspirations and the hope of their realization.

– Gustave Le Bon, *The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind*

They have that stereotype on the native Hawaiians, stupid, lazy, all that kind of stuff. You say it long enough, people believe it. Then you become it.

– Nainoa Thompson, on the crushing of native Hawaiian culture

The Law demands that we atone
When we take things that we don't own;
But leaves the lords and ladies fine
Who take things that are yours and mine.
– Anonymous, circa 1764

It is not the function of our Government to keep the citizen from falling into error; it is the function of the citizen to keep the Government from falling into error.

– U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson

This and no other is the root from which a tyrant springs; when he first appears he is a protector.

– Plato

Terrorism is the best political weapon for nothing drives people harder than a fear of sudden death.

– Adolph Hitler

The easiest way to gain control of a population is to carry out acts of terror. They will clamor for such laws if their personal security is threatened.

– Josef Stalin

Keep your eyes open to your mercies. The man who forgets to be thankful has fallen asleep in life.

– Robert Louis Stevenson

The further a society drifts from truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.

– George Orwell

Americans can still be counted on to do the right thing, after they have tried all the other things.

– Winston Churchill, Thanksgiving address, 1941

A nation or a civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men purchases its own spiritual death on an installment plan.

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*

Rarely do we find men who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think.

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*

The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists, who are dedicated to justice, peace, and brotherhood. The trailblazers in human, academic, scientific, and religious freedom have always been nonconformists. In any cause that concerns the progress of mankind, put your faith in the nonconformist!

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*

Any Christian who blindly accepts the opinions of the majority and in fear and timidity follows a path of expediency and social approval is a mental and spiritual slave.

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*

For years now I have heard the word "Wait!" It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never."

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*

Human salvation lies in the hands of the creatively maladjusted.

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*

I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Councillor or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice.

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Letter From Birmingham Jail*

Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist.

– Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Self-Reliance*

It must not be felt that the heads of the world's chief central banks were themselves substantive powers in world finance. They were not. Rather they were the technicians and agents of the dominant investment bankers of their own countries, who had raised them up, and who were perfectly capable of throwing them down. The substantive financial powers of the world were in the hands of these investment bankers who remained largely behind the scenes in their own unincorporated private banks. These formed a system of international cooperation and national dominance which was more private, more powerful, and more secret than that of their agents in the central banks.

– Carroll Quigley, *Tragedy And Hope*

... the powers of financial capitalism had another far-reaching aim, nothing less than to create a world system of financial control in private hands able to dominate the political system of each country and the economy of the world as a whole. This system was to be controlled in a feudalist fashion by the central banks of the world acting in concert, by secret agreements arrived at in frequent private meetings and conferences. The apex of the system was to be the Bank for International Settlements in Basle, Switzerland, a private bank owned and controlled by the world's central banks which were themselves private corporations. Each central bank, in the hands of men like Montagu Norman of the Bank of England, Benjamin Strong of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, Charles Rist of the Bank of France, and Hjalmar Schacht of the Reichsbank, sought to dominate its government by its ability to control Treasury loans, to manipulate foreign exchanges, to influence the level of economic activity in the country, and to influence cooperative politicians by subsequent economic rewards in the business world.

– Carroll Quigley, *Tragedy And Hope*

It is difficult to free fools from the chains they revere.

– Voltaire

Man lowers his head and lunges into civilization, forgetting the days of his infancy when he sought truth in a snowflake or a stick. Man forgets the wisdom of the child.

– Jack Kerouac, *On The Road*

Fortune favors the bold.

– Terence, *Phormio*

Nothing is more dangerous to men than a sudden change of fortune.

– Quintilian, *De Institutione Oratoria*

Happy the man who can endure the highest and the lowest fortune. He, who has endured such vicissitudes with equanimity, has deprived misfortune of its power.

– Seneca, *Hercules*

Since the masses of the people are inconstant, full of unruly desires, passionate, and reckless of consequences, they must be filled with fears to keep them in order. The ancients did well, therefore, to invent gods, and the belief in punishment after death.

– Polybius

The proud American will go down into his slavery without a fight, beating his chest and proclaiming to the world how free he really is.

– Anatoliy Golitsyn

I will force the enemy to take our strength for weakness, and our weakness for strength, and thus will turn his strength into weakness.

– Sun Tsu

One only dies once, and if one does not die well, a good opportunity is lost and will not present itself again.”

– José Rizal, Letter to Mariano Ponce

Travel is a caprice in childhood, a passion in youth, a necessity in manhood, and an elegy in old age.

– José Rizal, *Los Viajes*

If you want to understand a society, take a good look at the drugs it uses. And what can this tell you about American culture? Well, look at the drugs we use. Except for pharmaceutical poison, there are essentially only two drugs that Western civilization tolerates: Caffeine from Monday to Friday to energize you enough to make you a productive member of society, and alcohol from Friday to Monday to keep you too stupid to figure out the prison that you are living in.

– Bill Hicks

A life predicated on being obedient and taking orders is a very comfortable life indeed. Living in such a way reduces to a minimum one's need to think.

– Adolf Eichmann

I have believed in God. I obeyed the laws of war and was loyal to my flag.

– Adolf Eichmann

Let us attend to our business, my lords; it is only a handful of subversives who are being executed.

– Sulla, Roman Dictator, directing senators to ignore the screams of the dying.

All those people who seek to control the behavior of large numbers of other people work on the experiences of those other people. Once people can be induced to experience a situation in a similar way, they can be expected to behave in similar ways. Induce people all to want the same thing, hate the same things, feel the same threat, then their behavior is already captive - you have acquired your consumers or your cannon-fodder.

– R.D. Laing, *The Politics of Experience*

Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius and a lot of courage to move in the opposite direction.

– E.F. Schumacher

Do you know what amazes me more than anything else? The impotence of force to organize anything.

– Napoleon Bonaparte

Whatever remains unconscious emerges later as fate.

– Carl Jung

One of the most pathetic aspects of human history is that every civilization expresses itself most pretentiously, compounds its partial and universal values most convincingly, and claims immortality for its finite existence at the very moment when the decay which leads to death has already begun.

– Reinhold Niebuhr

Concerning all acts of initiative (and creation), there is one elementary truth, the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favour all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no man could have dreamt would have come his way. I learned a deep respect for one of Goethe's couplets:

Whatever you can do or dream you can, begin it.

Boldness has genius, power and magic in it!

– W.H. Murray, *The Scottish Himalayan Expedition*

If God listened to the prayers of men, all men would quickly have perished: for they are forever praying for evil against one another.

– Epicurus

It is better for you to be free of fear lying upon a pallet, than to have a golden couch and a rich table and be full of trouble.

– Epicurus

Death does not concern us, because as long as we exist, death is not here. And when it does come, we no longer exist.

– Epicurus

Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you ave not; remember that what you have now was once among the things that you only hoped for.

– Epicurus

By 900 A.D... there was no empire, no state, and no public authority... the state disappeared, yet society continued... It was discovered that man can live without a state... it was discovered that economic life, religious life, law, and private property can all exist and function effectively without a state.

-- Carroll Quigley, *Tragedy and Hope: A History of the World in Our Time* (1966)

Men more frequently require to be reminded than informed.

– Samuel Johnson, *The Rambler*

You can get everything in life you want if you will just help enough other people get what they want.

– Zig Ziglar, *Secrets of Closing the Sale*

Outstanding people have one thing in common: an absolute sense of mission.

– Zig Ziglar, *Created For Excellence*

What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.

– Zig Ziglar, *Secrets of Superstar Speakers*

The most important persuasion tool you have in your entire arsenal is integrity.

– Zig Ziglar, *Refining Your Style*

When you give a man a dole, you deny him his dignity, and when you deny him his dignity you rob him of his destiny.

– Zig Ziglar, *See You At The Top*

There is no such thing as a lazy person; he is either sick or uninspired.

– Zig Ziglar, *See You At The Top*

Live out of your imagination, not your history.

– Stephen Covey, *Wake-up Calls*

Courage is not the absence of fear but the awareness that something else is more important.

– Stephen Covey, *Prisoners To Our Thoughts*

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

– Upton Sinclair, *I, Candidate for Governor*

The few who understand the system will either be so interested in its profits or be so dependent upon its favours that there will be no opposition from that class, while on the other hand, the great body of people, mentally incapable of comprehending the tremendous advantage that capital derives from the system, will bear its burdens without complaint, and perhaps without even suspecting that the system is inimical to their interests.

– The Rothschild brothers of London, writing to associates in New York, 1863

Music is what feelings sound like.

– Unknown

Stories are equipment for living.

– Kenneth Burke

When forced to work within a strict framework the imagination is taxed to its utmost – and will produce its richest ideas. Given total freedom the work is likely to sprawl.

– T.S. Elliot

A beautifully told story is a symphonic unity in which structure, setting, character, genre, and idea meld seamlessly. To find their harmony, the writer must study elements of the story as if they were instruments of an orchestra – first separately, then in concert.

– Robert McKee, *Story*

You've got everything except one thing: madness! A man needs a little madness, or else he never dares cut the rope and be free.

– *Zorba The Greek*, 1964

The bank hath benefit of interest on all moneys which it creates out of nothing.

– William Paterson, founder of the Bank of England

When you or I write a check, there must be sufficient funds in our account to cover the check; but when the Federal Reserve writes a check, there is no bank deposit on which that check is drawn. When the Federal Reserve writes a check, it is creating money.

– Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, *Putting it Simply*.

Neither paper currency nor deposits have value as commodities. Intrinsically, a 'dollar' bill is just a piece of paper. Deposits are merely book entries.

– Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, *Modern Money Mechanics Workbook* (1975)

I am afraid the ordinary citizen will not like to be told that the banks can and do create money. And they who control the credit of the nation direct the policy of Governments and hold in the hollow of their hand the destiny of the people.

– Reginald McKenna, Chairman of the Midland Bank, addressing stockholders in 1924

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.

– Albert Einstein

Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.

– Albert Einstein, Letter to Jost Winteler, 1901

I am by heritage a Jew, by citizenship a Swiss, and by makeup a human being, and *only* a human being, without any special attachment to any state or national entity whatsoever.

– Albert Einstein, Letter to Alfred Kneser, 1918

I was sitting in a chair in the patent office at Bern when all of sudden a thought occurred to me: *If a person falls freely he will not feel his own weight*. I was startled. This simple thought made a deep impression on me. It impelled me toward a theory of gravitation.

– Albert Einstein, Kyoto address, December 14, 1922

Try and penetrate with our limited means the secrets of nature and you will find that, behind all the discernible concatenations, there remains something subtle, intangible and

inexplicable. Veneration for this force beyond anything that we can comprehend is my religion. To that extent I am, in point of fact, religious.

– Albert Einstein, Response to atheist Alfred Kerr, 1927

Nothing will end war unless the people themselves refuse to go to war.

– Albert Einstein, Interview with George Sylvester Viereck, January 1931

All of science is nothing more than the refinement of everyday thinking.

– Albert Einstein, *Physics and Reality*, Journal of the Franklin Institute Vol. 221, Issue 3

Fundamental ideas play the most essential role in forming a physical theory. Books on physics are full of complicated mathematical formulae. But thought and ideas, not formulae, are the beginning of every physical theory. The ideas must later take the mathematical form of a quantitative theory, to make possible the comparison with experiment.

– Albert Einstein, *The Evolution of Physics* (1938)

Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds. The mediocre mind is incapable of understanding the man who refuses to bow blindly to conventional prejudices and chooses instead to express his opinions courageously and honestly.

– Albert Einstein, Letter to Morris Raphael Cohen, March 19, 1940

People like you and I, though mortal of course like everyone else, do not grow old no matter how long we live... [We] never cease to stand like curious children before the great mystery into which we were born.

– Albert Einstein, Letter to Otto Juliusburger, September 29, 1942

The words or the language, as they are written or spoken, do not seem to play any role in my mechanism of thought. The psychical entities which seem to serve as elements in thoughts are certain signs and more or less clear images which can be "voluntarily" reproduced and combined. There is, of course, a certain connection between those elements and relevant logical concepts. It is also clear that the desire to arrive finally at logically connected concepts is the emotional basis of this rather vague play with the above-mentioned elements... The above-mentioned elements are, in my case, of visual and some muscular type. Conventional words or other signs have to be sought for laboriously only in a secondary stage, when the mentioned associative play is sufficiently established and can be reproduced at will.

– Albert Einstein, *An Essay on the Psychology of Invention in the Mathematical Field*, 1945

We should try to hold on to physical reality.

– Albert Einstein, *Albert Einstein: Philosopher Scientist* (1949)

Never do anything against conscience even if the state demands it.

– Albert Einstein, *Albert Einstein: Philosopher Scientist* (1949)

I have no special talents. I am only passionately curious.

– Albert Einstein, Letter to Carl Seelig, March 11, 1952

The strange thing about growing old is that the intimate identification with the here and now is slowly lost; one feels transposed into infinity, more or less alone, no longer in hope or fear, only observing.

– Albert Einstein, Letter to Queen Mother Elisabeth of Belgium, January 12, 1953

The world is in greater peril from those who tolerate or encourage evil than from those who actually commit it.

– Albert Einstein, Tribute to Pablo Casals March 30, 1953

Development of Western Science is based on two great achievements, the invention of the formal logical system (in Euclidean geometry) by the Greek philosophers, and the discovery of the possibility to find out causal relationships by systematic experiment (Renaissance). In my opinion one has not to be astonished that the Chinese sages have not made these steps. The astonishing thing is that these discoveries were made at all.

– Albert Einstein, Letter to J.S. Switzer, April 23, 1953

The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery each day. Never lose a holy curiosity. ... Don't stop to marvel.

– Albert Einstein, *LIFE* magazine, May 2, 1955

During that year in Aarau the question came to me: If one runs after a light wave with light velocity, then one would encounter a time-independent wavefield. However, something like that does not seem to exist! This was the first juvenile thought experiment which has to do with the special theory of relativity. Invention is not the product of logical thought, even though the final product is tied to a logical structure.

– Albert Einstein, *Autobiographische Skizze*, April 18, 1955

The work on satisfactory formulation of technical patents was a true blessing for me. It compelled me to be many-sided in thought, and also offered important stimulation for thought about physics. Following a practical profession is a blessing for people of my type. Because the academic career puts a young person in a sort of compulsory situation to produce scientific papers in impressive quantity, a temptation to superficiality arises that only strong characters are able to resist.

– Albert Einstein, *Autobiographische Skizze*, April 18, 1955

I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university.

– Albert Einstein, *Quest: An Autobiography*

If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or objects.

– Albert Einstein, *Einstein: A Centenary Volume*

The most beautiful and most profound religious emotion that we can experience is the sensation of the mystical. And this mysticism is the power of all true science. If there is any such concept as a God, it is a subtle spirit, not an image of a man that so many have fixed in their minds. In essence, my religion consists of a humble admiration for this illimitable superior spirit that reveals itself in the slight details that we are able to perceive with our frail and feeble minds.

– Albert Einstein, *The Private Albert Einstein*

No one can read the Gospels without feeling the actual presence of Jesus. His personality pulsates in every word. No myth is filled with such life.

– Albert Einstein, *Einstein — A Life*

I believe in standardizing automobiles. I do not believe in standardizing human beings.

Standardization is a great peril which threatens American culture.

– Albert Einstein, *The Saturday Evening Post*, October 26, 1929

The human mind, no matter how highly trained, cannot grasp the universe. We are in the position of a little child, entering a huge library whose walls are covered to the ceiling with books in many different tongues. The child knows that someone must have written those books. It does not know who or how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. The child notes a definite plan in the arrangement of the books, a mysterious order, which it does not comprehend, but only dimly suspects. That, it seems to me, is the attitude of the human mind, even the greatest and most cultured, toward God.

– Albert Einstein, *The Saturday Evening Post*, October 26, 1929

I have only two rules which I regard as principles of conduct. The first is: Have no rules. The second is: Be independent of the opinion of others.

– Albert Einstein, *A Close Look at the World's Greatest Thinker*, American Magazine, June 1930

The really valuable thing in the pageant of human life seems to me not the State but the creative, sentient individual, the personality; it alone creates the noble and the sublime...

– Albert Einstein, *My World-view*

The efforts of most human-beings are consumed in the struggle for their daily bread, but most of those who are, either through fortune or some special gift, relieved of this struggle are largely absorbed in further improving their worldly lot. Beneath the effort directed toward the accumulation of worldly goods lies all too frequently the illusion that this is the most substantial and desirable end to be achieved; but there is, fortunately, a minority composed of those who recognize early in their lives that the most beautiful and satisfying experiences open to humankind are not derived from the outside, but are bound up with the development of the individual's own feeling, thinking and acting. The genuine artists, investigators and thinkers have always been persons of this kind. However inconspicuously the life of these individuals runs its course, none the less the fruits of their endeavors are the most valuable contributions which one generation can make to its successors.

– Albert Einstein, *Obituary for Emmy Noether*

One had to cram all this stuff into one's mind for examinations, whether one liked it or not. This coercion had such a deterring effect that, after I had passed the final examination, I found the consideration of any scientific problems distasteful to me for an entire year.

– Albert Einstein, *Autobiographical Notes*

It is, in fact, nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of instruction have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry; for this delicate little plant, aside from stimulation, stands mainly in need of freedom; without this it goes to wreck and ruin without fail. It is a very grave mistake to think that the enjoyment of seeing and searching can be promoted by means of coercion and a sense of duty.

– Albert Einstein, *Autobiographical Notes*

Small is the number of them that see with their own eyes and feel with their own hearts.

– Albert Einstein, *The World As I See It*

If one purges the Judaism of the Prophets and Christianity as Jesus Christ taught it of all subsequent additions, especially those of the priests, one is left with a teaching which is capable of curing all the social ills of humanity.

– Albert Einstein, *The World As I See It*

It is the duty of every man of good will to strive steadfastly in his own little world to make this teaching of pure humanity a living force, so far as he can. If he makes an honest attempt in this direction without being crushed and trampled under foot by his contemporaries, he may consider himself and the community to which he belongs lucky.

– Albert Einstein, *The World As I See It*

Study, and in general the pursuit of truth and beauty is a sphere of activity in which we are permitted to remain children all our lives.

– Albert Einstein, letter to Adrianna Enriques, October 1921

Physics is essentially an intuitive and concrete science. Mathematics is only a means for expressing the laws that govern phenomena.

– Albert Einstein, *Lettre à Maurice Solvine*

School failed me, and I failed the school. It bored me. The teachers behaved like sergeants. I wanted to learn what I wanted to know, but they wanted me to learn for the exam. What I hated most was the competitive system there, and especially sports. Because of this, I wasn't worth anything, and several times they suggested I leave. This was a Catholic School in Munich. I felt that my thirst for knowledge was being strangled by my teachers; grades were their only measurement. How can a teacher understand youth with such a system? ... from the age of twelve I began to suspect authority and distrust teachers. I learned mostly at home, first from my uncle and then from a student who came to eat with us once a week. He would give me books on physics and astronomy. The more I read, the more puzzled I was by the order of the universe and the disorder of the human mind, by the scientists who didn't agree on the how, the when, or the why of creation. Then one day this student brought me Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. Reading Kant, I began to suspect everything I was taught. I no longer believed in the known God of the Bible, but rather in the mysterious God expressed in nature.

– Albert Einstein, *Einstein and the Poet*

The language of mathematics is even more inborn and universal than the language of music; a mathematical formula is crystal clear and independent of all sense organs. I therefore built a mathematical laboratory, set myself in it as if I were sitting in a car, and moved along with a beam of light.

– Albert Einstein, *Einstein and the Poet*

I hope nothing. I fear nothing. I am free.

– Nikos Kazantzakis, *The Saviors of God*

How simple and frugal a thing is happiness: a glass of wine, a roast chestnut, a wretched little brazier, the sound of the sea. Nothing else.

– Nikos Kazantzakis, *Zorba The Greek*

This is true happiness: to have no ambition and to work like a horse as if you had every ambition. To live far from men, not to need them and yet to love them. To have the stars above, the land to your left and the sea to your right and to realize of a sudden that in your heart, life has accomplished its final miracle: it has become a fairy tale.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create their own.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

I was happy, I knew that. While experiencing happiness, we have difficulty in being conscious of it. Only when the happiness is past and we look back on it do we suddenly realize - sometimes with astonishment - how happy we had been.

– Nikos Kazantzakis, *Zorba The Greek*

I said to the almond tree, 'Sister, speak to me of God.' And the almond tree blossomed.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

Life is trouble. Only death is not. To be alive is to undo your belt and *look* for trouble.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

Every man has his folly, but the greatest folly of all ... is not to have one.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

How simple and frugal a thing is happiness: a glass of wine, a roast chestnut, a wretched little brazier, the sound of the sea. . . . All that is required to feel that here and now is happiness is a simple, frugal heart.

– Nikos Kazantzakis, *Zorba The Greek*

The highest point a man can attain is not Knowledge, or Virtue, or Goodness, or Victory, but something even greater, more heroic and more despairing: Sacred Awe!

– Nikos Kazantzakis, *Zorba The Greek*

What a strange machine man is! You fill him with bread, wine, fish, and radishes, and out comes sighs, laughter, and dreams.

– Nikos Kazantzakis, *Zorba The Greek*

My entire soul is a cry, and all my work is a commentary on that cry.

– Nikos Kazantzakis, *Report To Greco*

Tell me what you do with the food you eat, and I'll tell you who you are. Some turn their food into fat and manure, some into work and good humor, and others, I'm told, into God. So there must be three sorts of men. I'm not one of the worst, boss, nor yet one of the best. I'm somewhere in between the two. What I eat I turn into work and good humor. That's not too

bad, after all! As for you, boss,' he said, 'I think you do your level best to turn what you eat into God. But you can't quite manage it, and that torments you.

– Nikos Kazantzakis, *Zorba The Greek*

With the passage of days in this godly isolation, my heart grew calm. It seemed to fill with answers. I did not ask questions any more; I was certain. Everything - where we came from, where we are going, what our purpose is on earth - struck me as extremely sure and simple in this God-trodden isolation. Little by little my blood took on the godly rhythm. Matins, Divine Liturgy, vespers, psalmodies, the sun rising in the morning and setting in the evening, the constellations suspended like chandeliers each night over the monastery: all came and went, came and went in obedience to eternal laws, and drew the blood of man into the same placid rhythm. I saw the world as a tree, a gigantic poplar, and myself as a green leaf clinging to a branch with my slender stalk. When God's wind blew, I hopped and danced, together with the entire tree.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

No, you're not free," he said. "The string you're tied to is perhaps longer than other people's. That's all. You're on a long piece of string, boss; you come and go, and think you're free, but you never cut the string in two. And when people don't cut that string . . ."

"I'll cut it some day!" I said defiantly, because Zorba's words had touched an open wound in me and hurt.

"It's difficult, boss, very difficult. You need a touch of folly to do that; folly, d'you see? You have to risk everything! But you've got such a strong head, it'll always get the better of you. A man's head is like a grocer; it keeps accounts: I've paid so much and earned so much and that means a profit of this much or a loss of that much! The head's a careful little shopkeeper; it never risks all it has, always keeps something in reserve. It never breaks the string. Ah no! It hangs on tight to it, the bastard! If the string slips out of its grasp, the head, poor devil, is lost, finished! But if a man doesn't break the string, tell me, what flavor is left in life? The flavor of camomile, weak camomile tea! Nothing like rum—that makes you see life inside out!

– Nikos Kazantzakis, *Zorba The Greek*

Whatever gives wings to men, whatever produces great works and great souls and lifts up a man's height above the earth - that's true. Whatever clips off man's wings - that's false.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

I spent the whole morning coiled up in front of the fire, with my hands over it, eating nothing, motionless, just listening to the first rain of the season, softly falling. I was thinking of nothing. Rolled up in a ball, like a mole in damp soil, my brain was resting. I could hear the slight movements, murmurings and nibblings of the earth, and the rain falling and the seeds swelling. I could feel the sky and the earth copulating as in primitive times when they mated like a man and woman and had children. I could hear the sea before me, all along the shore, roaring like a wild beast and lapping with its tongue to slake its thirst.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

Happy the youth who believes that his duty is to remake the world and bring it more in accord with virtue and justice, more in accord with his own heart. Woe to whoever commences his life without lunacy.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

Every integral man has inside him, in his heart of hearts, a mystic center around which all else revolves. This mystic whirling lends unity to his thoughts and actions; it helps him find or invent the cosmic harmony. For some this center is love, for others kindness or beauty, others the thirst for knowledge or the longing for gold and power. They examine the relative value of all else and subordinate it to this central passion.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

When I close my eyes to see, to hear, to smell, to touch a country I have known, I feel my body shake and fill with joy as if a beloved person had come near me.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

A rabbi was once asked the following question: 'When you say that the Jews should return to Palestine, you mean, surely, the heavenly, the immaterial, the spiritual Palestine, our true homeland?' The rabbi jabbed his staff into the ground in wrath and shouted, 'No! I want the Palestine down here, the one you can touch with your hands, with its stones, its thorns and its mud!'

– Nikos Kazantzakis

Neither am I nourished by fleshless, abstract memories. If I expected my mind to distill from a turbid host of bodily joys and bitternesses an immaterial, crystal-clear thought, I would die of hunger. When I close my eyes in order to enjoy a country again, my five senses, the five mouth-filled tentacles of my body, pounce upon it and bring it to me. Colors, fruits, women. The smells of orchards, of filthy narrow alleys, of armpits. Endless snows with blue, glittering reflections. Scorching, wavy deserts of sand shimmering under the hot sun. Tears, cries, songs, distant bells of mules, camels or troikas. The acrid, nauseating stench of some Mongolian cities will never leave my nostrils. And I will eternally hold in my hands – eternally, that is, until my hands rot – the melons of Bukhara, the watermelons of the Volga, the cool, dainty hand of a Japanese girl...

– Nikos Kazantzakis

For a time, in my early youth, I struggled to nourish my famished soul by feeding it with abstract concepts. I said that my body was a slave and that its duty was to gather raw material and bring it to the orchard of the mind to flower and bear fruit and become ideas. The more fleshless, odorless, soundless the world was that filtered into me, the more I felt I was ascending the highest peak of human endeavor. And I rejoiced. And Buddha came to be my greatest god, whom I loved and revered as an example. Deny your five senses. Empty your guts. Love nothing, hate nothing, desire nothing, hope for nothing. Breathe out and the world will be extinguished... But one night I had a dream. A hunger, a thirst, the influence of a barbarous race that had not yet become tired of the world had been secretly working within me. My mind pretended to be tired. You felt it had known everything, had become satiated, and was now smiling ironically at the cries of my peasant heart. But my guts – praised be God! – were full of blood and mud and craving. And one night I had a dream. I saw two lips without a face – large, scimitar-shaped woman's lips. They moved. I heard a voice ask, 'Who is your God?' Unhesitatingly I answered, 'Buddha!' But the lips moved again and said: 'No, Epaphus.' ... I sprang up out of my sleep. Suddenly a great sense of joy and certainty flooded my heart. What I had been unable to find in the noisy, temptation-filled, confused world of wakefulness I had found now in the primeval, motherly embrace of the night. Since that night I have not strayed. I follow my own path and try to make up for the years of my youth that were lost in the worship of fleshless gods, alien to me and my race. Now I transubstantiate the

abstract concepts into flesh and am nourished. I have learned that Epaphus, the god of touch, is my god... All the countries I have known since then I have known with my sense of touch. I feel my memories tingling, not in my head but in my fingertips and my whole skin. And as I bring back Japan to my mind, my hands tremble as if they were touching the breast of a beloved woman.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

We are to blame if reality does not take the form we desire. Whatever we have not desired with sufficient strength, that we call nonexistent. Desire it, imbue it with your blood, your sweat, your tears, and it will take on a body. Reality is nothing more than the chimera subjected to our desire and our suffering.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

By believing passionately in that which doesn't exist, you create it and that which has not been sufficiently desired is what we call the non existent.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

To be young means to undertake to demolish the world and to have the gall to wish to erect a new and better one in its place.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

Beauty always had a purpose: to be of service to life.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

Man hurries, God does not. That is why man's works are uncertain and maimed, while God's are flawless and sure. My eyes welling with tears, I vowed never to transgress this eternal law again. Like a tree I would be blasted by wind, struck by sun and rain, and would wait with confidence; the long-desired hour of flowering and fruit would come.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

The creator wrestles with a hard, invisible substance, a substance far superior to him. Even the greatest victor emerges vanquished, because our deepest secret, the only one that deserves expression, always remains unexpressed. This secret never submits to art's material contours. We suffocate inside every word. Seeing a blossoming tree, a hero, a woman, the morning star, we cry, Ah! Nothing else is able to accommodate our joy. When, analyzing this Ah! we wish to turn it into thought and art in order to impart it to mankind and rescue it from our own dissolution, how it cheapens into brazen, mascaraed words full of air and fancy!

– Nikos Kazantzakis

I was sitting in front of the hut and watching the ground darken and the sea grow a phosphorescent green. Not a soul was to be seen from one end of the beach to the other, not a sail, not a bird. Only the smell of the earth entered through the window.

I rose and held out my hand to the rain like a beggar. I suddenly felt like weeping. Some sorrow, not my own but deeper and more obscure, was rising from the damp earth: the panic which a peaceful grazing animal feels when, all at once, without have seen anything, it rears its head and scents in the air about it that it is trapped and cannot escape.

I wanted to utter a cry, knowing that it would relieve my feelings, but I was ashamed to.

The clouds were coming lower and lower. I looked through the window; my heart was gently

palpitating.

What a voluptuous enjoyment of sorrow those hours of soft rain can produce in you! All bitter memories hidden in the depths of your mind come to the surface: separations from friends, women's smiles which have faded, hopes which have lost their wings like moths and of which only a grub remains – and that grub had crawled on to the leaf of my heart and eating it away.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

As you walk, you cut open and create that river bed into which the stream of your descendants shall enter and flow.

– Nikos Kazantzakis

It is impossible to live a pleasant life without living wisely and well and justly. And it is impossible to live wisely and well and justly without living a pleasant life.

– Epicurus

We must not listen to those who urge us to think human thoughts since we are human, and mortal thoughts since we are mortal; rather, we should as far as possible immortalize ourselves and do all we can to live according to the best element within us – for if it is small in bulk, it is far greater than anything else in power and worth.

– Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Success makes everybody around you go crazy too.

– Don Everly

This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one, being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy.

– George Bernard Shaw

... to see what the rubes and the yokels are thinking about and what they think is going on and what they think the policy is.

– Daniel Ellsberg, on the usefulness of the New York Times

For the Greeks, physical exercise was an ethic for developing freely and harmoniously the form and strength of the human body. For the Romans, it was a technique for increasing the legionnaire's efficiency. The Roman conception prevails today.

– Jacques Ellul, *The Technological Society*

Training in sports makes of the individual an efficient piece of apparatus which is henceforth unacquainted with anything but the harsh joys of exploiting his body and winning.

– Jacques Ellul, *The Technological Society*

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

– Kurt Vonnegut

Begin at once to live, and count each separate day as a separate life.

– Seneca

The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity.

– Amelia Earhart

Definiteness of purpose is the starting point of all achievement.

– W. Clement Stone

The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.

– Alice Walker

What you think you become.

– Buddha

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life.

– Steve Jobs

The best revenge is massive success.

– Frank Sinatra

There is only one way to avoid criticism: do nothing, say nothing, and be nothing.

– Aristotle

Everything you've ever wanted is on the other side of fear.

– George Addair

Teach thy tongue to say, "I do not know," and thou shalt progress.

– Maimonides

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

– Anne Frank

Too many of us are not living our dreams because we are living our fears.

– Les Brown

We must believe that we are gifted for something, and that this thing, at whatever cost, must be attained.

– Marie Curie

I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply.

Being willing is not enough; we must do.

– Leonardo da Vinci

You take your life in your own hands, and what happens? A terrible thing, no one to blame.

– Erica Jong

A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.

– Albert Einstein

The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person who is doing it.

– Chinese Proverb

It is never too late to be what you might have been.

– George Eliot

It is not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings.

– Ann Landers

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.

– Confucius

The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me.

– Ayn Rand

Change your thoughts and you change your world.

– Norman Vincent Peale

The only way to do great work is to love what you do.

– Steve Jobs

The best way to control the opposition is to lead it ourselves.

– V.I. Lenin

Time makes more converts than reason.

– Thomas Paine

Rise like Lions after slumber,
in unvanquishable number.

Shake your chains to earth like dew,
which in sleep had fallen on you.

Ye are many,
they are few.

– Percy Bysshe Shelley

We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are.

– Anais Nin

We see beauty and magic in the world. But the truth is that the beauty and magic are inside ourselves.

– Kahlil Gibran

Political ideas that have dominated the public mind for decades cannot be refuted through rational arguments, they must run their course in life and cannot collapse otherwise than in great catastrophe.

-- Ludwig von Mises

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

-- Carl Sagan

Know your opportunity.

– Delphic Maxim #10

Like the actor, authority has faith in its false whiskers. But its deepest faith is in the human illusion. People will hang on to illusion as eagerly as life itself.

– Ben Hecht, *Perfidy*

A simple fact entered my head one day and put an end to my revolt against the Deity. It occurred to me that God was not engaged in corrupting the mind of man but in creating it. This may sound like no fact at all, or like the most childish of quibbles. But whatever it is, it brought me a sigh of relief, a slightly bitter sigh. I was relieved because instead of beholding a man as a finished and obviously worthless product, unable to bring sanity into human affairs, I looked on him (in my conversion) as a creature in the making. And lo, I was aware that like my stooped and furry brothers, the apes, I am God's incomplete child. My groping brain, no less than my little toe, is a mechanism in His evolution-busy hands.

– Ben Hecht, *A Child of The Century*

There is also a new sort of fame in our day that has never quite been known before. It is a fame seemingly invented out of whole cloth, based upon nothing and needing only a press agent to keep it alive. This new species of fame does not wait for a man to win a race or a worldly prize before riveting its neon light on his head... They are famous for stopping in hotels, for holding hands in public, for speaking to each other, for having babies, for getting invited to parties... So deep is the limbo into which industry, politics and overpopulation is shoving us, that we ask of fame that it makes us aware of men rather than supermen. A depersonalized citizenry avid for identity has invented this new type of fame. The lonely city dwellers, whose human faces are lost in the shuffle of world problems and mechanized existence, elect representatives to live for them.

– Ben Hecht, *A Child of The Century*

They are unable to think except in homage to other thoughts.

– Ben Hecht, *A Child of The Century*

The mystery was chiefly this – that there was seemingly a tiny proportion of the human family born without greed, who entered life without a fear of tomorrow, without an urge to lose themselves safely in the known and practical words of their elders.

– Ben Hecht, *A Child of The Century*

... a time darkened by the pall of government.

– Ben Hecht, *A Child of The Century*

The more we let others sing, dance and perform for us, the more empty we become.

– Ben Hecht, *A Child of The Century*

It grows ever harder to make friends in a complex world, for friendship requires contact. But one can make enemies of those one has never seen or heard. This lonely enemy-making activity is becoming more and more the American way.

– Ben Hecht, *A Child of The Century*

... most of his exaltations have nothing to do with himself.

– Ben Hecht, *A Child of The Century*

To my astonishment, there appeared a man I hardly knew with totally alien moods. That man was I. I seemed to be looking with eyes I never had used on a planet not yet inhabited... The sense that life was new, and all land and sea were at their beginnings made me happy... I had the illusion of being distributed around various parts of the room in which I lay. There seemed to be a number of me's, and try as I would I was unable to assemble them. I was fascinated with being a number of people and discussed this with Rose and her sister Minna. I had no thought for my illness, and the fact that Rose and the doctors believed me seriously ill seemed absurd. I had never felt so remarkably alive, nor so full of eagerness... It was a white, sunlit hospital room in which visitors sat and talked. But I looked on a strange world in this room. I had never known or felt this room before. It was a world of gentleness. My heart ached with happiness when I beheld it. The kindness of the faces than beheld me, the fine, cool talent of the doctors and nurses that tended me were only a part of the gentleness that embraced me. The gentleness was mostly something within me. I looked on everything with love. As the days passed, each morning became a rendezvous at which I arrived eager and smiling. I needed no visitors, books or music to keep me diverted. The day flying in through the window was enough. The sky darkening, the night coming delighted me. The word God did not enter my head, but a word that seemed the same was always there. It was the word life. I felt a gentleness toward people because they were part of a happy mystery of moving and breathing. I was pleased by the way they walked and felt close to all who came into my room, including the hospital barber, as if they were kinsfolk. I returned to Nyak on the day Jenny was having a birthday party. The garden was filled with the voices of her four-and-five-year-old friends. Their whoops and squeals of joy seemed the perfect sounds of mankind... I though of the possibility of dying and found myself smiling at the impossibility of such an event. The love that had come to me a few weeks ago swelled my heart and brightened the room... again I lay through dreamy hours, making love to time as if it were a dancing girl... There were few thoughts in my head. At times I remembered incidents of past years and made notes of them. The memories were curiously alike. They were all happy. I loved not only what was around me, but all that had ever been. Gratuities I had never felt brought tears to my eyes at night and I wondered what I could do to thank the sea, the stars and the multitude of days through which I had come. After a few weeks I bought a stock of pencils and began to write this book.

– Ben Hecht, *A Child of The Century*

The extent to which he is free determines what his virtues can accomplish.

– John of Salisbury, *Polycraticus*

The world stands on three things: On Torah, on service, and on acts of loving kindness.

– Simeon the Just (250 BC?)

Here is tragedy—and here is America. For the curse of the country, as well of all democracies, is precisely the fact that it treats its best men as enemies. The aim of our

society, if it may be said to have an aim, is to iron them out. The ideal American, in the public sense, is a respectable vacuum.

– H.L. Mencken

The objective is to pluck the geese in such a manner as to obtain the greatest number of feathers with the least amount of hissing.

– Jean Baptiste Colvert, finance minister of Louis XIV

Science begins when you can measure what you are talking about and express it in numbers.

– Lord Kelvin

It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner, but from their regard to their own interest.

– Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*

If the same progress as had been made in education were made in the culinary arts, we should today still be eating soup with our hands.

– Sydney Smith

Ships are safest in the harbor, but that is not what ships are built for.

– Grace Hopper (attributed)

Bent out of shape by society's pliers.

– Bob Dylan, *It's Alright Ma*

In short, my faith in human dignity consists in the belief that man is the greatest scamp on earth. Human dignity must be associated with the idea of a scamp and not with that of an obedient, disciplined and regimented soldier. The scamp is probably the most glorious type of human being, as the soldier is the lowest type, according to this conception. It seems in my last book, *My Country and My People*, the net impression of readers was that I was trying to glorify the "old rogue." It is my hope that the net impression of the present one will be that I am doing my best to glorify the scamp or vagabond. I hope I shall succeed. For things are not so simple as they sometimes seem. In this present age of threats to democracy and individual liberty, probably only the scamp and the spirit of the scamp alone will save us from becoming lost as serially numbered units in the masses of disciplined, obedient, regimented and uniformed coolies. The scamp will be the last and most formidable enemy of dictatorships. He will be the champion of human dignity and individual freedom, and will be the last to be conquered. All modern civilization depends entirely upon him.

- Lin Yutang, *The Importance of Living*

What is a moral and religious people? People who govern themselves privately. People who love and live the four natural virtues of prudence, temperance, justice, and courage, and the Christian virtues of faith, hope, and charity. These are people who can judge what actions are fitting, who give to everyone his due, who can face fear, uncertainty, and danger with endurance and strength, and who can restrain their own appetites. These are people who believe in an eternal standard of justice, who live in hope for the future, and who love and care for their neighbors as themselves.

- Franklin Sanders, *The Money Changer*, April 2014

What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July? I answer; a day that reveals to him, more than all other days in the year, the gross injustice and cruelty to which he is the constant victim. To him, your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants, brass fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery; your prayers and hymns, your sermons and thanksgivings, with all your religious parade and solemnity, are, to him, mere bombast, fraud, deception, impiety, and hypocrisy—a thin veil to cover up crimes which would disgrace a nation of savages. There is not a nation on the earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of the United States, at this very hour.

— Frederick Douglass, *The Meaning of July Fourth to the Negro*, July 5, 1852

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequateOur deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We were born to manifest the glory of God within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

— Marianne Williamson, *Return to Love*

We are living in what the Greeks called the right time for a “metamorphosis of the gods,” i.e. of the fundamental principles and symbols.

This peculiarity of our time, which is certainly not of our conscious choosing, is the expression of the unconscious man within us who is changing.

Coming generations will have to take account of this momentous transformation if humanity is not to destroy itself through the might of its own technology and science.

— Carl Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

People will do anything, no matter how absurd, in order to avoid facing their own souls. They will practice Indian yoga and all its exercises, observe a strict regimen of diet, learn the theosophy by heart, or mechanically repeat mystic texts from the literature of the whole world – all because they cannot get on with themselves and have not the slightest faith that anything useful could ever come out of their own souls.

— Carl Jung, *Psychology and Alchemy*

Not only do I leave the door open for the Christian message, but I consider it of central importance for Western man. It needs, however, to be seen in a new light, in accordance with the changes wrought by the contemporary spirit.

— Carl Jung, *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*

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

— Carl Jung, *Memories, Dreams, Reflections*

Because we cannot discover God's throne in the sky with a radiotelescope or establish (for certain) that a beloved father or mother is still about in a more or less corporeal form, people assume that such ideas are "not true." I would rather say that they are not "true" enough, for

these are conceptions of a kind that have accompanied human life from prehistoric times, and that still break through into consciousness at any provocation.

– Carl Jung, *Man and His Symbols*

As soon as laws are necessary for men, they are no longer fit for freedom.

– Pythagoras (Attributed)

In our day, the dreams mankind cherished for ages, dreams expressed in fairy tales which seemed sheer fantasy, are being translated into reality by man's own hands.

– Nikita Khrushchev, 1959

How many people long for that “past, simpler, and better world,” I wonder, without ever recognizing the truth that perhaps it was they who were simpler and better, and not the world about them.

– *Forgotten Realms*

Don't aim for success... just do what you love and believe in, and it will come naturally.

– David Frost

We have it in our power to begin the world over again.

– Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

Journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed: everything else is public relations.

– George Orwell

The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, but he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them.

– George Orwell

Truth has to be repeated constantly, because Error also is being preached all the time, and not just by a few, but by the multitude. In the Press and Encyclopedias, in Schools and Universities, everywhere Error holds sway, feeling happy and comfortable in the knowledge of having Majority on its side.

– Goethe

People who shut their eyes to reality simply invite their own destruction, and anyone who insists on remaining in a state of innocence long after that innocence is dead turns himself into a monster

– James Baldwin

The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear.

– Herbert Sebastien Agar

Rational argument can be conducted with some prospect of success only so long as the emotionality of a given situation does not exceed a certain critical degree.

– Carl Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

In order to free the fiction of the sovereign state – in other words, the whims of those who manipulate it – from every wholesome restriction, all socio-political movements tending in this direction invariably try to cut the ground from under the religions. For, in order to turn the individual into a function of the state, his dependence on anything beside the state must be taken from him.

– Carl Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

It is possible to have an attitude toward the external conditions of life only when there is a point of reference outside them. The religions give, or claim to give, such a standpoint, thereby enabling the individual to exercise his judgment and his power of decision.

– Carl Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

Brass bands, flags, banners, parades and monster demonstrations are no different in principle from ecclesiastical processions, cannonades and fireworks to scare off demons. Only, the suggestive parade of State power engenders a collective feeling of security which, unlike religious demonstrations, give the individual no protection against his inner demonism.

– Carl Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

I can therefore see it only as a delusion when the Churches try – as they apparently do – to rope the individual into a social organization and reduce him to a condition of diminished responsibility, instead of raising him out of the torpid mindless mass and making clear to him that he is the one important factor and that the salvation of the world consists in the salvation of the individual soul.

– Carl Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

The inner man remains unchanged however much community he has. His environment cannot give him as a gift that which he can win for himself only with effort and suffering.

– Carl Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

... fear of the evil which one does not see in one's own bosom but always in somebody else's checks reason every time.

– Carl Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

It is in the nature of political bodies always to see the evil in the opposite group, just as the individual has an ineradicable tendency to get rid of everything he does not know and does not want to know about himself by foisting it off on someone else.

– Carl Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

The insight of individuals cannot make itself felt so long as the spirit of the age is not ripe to receive it.

– Arthur Schopenhauer, *Parerga and Paralipomena*, Vol. I

In times of social transition there is greater vitality among ordinary men and women than at other times, precisely because the displacement of ancient customs compels them to think and act for themselves.

– C. Delisle Burns, *The First Europe*

To any vital and organic society its vocations are *structural* not accessory.

– C. Delisle Burns, *The First Europe*

Historians who study chiefly political institutions, overestimate the importance of warriors and kings. But it is of little or no consequence which of two ruffians kills the other or secures a victory.

– C. Delisle Burns, *The First Europe*

No one can understand history if he reads only the historians. He must go directly to the sources—letters, poems, sermons and treatises—because these are the unconscious records of a climate of opinion.

– C. Delisle Burns, *The First Europe*

... that confidence in the established order which was the chief obstacle to the creation of a new civilization.

– C. Delisle Burns, *The First Europe*

Great numbers of men and women were unwilling to make the effort required for the maintenance of the old order, not because they were not good enough to fulfill their civic duties, but because they were too good to be satisfied with a system from which so few derived benefit.

– C. Delisle Burns, *The First Europe*

The chief interest of poets and preachers was to discover some method by which they could acquire again the certainty of expectation which the collapse of the old system had destroyed.

– C. Delisle Burns, *The First Europe*

The disappearance of the belief in the eternity of the Roman system left men free to make social experiments.

– C. Delisle Burns, *The First Europe*

The barbarians had entered the Roman empire first as settlers upon waste lands, and secondly as nomadic looters of portable wealth and slaves. But in the fifth century the barbarian armed forces found it more lucrative to settle in the wealthiest cities of the empire, from which, under their kings, they could extract more booty than they could by continual raids.

– C. Delisle Burns, *The First Europe*

Not stupid, but so easily frightened that she could be induced to behave stupidly.

– Octavia Butler, *Dawn*

That which can be destroyed by the truth should be.

– P. C. Hodgell

The history of mankind up to the present time is primarily the history of idol worship, from primitive idols of clay and wood to the modern idols of the state, the leader, production and consumption—sanctified by the blessing of an idolized God.

– Erich Fromm, *You Shall Be As Gods*

Is there really as much difference as we think between the Aztec human sacrifices to their gods and the modern human sacrifices in war to the idols of nationalism and the sovereign state?

– Erich Fromm, *You Shall Be As Gods*

Authoritarian ethics are always tinged by idolatry.

– Erich Fromm, *You Shall Be As Gods*

Obedience to God is also the negation of submission to man.

– Erich Fromm, *You Shall Be As Gods*

What is the nature of this human evolution? Its essence lies in man's emergence from incestuousness ties to blood and soil, into interdependence and freedom. Man, the prisoner of nature, becomes free by becoming fully human. In the biblical and later Jewish view, freedom and independence are the goals of human development, and the aim of human action is the constant process of liberating oneself from the shackles that bind man to the past, to nature, to the clan, to idols.

– Erich Fromm, *You Shall Be As Gods*

The person whose conscience is essentially autonomous does the right things, not by forcing himself to obey the voice of the internalized authority, but because he *enjoys* doing what is right, even though often he will need some practice in following his principles before he can fully enjoy his action.

– Erich Fromm, *You Shall Be As Gods*

The sadistic person is as dependent on the submissive person as the latter is on the former; neither can live without the other. The difference is only that the sadistic person commands, exploits, hurts, humiliates, and that the masochistic person is commanded, exploited, hurt, humiliated. This is a considerable difference in a realistic sense; in a deeper emotional sense, the difference is not so great as that which they both have in common: fusion without integrity.

– Erich Fromm, *The Art of Loving*

I believe that the fundamental alternative for man is the choice between "life" and "death"; between creativity and destructive violence; between reality and illusions; between objectivity and intolerance; between brotherhood-independence and dominance-submission.

– Erich Fromm, *On Being Human*

What reading does, ultimately, is keep alive the dangerous and exhilarating idea that a life is not a sequence of lived moments, but a destiny... the time of reading, the time defined by the author's language resonating in the self, is not the world's time, but the soul's. The energies that otherwise tend to stream outward through a thousand channels of distraction are marshaled by the cadences of the prose; they are brought into focus by the fact that it is an ulterior, and entirely new, world that the reader has entered. The free-floating self--the self we diffusely commune with while driving or walking or puttering in the kitchen--is enlisted in the work of bringing the narrative to life. In the process, we are able to shake off the habitual burden of insufficient meaning and flex our deeper natures.

– Sven Birkerts, *The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age*

To read, when one does so of one's own free will, is to make a volitional statement, to cast a vote; it is to posit an elsewhere and to set off toward it.

– Sven Birkerts, *The Gutenberg Elegies: The Fate of Reading in an Electronic Age*

In every first novel the hero is the author as Christ or Faust.

– Oscar Wilde

What gives comedy its edge at reaching around people's walls is the way that it uses deliberate misdirection. A great piece of comedy is a verbal magic trick, where you think it's going over here, then all of a sudden you're transported over here (gesturing), and there's this mental delight that's followed by the physical response of laughter. Which, not coincidentally, releases endorphins in the brain. And just like that, you've been seduced into a different way of looking at something, because the endorphins have brought down your defenses. This is the exact opposite of the way anger and fear and panic – all of the fight or flight responses – operate. Fight or flight releases adrenaline, which throws our walls up sky high. And then comedy comes along, dealing with a lot of the same areas where our defenses are the strongest – race, religion, politics, sexuality – only by approaching them through humor, instead of adrenaline, we get endorphins. And the alchemy of laughter turns our walls into windows, revealing a fresh and unexpected point of view.

– Chris Bliss, TEDx Ranier

If you are going through hell, keep going.

– Winston Churchill

May God prosper the Americans in their resolution, that there may be one asylum at least on the earth for men, who prefer their natural rights to the fantastical prerogatives of a foolish perverted head because it wears a crown.

– Charles Lee, circa 1765

We bombard people with sensation. That substitutes for thinking.

– Ray Bradbury

The more you can escape from how horrible things really are, the less it's going to bother you... and then the worse things get.

– Frank Zappa

If the basis of a popular government in peacetime is virtue, its basis in a time of revolution is virtue and terror -- virtue, without which terror would be barbaric; and terror, without which virtue would be impotent.

– Maximilien de Robespierre, speech in French National Convention, 1794

As human beings, we are the only organisms that create for the sheer stupid pleasure of doing so. Whether it's laying out a garden, composing a new tune on the piano, writing a bit of poetry, manipulating a digital photo, redecorating a room, or inventing a new chili recipe - we are happiest when we are creating.

– Gary Hamel

If you do not have an absolutely clear vision of something, where you can follow the light to the end of the tunnel, then it doesn't matter whether you're bold or cowardly, or whether you're stupid or intelligent. Doesn't get you anywhere.

– Werner Herzog

A purpose, an intention, a design, strikes everywhere, even the careless, the most stupid thinker.

– David Hume

A zombie film is not fun without a bunch of stupid people running around and observing how they fail to handle the situation.

– George A. Romero

People couldn't understand why my mama would have this blind kid out doing things like cutting wood for the fire. But her thing was: He may be blind, but he ain't stupid.

– Ray Charles

When a stupid man is doing something he is ashamed of, he always declares that it is his duty.

– George Bernard Shaw

Almost any difficulty will move in the face of honesty. When I am honest I never feel stupid. And when I am honest I am automatically humble.

– Hugh Prather

A lot of parents will do anything for their kids, except let them be themselves.

– Banksy

The mass of men serve the state, thus not as men but as machines.

– Henry David Thoreau

Everything is designed to make you sell out.

– Patrick Swayze

No one rules if no one obeys.

– TaoDo

The further a society drifts from truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.

– George Orwell

Happiness cannot thrive within the prison of obligation.

– Jonathan Lockwood Huie

Practically the whole human race is hypnotized because it thinks what someone else told it what to think.

– Ernest Holmes

Every spot of the Old World is overrun with oppression.

– Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

Society is produced by our wants, and government by our wickedness; the former promotes our happiness POSITIVELY by uniting our affections, the latter NEGATIVELY by restraining our vices. The one encourages intercourse, the other creates distinctions. The first a patron, the last a punisher.

– Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

In the early ages of the world, according to the Scripture chronology there were no kings; the consequence of which was, there were no wars; it is the pride of kings which throws mankind into confusion.

– Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

Every thing that is right or natural pleads for separation. The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries, *'tis time to part.*

– Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

We fight not to enslave, but to set a country free, and to make room upon the earth for honest men to live in.

– Thomas Paine, *Common Sense*

Man is not the enemy of man but through the medium of a false system of government.

– Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*

Freedom had been hunted round the globe; reason was considered as rebellion; and the slavery of fear had made men afraid to think. But such is the irresistible nature of truth, that all it asks, — and all it wants, — is the liberty of appearing.

– Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*

It appears to general observation, that revolutions create genius and talents; but those events do no more than bring them forward. There is existing in man, a mass of sense lying in a dormant state, and which, unless something excites it to action, will descend with him, in that condition, to the grave.

– Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*

That which is now called natural philosophy, embracing the whole circle of science, of which astronomy occupies the chief place, is the study of the works of God, and of the power and wisdom of God in his works, and is the true theology.

– Thomas Paine, *The Age of Reason*

It is folly to argue against determined hardness; eloquence may strike the ear, and the language of sorrow draw forth the tear of compassion, but nothing can reach the heart that is steeled with prejudice.

– Thomas Paine, *Discourse to the Theophilanthropists*

All the principles of science are of divine origin. Man cannot make, or invent, or contrive principles; he can only discover them, and he ought to look through the discovery to the Author.

– Thomas Paine, *Discourse to the Theophilanthropists*

Don't fight forces, use them.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Shelter*

Life is the spirit incarnate in time.

– Buckminster Fuller, *4D Timelock*

Our first priority in design consideration is the full realization of individual potential in order to reach the second derivative — full realization for all individuals

– Buckminster Fuller, *No More Secondhand God*

One of my working assumptions which has been proven successful so often as seemingly to qualify it as a reliable tenet is that A problem adequately stated is a problem solved theoretically and immediately, and therefore subsequently to be solved, realistically. Others have probably stated the principle in many ways. The assumption is that the inevitability of a solution's realization is inherent in the interaction of human intellect and the constantly transformative evolution of physical universe. At first the, only subconsciously apprehended, approaching confluences of complex events make themselves known intuitively within the intellectual weather. Then comes a gradually awakening consciousness of the presence of new families of differentiating-out challenging concepts of every day prominence. It is with these randomly patterning families of separate concepts that evolution is about to deal integratively. As a now specific unitary problem it may be disposed of effectively when and if that unified problem becomes "adequately stated" and thereby comprehensibly solvable.

– Buckminster Fuller, *World Design Science Decade 1965-1975 Phase I* (1965), *Document 3: Comprehensive Thinking*

Thinking is a momentary dismissal of irrelevancies.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Utopia or Oblivion: The Prospects of Humanity*

Take the initiative. Go to work, and above all co-operate and don't hold back on one another or try to gain at the expense of another. Any success in such lopsidedness will be increasingly short-lived. These are the synergetic rules that evolution is employing and trying to make clear to us. They are not man-made laws. They are the infinitely accommodative laws of the intellectual integrity governing universe.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Operating Manual For Spaceship Earth*

Wealth is our organized capability to cope effectively with the environment in sustaining our healthy regeneration and decreasing both the physical and metaphysical restrictions of the forward days of our lives.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Operating Manual For Spaceship Earth*

The Things to do are: the things that need doing, that *you* see need to be done, and that no one else seems to see need to be done. Then you will conceive your own way of doing that which needs to be done — that no one else has told you to do or how to do it. This will bring out the real you that often gets buried inside a character that has acquired a superficial array of behaviors induced or imposed by others on the individual.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Letter to Micheal*

We must do away with the absolutely specious notion that everybody has to earn a living. It is a fact today that one in ten thousand of us can make a technological breakthrough capable of

supporting all the rest. The youth of today are absolutely right in recognizing this nonsense of earning a living. We keep inventing jobs because of this false idea that everybody has to be employed at some kind of drudgery because, according to Malthusian-Darwinian theory, he must justify his right to exist.

– Buckminster Fuller, *New York Magazine*, March 1970

The youth of humanity all around our planet are intuitively revolting from all sovereignties and political ideologies. The youth of Earth are moving intuitively toward an utterly classless, raceless, omnicooperative, omniworld humanity. Children freed of the ignorantly founded educational traditions and exposed only to their spontaneously summoned, computer-stored and -distributed outflow of reliable-opinion-purged, experimentally verified data, shall indeed lead society to its happy egress from all misinformedly conceived, fearfully and legally imposed, and physically enforced customs of yesterday. They can lead all humanity into omnisuccessful survival as well as entrance into an utterly new era of human experience in an as-yet and ever-will-be fundamentally mysterious Universe.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Synergetics*

If you take all the machinery in the world and dump it in the ocean, within months more than half of all humanity will die and within another six months they'd almost all be gone; if you took all the politicians in the world, put them in a rocket, and sent them to the moon, everyone would get along fine.

– Buckminster Fuller

There is more recognition now that things are changing, but not because there is a political move to do it. It is simply a result of the information being there. Our survival won't depend on political or economic systems. It's going to depend on the courage of the individual to speak the truth, and to speak it lovingly and not destructively. It's saying what you really know and feel is the truth, in all directions. Our greatest vulnerability lies in the amount of misinformation and misconditioning of humanity. I've found the educations systems are full of it. You have to examine each word and ask yourself, "Is that the right word for that?" — the integrity and the courage of the individual to speak his own truth and not to go along with the crowd, yet not making others seem ignorant. After a while, if enough human beings are doing it, then everybody will start going in the right direction.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Norie Huddle Interview*

Love is metaphysical gravity.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Critical Path*

The effective decisions can only be made by the independently thinking and adequately informed human individuals and their telepathically intercommunicated wisdom--the wisdom of the majority of all such human individuals--qualifying for continuance in Universe as local cosmic problem-solvers--in love with the truth and in individually spontaneous self-commitment to absolute faith in the wisdom, integrity, and love of God, who seems to wish Earthian humans to survive.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Critical Path*

It seemed that the time would come evolutionarily when humans might have acquired enough knowledge of generalized principles to permit a graduation from class-two (entropically

selfish) evolution into class-one (syntropically cooperative) evolution, thereafter making all the right moves for all the right reasons.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Critical Path*

I do know that technologically humanity now has the opportunity, for the first time in its history, to operate our planet in such a manner as to support and accommodate all humanity at a substantially more advanced standard of living than any humans have ever experienced.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Grunch of Giants*

Humanity is now experiencing history's most difficult evolutionary transformation.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Grunch of Giants*

Critical threshold-crossing of the inevitable revolution is already underway.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Grunch of Giants*

The dark ages still reign over all humanity, and the depth and persistence of this domination are only now becoming clear. This Dark Ages prison has no steel bars, chains, or locks. Instead, it is locked by misorientation and built of misinformation... We are powerfully imprisoned in these Dark Ages simply by the terms in which we have been conditioned to think.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Cosmography*

Fundamentally, political economists misassume an inadequacy of life support to exist on our planet. Humanity therefore competes militarily to see which political system... is fittest to survive. In slavish observance of this misassumption, humans devote their most costly efforts and resources to "killingry" — a vast arsenal of weapons skillfully designed to kill ever more people at ever-greater distances in ever-shorter periods of time while employing ever-fewer pounds of material, ergs of energy, and seconds of time per killing.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Cosmography*

We must progress to the stage of doing all the right things for all the right reasons instead of doing all the right things for all the wrong reasons.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Cosmography*

There's a reason education sucks, and it's the reason why it will never, ever, ever be fixed. It's never going to get any better, don't look for it, be happy for what you've got; because the owners of this country don't want that. I'm talking about the real owners now, the real owners, the big wealthy business interests that control everything and make all the important decisions. Forget the politicians. Politicians are put there to give you the idea that you have freedom of choice. You don't. You have no choice. You have owners. They own you. They own everything. They own all the important land. They own and control the corporations. They've long since bought and paid for the Senate, the Congress, the statehouses and the city halls. They've got the judges in their back pockets. And they own all the big media companies, so that they control just about all of the news and information you hear. They've got you by the balls. They spend billions of dollars every year lobbying -- lobbying to get what they want...

But I'll tell you what they don't want. They don't want a population of citizens capable of critical thinking. They don't want well-informed, well-educated people capable of critical thinking.

They're not interested in that. That doesn't help them. That's against their interests. They don't want people who are smart enough to sit around the kitchen table and figure out how badly they're getting fucked by a system that threw them overboard 30 fucking years ago. They don't want that. You know what they want? Obedient workers -- people who are just smart enough to run the machines and do the paperwork but just dumb enough to passively accept all these increasingly shittier jobs with the lower pay, the longer hours, reduced benefits, the end of overtime and the vanishing pension that disappears the minute you go to collect it. And, now, they're coming for your Social Security. They want your fucking retirement money. They want it back, so they can give it to their criminal friends on Wall Street. And you know something? They'll get it. They'll get it all from you, sooner or later, because they own this fucking place. It's a big club, and you ain't in it...

All day long, beating you over the head in their media, telling you what to believe, what to think and what to buy. The table is tilted, folks. The game is rigged. And nobody seems to notice, nobody seems to care... Good, honest, hard working people – people of modest means – continue to elect these rich cock-suckers who don't give a fuck about them. They don't care about you at all. At all.

– George Carlin, HBO Special

Fear is the passion of slaves.

– Patrick Henry, Virginia Ratifying Convention, June, 1788

Liberty... the idol of my soul... the parent of virtue... the nurse of heroes.

– Arthur Lee

Those who have a 'why' to live, can bear with almost any 'how'.

– Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

Life is never made unbearable by circumstances, but only by lack of meaning and purpose.

– Victor Frankl

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

– Victor Frankl

Pleasure is, and must remain, a side-effect or by-product, and is destroyed and spoiled to the degree to which it is made a goal in itself.

– Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

Man is that being who invented the gas chambers of Auschwitz; however, he is also that being who entered those gas chambers upright, with the Lord's Prayer or the Shema Yisrael on his lips.

– Victor Frankl

Human kindness can be found in all groups, even those which as a whole it would be easy to condemn.

– Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

Woe to him who saw no more sense in his life, no aim, no purpose, and therefore no point in carrying on.

– Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

It is a peculiarity of man that he can only live by looking to the future.

– Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

One evening, when we were already resting on the floor of our hut, dead tired, soup bowls in hand, a fellow prisoner rushed in and asked us to run out to the assembly grounds and see the wonderful sunset. Standing outside we saw sinister clouds glowing in the west and the whole sky alive with clouds of ever-changing shapes and colors, from steel blue to blood red. The desolate grey mud huts provided a sharp contrast, while the puddles on the muddy ground reflected the glowing sky. Then, after minutes of moving silence, one prisoner said to another, "How beautiful the world could be..."

– Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

The meaning of life is to give life meaning.

– Victor Frankl

Sigmund Freud once asserted, "Let one attempt to expose a number of the most diverse people uniformly to hunger. With the increase of the imperative urge of hunger all individual differences will blur, and in their stead will appear the uniform expression of the one unstilled urge." Thank heaven, Sigmund Freud was spared knowing the concentration camps from the inside. His subjects lay on a couch designed in the plush style of Victorian culture, not in the filth of Auschwitz. There, the "individual differences" did not "blur" but, on the contrary, people became more different; people unmasked themselves, both the swine and the saints.

– Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

On the average, only those prisoners could keep alive who, after years of trekking from camp to camp, had lost all scruples in their fight for existence; they were prepared to use every means, honest and otherwise, even brutal force, theft, and betrayal of their friends, in order to save themselves. We who have come back, by the aid of many lucky chances or miracles - whatever one may choose to call them - we know: the best of us did not return.

– Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

A thought transfixed me: for the first time in my life I saw the truth as it is set into song by so many poets, proclaimed as the final wisdom by so many thinkers. The truth—that love is the ultimate and the highest goal to which man can aspire. Then I grasped the meaning of the greatest secret that human poetry and human thought and belief have to impart: The salvation of man is through love and in love. I understood how a man who has nothing left in this world still may know bliss, be it only for a brief moment, in the contemplation of his beloved.

– Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*

We do not ask life what the meaning of life is. Life asks us, what is the meaning of your life.

– Victor Frankl

Suffering ceases to be suffering at the moment it finds a meaning.

– Victor Frankl

No-one will be able to make us believe that man is a sublimated animal once we can show that within him there is a repressed angel.

– Victor Frankl

Because of social pressure, individualism is rejected by most people in favor of conformity. Thus the individual relies mainly upon the actions of others and neglects the meaning of his own personal life. Hence he sees his own life as meaningless and falls into the “existential vacuum” feeling inner void. Progressive automation causes increasing alcoholism, juvenile delinquency, and suicide.

– Victor Frankl

... a political and social structure in which patriarchal, warlike, horse-loving, sky-worshiping, honor-seeking Indo-Europeans were established as a ruling class over peaceful, earth-loving, fertility-dominated, female-oriented peasant peoples. This pattern, first established in central Europe almost four thousand years ago, was not destroyed, in spite of Rome, Christianity, and later migrations, until the appearance of industrialized urban society in the last four generations.

– Carol Quigley, *The Evolution of Civilizations* (1960)

When one has no possibility of acting, one's thinking becomes empty and stupid.

– Erich Fromm, *Mike Wallace Interview*, May 25, 1958

Happy the man, who, studying nature's laws,
Through known effects can trace the secret cause.

– Virgil, *Georgics*

Rage furnishes arms.

– Virgil, *Aeneid*

A mind conscious of its own rectitude.

– Virgil, *Aeneid*

He follows his father, but not with equal steps.

– Virgil, *Aeneid*

They can because they think they can.

– Virgil, *Aeneid*

Fortune favors the bold.

– Virgil, *Aeneid*

You are a small and lonely man, Murphy, like me. The world will never build us a monument. The difference is, I know that.

– Max Cato, Sterling Silliphant, *Murphy's War*

Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.

– Maria Montessori

The task of the educator of young children lies in seeing that the child does not confound good with immobility, and evil with activity.

– Maria Montessori

The child is essentially alien to this society of men and might express his position in the words of the Gospel: *My kingdom is not of this world.*

– Maria Montessori, *The Secret of Childhood*

Vigorous organisms talk not about their processes, but about their aims. There cannot be any better proof of the physical efficiency of a man than that he talks cheerfully of a trip to the end of the world.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

None of the strong men in strong ages would have understood what you meant by working for efficiency.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

The time of big theories was the time of big results.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

... this great gap in modern ethics, the absence of vivid pictures of purity and spiritual triumph.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

What is the good of begetting a man until we have settled what is the good of being a man?

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

Progress by its very name indicates a direction; and the moment we are in the least doubtful about the direction, we become in the same degree doubtful about the progress.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

The professional soldier gains more and more power as the the general courage of a community declines.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

The moment a man is something, he is essentially defying everything.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

A story has behind it, not merely intellect which is partly mechanical, but will, which is in its essence divine.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

The only kind of hope that is of any use in a battle is a hope that defies arithmetic.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Heretics*

You don't ever want a crisis to go to waste; it's an opportunity to do important things that you would otherwise avoid.

– Rahm Emanuel, then White House Chief of Staff, 2008

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to confront only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms.

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden*

Faith in a holy cause is to a considerable extent a substitute for the lost faith in ourselves.

– Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer*

A mass movement, particularly in its active, revivalist phase, appeals not to those intent on bolstering and advancing a cherished self, but to those who crave to be rid of an unwanted self.

– Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer*

When our individual interests and prospects do not seem worth living for, we are in desperate need for something apart from us to live for. All forms of dedication, devotion, loyalty and self-surrender are in essence a desperate clinging to something which might give worth and meaning to our futile, spoiled lives.

– Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer*

We join a mass movement to escape individual responsibility, or, in the words of the ardent young Nazi, "to be free from freedom."

– Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer*

Mass movements can rise and spread without belief in a God, but never without belief in a devil.

– Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer*

Passionate hatred can give meaning and purpose to an empty life.

– Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer*

People whose lives are barren and insecure seem to show a greater willingness to obey than people who are self-sufficient and self-confident. To the frustrated, freedom from responsibility is more attractive than freedom from restraint.

– Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer*

When, for whatever reason, self-esteem is unattainable, the autonomous individual becomes a highly explosive entity. He turns away from an unpromising self and plunges into the pursuit of pride — the explosive substitute for self-esteem. All social disturbances and upheavals have their roots in crises of individual self-esteem, and the great endeavor in which the masses most readily unite is basically a search for pride.

– Eric Hoffer, *The True Believer*

It has often been said that power corrupts. But it is perhaps equally important to realize that weakness, too, corrupts. Power corrupts the few, while weakness corrupts the many. Hatred, malice, rudeness, intolerance, and suspicion are the faults of weakness. The resentment of

the weak does not spring from any injustice done to them but from the sense of inadequacy and impotence. They hate not wickedness but weakness. When it is their power to do so, the weak destroy weakness wherever they see it.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State Of Mind*

The fanatical believer is not conscious of his envy, malice, pettiness and dishonesty. There is a wall of words between his consciousness and his real self.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State Of Mind*

When we believe ourselves in possession of the only truth, we are likely to be indifferent to common everyday truths.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State Of Mind*

If instead of making decisions we have but to obey and do our duty, we feel it as a sort of salvation.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State Of Mind*

To find the cause of our ills in something outside ourselves, something specific that can be spotted and eliminated, is a diagnosis that cannot fail to appeal.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State Of Mind*

We know ourselves chiefly by hearsay.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State Of Mind*

You can discover what your enemy fears most by observing the means he uses to frighten you.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State Of Mind*

You accept certain unlovely things about yourself and manage to live with them. The atonement for such an acceptance is that you make allowances for others.

– Eric Hoffer, *Working and Thinking on The Waterfront*

They pray not only for daily bread, but also for daily illusion.

– Gustav Stresemann

I saw the dawn eighteen months ago, the bright day three months ago, and several days ago, the brightest sun of a most wonderful vision. Now, nothing can restrain me. I let myself go in divine rage. I defy human beings with contempt in this. I have stolen the golden vessels of the Egyptians to create from them a sacred place for my God, far from the borders of Egypt. If you are angry with me I shall bear it, the die is cast. I write for my contemporaries, or, it does not matter, for the future. Perhaps my book will not find readers for a hundred years, but God himself has waited six thousand years for someone to gaze upon his creation with understanding.

-- Johannes Kepler, *The Harmony of The World*

Given ships or sails adapted to the breezes of heaven, there will be those who will not shrink from even that vast expanse.

-- Johannes Kepler, *Dissertatio cum Nuncio Sidereo*

The Noetic must inform the (sensory) cognition, which regulates the emotive. Modernity thinks that the rational dominates. Post-modernity makes the emotive access dominant. Both of them are thus losing the guidance of the noetic, which is why narratives alone do nothing; they are rational at best, only emotive at worst.

If they are purely rational, they are nothing but reports of blind men. If they are emotive they are the ramblings of idiots. One needs to narrate a story that, in the display of persons, informs all faculties. And for that it needs to draw on real (true, good) archetypes and ideals to connect with the noetic.

– The Datamonk

Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children.

– William Makepeace Thackeray

Happy he with such a mother! Faith in womankind beats with his blood, and trust in all things high comes easy to him, and though he trip and fall, he shall not blind his soul with clay.

– Alfred Tennyson, *The Princess*

And say to mothers what a holy charge is theirs—with what a kingly power their love
Might rule the fountains of the new-born mind.

– Mrs. Sigourney, *The Mother of Washington*

God couldn't be everywhere, so he created mothers.

– Jewish Proverb

It is empirically characteristic of self-actualizing people that they have far less doubt about right and wrong than average people do. They do not get confused just because 95 percent of the population disagrees with them.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

I can certainly say that descriptively healthy human beings do not like to be controlled.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

All the evidence we have indicates that it is reasonable to assume in practically every newborn baby, that there is an active will toward health, an impulse toward growth, or toward the actualization of human potentialities. But at once we are confronted with the realization that so few people make it.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

Getting along within one's inner world may be as important as social competence and reality competence.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

My feeling is that the concept of creativeness and the concept of the healthy self-actualizing, fully human person seem to be coming closer together, and may perhaps turn out to be the same things.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

The ability to be “lost in the present” seems to be a *sine qua non* for creativeness of any kind.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

If we have no audience to play to, we cease to be actors.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

This kind of self-forgetfulness is one of the paths to finding one's true identity, one's real self, one's authentic nature, one's deepest nature.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

The two easiest ways of getting peak experiences are through music and through sex.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

We know that children are capable of peak experiences and that they happen frequently during childhood. We also know that the present school system is an extremely effective instrument for crushing peak experiences and forbidding their possibility. The natural child-respecting teacher who is not frightened by the sight of children enjoying themselves is a rare sight in classrooms.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

Children get a great deal of satisfaction in helping someone younger or weaker than themselves accomplish something.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

The deprivation of beauty can cause illness.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

Self-actualizing people, in other words, seem to do what they do for the sake of ultimate, final values, which is for the sake of principles which seem *intrinsically worthwhile*.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Further Reaches of Human Nature*

The organism has more tendency toward choosing health, growth, biological success than we would have thought a century ago. This is in general anti-authoritarian, anti-controlling.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Farther Reaches of Human Nature*

The good person can equally be called the self-evolving person, the responsible-for-himself-and-his-own-evolution person, the fully illuminated or awakened or perspicuous man, the fully human person, the self-actualizing person, etc. In any case, it is quite clear that no social reforms, no beautiful constitutions or beautiful programs or laws will be of any consequence unless people are healthy enough, evolved enough, strong enough, good enough to understand them and to want to put them into practice the right way.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Farther Reaches of Human Nature*

When in doubt, be honest.

– Abraham Maslow, *The Farther Reaches of Human Nature*

It is too often not realized that culture itself is an adaptive tool, one of whose main functions is to make the physiological emergencies come less and less often.

– Abraham Maslow, *A Theory of Human Motivation*

Human beings seem to be far more autonomous and self-governed than modern psychological theory allows for.

– Abraham Maslow, *Motivation and Personality*

You will either step forward into growth, or you will step backward into safety.

– Abraham Maslow, as quoted in *How the Best Leaders Lead* by Brian Tracy

I've lived a long time. I'm ninety-eight years-old, and now I have to die. I swear to you, I believe laws were better when they were made by each man by the use of his own gun than they are today; and I believe when I was a young girl, people were more law-abidin' than they are today.

– Rachel Adeline Fanning Larremore, who lived in the “Wild West.” (Born 1849, lived in Texas and New Mexico from the Civil War till her death in 1948.) Quoted to Monk Lofton by her friend Dee Harkey, who had been a US Marshall in the old west, prior to his death in 1958 at ninety-two years old.

If anything, the man who wronged another in those days was taking a bigger chance in being punished for his crime. A man in his right mind then didn't dare wrong another purposely; and if he figured he might have wronged him, accidentally, he was quick to make amends. Each person pretty much enforced the laws as he understood them. If the strong imposed his gun on the weak, or became ruthless in his dealings with his fellow man, there was always the posse.

– Dee Harkey, who had been a US Marshall in the old west, recorded by Monk Lofton.

Creating a Wild West environment where following the law is a choice rather than a requirement.

– An accusation against Ripple, by Richard Weber, Chief, IRS Criminal Investigation, May 5, 2015.

We now have in our hands—really, in our libraries—the technology to feed, clothe, and supply energy to an ever-growing population for the next seven billion years.

– Julian Simon, *The State of Humanity: Steadily Improving*, Cato Institute, 1995

In every creative conception there is an element of primeval freedom, fathomless, undetermined by anything, not proceeding from God, but ascending toward God.

– Nikolai Berdyaev, *The Ethics of Creativity*

The gospel continually speaks of the fruit which the seed must bring forth if it falls on good soil, and of talents given to man that must be returned with profit. Under cover of parable, Christ refers in these words to man's creative activity, to his creative vocation. To bury one's talents in the ground, i.e., absence of creativeness, is condemned by Christ.

– Nikolai Berdyaev, *The Ethics of Creativity*

If a man feels nothing but humility and a perpetual sense of sin, he can do no creative work. Creativeness means that one's mind passes on to another plane of being.

– Nikolai Berdyaev, *The Ethics of Creativity*

Creativeness in all its aspects... testifies to the presence in man of a certain principle which may be the source of a system of morality different from the ethics of law and the ethics of

redemption. Creativeness, more than anything else, is reminiscent of man's vocation before the Fall, and is, in a sense, "beyond good and evil."

– Nikolai Berdyaev, *The Ethics of Creativity*

It is therefore inevitable that we should pass to the ethics of creativeness, which deals with man's true vocation and destiny.

– Nikolai Berdyaev, *The Ethics of Creativity*

Beauty is the image of creative energy radiating over the whole world and transforming it.

– Nikolai Berdyaev, *The Ethics of Creativity*

The creative act is an escape from time; it is performed in the realm of freedom, not of necessity.

– Nikolai Berdyaev, *The Ethics of Creativity*

Man has come to love freedom as he never has before, and he demands freedom with extraordinary persistence... Man has grown more compassionate than before. He cannot endure the cruelty of the old days... Man is more eager than ever before to create... And yet the striving for freedom, compassion, and creativeness is both new and eternal. Therefore the new ethics is bound to be an ethics of freedom, compassion and creativeness.

– Nikolai Berdyaev, *The Ethics of Creativity*

We used to pay too little attention to utopias, or even disregard them altogether, saying with regret they were impossible of realisation. Now indeed they seem to be able to be brought about far more easily than we supposed, and we are actually faced by an agonising problem of quite another kind: how can we prevent their final realisation? ... Utopias are more realisable than those 'realist politics' that are only the carefully calculated policies of office-holders, and towards utopias we are moving. But it is possible that a new age is already beginning, in which cultured and intelligent people will dream of ways to avoid ideal states and to get back to a society that is less 'perfect' and more free.

– Nikolai Berdyaev, *The End of Our Time*

It appears that liberty is bound up with imperfection, with a right to imperfection.

– Nikolai Berdyaev, *The End of Our Time*

What one needs to do at every moment of one's life is to put an end to the old world and to begin a new world.

– Nikolai Berdyaev, *The Beginning And The End*

We are often deceived by the liberty and ease of life in the classic period of Athenian democracy – in those brief hundred and fifty years that divide the Greco-Persian war from the Macedonian conquest. But this liberty was the result of a decomposition, was more a licentiousness than a law of life. The merchant-industrial classes had undermined the solidity of the rural patriotic mores, the teaching of the sophists had shattered the ancient faith; it became easier to live in the void that had formed, that is, it became easier to enjoy life without being hindered by obsolete norms.

– Georgy Fedotov, *The Christian Origins of Freedom*

How monotonously alike all the great tyrants and conquerors have been; how gloriously different are the saints.

– C.S. Lewis

The greatest thing a man can do is to express gratitude.

– Nathaniel Brandon

If my aim is to prove I am “enough,” the project goes on to infinity because the battle was already lost the day I conceded the issue was debatable.

– Nathaniel Brandon

The more you become a connoisseur of gratitude, the less you are a victim of resentment, depression and despair. Gratitude will act as an elixir that will gradually dissolve the hard shell of your ego – your need to possess and control – and transform you into a generous being.

The sense of gratitude produces true spiritual alchemy, makes us magnanimous – large souled.

– Sam Keen

When we are in contact with our feelings and needs, we humans no longer make good slaves and underlings.

– Marshall Rosenberg, *Nonviolent Communication*

When our consciousness is focused on what we need, we are naturally stimulated toward the creative possibilities of how to get that need met.

– Marshall Rosenberg, *Nonviolent Communication*

When we are conscious of the life-enriching purpose behind an action we take, when the sole energy that motivates us is simply to make life wonderful for others and ourselves, then even hard work has an element of play in it.

– Marshall Rosenberg, *Nonviolent Communication*

When we have a judgmental dialog going on within, we become alienated from what we are needing and cannot then act to meet those needs.

– Marshall Rosenberg, *Nonviolent Communication*

All new that is done contrary to the usage and the customs of our ancestors, seems not to be right.

– Roman censorial edict, 92 BC, recorded by Suetonius

We are progeny of the cosmos and our ability to understand it is an inheritance.

– Janna Levin, *How The Universe Got Its Spots*

Judaism is like the Blues Brothers: “We’re on a mission from G-d.” It isn’t a safe mission, but it’s ours. Think. Adapt. Make your mission happen. Get back up. Keep. The. Faith. Oh, and you’re probably gonna be chased. A lot.

– Joe Katzman

If our intention had been merely to bring back a handful of soil and rocks from the lunar gravel pit and then forget the whole thing, we would certainly be history’s biggest fools.

– Wernher von Braun, Speech, July 15, 1969

What we are seeking in tomorrow's [Apollo 11] trip is indeed that key to our future on earth. We are expanding the mind of man. We are extending this God-given brain and these God-given hands to their outermost limits and in so doing all mankind will benefit. All mankind will reap the harvest.... What we will have attained when Neil Armstrong steps down upon the moon is a completely new step in the evolution of man.

– Wernher von Braun, Speech, July 15, 1969

Everything in space obeys the laws of physics. If you know these laws, and obey them, space will treat you kindly. And don't tell me that man doesn't belong out there. Man belongs wherever he wants to go — and he'll do plenty well when he gets there.

– Wernher von Braun, *Time* magazine (17 February 1958)

We knew that we had created a new means of warfare, and the question as to what nation, to what victorious nation we were willing to entrust this brainchild of ours was a moral decision more than anything else. We wanted to see the world spared another conflict such as Germany had just been through, and we felt that only by surrendering such a weapon to people who are guided by the Bible could such an assurance to the world be best secured.

– Wernher von Braun, *Arts & Entertainment, Biography* (1959–1961 series)

My experiences with science led me to God. They challenge science to prove the existence of God. But must we really light a candle to see the sun?

– Wernher von Braun, From a letter to the California State board of Education (14 September 1972)

Science does not have a moral dimension. It is like a knife. If you give it to a surgeon or a murderer, each will use it differently.

– Wernher von Braun, quoted in *Juan Yong Ying Yu Ming Yan*.

The hero lives only as long as the cowards want him.

– Mexican proverb

One of the few unalloyed pleasures of old age is living long enough to see yourself vindicated.

– Michael Ignatieff

Had Luther and Calvin been confined before they had begun to dogmatize, the states would have been spared many troubles.

– Cardinal Richelieu

Harshness towards individuals who flout the laws and commands of state is for the public good; no greater crime against the public interest is possible than to show leniency to those who violate it.

– Cardinal Richelieu

It ought to be remembered that there is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.

-- Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

There is nothing proportionate between the armed and the unarmed.

-- Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Machiavelli is the complete contrary of a Machiavellian, since he describes the tricks of power and “gives the whole show away.” The seducer and the politician, who live in the dialectic and have a feeling and instinct for it, try their best to keep it hidden.

– Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *In Praise of Philosophy*

It seems to me that Facebook and Twitter and YouTube—and just so you don’t think this is a generational thing, TV and radio and magazines and even newspapers, too—are all ultimately just an elaborate excuse to run away from yourself. To avoid the difficult and troubling questions that being human throws in your way. Am I doing the right thing with my life? Do I believe the things I was taught as a child? What do the words I live by—words like duty, honor, and country—really mean? Am I happy?

– William Deresiewicz, *Solitude & Leadership*, American Thinker, Spring, 2010

And we never failed to fail, it was the easiest thing to do.

– Steven Stills, *Southern Cross*

I decided man was operating on a fundamental fallacy: that man was supposed to be a failure and therefore had to prove his right to live. Each man then said, “I must show I can earn my living, and let other people go die.”

I decided the fallacy was that man was, in fact, designed to be an extraordinary success. His characteristics were magnificent; what he needed was to discover the comprehensive patterns operating in the universe.

– Buckminster Fuller, quoted in *An Autobiographical Monologue*

Either you're going to go along with your mind and the truth, or you're going to yield to fear and custom and conditioned reflexes.

– Buckminster Fuller, quoted in *An Autobiographical Monologue*

The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe.

– John Walter Wayland

I, having arrived at Sykamina, stopped by a certain old man well-versed in scriptures, and I said to him: “What can you tell me about the prophet who has appeared with the Saracens?” He replied, groaning deeply: “He is false, for the prophets do not come armed with a sword.” ... So I, Abraham, inquired and heard from those who had met him that there was no truth to be found in the so-called prophet, only the shedding of men's blood.

– *The Teaching of Jacob*, circa 634 A.D.

This business of hatred between nations is a curious thing. You will always find it more powerful and barbarous on the lowest levels of civilization.

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, quoted by Will Durant in *The Story of Civilization Volume 10*

He alone is great and happy, who requires neither to command nor to obey, in order to secure his being of some importance in the world.

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Götz von Berlichingen* Act I

Love does not dominate, it cultivates. And that is more.

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Das Marchen*

All poetry is supposed to be instructive but in an unnoticeable manner; it is supposed to make us aware of what would be valuable to instruct ourselves in; we must deduce the lesson on our own, just as with life.

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Letter to Carl Friedrich Zelter*

A teacher who can arouse a feeling for one single good action, for one single good poem, accomplishes more than he who fills our memory with rows on rows of natural objects, classified with name and form.

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Elective Affinities*

I'm sorry for people who make a great to-do about the transitory nature of things and get lost in meditations of earthly nothingness. Surely we are here precisely so as to turn what passes into something that endures; but this is possible only if you can appreciate both.

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *Maxim #155*

The further back you look, the further forward you can see.

– Winston Churchill

[American exceptionalism] is a reaction to the inability of people to understand global complexity or important issues like American energy dependency. Therefore, they search for simplistic sources of comfort and clarity. And the people that they are now selecting to be, so to speak, the spokespersons of their anxieties are, in most cases, stunningly ignorant.

– Zbigniew Brzezinski, Interview in *Der Spiegel*, December 6, 2010

And in the face of beauty, evil was lost.

– Uriah Heep, *Circle Of Hands*

Even the losers get lucky sometimes.

– Tom Petty

In the end, science offers us the only way out of politics. And if we allow science to become politicized, then we are lost. We will enter the Internet version of the Dark Ages, an era of shifting fears and wild prejudices transmitted to people who don't know any better. That's not a good future for the human race.

– Michael Crichton

With rebellion, awareness is born.

– Albert Camus, quoted in *The Estranged God: Modern Man's Search for Belief* (1966)

A living man can be enslaved and reduced to the historic condition of an object. But if he dies in refusing to be enslaved, he reaffirms the existence of another kind of human nature which refuses to be classified as an object.

– Albert Camus, *Existentialism Versus Marxism: Conflicting Views on Humanism* (1966)

Art is the symbol of the two noblest human efforts: to construct and to refrain from destruction.

– Simone Weil, *The Pre-War Notebook*

Whenever one tries to suppress doubt, there is tyranny.

– Simone Weil, *Lectures in philosophy*

The thought of being under absolute compulsion, the plaything of another, is unendurable for a human being. Hence, if every way of escape from the constraint is taken from him, there is nothing left for him to do but to persuade himself that he does the things he is forced to do willingly, that is to say, to substitute *devotion* for *obedience*. ... It is by this twist that slavery debases the soul: this devotion is in fact based on a lie, since the reasons for it cannot bear investigation. ... Moreover, the master is deceived too by the fallacy of devotion.

– Simone Weil, *Gravity and Grace*

We believe we are rising because while keeping the same base inclinations (for instance: the desire to triumph over others) we have given them a noble object. We should, on the contrary, rise by attaching noble inclinations to lowly objects.

– Simone Weil, *Gravity and Grace*

The real sin of idolatry is always committed on behalf of something similar to the State.

– Simone Weil, *Prelude to Politics*

In order to be exercised, the intelligence requires to be free to express itself without control by any authority. There must therefore be a domain of pure intellectual research, separate but accessible to all, where no authority intervenes.

– Simone Weil, *Statement Of Obligations*

The majority of the pious are idolaters.

– Simone Weil, *Last Notebook*

If you say to someone who has ears to hear: "What you are doing to me is not just," you may touch and awaken at its source the spirit of attention and love. But it is not the same with words like, "I have the right..." or "you have no right to..." They evoke a latent war and awaken the spirit of contention.

– Simone Weil, *Human Personality*

Conscience is deceived by the social.

– Simone Weil, *The Great Beast*

Human history is simply the history of the servitude which makes men — oppressed and oppressors alike — the plaything of the instruments of domination they themselves have manufactured, and thus reduces living humanity to being the chattel of inanimate chattels.

– Simone Weil, *Analysis of Oppression*

What a country calls its vital economic interests are not the things which enable its citizens to live, but the things which enable it to make war... What is called national prestige consists in behaving always in such a way as to demoralize other nations by giving them the impression that, if it comes to war, one would certainly defeat them. What is called national security is an imaginary state of affairs in which one would retain the capacity to make war while depriving all other countries of it.

– Simone Weil, *The Power of Words*

God's love for us is not the reason for which we should love him. God's love for us is the reason for us to love ourselves.

– Simone Weil, *Love*

The capacity to give one's attention to a sufferer is a very rare and difficult thing; it is almost a miracle; it is a miracle. Nearly all those who think they have this capacity do not possess it. Warmth of heart, impulsiveness, pity are not enough.

– Simone Weil, *Reflections on the Right Use of School Studies*

The surrealists have set up non-oriented thought as a model; they have chosen the total absence of value as their supreme value. Men have always been intoxicated by license, which is why, throughout history, towns have been sacked. But there has not always been a literary equivalent for the sacking of towns. Surrealism is such an equivalent.

– Simone Weil, *The Responsibility of Writers*

Our highest endeavor must be to develop free human beings who are able of themselves to impart purpose and direction to their lives.

– Rudolf Steiner

Every man is an instrument and his life is its melody.

– Old Jewish saying

You can have a lord, you can have a king, but the man to fear is the tax collector.

– Sumerian proverb

The ethical concepts and moral ideals developed by the Sumerians were essentially identical with those of the Hebrews, although they lacked their almost palpable ethical sensitivity and moral fervor...

– Samuel Noah Kramer, *The Sumerians: Their History, Culture and Character*

[The Sumerians'] emphasis of the social solidarity of religion is truly in remarkable contrast to the religious individualism of the Semite.

– Stephan Langdon, *Sumerians Liturgies and Psalms*

When it gets down to having to use violence, then you are playing the system's game. The establishment will irritate you – pull your beard, flick your face – to make you fight. Because once they've got you violent, then they know how to handle you. The only thing they don't know how to handle is non-violence and humor.

– John Lennon

If everyone demanded peace instead of another television set, then there'd be peace.
– John Lennon

Produce your own dream.... It's quite possible to do anything, but not to put it on the leaders.... You have to do it yourself. That's what the great masters and mistresses have been saying ever since time began. They can point the way, leave signposts and little instructions in various books that are now called holy and worshiped for the cover of the book and not for what it says, but the instructions are all there for all to see, have always been and always will be. There's nothing new under the sun. All the roads lead to Rome. And people cannot provide it for you. I can't wake you up. You can wake you up. I can't cure you. You can cure you.

– John Lennon

[Joseph] remembered the Lord and the words which Jacob, his father, used to read from amongst the words of Abraham.

– Book of Jubilees, chapter 39

[Jacob] gave all his books and the books of his fathers to Levi his son that he might preserve them and renew them for his children until this day.

– Book of Jubilees, chapter 39

The most important kind of freedom is to be what you really are. You trade in your reality for a role. You trade in your sense for an act. You give up your ability to feel, and in exchange, put on a mask. There can't be any large-scale revolution until there's a personal revolution, on an individual level. It's got to happen inside first.

– Jim Morrison

If they had tried to offer my generation music from someone that had won a game show... you would have been laughed out of the room.

– Tom Petty, interview with Jian Ghomeshi of CBC, 2014

Material abundance without character is the path of destruction.

– Thomas Jefferson

How soon the labor of men would make a paradise of the whole earth, were it not for misgovernment and selfish interests.

– Thomas Jefferson, 1825

It is strangely absurd to suppose that a million people, collected together, are not under the same moral laws that bind them separately.

– Thomas Jefferson, 1816

Despite how open, peaceful and loving you attempt to be, people can only meet you as deeply as they've met themselves.

– Matt Kahn

The vivid people keep moving on.

– Alfred North Whitehead

Beneath the smiling mask, we can see the injury that results from a deficiency of rebellion. The nice ones are never quite real. They lack self-definition, self-confidence, because they have never created boundaries and limits for themselves by making decisions. Having never dared to break the taboos they suffer from shame. Their sins are ones of omission rather than commission. They "have left undone those things they ought to have done," most especially deciding for themselves what is good and evil.

– Sam Keen, *The Passionate Life*

Being impotent because they have never dared to assert themselves, they continually play the blame game. They are innocent and powerless and, therefore, others are always to blame when things go wrong. ... They have yet to bite the apple of consciousness.

– Sam Keen, *The Passionate Life*

It is only from the perspective of the outlaw ... that we are able to see that mythically informed normality is a form of mass hypnosis.

– Sam Keen, *The Passionate Life*

Hero tales suggest the price of courage is beyond the ordinary budget. They tempt us to disown the common capacity of the human spirit to transcend normality.

– Sam Keen, *The Passionate Life*

It is the vocation of each person to become unique.

– Sam Keen, *The Passionate Life*

A prime time to catch yourself putting on your personality is in the moments between sleeping and waking.

– Sam Keen, *The Passionate Life*

It is disturbing for an individual to reject the tribe's claim to self-righteousness because it excludes him or her from the civil religion, the social immortality system, and the ritual of scapegoating, in which guilt is alleviated by being assigned to an outcast or enemy that the tribe may destroy in the name of God.

– Sam Keen, *The Passionate Life*

I am unable to accept the idea that I should be an obedient subject of a gang of corrupt, unprincipled thugs who pontificate about freedom while enslaving the population.

– John Pugsley

For those looking for security, be forewarned that there's nothing more insecure than a political promise.

– Harry Browne

There is only one basic human right, the right to do as you damn well please. And with it comes the only basic human duty, the duty to take the consequences.

– P.J. O'Rourke

But what we've got going wrong is we've got a kind of bifurcation [in cultural development]: You take your classified telephone directory, and open up "Churches", and have a ruler in your hand. And you will find that the longest space is occupied by authoritarian, Bible-banging

churches. And these people are *barbarians*, who take the written word of the Bible literally. Because they need terribly, they have a personal need, for something to depend on. ... The government realizes that there is a very large number of people like that; and therefore, to keep their votes, they have to pander to those kind of people. And these are the boys who never grew up; they always need Papa. ... The trouble is that the boys who need Papa, are violent. They have the guns. And they are the types of people who like to be soldiers, policemen — tough guys. And therefore they have a great deal of power.

– Alan Watts, interview with Les Hixon, November 1972

This is the real secret of life — to be completely engaged with what you are doing in the here and now. And instead of calling it work, realize it is play.

– Alan Watts, *The Essence of Alan Watts*

It is perfectly obvious that the whole world is going to hell. The only possible chance that it might not is that we do not attempt to prevent it from doing so.

– Robert Oppenheimer, quoted by Alan Watts

I am amazed that Congressmen can pass a bill imposing severe penalties on anyone who burns the American flag, whereas they are responsible for burning that for which the flag stands.

– Alan Watts, *Individual and Society*

The greater part of human activity is designed to make permanent those experiences and joys which are only lovable because they are changing.

– Alan Watts, *The Wisdom of Insecurity*

Psychotherapists ... are dealing with people whose distress arises from what may be termed *maya*, to use the Hindu-Buddhist word whose exact meaning is not merely 'illusion' but the entire world-conception of a culture, considered as illusion in the strict etymological sense of a play (Latin, *ludere*). The aim of a way of liberation is not the destruction of *maya* but seeing it for what it is, or seeing through it. Play is not to be taken seriously, or, in other words, ideas of the world and of oneself which are social conventions and institutions are not to be confused with reality.

– Alan Watts, *The Wisdom of Insecurity*

When a man no longer confuses himself with the definition of himself that others have given him, he is at once universal and unique. He is universal by virtue of the inseparability of his organism from the cosmos. He is unique in that he is just this organism and not any stereotype of role, class, or identity assumed for the convenience of social communication.

– Alan Watts, *The Wisdom of Insecurity*

Wonder is not a disease. Wonder, and its expression in poetry and the arts, are among the most important things which seem to distinguish men from other animals, and intelligent and sensitive people from morons.

– Alan Watts, *Inside Information*

But peace can be made only by those who are peaceful, and love can be shown only by those who love. No work of love will flourish out of guilt, fear, or hollowness of heart, just as no valid plans for the future can be made by those who have no capacity for living now.

– Alan Watts, *The Wisdom of Insecurity*

Stop aspiring and start writing. If you're writing, you're a writer. Write like you're a goddamn death row inmate and the governor is out of the country and there's no chance for a pardon. Write like you're clinging to the edge of a cliff, white knuckles, on your last breath, and you've got just one last thing to say, like you're a bird flying over us and you can see everything, and please, for God's sake, tell us something that will save us from ourselves. Take a deep breath and tell us your deepest, darkest secret, so we can wipe our brow and know that we're not alone. Write like you have a message from the king. Or don't.

– Alan Watts

To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all.

– Oscar Wilde

It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it.

– Oscar Wilde

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

– Maya Angelou

Books are a uniquely portable magic.

– Stephen King, *On Writing*

He's not perfect. You aren't either, and the two of you will never be perfect. But if he can make you laugh at least once, causes you to think twice, and if he admits to being human and making mistakes, hold onto him and give him the most you can. He isn't going to quote poetry, he's not thinking about you every moment, but he will give you a part of him that he knows you could break. Don't hurt him, don't change him, and don't expect for more than he can give. Don't analyze. Smile when he makes you happy, yell when he makes you mad, and miss him when he's not there. Love hard when there is love to be had. Because perfect guys don't exist, but there's always one guy that is perfect for you.

– Bob Marley

The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off.

– Joe Klaas, *Twelve Steps to Happiness*

What is the point of being alive if you don't at least try to do something remarkable?

– John Green, *An Abundance of Katherines*

A good shepherd shears his flock; he does not flay them.

– Tiberius Caesar, when asked to impose higher taxes, as quoted by Suetonius in *The Twelve Caesars*

A good American makes propaganda for whatever existence has forced him to become.

– Saul Bellow, *Cousins*

In the greatest confusion there is still an open channel to the soul. It may be difficult to find because by midlife it is overgrown, and some of the wildest thickets that surround it grow out of what we describe as our education. But the channel is always there, and it is our business to keep it open, to have access to the deepest part of ourselves.

– Saul Bellow, Foreword to *The Closing of the American Mind* by Allan Bloom

Everybody knows there is no fineness or accuracy of suppression; if you hold down one thing, you hold down the adjoining.

– Saul Bellow, *The Adventures of Augie March*

People reserve their best thinking for their professional specialties and, next in line, for serious matters confronting the alert citizen —economics, politics, the disposal of nuclear waste, etc. The day's work done, they want to be entertained.

– Saul Bellow, Foreword to *The Closing of the American Mind* by Allan Bloom

The means of defence against foreign danger have been always the instruments of tyranny at home. Among the Romans it was a standing maxim to excite a war, whenever a revolt was apprehended. Throughout all Europe, the armies kept up under the pretext of defending, have enslaved the people.

– James Madison

We are fast approaching the stage of the ultimate inversion: the stage where the government is free to do anything it pleases, while the citizens may act only by permission; which is the stage of the darkest periods of human history, the stage of rule by brute force.

– Ayn Rand, *The Nature of Government*

Don't regard yourself as a guardian of freedom unless you respect and preserve the rights of people you disagree with...

– Gerard K. O'Neill

I had been conscious of a feeling of depression and so I voiced to [Stimson] my grave misgivings, first on the basis of my belief that Japan was already defeated and that dropping the bomb was completely unnecessary, and secondly because I thought that our country should avoid shocking world opinion by the use of a weapon whose employment was, I thought, no longer mandatory as a measure to save American lives. It was my belief that Japan was, at that very moment, seeking some way to surrender with a minimum loss of 'face.'

– Dwight Eisenhower, *The White House Years*

The war would have been over in two weeks without the Russians entering and without the atomic bomb. The atomic bomb had nothing to do with the end of the war at all.

– General Curtis LeMay, press conference Sept. 20, 1945

The rights and wrongs of Hiroshima are debatable, but I have never heard a plausible justification of Nagasaki.

– Telford Taylor, the chief prosecutor at Nuremberg

It is my opinion that the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material success in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender.

– Admiral William Leahy, wartime Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (1950)

America should have minded her own business and stayed out of the World War. If you hadn't entered the war the Allies would have made peace with Germany in the spring of 1917. Had we made peace then there would have been no collapse in Russia followed by Communism, no breakdown in Italy followed by Fascism, and Germany would not have signed the Versailles Treaty, which has enthroned Nazism in Germany.

– Winston Churchill (1936)

But when you see a culture that values violence, or rigid adherence to ancient rules and taboos, or the concentration of power in the hands of a very few, it is important to our larger human culture that we not pussyfoot around, pretending that these practices are somehow equally valid or moral or respectable as those practices that encourage the best in human nature.

– Dr. Joel Wade, *The True Path of Human Evolution*

How can you govern a country which has 246 varieties of cheese?

– Charles de Gaulle

Earth is the cradle of the mind, but one cannot live in the cradle forever.

– K. E. Tsiolkovsky

Our school systems are all nonsynergetic. We take the whole child and fractionate the scope of his or her comprehending coordination by putting the children in elementary schools—to become preoccupied with elements or isolated facts only. Thereafter we force them to choose some specialization, forcing them to forget the whole. ... We may well ask how it happened that the entire scheme of advanced education is devoted exclusively to ever narrower specialization. We find that the historical beginnings of schools and tutoring were established, and economically supported by illiterate and vastly ambitious warlords who required a wide variety of brain slaves with which to logically and ballistically overwhelm those who opposed their expansion of physical conquest. They also simultaneously DIVIDED and CONQUERED any and all "bright ones" who might otherwise rise within their realms to threaten their supremacy. The warlord vitiated their threat by making them all specialists and reserving to himself exclusively the right to think about and act comprehensively. The warlord made all those about him differentiators and reserved the function of integration to himself.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Presentation to U.S. Congressional Sub-Committee on World Game*

The Things to do are: the things that need doing, that *you* see need to be done, and that no one else seems to see need to be done. Then you will conceive your own way of doing that which needs to be done — that no one else has told you to do or how to do it. This will bring out the real you that often gets buried inside a character that has acquired a superficial array of behaviors induced or imposed by others on the individual.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Letter to Micheal*

It is essential to release humanity from the false fixations of yesterday, which seem now to bind it to a rationale of action leading only to extinction.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Synergetics*

Our survival won't depend on political or economic systems. It's going to depend on the courage of the individual to speak the truth, and to speak it lovingly and not destructively. It's saying what you really know and feel is the truth, in all directions. Our greatest vulnerability lies in the amount of misinformation and misconditioning of humanity. I've found the education systems are full of it. You have to examine each word and ask yourself, "Is that the right word for that?" — the integrity and the courage of the individual to speak his own truth and not to go along with the crowd, yet not making others seem ignorant. After a while, if enough human beings are doing it, then everybody will start going in the right direction.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Norie Huddle interview* (1981)

We can now take care of everybody at a higher standard of living than anybody has ever known. It does not have to be "you or me," so selfishness is unnecessary and war is obsolete. This has never been done before. Only twelve years ago technology reached the point where this could be done. Since then it has made it ever so much easier to do.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Norie Huddle interview* (1981)

There's a built-in resistance to letting humanity be a success. Each one claims that *their* system is the best one for coping with inadequacy. We have to make them *all* obsolete. We need to find within technology that there is something we can do which is capable of taking care of everybody, and to demonstrate that this is so.

– Buckminster Fuller, *Norie Huddle interview* (1981)

Are you spontaneously enthusiastic about everyone having everything you can have?

– Buckminster Fuller, *Critical Path*

And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

– Isaiah 29

You asked me if an ordinary person, by studying hard, would get to be able to imagine these things like I imagine. Of course! I was an ordinary person who studied hard. There are no miracle people. It just happened that they got interested in this thing and they learned all this stuff. They're just people. There's no talent or special miracle ability to understand quantum mechanics or miracle ability to imagine electromagnetic fields, that comes without reading and learning and study. So, if you say you take an ordinary person who's will to devote a great deal of time and study and work and thinking and mathematics and time, then he's become a scientist.

– Richard Feynman, *Fun To Imagine*

Groups are more immoral than individuals.

– Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter From Birmingham Jail*

The extraordinary greatness of the Roman Empire manifests itself above all in three things: the aqueducts, the paved roads, and the construction of the drains.

– Dionysius of Halicarnassus, *Roman Antiquities* (circa 20 BC)

The conclusion needs to be stated in letters ten feet high. In order to realize his possibilities, man must believe in an *open* future; he must have a vision of something worth doing. And this will not be possible until all the determinism and pessimism that we have inherited from the 19th century -- and which has infected every department of our culture, from poetry to atomic physics -- has been dismissed as fallacious and illogical. Twentieth century science, philosophy, politics, literature -- even music -- has been constructed upon a *weltanschauung* that leaves half of human nature out of account. – Colin Wilson, *New Pathways In Psychology*

The pleasant weakness of convalescence ran through my veins.

– Primo Levi, *The Reawakening*

Resolve to serve no more, and you are at once freed. I do not ask that you place hands upon the tyrant to topple him over, but simply that you support him no longer; then you will behold him, like a great Colossus whose pedestal has been pulled away, fall of his own weight and break into pieces.

– Étienne de la Boétie, *Discourse on Voluntary Servitude*

...We who are as good as you, make you, who are no better than we, our king. And we will bear true allegiance if you observe our laws and customs; if not, not.

– The Aragon assembly, declaring Charles V King, January 23, 1516

Violent revolution fails because it is not revolutionary enough. It changes the rulers but not the rules, the ends but not the means. Most of the old androcratic values and delusional assumptions remain intact.

– Walter Wink, *Engaging the Powers*

Neutrality in a situation of oppression always supports the status quo. Reduction of conflict by means of a phony “peace” is not a Christian goal. Justice is the goal...

– Walter Wink, *Jesus and Nonviolence*

One cannot be an individual, a person separate from others, without having secrets. It is because secrets separate people that individualists treasure them and collectivists condemn them.

As keeping secrets separates people, so sharing them brings people together. Gossip, confessional, psychoanalysis, each involves communicating secrets and thus establishing human relationships. Traditionally, sex has been a very private, secretive activity. Herein perhaps lies its powerful force for uniting people in a strong bond. As we make sex less secretive, we may rob it of its power to hold men and women together.

– Thomas Szasz, *The Second Sin*

A man buys and sells in the market place and takes care that others shall not cheat him. A day comes when he takes care that he shall not cheat others. In that day his market cart becomes a chariot of the sun.

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

My political opinions lean more and more to Anarchy (philosophically understood, meaning the abolition of control not whiskered men with bombs)—or to ‘unconstitutional’ Monarchy. I

would arrest anybody who uses the word State (in any sense other than the inanimate real of England and its inhabitants, a thing that has neither power, rights nor mind); and after a chance of recantation, execute them if they remained obstinate! If we could go back to personal names, it would do a lot of good. Government is an abstract noun meaning the art and process of governing and it should be an offence to write it with a capital G or so to refer to people . . .

– J.R.R. Tolkien, letter to his son, Christopher, 1943

It is to be expected that advances in physiology and psychology will give governments much more control over individual mentality than they now have even in totalitarian countries. Fichte laid it down that, education should aim at destroying free will, so that, after pupils have left school, they shall be incapable, throughout the rest of their lives, of thinking or acting otherwise than as their schoolmasters would have wished. But in his day this was an unattainable ideal: what he regarded as the best system in existence produced Karl Marx. In future such failures are not likely to occur where there is dictatorship.

Diet, injections, and injunctions will combine, from a very early age, to produce the sort of character and the sort of beliefs that the authorities consider desirable, and any serious criticism of the powers that be will become psychologically impossible.

Even if all are miserable, all will believe themselves happy, because the government will tell them that they are so.

– Bertrand Russell, *The Impact of Science on Society*

I would rather have questions that can't be answered than answers that can't be questioned.

– Richard Feynman

It is our duty as men and women to proceed as though limits to our abilities do not exist. We are collaborators in creation.

– Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

I ought to have... become a star in the sky. Instead of which I have remained stuck on earth.

– Ludwig Wittgenstein, quoted in *Wittgenstein: a life*, by Brian McGuinness

We used to say, "Cypherpunks write code." Actually, though, that wasn't very true. Romana wrote Stego for the Mac, but that was about it. Mostly, we made a lot of noise and got interviewed by Wired and such. I wrote some articles. Still what we did helped turn the tide.

– Sandy Sandfort, member and occasionally moderator of the original Cypherpunks list

If the path before you is clear, you're probably on someone else's.

– Joseph Campbell

Above all it is essential to refer to things by their correct names. If things are not referred to by their correct names, then our language will not reflect reality. If our language does not reflect reality, then our actions will not reflect reality, and will be exercises in futility.

– Confucius, *The Analects*, Chapter 13, Verse 3

In human affairs, all that endures is what men think.

– Isabel Patterson, *The God of The Machine*

An army is a diversion of energy from the productive life of a nation.

– Isabel Patterson, *The God of The Machine*

Whether it does any good or not, a law enforced must hurt someone.

– Isabel Patterson, *The God of The Machine*

There can be no greater stretch of arbitrary power than is required to seize children from their parents, teach them whatever the authorities decree they shall be taught, and expropriate from the parents the funds to pay for the procedure.

– Isabel Patterson, *The God of The Machine*

Violent exploitation through politics creates destructive class conflict; peaceful cooperation through the market doesn't.

– Matthew McCaffrey, *The Class Struggle is Real*

I don't care that they stole my idea... I care that they don't have any of their own.

– Nikola Tesla

Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinions, but not to his or her own facts.

– Daniel Patrick Moynihan

The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise.

– Cornelius Tacitus (circa 56 AD)

Modern idealism becomes worship of the State. The church of the Middle Ages reappears in a new guise and the modern State is endowed with powers and significance in consequence of man's fallen status.

– Adam Ulam, Harvard historian, 1951

It was never good times in England since the poor began to speculate on their condition.

Formerly they jogged on with as little reflection as horses.

– William Lamb, Irish Secretary of England, letter to George Dyer, 1830

Governments in long-term decline often find that their luck runs out.

– Paul Johnson, *The Birth of The Modern*

... the universities... had little to do with it [the industrial revolution], and the government nothing at all.

– Paul Johnson, *The Birth of The Modern*

Humans don't mind hardship, in fact they thrive on it; what they mind is not feeling necessary. Modern society has perfected the art of making people not feel necessary.

– Sebastian Junger, *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging*

Underlying most arguments against the free market is a lack of belief in freedom itself.

– Milton Friedman, *Capitalism & Freedom*

All theory is against the freedom of the will, all experience for it.

– Samuel Johnson

We must shift America, from a needs to a desires culture. People must be trained to desire, to want new things, even before the old had been entirely consumed. We must shape a new mentality in America; man's desires must overshadow his needs.

– Paul Mazur (Lehman Brothers), *Harvard Business Review*, 1927

Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic.

– Arthur C. Clarke

The mouse that always trusts to one poor hole
Can never be a mouse of any soul.

– Alexander Pope, *The Wife of Bath her Prologue*, from Chaucer

Love seldom haunts the breast where learning lies,
And Venus sets ere Mercury can rise.

– Alexander Pope, *The Wife of Bath her Prologue*, from Chaucer

Proud Nimrod first the bloody chase began
A mighty hunter, and his prey was man.

– Alexander Pope, *Windsor Forest*

To wake the soul by tender strokes of art,
To raise the genius, and to mend the heart;
To make mankind, in conscious virtue bold,
Live o'er each scene, and be what they behold:
For this the Tragic Muse first trod the stage.

– Alexander Pope, *Prelude to Mr. Addison's Cato*

I believe no one qualification is so likely to make a good writer, as the power of rejecting his own thoughts.

– Alexander Pope, *The Works of Mr. Alexander Pope*

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

– Alexander Pope, *Thoughts on Various Subjects*

It is with narrow-souled people as with narrow necked bottles: the less they have in them, the more noise they make in pouring it out.

– Alexander Pope, *Thoughts on Various Subjects*

He who tells a lie, is not sensible how great a task he undertakes; for he must be forced to invent twenty more to maintain that one.

– Alexander Pope, *Thoughts on Various Subjects*

Our passions are like convulsion-fits, which, though they make us stronger for the time, leave us the weaker ever after.

– Alexander Pope, *Thoughts on Various Subjects*

Some old men, by continually praising the time of their youth, would almost persuade us that there were no fools in those days; but unluckily they are left themselves for examples.

– Alexander Pope, *Thoughts on Various Subjects*

The world has long since forgiven Julius Caesar. Nobody today finds Socrates or Cicero irritating. Few of us resent Alexander the Great or his tutor, Aristotle.

No, only one man in the ancient world is still hated after two millennia: Jesus Christ.

– Joseph Sobran, *The Man They Still Hate*

Everybody is Conservative about what he knows best.

– Conquest's first law

I find only one fault with Americans. They're too full of fear. Afraid of B.O. Afraid of bad breath. They're haunted by the fear that they'll never get rid of dandruff. This state of mind I cannot understand.

– Sukarno (President of Indonesia), upon visiting the US in 1956

All the xxxxxxxx go by, dressed up for each other.

– Van Morrison

I realize today that nothing in the world is more distasteful to a man than to take the path that leads to himself.

– Hermann Hesse, *Demian*

Those who are repeatedly passive in the face of injustice soon find their character corroded into servility.

– Julian Assange, *Conspiracy As Governance*

Modern communications states... provide their populace with an unprecedented deluge of witnessed, but seemingly unanswerable injustices.

– Julian Assange, *Conspiracy As Governance*

The new world of the internet, abstracted from the old world of brute atoms, longed for independence. But states and their friends moved to control our new world—by controlling its physical underpinnings. The state, like an army around an oil well, or a customs agent extracting bribes at the border, would soon learn to leverage its control of physical space to gain control over our platonic realm. It would prevent the independence we had dreamed of, and then, squatting on fiber optic lines and around satellite ground stations, it would go on to mass intercept the information flow of our new world—its very essence— even as every human, economic, and political relationship embraced it. The state would leech into the veins and arteries of our new societies, gobbling up every relationship expressed or communicated, every web page read, every message sent and every thought googled, and then store this knowledge, billions of interceptions a day, undreamed of power, in vast top secret warehouses, forever. It would go on to mine and mine again this treasure, the collective private intellectual output of humanity, with ever more sophisticated search and pattern finding algorithms, enriching the treasure and maximizing the power imbalance between interceptors and the world of interceptees. And then the state would reflect what it had learned back into the physical world, to start wars, to target drones, to manipulate UN committees and trade deals, and to do favors for its vast connected network of industries, insiders and cronies.

– Julian Assange, *Cypherpunks*

What shall I say of Melito, whose actions' were all guided by the operations of the Holy Spirit?
Who was interred at Sardis, where he waits the resurrection and the judgment?
– Polycrates of Ephesus, to Victor, bishop of Rome, 196AD, as noted in Eusebius

Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is more people that have come alive.
– Howard Thurman

I sent two of our men. They traveled for three days and found people and houses without number, but they were small and without government; therefore they returned.
– Christopher Columbus, first letter from the new world, March 14, 1493

The world is threatened with peace and quiet. I love storm and dread it when the wind abates.
– Christina of Sweden (n.d.)

It is now plainly affirmed, both by some in open Council and by the same in private converse, that the people in New England were all slaves, and the only difference between them and slaves is their not being bought and sold.

– Anonymous, on the rebellion against governor Andros, 1689

During the five miles, the machine was occasionally made to put itself out or *go it*; and then we went at the rate of 23 miles an hour, and just with the same ease as to motion or absence of friction. But the quickest motion is to me *frightful*; is really flying, and it is impossible to divest yourself of the notion of instant death. It gave me a headache which has not left me. Altogether I am extremely glad to have seen this miracle, but having done so I am quite satisfied with *my* first achievement being *my last*.

– Thomas Creevy, 1829

We were not part of a negative movement of destruction against the past: We were out to construct something new; we were in the van of builders of a new society which should be free, rational, civilized, pursuing truth and beauty. It was all tremendously exhilarating.

– Leonard Woolf, *Sowing*

Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats.

– Howard Aiken

To make a contented slave, you must make a thoughtless one. It is necessary to darken his moral and mental vision, and, as far as possible, to annihilate his power of reason. He must be able to detect no inconsistencies in slavery. The man that takes his earnings, must be able to convince him that he has a perfect right to do so. It must not depend upon mere force; the slave must know no Higher Law than his master's will. The whole relationship must not only demonstrate, to his mind, its necessity, but its absolute rightfulness.

– Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage And My Freedom*

It comes down to power, not ideology, something George Orwell understood and described very well in one of my favourite books, *Homage to Catalonia*. Right, left, Greens, Baathists, whatever: it comes down to grabbing and holding power and using ideology—or religion, race—as a justification.

— Gary Kasparov, interview with Alexander Bisley, May 1, 2017

If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.

— Charles Darwin, *The Origin of Species*

The world don't need any more songs.. They've got enough. They've got way too many. As a matter of fact, if nobody wrote any more songs from this day on, the world ain't gonna suffer for it... Unless someone's gonna come along with a pure heart and has something to say. That's a different story.

— Bob Dylan, as quoted in *Songwriters on Songwriting*

The sick in soul insist that it is humanity that is sick, and they are the surgeons to operate on it.

— Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State of Mind*

Compassion is probably the only antitoxin of the soul. Where there is compassion even the most poisonous impulses remain relatively harmless.

— Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State of Mind*

There are many who find a good alibi far more attractive than an achievement.

— Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State of Mind*

In an adequate social order, the untalented should be able to acquire a sense of usefulness and of growth without interfering with the development of talent around them.

— Eric Hoffer, *The Ordeal of Change*

For the impulse of power is to turn every variable into a constant, and give to commands the inexorableness and relentlessness of laws of nature. Hence absolute power corrupts even when exercised for humane purposes. The benevolent despot who sees himself as a shepherd of the people still demands from others the submissiveness of sheep. The taint inherent in absolute power is not its inhumanity but its anti-humanity.

— Eric Hoffer, *The Ordeal of Change*

The significant point is that people unfit for freedom — who cannot do much with it — are hungry for power. The desire for freedom is an attribute of a “have” type of self. It says: leave me alone and I shall grow, learn, and realize my capacities. The desire for power is basically an attribute of a “have-not” type of self. If Hitler had had the talents and the temperament of a genuine artist, if Stalin had had the capacity to become a first-rate theoretician, if Napoleon had had the makings of a great poet or philosopher they would hardly have developed the all-consuming lust for absolute power.

– Eric Hoffer, *Working And Thinking On The Waterfront*

If the average man had had his way there would probably never have been any state.

– Will Durant, *Our Oriental Heritage*

Is the purpose of theoretical physics to be no more than a cataloging of all the things that can happen when particles interact with each other and separate? Or is it to be an understanding at a deeper level in which there are things that are not directly observable (as the underlying quantized fields are) but in terms of which we shall have a more fundamental understanding?

– Julian Schwinger, *Quantum Mechanics - Symbolism of Atomic Measurements*

If my history lesson has done nothing else, it should have reminded you that, during any given period in the evolving history of physics, the prevailing, main line, climate of opinion was likely as not to be wrong, as seen in the light of later developments. And yet, in those earlier times, with relatively few individuals involved, change did occur, but slowly... What is fundamentally different in the present day situation in high energy physics is that large numbers of workers are involved, with corresponding pressures to conformity and resistance to any deflection in direction of the main stream, and that the time scale of one scientific generation is much too long for the rapid pace of experimental discovery. I also have a secret fear that new generations may not necessarily have the opportunity to become familiar with dissident ideas.

– Julian Schwinger, as quoted by Sameer Shah in *If you can't join 'em, beat 'em*

An honest man, the outstanding intuitionist of our age, and a prime example of what may lie in store for anyone who dares to follow the beat of a different drum.

– Julian Schwinger on Richard Feynman, *Physics Today*, February 1989

I came to understand why it is that people depended on their group identity and their cultural identification. Because that helps them protect themselves from their own vulnerabilities. You have to believe things. because you just don't know everything. The beliefs fill in the gaps. If the beliefs are stripped from you, then your defenses against the infinite are stripped. Then it's no wonder people will defend their beliefs.

– Jordan Peterson, *Tragedy Versus Evil* lecture, 2013

My mother made me a scientist without ever intending to. Every other Jewish mother in Brooklyn would ask her child after school: So? Did you learn anything today? But not my mother. "Izzy," she would say, "did you ask a good question today?" That difference — asking good questions — made me become a scientist.

– I.I. Rabi, Great Minds Start With Questions, *Parents Magazine*, September 1993

One withstands the invasion of armies; one does not withstand the invasion of ideas.

– Victor Hugo

The children now love luxury. They have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise.

– Socrates

For it is feeling and force of imagination that makes us eloquent.

– Quintilian, *De Institutione Oratoria* (c. 95 AD)

Q: What do you call people... who, when faced with a condition of fear... do nothing about it?
They just run and hide.

A: Civilized?

– Death Wish (1974 film)

No man can hope to be completely free who lingers within reach of familiar habits and urgencies.

– Richard Byrd

I believe that the Bible is the documentation of the emergence of the idea of the divine individual.

– Jordan Peterson, Joe Rogan podcast, Sept. 1, 2017

This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us.

– Western Union internal memo, 1876

Rail travel at high speed is not possible because passengers, unable to breathe, would die of asphyxia.

– Dr. Dionysius Lardner, 1830

Everyone acquainted with the subject will recognize it as a conspicuous failure.

– Henry Morton, president of the Stevens Institute of Technology, on Edison's light bulb, 1880

The horse is here to stay but the automobile is only a novelty—a fad.

– The president of the Michigan Savings Bank advising Henry Ford's lawyer not to invest in the Ford Motor Co., 1903

Television won't last because people will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night.

– Darryl Zanuck, movie producer, 20th Century Fox, 1946

No one will pay good money to get from Berlin to Potsdam in one hour when he can ride his horse there in one day for free.

– King William I of Prussia, on trains, 1864

Before going any further may we take it that the object of art is to obtain a partial revelation of that which is beyond human senses and human faculties – of that, in fact, which is spiritual? And that the means which we employ to induce this revelation are those very senses and faculties themselves?

– Ralph Vaughan Williams, "The Letter and the Spirit", in the journal *Music and Letters*, vol. 1 (1920) p. 88.

A happy moment can be a matter of luck; a happy life requires virtue.

– Joel Wade, *The Virtue of Happiness*

Ask yourself why totalitarian dictatorships find it necessary to pour money and effort into propaganda for their own helpless, chained, gagged slaves, who have no means of protest or defense. The answer is that even the humblest peasant or the lowest savage would rise in blind rebellion, were he to realize that he is being immolated, not to some incomprehensible noble purpose, but to plain, naked human evil.

– Ayn Rand, *The Virtue of Selfishness*

How to rediscover dreams, when the world has stolen them from you.

– Elric, *Babylon 5*, Season 2, #2

We are the hunters and gatherers of values.

– Seamus Heaney

Art is the imposing of a pattern on experience, and our aesthetic enjoyment is recognition of the pattern.

– Alfred North Whitehead

It is difficult to get the news from poems, yet men die miserably every day for lack of what is found there.

– William Carlos Williams

The secret is that only that which can destroy itself is truly alive.

– Carl Jung, *Psychology and Alchemy*

There can be no transforming of darkness into light and of apathy into movement without emotion.

– Carl Jung, *Psychological Aspects of the Mother Archetype*

You can take away a man's gods, but only to give him others in return.

– Carl Jung, *The Undiscovered Self*

Science cannot solve the ultimate mystery of nature. And that is because, in the last analysis, we ourselves are part of nature and therefore part of the mystery that we are trying to solve.

– Max Planck, *Where is Science Going?* (1932)

It is not the possession of truth, but the success which attends the seeking after it, that enriches the seeker and brings happiness to him.

– Max Planck, *Where is Science Going?* (1932)

Under these conditions it is no wonder, that the movement of atheists, which declares religion to be just a deliberate illusion, invented by power-seeking priests, and which has for the pious belief in a higher Power nothing but words of mockery, eagerly makes use of progressive scientific knowledge and in a presumed unity with it, expands in an ever faster pace its disintegrating action on all nations of the earth and on all social levels. I do not need to explain in any more detail that after its victory not only all the most precious treasures of our culture would vanish, but — which is even worse — also any prospects at a better future.

– Max Planck, *Religion und Naturwissenschaft* (1958)

A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it.

– Max Planck, *Scientific Autobiography and Other Papers*

Enlightenment is man's emergence from his self-imposed nonage. Nonage is the inability to use one's understanding without another's guidance.

– Immanuel Kant, *What Is Enlightenment?*

Despotism has the advantage of being consistent. However burdensome its demands may be to common sense, they are, nevertheless, coherent and systematic. It has a definite answer to every question.

Moses Mendelssohn, *Jerusalem*

Scientific knowledge, even in the most modest persons, has mingled with it a something which partakes of insolence. Absolute, peremptory facts are bullies, and those who keep company with them are apt to get a bullying habit of mind.

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*

Laughter and tears are meant to turn the wheels of the same machinery of sensibility; one is wind-power, and the other water-power; that is all.

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*

Don't ever think the poetry is dead in an old man because his forehead is wrinkled, or that his manhood has left him when his hand trembles! If they ever were there, they are there still!

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*

The creative action is not voluntary at all, but automatic; we can only put the mind into the proper attitude, and wait for the wind, that blows where it listeth, to breathe over it. Thus the true state of creative genius is allied to *reverie*, or dreaming.

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*

How many have withered and wasted under as slow a torment in the walls of that larger Inquisition which we call Civilization!

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*

Liberty is often a heavy burden on a man. It involves that necessity for perpetual choice which is the kind of labor men have always dreaded. In common life we shirk it by forming habits, which take the place of self-determination.

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*

The real religion of the world comes from women much more than from men, — from mothers most of all, who carry the key of our souls in their bosoms. It is in their hearts that the "sentimental" religion some people are so fond of sneering at has its source. The sentiment of love, the sentiment of maternity, the sentiment of the paramount obligation of the parent to the child as having called it into existence, enhanced just in proportion to the power and knowledge of the one and the weakness and ignorance of the other, — these are the

"sentiments" that have kept our soulless systems from driving men off to die in holes like those that riddle the sides of the hill opposite the Monastery of St. Saba, where the miserable victims of a falsely-interpreted religion starved and withered in their delusion.

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Professor at the Breakfast Table*

Why can't somebody give us a list of things that everybody thinks and nobody says, and another list of things that everybody says and nobody thinks?

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Professor at the Breakfast Table*

I talk half the time to find out my own thoughts, as a school-boy turns his pockets inside out to see what is in them. One brings to light all sorts of personal property he had forgotten in his inventory.

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Poet at the Breakfast Table*

Men are idolaters, and want something to look at and kiss and hug, or throw themselves down before; they always did, they always will; and if you don't make it of wood, you must make it of words...

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Poet at the Breakfast Table*

Knowledge—it excites prejudices to call it science—is advancing as irresistibly, as majestically, as remorselessly as the ocean moves in upon the shore.

– Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., *The Poet at the Breakfast Table*

Religious people are, by definition, more than themselves. They seriously seek answers that the reptile thinkers do not. The very act of seeking answers focuses one on the future and the consequences of action or inaction.

– Carl Wimmer

People will fight you if your purpose threatens their lack of purpose or more precisely in an earthly sense, if your future threatens their past.

– Carl Wimmer

Honor lies in honest toil.

– Grover Cleveland, 1892, accepting the Presidential nomination

If a culture changes the way it thinks about truth, about nature, about the knowable, about the possible and the impossible, about the causes of things, about what it may have mastery over, about what it must be fatalistic in the face of, that culture will alter its expectations and behavior in almost all areas of human life.

– Professor Alan Charles Kors, *The Birth of The Modern Mind*

If we stopped the clock at any moment between 1685 and 1715, and looked at the universities, looked at the educated and looked at the learned journals, it certainly would not have been obvious what was emerging that would so dominate and shape the 18th century. For this period between the 17th and 18th centuries is still very much a mixed intellectual world.

But the new philosophers are emerging. They are increasingly setting the terms of debate. And they are increasingly winning the affections of the growing reading public of Europe.
– Professor Alan Charles Kors, *The Birth of The Modern Mind*:

Half our worries and anxieties have arisen from our concern about the opinions of others... we must extract this thorn from our flesh.

– Arthur Schoepenhauer

The effect of music is so very much more powerful and penetrating than is that of the other arts, for these others speak only of the shadow, but music of the essence.

– Arthur Schoepenhauer, *The World as Will and Representation*

To be wise you must learn to listen to the wild dogs barking in your cellar.

– Frederick Nietzsche

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

– Friedrich Nietzsche

No man can hope to be completely free who lingers within reach of familiar habits and urgencies.

– Richard Byrd

I have reached far beyond my competence and have probably secured for good a reputation for flamboyant gestures. But the times still crowd me and give me no rest, and I see the triumph of good over evil as a manifestation of the error-correcting process of evolution.
— Jonas Salk

We have the capability of 100-percent privacy, but if we use this [strong encryption] I don't think society can survive.

– Donn Parker, think-tank computer security specialist. *Wired*, February 1993

If the purpose of history be to give a description of the movement of humanity and of the peoples, the first question — in the absence of a reply to which all the rest will be incomprehensible — is: what is the power that moves peoples? To this, modern history laboriously replies either that Napoleon was a great genius, or that Louis XIV was very proud, or that certain writers wrote certain books.

All that may be so and mankind is ready to agree with it, but it is not what was asked.

Leo Tolstoy, *Selected Works*, Moscow, 1869

Argue for your limitations and they are yours.

– Richard Bach

Born fictioneers, all of us, we quest for causes and explanations, and if they don't come readily to hand, we make them up, because a wrong answer is better than no answer.

– Diane Ackerman

Transcendence is the only real alternative to extinction.

– Vaclav Havel

Humor interrupts our trance of suffering and challenges the trio of fear, worry and guilt.

– Ilana Rubenfeld

Love is the only emotion that expands intelligence.

– Humberto Maturana

The winds of grace are always blowing. But we must raise our sails.

– Ramakrishna

Genius means little more than the faculty of perceiving in an habitual way.

– William James

Whenever you are sincerely pleased, you are nourished.

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities. It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population. It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals. It is some fifty miles of concrete pavement. We pay for a single fighter with a half-million bushels of wheat. We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people. . . . This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

– Dwight Eisenhower, *Cross of Iron* speech, April 16, 1953

There is, before all peoples, a precious chance to turn the black tide of events. If we failed to strive to seize this chance, the judgment of future ages would be harsh and just.

If we strive but fail and the world remains armed against itself, it at least need be divided no longer in its clear knowledge of who has condemned humankind to this fate.

The purpose of the United States, in stating these proposals, is simple and clear.

These proposals spring, without ulterior purpose or political passion, from our calm conviction that the hunger for peace is in the hearts of all peoples--those of Russia and of China no less than of our own country.

They conform to our firm faith that God created men to enjoy, not destroy, the fruits of the earth and of their own toil.

They aspire to this: the lifting, from the backs and from the hearts of men, of their burden of arms and of fears, so that they may find before them a golden age of freedom and of peace.

– Dwight Eisenhower, *Cross of Iron* speech, April 16, 1953

In the evening the cares of the day were exchanged for the pleasures and relaxations of Broadway, then, when the day people went to bed, Greenwich Village came to life ... Yes it was a typical night in the village too, but in the East Village, just a few blocks away, there was an entirely different class of people —real artists — writers, composers, who were making a

true contribution to the new culture. We were the intellectuals, the elite. We weren't eccentrics like the others. We dressed comfortably and casually, and spoke the language as educated people do. Not the jargon of the immature rebels. We weren't searching for the truth, we'd found it. A couple of years ago, I was just like the rest of you conformists.

– *What's So Bad About Feeling Good?* (1968)

They believe the world is *not* beyond redemption. They're happy, considerate, polite, friendly — and the others are responding in kind.

– *What's So Bad About Feeling Good?* (1968)

Someone once said that if the stars came out only once in a thousand years men would look at them differently... We've been warmed by the glow of kindness and laughter, touched by goodness and humanity. We've felt compassion and love. We've finally seen the glory of the stars.

– *What's So Bad About Feeling Good?* (1968)

It is perhaps the most characteristic feature of the intellectual that he judges new ideas not by their specific merits but by the readiness with which they fit into his general conceptions, into the picture of the world which he regards as modern or advanced... As he knows little about the particular issues, his criterion must be consistency with his other views and suitability for combining into a coherent picture of the world.

– Fredrick Hayek, *The Intellectuals and Socialism*, *University of Chicago Law Review*, Spring 1949

Imagine asking someone, here are your options: in a million years who the hell cares how you lived, your life was dust in the wind, your pains and triumphs had no genuine lasting significance. Because of that you can do anything you like, with no responsibility.

Or you take responsibility for what you do because it actually matters.

Now, if you gave people a choice about that – meaninglessness but no responsibility or meaning with ultimate responsibility – which one are they going to pick? And my suspicion is that it is seldom the second, because the weight of responsibility is too high.

– Jordan Peterson, lecture of March 8, 2018

The only real revolution is in the enlightenment of the mind and the improvement of character, the only real emancipation is individual, and the only real revolutionists are philosophers and saints.

– Will and Ariel Durant, *The Lessons of History*

I felt more keenly than before the need of a philosophy that would do justice to the infinite vitality of nature. In the inexhaustible activity of the atom, in the endless resourcefulness of plants, in the teeming fertility of animals, in the hunger and movement of infants, in the laughter and play of children, in the love and devotion of youth, in the restless ambition of fathers and the lifelong sacrifice of mothers, in the undiscourageable researches of scientists and the sufferings of genius, in the crucifixion of prophets and the martyrdom of saints — in all things I saw the passion of life for growth and greatness, the drama of everlasting creation.

– Will Durant, *Transition*

Perhaps the cause of our contemporary pessimism is our tendency to view history as a turbulent stream of conflicts — between individuals in economic life, between groups in

politics, between creeds in religion, between states in war. This is the more dramatic side of history; it captures the eye of the historian and the interest of the reader. But if we turn from that Mississippi of strife, hot with hate and dark with blood, to look upon the banks of the stream, we find quieter but more inspiring scenes: women rearing children, men building homes, peasants drawing food from the soil, artisans making the conveniences of life, statesmen sometimes organizing peace instead of war, teachers forming savages into citizens, musicians taming our hearts with harmony and rhythm, scientists patiently accumulating knowledge, philosophers groping for truth, saints suggesting the wisdom of love. History has been too often a picture of the bloody stream. The history of civilization is a record of what happened on the banks.

– Will Durant, as quoted in *The Gentle Philosopher*, by John Little

To speak ill of others is a dishonest way of praising ourselves.

– Will Durant, Commencement Speech, Webb School of Claremont, CA. 7 Jun 1958

The invention and spread of contraceptives is the proximate cause of our changing morals. The old moral code restricted sexual experience to marriage, because copulation could not be effectively separated from parentage, and parentage could be made responsible only through marriage. But to-day the dissociation of sex from reproduction has created a situation unforeseen by our fathers. All the relations of men and women are being changed by this one factor; and the moral code of the future will have to take account of these new facilities which invention has placed at the service of ancient desires.

– Will Durant, *Our Changing Morals*, in *The Mansions of Philosophy: A Survey of Human Life and Destiny*

No man who is in a hurry is quite civilized.

– Will Durant, *The Life of Greece*

Children and fools speak the truth; and somehow they find happiness in their sincerity.

– Will Durant, *Fallen Leaves*

Today the soul of Western man knows a double disillusionment, for in the space of one lifetime it has lost the bright faith of its childhood and the hopeful utopias of its youth.

– Will Durant, *Fallen Leaves*

The only real progress is moral development.

– Will Durant, *Fallen Leaves*

The church had overlaid the incomparable ethics of Jesus with a complex structure of incredible dogma echoing St. Paul and mostly unknown to Christ.

– Will Durant, *Fallen Leaves*

The local priests and nuns still remembered (and often practiced) Christianity, but the hierarchy forgot it in a lust for unassailable and infallible authority.

– Will Durant, *Fallen Leaves*

I am not sick enough to like sick art.

– Will Durant, *Fallen Leaves*

Life is that which can hold a purpose for three thousand years and never yield.

– Will Durant, *Fallen Leaves* (referencing the human desire to fly)

We live in such an age, when the revelations of science, and history, and the ethics of Christ, have made it impossible for developed minds to believe in that “grim beard of a God” who frightened our forbears into decency. In this sense it was Christ who killed Jehovah.

– Will Durant, *Fallen Leaves*

When we were young we married because romance had caught us up into devotion, but now our precarious and complex life delays marriage more and more beyond the age of love. What is youth to do in the increasing years between the coming of desire and the conquest of some economic place that will warrant marriage? Let him answer who dares. And yet is it not time that we should be brave enough to face the issue, and understand that civilization must either restore early marriage or abandon love?

– Will Durant, *Fallen Leaves*

We are a slightly gentler species than we were: capable of greater kindness, and of generosity even to alien or recently hostile peoples whom we have never seen.

– Will Durant, *The Greatest Minds and Ideas of All Time*

What matters is that on every page is a godlike energy of soul...

– Will Durant, *The Greatest Minds and Ideas of All Time* (on Shakespeare)

But if the faith communicated by the Church to Christian humanity is a living faith, and if the grace of the sacraments is an effectual grace, the resultant union of the divine and the human cannot be limited to the special domain of religion, but must extend to all Man's common relationships and must regenerate and transform his social and political life.

– Vladimir Solovyov

We need to recapture the gospel glow of the early Christians, who were nonconformists in the truest sense of the word and refused to shape their witness according to the mundane patterns of the world. Willingly they sacrificed fame, fortune, and life itself in behalf of a cause they knew to be right. Quantitatively small, they were qualitatively giants. Their powerful gospel put an end to such barbaric evils as infanticide and bloody gladiatorial contests. Finally, they captured the Roman Empire for Jesus Christ... The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists, who are dedicated to justice, peace, and brotherhood. The trailblazers in human, academic, scientific, and religious freedom have always been nonconformists. In any cause that concerns the progress of mankind, put your faith in the nonconformist!

– Martin Luther King, Jr., Sermon at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, November 1954

... dreamlike, halcyon, with no limits or consequences, innocent of shame and heedless of the world.

– Jameson Allenbrook, on passages of Mozart's music

Mozart... created in his music an alternative reality; a better world; an idealized place filled with hope and expectation.

– Robert Greenberg, *Mozart—His Life and Music*, Lecture 1

Whenever all government, domestic and foreign, in little as in great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the center of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided of one government on another, and will become as venal and oppressive as the government from which we separated.

– Thomas Jefferson letter to C.Hammond, 1821

The good news is almost anybody can make a film; the bad news is nobody can make any money.

– Paul Schrader

What's the point of having this superb military that you're always talking about if we can't use it?

– Madeline Albright, to Colin Powell, then Charmian of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recounted in *Madam Secretary*

There is no other possible output of this structure than the extreme concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the few at the expense of the 99.9% with no equivalent access to the central bank spigots of nearly free money.

-- Charles Hugh Smith, *Money & Work Unchained*

Our most persistent and spectacular efforts are concerned not with the preservation of what we are but with the building up of an imaginary conception of ourselves in the opinion of others. The desire for praise is more imperative than the desire for food and shelter.

– Eric Hoffer, *Notebooks* (1952)

It is our talents rusting unused within us that secrete the poison of self-doubt into our bloodstream.

– Eric Hoffer, *Notebooks* (1955)

It is by our readiness to die that we try to prove the factualness of our opinion.

– Eric Hoffer, *Notebooks* (1955)

Universities are an example of organizations dominated wholly by intellectuals; yet, outside pure science, they have not been an optimal milieu for the unfolding of creative talents. In neither art, music, literature, technology and social theory, nor planning have the Universities figured as originators or as seedbeds of new talents and energies.

– Eric Hoffer, *Notebooks* (1956)

... marching--is an enemy of thought and is used as a powerful instrument for the suppression of independent thought and the inculcation of unquestioned obedience.

– Eric Hoffer, *Notebooks* (1960)

There are many who find a good alibi far more attractive than an achievement. For an achievement does not settle anything permanently. We still have to prove our worth anew each day: we have to prove that we are as good today as we were yesterday. But when we have a valid alibi for not achieving anything we are fixed, so to speak, for life.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Passionate State of Mind*

All loyalty had to be the trap, and not for the babies, under punishment of death by the "Great Leader and Friend of All the Entrapped Ones."

– Wilhelm Reich, *The Murder of Christ*

I supported President Lincoln. I believed his war policy would be the only way to save the country, but I see my mistake. I visited Washington a few weeks ago, and I saw the corruption of the present administration—and so long as Abraham Lincoln and his Cabinet are in power, so long will war continue. And for what? For the preservation of the Constitution and the Union? No, but for the sake of politicians and government contractors.

– J.P. Morgan, *New Haven Register*; copied in *New York World*, September 15, 1864.

It is a mark of modern man's desperate need for pride that he finds the weight of sin much lighter than the weight of weakness.

– Eric Hoffer, *Working And Thinking On The Waterfront*

We have technology in our hands now, without even inventing anything else, that will allow all the people on this Earth, and many more times the number of people on this Earth, to have the same high life expectancy that we have in the United States, and Europe and Japan, to have the same affluence that we do in the rich countries. To have all the good things in life that we have. All we need is a social and economic organization that will allow this to happen. Not to bring it about, but just to allow it to happen.

– Julian Simon, 1988, PRC Forum Interview

In America you can say anything you want as long as it has no effect.

--Paul Goodman

Now that the new industrial revolution is on the way to solving the problem of means, and we can catch our breath, it behooves us to remember that man's only legitimate end in life is to finish God's work – to bring to full growth the capacities and talents implanted within us. A population dedicated to this end will not necessarily overflow with the milk of human kindness, but it will not try to prove its worth by proclaiming the superiority and exclusiveness of its own nation, race or doctrine.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Ordeal of Change*

There is an element of misanthropy in all determinists. To all of them man as he really is is a nuisance, and they strive to prove by various means that there is no such thing as human nature.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Ordeal of Change*

When watching men of power it must always be kept in mind that, whether they know it or not, their main purpose is the elimination or neutralization of the independent individual... and that every device they employ aims at turning man into a manipulable "animated instrument," which is Aristotle's definition of a slave.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Ordeal of Change*

... despite its spectacular achievements in science and technology, the twentieth century will probably be seen in retrospect as a century mainly preoccupied with the mastery and manipulation of men.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Ordeal of Change*

Words and magic are particularly crucial in time of crisis when old forms of life are in dissolution and man must grapple with the unknown. Normal motives and incentives lose their efficacy. Man does not plunge into the unknown in search of the prosaic and matter-of-fact. His soul has to be stretch by a reaching out for the fabulous and unprecedeted. He needs the nurse of of magic and breathtaking fairytales to lure him on and sustain him in his first faltering steps.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Ordeal of Change*

The march out of their backwardness must be as the march of conquerors.

– Eric Hoffer, *The Ordeal of Change*

Yes you can blame President Trump for Hurricane Florence.

– Washington Post headline, September 11, 2018

Fascism does not believe either in the possibility or usefulness of perpetual peace and rejects pacifism as cowardice and renunciation of struggle. Only war carries human energy to the highest tension and prints the seal of nobility on the peoples which have the virtues to confront it.

– Benito Mussolini, *Political and Social Doctrine*, Il Popolo d'Italia, August 4, 1932

That is to say, under the old way any time we wish to add to the national wealth we are compelled to add to the national debt.

Now, that is what Henry Ford wants to prevent. He thinks it is stupid, and so do I, that for the loan of \$30,000,000 of their own money the people of the United States should be compelled to pay \$66,000,000 — that is what it amounts to, with interest. People who will not turn a shovelful of dirt nor contribute a pound of material will collect more money from the United States than will the people who supply the material and do the work. That is the terrible thing about interest. In all our great bond issues the interest is always greater than the principal. All of the great public works cost more than twice the actual cost, on that account. Under the present system of doing business we simply add 120 to 150 per cent, to the stated cost. But here is the point: If our nation can issue a dollar bond, it can issue a dollar bill. The element that makes the bond good makes the bill good.

– Thomas Edison

People will do anything for those who encourage their dreams, justify their failures, allay their fears, confirm their suspicions, and help them throw rocks at their enemies.

– Blair Warren

Either mathematics is too big for the human mind, or the human mind is more than a machine.

– Kurt Gödel, as quoted in *Topoi: The Categorial Analysis of Logic*

Twenty years of fast living—there's just not much left, and my kids are all screwed up. Don't do what I have done.

-- Neal Cassidy, to Walter Cox

We must make the building of a free society once more an intellectual adventure, a deed of courage. What we lack is a liberal Utopia, a programme which seems neither a mere defence of things as they are nor a diluted kind of socialism, but a truly liberal radicalism which does not spare the susceptibilities of the mighty..., which is not too severely practical and which does not confine itself to what appears today as politically possible. We need intellectual leaders who are prepared to resist the blandishments of power and influence and who are willing to work for an ideal, however small may be the prospects of its early realization. They must be men who are willing to stick to principles and to fight for their full realization, however remote. ... Unless we can make the philosophical foundations of a free society once more a living intellectual issue, and its implementation a task which challenges the ingenuity and imagination of our liveliest minds, the prospects of freedom are indeed dark. But if we can regain that belief in the power of ideas which was the mark of liberalism at its best, the battle is not lost.

— Friedrich Hayek, *Studies in Philosophy, Politics and Economics* (1967)

Nothing makes conditions more unbearable than the knowledge that no effort of ours can change them; and even if we should never have the strength of mind to make the necessary sacrifice, the knowledge that we could escape if we only strove hard enough makes many otherwise intolerable positions bearable.

— Friedrich Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*

He was so convinced that he was cleverer than all the other people that he thought his instinct told him what ought to be done, and he would invent a theory to convince people to do it. That was really his approach.

— Friedrich Hayek on John Maynard Keynes, *Hayek on Hayek* (1994)

The main problem with fame, or with any kind of success, is the insulation it packs around you.

-- Stuart Brand, *Whole Earth Catalog*

Stay hungry. Stay foolish.

-- Stuart Brand, *Whole Earth Catalog*

Mystery will always educate and correct. Intention can go off the end of its own limb.

-- Stuart Brand, *Whole Earth Catalog*

I think all the heretics I have known have been virtuous men.

They have the virtue of fortitude or they would not venture forward in their heresy.

And they cannot afford to be deficient in any of the other virtues, as that would give an advantage to their many enemies; and they lack, as do orthodox sinners, a number of friends to excuse or justify them.

Do not, however mistake me. It is not to my good friend's heresy that I impute his honesty. On the contrary, it is his honesty that has brought upon him the character of heretic.

— Benjamin Franklin, Letter to Benjamin Vaughan, October 24, 1788

We entirely repudiated a personal liability on us to obey general rules. We claimed the right to judge every individual case on its merits, and the wisdom to do so successfully. This was a very important part of our faith, violently and aggressively held, and for the outer world it was our most obvious and dangerous characteristic. We repudiated entirely customary morals,

conventions and traditional wisdom. We were, that is to say, in the strict sense of the term, immoralists.

-- J. M. Keynes, *My Early Beliefs*, 1938

We were not aware that civilization was a thin and precarious crust... only maintained by rules and conventions skilfully put across and guilefully preserved.

-- J. M. Keynes, *My Early Beliefs*, 1938

Power, like a desolating pestilence,
Pollutes whate'er it touches; and obedience,
Bane of all genius, virtue, freedom, truth,
Makes slaves of men, and of the human frame
A mechanized automaton.

-- Percy Shelly, *Queen Mab*

The dust of creeds outworn.

-- Percy Shelly, *Prometheus Unbound*

Best and brightest, come away!

-- Percy Shelly, *To Jane: The Invitation*

and like a prophetess of May
Strewed flowers on the baren way.
-- Percy Shelly, *To Jane: The Invitation*

Away, away, from men and towns,
To the wild wood and the downs —
To the silent wilderness
Where the soul need not repress
-- Percy Shelly, *To Jane: The Invitation*

Nothing, I am sure, calls forth the faculties so much as the being obliged to struggle with the world...

-- Mary Wollstonecraft, *Thoughts On The Eductation of Daughters*

The endeavor to keep alive any hoary establishment beyond its natural date is often pernicious and always useless.

-- Mary Wollstonecraft, *The French Revolution*

If women be educated for dependence; that is, to act according to the will of another fallible being, and submit, right or wrong, to power, where are we to stop?

-- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindictaion of The Rights of Women*

The preposterous distinction of rank, which render civilization a curse, by dividing the world between voluptuous tyrants and cunning envious dependents, corrupt, almost equally, every class of people, because respectability is not attached to the discharge of the relative duties of life, but to the station, and when the duties are not fulfilled, the affections cannot gain sufficient strength to fortify the virtue of which they are the natural reward. Still there are some loop-holes out of which a man may creep, and dare to think and act for himself; but for a

woman it is an herculean task, because she has difficulties peculiar to her sex to overcome, which require almost super-human powers.

-- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindictaion of The Rights of Women*

To be a good mother — a woman must have sense, and that independence of mind which few women possess who are taught to depend entirely on their husbands. Meek wives are, in general, foolish mothers; wanting their children to love them best, and take their part, in secret, against the father, who is held up as a scarecrow.

-- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindictaion of The Rights of Women*

There is no comparison between that which is lost by not succeeding and that which is lost by not trying.

-- Francis Bacon

In weakness we create distinctions, then
Believe that all our puny boundaries are things
Which we perceive and not which we have made.

-- William Wordsworth, quoted in *The Romanitc Economist* by Richard Bronk

Diseases desperate grown,
By desperate appliances are relieved,
Or not at all.

-- William Shakespear, *Hamlet*, Act iv, Scene iii

It is clearly possible that there is no necessity or even advantage in the now unquestioned and universally government perogative of producing money. It may indeed prove to be harmful and its abolition a great gain, opening the way for very beneficial developments. Discussion therefore cannot begin early enough.

-- Friederick A. Hayek, *Denationalization of Money*, 1974

The creative and the spiritual are of the same space and the same energy when they derive from a person's authentic experience. Together they provide a basis for deep fulfillment.

-- Jon Rappaport

I love to hear a choir. I love the humanity, to see the faces of real people devoting themselves to a piece of music. I like the teamwork. It makes me feel optimistic about the human race when I see them cooperating like that.

-- Paul McCartney

Absolute governments, (tho' the disgrace of human nature) have this advantage with them, they are simple; if the people suffer, they know the head from which their suffering springs; know likewise the remedy; and are not bewildered by a variety of causes and cures.

-- Thomas Paine

The whole world is a circus, if you know how to look at it.

-- Dr. Lao, in the film, *7 Faces of Dr. Lao*

The only time the politician understands the people mean business is when the money is shut off.

-- Chicago tax strike leader, circa 1932

Society everywhere is in conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members.

– Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Self-Reliance*

Truth: the most deadly weapon ever discovered by humanity. Capable of destroying entire perceptual sets, cultures, and realities. Outlawed by all governments everywhere. Possession is normally punishable by death.

-- John Gilmore

You who make [idols], that they may be able to be worshipped... To them you immolate your ingenuity.

-- Tertulian, *On Idolatry*, chapter 6

State a moral case to a ploughman and a professor. The former will decide it as well, and often better than the latter, because he has not been led astray by artificial rules.

-- Thomas Jefferson, letter to Peter Carr, August 10, 1787

What we know is a drop, what we don't know is an ocean.

-- Isaac Newton

The Hellenic religion does not yet prosper as I desire, and it is the fault of those who profess it; for the worship of the gods is on a splendid and magnificent scale, surpassing every prayer and every hope. May Adrasteia pardon my words, for indeed no one, a little while ago, would have ventured even to pray for a change of such a sort or so complete within so short a time. Why, then, do we think that this is enough, why do we not observe that it is their benevolence to strangers, their care for the graves of the dead and the pretended holiness of their lives that have done most to increase atheism? I believe that we ought really and truly to practise every one of these virtues. And it is not enough for you alone to practise them, but so must all the priests in Galatia, without exception. ... In every city establish frequent hostels in order that strangers may profit by our benevolence; I do not mean for our own people only, but for others also who are in need of money. I have but now made a plan by which you may be well provided for this; for I have given directions that 30,000 modii of corn shall be assigned every year for the whole of Galatia, and 60,000 pints of wine. I order that one-fifth of this be used for the poor who serve the priests, and the remainder be distributed by us to strangers and beggars. For it is disgraceful that, when no Jew ever has to beg, and the impious Galilaeans support not only their own poor but ours as well, all men see that our people lack aid from us. Teach those of the Hellenic faith to contribute to public service of this sort, and the Hellenic villages to offer their first fruits to the gods; and accustom those who love the Hellenic religion to these good works by teaching them that this was our practice of old.

Julian, Letter to Arsacius, High-priest of Galatia (June 362), in *The Works of the Emperor Julian*, Volume III (1913)

If we're to be damned, let's be damned for what we really are.

– Jean-Luc Picard, *Star Trek, The Next Generation*, Encounter at Farpoint

Life should be an exciting adventure. The sun should rise within you each day in terms of the richness of your feelings and the sharpness of your perceptions. You should carve out goals for yourself that will inspire you to enthusiastic action.

– Maxwell Maltz, *The Magic Power of Self-Image Psychology*

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

– Albert Einstein

If you don't know where you're going, you might not get there.

– Yogi Berra

When you get to the fork in the road, take it.

– Yogi Berra

I didn't really say all the things I said.

– Yogi Berra

That place is so crowded that no one goes there anymore.

– Yogi Berra

“Hey Yogi, what time is it?”

“You mean now?”

– Yogi Berra

Psychopaths make the world go around... society is an expression of that particular sort of madness... I've always believed society to be a fundamentally rational thing, but what if it isn't? What if it is built on insanity?”

– Jon Ronson

Every people, in order to think about its experiences and to communicate about them, must structure these experiences. At a minimum this process means that the culture imposes on its experiences a system of categories and a system of values for those categories. Thus a system of cognition consists of categories and valuation applied to experience. Since experience is... dynamic and unique, with each occurring at a specific point in time, space, abstraction, social and personal context... and communicated to others only if it is classified into some kind of classification, such a cognitive system is necessary in man to be human in the sense that he is both aware and communicative with others. Yet, because that cognitive system is subjective and conventional (within the social and linguistic system which created it), it becomes the framework within which the people of that society experience life and it is a screening barrier, which prevents them from experiencing those things for which no provision exists within their cognitive system.

At times this means that a cognitive system becomes a barrier to those experiences which are necessary to the very basic needs of humans, and the members of the society abandon their society's cognitive system, leaving it as an untenanted culture, as the Christians and others did with Classical culture in the period from AD 200 to 950, when a totally new cognitive (based on hierarchy and quite different values) replaced the dualistic and paralysed cognitive system of Classicism. In turn, the Western cognitive system became ossified at about 1300, and it was unable to continue in its growth along the lines of Western life as embodied in the intrinsic nature of the Christian revelation, turned back to the Classical example, whose inability to deal with the basic human problems had been fully revealed a thousand years before. (The mark of this return is to be seen in such events as the turn to

Roman law, the refusal to go on to philosophical nominalism from moderate realism, the failure to escape from the inhibiting influence of two valued Greek loggia which made it impossible to induce motion and change into the Western vision of reality and thus led to the struggle with Galileo and, above all, with Darwin, and the introduction of duality and absolutism into the medieval pluralist relativism.)

A cognitive system structures reality and thus limits human experience within that culture, so that members of that culture cannot become aware, think about or communicate about what is excluded. On the whole, individuals socialized within a culture do not deal with reality at all, but deal with their society's cognitive system's structuring of actuality. This process is established in any individual chiefly through adopting the language of his culture, since any language has an unstated assumed cognitive implied within it. ...

The Vision which we once had of the American class structure has changed steadily, most recently from a ladder to a kind of planetary system centered on government power.

Most of our literature from about 1900 to 1940 was an attack on the middle-class cognitive system (future preference, endlessly expandable material demand, external material status symbols, psychic anxiety, etc.), but since 1940 most of our literature has been simply a verbalization outside our cognitive system and outside of middle class values, as protest against these and as a rejection of all the cognitive structure which makes thought and communication possible within our society. This began with the praise of violence inherent in Social Darwinism... it culminated in the theater of the Absurd and the meaningless poetry and painting of today. , which reject meaning by rejecting all context.

– Carroll Quigley, letter to Leonard Mikules, March 12, 1967

Wherefore also our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'In whatsoever things I shall take you, in these I shall judge you.'

– Justin Martyr

I want to work in revelations, not just spin silly tales for money. I want to fish as deep down as possible into my own subconscious in the belief that once that far down, everyone will understand because they are the same that far down.

– Jack Kerouac

Colleges being nothing but grooming schools for the middle class non-identity which usually finds its perfect expression on the outskirts of the campus in rows of well-to-do houses with lawns and television sets in each living room with everybody looking at the same thing and thinking the same thing at the same time.

– Jack Kerouac

I saw that my life was a vast glowing empty page and I could do anything I wanted.

– Jack Kerouac

When a man no longer confuses himself with the definition of himself that others have given him, he is at once universal and unique. He is universal by virtue of the inseparability of his organism from the cosmos. He is unique in that he is just this organism and not any stereotype of role, class, or identity assumed for the convenience of social communication.

– Alan Watts

But peace can be made only by those who are peaceful, and love can be shown only by those who love. No work of love will flourish out of guilt, fear, or hollowness of heart, just as no valid plans for the future can be made by those who have no capacity for living now.

– Alan Watts

I don't believe we shall ever have a good money again before we take the thing out of the hands of government. We can't take it violently out of the hands of government, all we can do is by some sly roundabout way introduce something that they can't stop.

– Frederick A. Hayek (film clip posted by Adam Back)

There is something like a switch in us that kills the individual in favor of the collective when people engage in communal dances, mass riots, or war. Your mood becomes that of the herd.

– Nassim Nicholas Taleb, *Antifragile*

Fear of authorities vanishes completely under group fever.

– Nassim Nicholas Taleb, *Antifragile*

Mediocrity cannot handle more than one enemy.

– Nassim Nicholas Taleb, *Antifragile*

A preliminary finding would be, the higher degree of psychological health, the greater the frequency of peak experiences, the higher they reach, the more intense they are, and the more illuminative they are.

– Abraham Maslow And Self-Actualization, 1968 film

The first twenty years of the young person's life are spent functioning as a subordinate element in an authority system.

– Stanley Milgram, *Obedience To Authority*

When you think of the long and gloomy history of man, you will find far more hideous crimes have been committed in the name of obedience than have been committed in the name of rebellion.

– C.P. Snow, *Either-Or*

Your smile is your logo, your personality is your business card, how you leave others feeling after an experience with you becomes your trademark.

– Jay Danzie

Rouse up, O Young Men of the New Age! Set your foreheads against the ignorant Hirelings! For we have Hirelings in the Camp, the Court & the University, who would, if they could, for ever depress Mental & prolong Corporeal War.

– William Blake

Historically, the claim of consensus has been the first refuge of scoundrels; it is a way to avoid debate by claiming that the matter is already settled.

– Michael Crichton

Hard choices, easy life. Easy choices, hard life.

– Jerzy Gogorek

Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.

– John C. Maxwell

A hundred suspicions don't make a proof.

— Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *Crime and Punishment*

Are you not made of better clay than insects and birds?

I would posit that humans contain within their being a (possibly) genetic memory. It tells them who they are and why they exist. It drives them to reproduce and it drives them to seek answers to questions. It drives them to rebel to authority while at the same time it drives them to conform to the community.

– Ben Stone, *Life, Death And Canon*

'Need' now means wanting someone else's money. 'Greed' means wanting to keep your own.

'Compassion' is when a politician arranges the transfer.

– Joseph Sobran

Voting provided a mass ritual of reassurance... Elections symbolically assured citizens that they were still in command... Elections took the steam out of protests from below.

– Alvin Toffler, *The Third Wave*

Sycophancy toward those who hold power is a fact in every regime, and especially in a democracy, where, unlike tyranny, there is an accepted principle of legitimacy that breaks the inner will to resist.

Alan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*

When people put their ballots in the boxes, they are, by that act, inoculated against the feeling that the government is not theirs. They then accept, in some measure, that its errors are their errors, its aberrations their aberrations, that any revolt will be against them.

John Kenneth Galbraith, *The Age of Uncertainty*

Democracy has proved only that the best way to gain power over people is to assure the people that they are ruling themselves. Once they believe that, they make wonderfully submissive slaves.

– Joseph Sobran

By the time we get to the asteroid belt, the IRS will never find us.

– Freeman Dyson

The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.

– Abraham Lincoln

The flow of energy through a system acts to organize that system.

– Harold Morowitz

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

– Fred Rogers

Create ships and sails capable of navigating the celestial atmosphere and you will find men to man them, men not afraid of the vast emptiness of space.

– Johannes Kepler to Galileo, 1610

When one gives up the Christian faith, one pulls the right to Christian morality out from under one's feet. This morality is by no means self-evident: this point has to be exhibited again and again, despite the English flatheads. Christianity is a system, a whole view of things thought out together. By breaking one main concept out of it, the faith in God, one breaks the whole: nothing necessary remains in one's hands.

– Friedrich Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*

He's wise enough to win the world

But fool enough to lose it

– Rush, New World Man

The main difference between the left wing and the right wing is that the former attributes successes and downfalls to external factors, and the latter attributes them to internal factors.

– Julia Touriansky

It is not funny that anything else should fall down; only that a man should fall down. No one sees anything funny in a tree falling down. No one sees a delicate absurdity in a stone falling down. No man stops in the road and roars with laughter at the sight of the snow coming down. The fall of thunderbolts is treated with some gravity. The fall of roofs and high buildings is taken seriously. It is only when a man tumbles down that we laugh. Why do we laugh? Because it is a grave religious matter: it is the Fall of Man. Only man can be absurd: for only man can be dignified.

– G.K. Chesterton, *Spiritualism*

You've been told many times before,
Messiah's pointed to the door,
No one had the guts to leave the temple.

-- Pete Townsend, *I'm Free (Tommy)*

Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech.

-- Benjamin Franklin

Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad.

-- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Prometheus*

The world has always gone through periods of madness so as to advance a bit on the road to reason.

-- Hermann Broch

What's important is promising something to the people, not actually keeping those promises. . . The people have always lived on hope alone.

-- Hermann Broch

Self: that invisible chain that snaps tight whenever we stray.
Yahia Lababidi, *Signposts to Elsewhere*

The self is a simplification of the notion of soul, created to serve the purposes of the modern sciences of psychology and economics, both of which want you to be happy in a simple, straightforward way they can count.

– Harvey Mansfield, *How to Understand Politics: What the Humanities Can Say to Science*

This above all: to thine own self be true,
And it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

– William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

You want to be yourself, idiosyncratic; the collective (school, rules, jobs, technology) wants you generic to the point of castration.

– Nassim Nicholas Taleb, *The Bed of Procrustes: Philosophical and Practical Aphorisms*

The impression that Lenin made on me from the first time - and the rest of my life - was unpleasant. It was not his sharpness that was unpleasant. There was something more than a simple sharpness, some kind of mockery, part intentional, and part irresistibly spontaneous, breaking through from the very depths of his being in the way Lenin treated people, whom he looked at as his opponents... In his attitude to people Lenin truly exuded cold, contempt and cruelty ... Sharpness and cruelty of Lenin - this became clear to me almost from the beginning, from our first meeting - was psychologically inextricably linked, and instinctively and consciously, with his indomitable power.

According to the dominant feature of Lenin's character, I immediately noticed that his main attitude ... was hatred.

Lenin was fond of Marx's teachings primarily because he found a response to this basic attitude of his mind. The doctrine of class struggle, ruthless and radical, which sought the ultimate destruction and annihilation of the enemy, turned out to be congenial to his emotional attitude towards the surrounding reality... There was something repulsive and terrifying about this hatred; for, rooted in concrete, I would say even animal emotions and repulsions, it was at the same time distracted and cold, like Lenin's very being.

Lenin gave birth to thousands, millions of misanthropic people in Russia.

– Peter Struve, Russian philosopher

All that is meant by Decadence is “falling off.” It implies in those who live in such a time no loss of energy or talent or moral sense. On the contrary, it is a very active time, full of deep concerns, but peculiarly restless, for it sees no clear lines of advance. The loss it faces is that of Possibility.

-- Jacques Barzun *From Dawn to Decadence*

The trustworthy have timestamps. The untrustworthy have credentials.

-- Eric Weinstein

Capitalists are motivated not chiefly by the desire to consume wealth or indulge their appetites, but by the freedom and power to consummate their entrepreneurial ideas.

-- George Gilder

Gödel demonstrated that every logical scheme, including mathematics, is dependent upon axioms that it cannot prove and that cannot be reduced to the scheme itself.

-- George Gilder, summarizing Gödel's Theorem, in *Knowledge and Power*

Futurists falter because they belittle the power of religious paradigms, deeming them either too literal or too fantastic.

-- George Gilder, *Telecosm*

Marriage is not simply a ratification of an existing love. It is the conversion of that love into a biological and social continuity. . . . Regardless of what reasons particular couples may give for getting married, the deeper evolutionary and sexual propensities explain the persistence of the institution. All sorts of superficial variations--from homosexual marriage to companionate partnership--may be played on the primal themes of human life. But the themes remain. The natural fulfillment of love is a child; the fantasies and projects of the childless couple may well be considered as surrogate children.

-- George Gilder, *Men and Marriage*

actual brains, which turn out to be much more like sensory processors than logic machines. -- George Gilder, *Life After Google*

The blind spot of AI is that consciousness does not emerge from thought; it is the source.

-- George Gilder, *Life After Google*

Turing showed that just as the uncertainties of physics stem from using electrons and photons to measure themselves, the limitations of computers stem from recursive self-reference. Just as quantum theory fell into self-referential loops of uncertainty because it measured atoms and electrons using instruments composed of atoms and electrons, computer logic could not escape self-referential loops as its own logical structures informed its own algorithms.

— George Gilder, *Life After Google*

I haven't always lived bravely, but I think... I think I'd like to die that way.

-- Guild Wars

Let me write the songs of a nation, and I care not who writes its laws.

— Andrew Fletcher, Scottish patriot

The assumption that the human psyche possesses layers that lie *below* consciousness is not likely to arouse serious opposition. But... there could just as well be layers lying *above* consciousness... The conscious mind can only claim a relatively central position and must put up with the fact that the unconscious psyche transcends and as it surrounds it on all sides. Unconscious contents connect it *backward* with the physiological states on the one hand and archetypal data on the other. But it is extended *forward* by intuitions which are conditioned partly by archetypes and partly by subliminal perceptions depending on the relativity of time and space in the unconscious.

-- Carl Jung, *Psychology and Alchemy*

I would like us to do something unprecedented, to create ourselves without finding it necessary to create an enemy.

-- James Baldwin, 1967

The most merciful thing in the world, I think, is the inability of the human mind to correlate all its contents. We live on a placid island of ignorance in the midst of black seas of infinity, and it was not meant that we should voyage far. The sciences, each straining in its own direction, have hitherto harmed us little; but some day the piecing together of dissociated knowledge will open up such terrifying vistas of reality, and of our frightful position therein, that we shall either go mad from the revelation or flee from the deadly light into the peace and safety of a new dark age.

-- H.P. Lovecraft, *The Call of Cthulhu*

Never tell the devil that you're leaving town... just go.

-- Alan Watts

The real problem is that the world no longer has a moral foundation, basic principles that most people agree on. Greece had that during the 5th century BC. Rome had them during its Republic. Britain and America both did during the 19th century—that's why Western Civilization succeeded, and why it's the only civilization worthy of the name. It was based on the concepts of natural law, what the English crystallized into their Common Law. It's the basis of my contribution to your Paladin network white paper.

The problem is that today's world has lost all of that. I'm not a big fan of Christianity... but it provided a moral function. That's all being washed away by identity politics, socialism, greenism, and all that blather. The Chinese have got their Social Credit System as a substitute, but that just facilitates a police state.

You want to change the world and make some money doing it? Fill the vacuum with something useful that resonates with the best parts of human nature. Or at least keeps its worst parts under control. And make sure everybody profits from it.

— Assassin, John Hunt and Doug Casey

I think the work of an intellectual is to go and see what no one else has. I think a writer or intellectual is never as much himself as when he tries to bear witness to what the world has organised itself to ignore.

-- Bernard-Henri Levy

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

-- Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Enlightenment was not only, or perhaps not even primarily, a scientific project but a political one. It began from the premise that the rulers could be educated, a premise not held by the Enlightenment's ancient brethren.

-- Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*

Man is deprived of inborn ways to inter-personal satisfaction and is thus compelled to search for them, evolving along the resulting pathways of dissatisfaction and intrapsychic conflict.

-- Jules Henry, *Culture Against Man*

For the most part human society has been a place where, though man has survived physically, he has died emotionally.

-- Jules Henry, *Culture Against Man*

If there was a fundamental “invention” here, it was the fashioning of economies that drew on the creativity and intuition that lay inside them to attempt innovation.

-- Edmund Phelps, *Mass Flourishing*

European man and his glorious history of desire and dreams.

-- Willa Cather, *Death Comes for The Archbishop*

How much must perish so that something new may arise!

-- Jacob Burckhardt

It is only when some fresh wave, truly original, truly creative, breaks upon the shore, that there will be a rediscovery of the West.

-- Jacques Barzun

We are here to create, we are here to become. Fixating on the starting point takes your energy away from the creation of the future.

-- Hannah M. Rosenberg

I thought I might teach philosophy but the atmosphere of a college faculty repelled me; the few islands of greatness seemed to be washed by seas of pettiness and mediocrity.

-- I.F. Stone, *I.F. Stone's Bi-Weekly*, December 14, 1971

The world will be saved only after it has been possessed by the demon of evil.

-- Fyodor Dostoyevsky,

The failings of human consciousness, deprived of its divine dimension, have been a determining factor in all the major crimes of this century.

-- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *Men Have Forgotten God*

If one is to rule, and to continue ruling, one must be able to dislocate the sense of reality.

-- George Orwell. 1984

We looked into the abyss if the gold price rose further. A further rise would have taken down one or several trading houses, which might have taken down all the rest in their wake. Therefore at any price, at any cost, the central banks had to quell the gold price, manage it. It was very difficult to get the gold price under control but we have now succeeded. The US Fed was very active in getting the gold price down. So was the U.K. -- Sir Eddie George, Governor Bank of England to Nicholas J. Morrell, chief executive of Lonmin Plc, 1999

A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of his life, in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the human soul.

-- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

There never was an idea stated that woke men out of their stupid indifference, but its

originator was spoken of as a crank.

-- Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr.

The hardest thing to explain is the glaringly evident which everybody had decided not to see.

-- Ayn Rand

Engage people with what they expect; it is what they are able to discern and confirms their projections. It settles them into predictable patterns of response, occupying their minds while you wait for the extraordinary moment — that which they cannot anticipate.

-- Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*

The lust for power, for dominating others, inflames the heart more than any other passion.

-- Cornelius Tacitus

Being right too soon is socially unacceptable.

-- Robert A. Heinlein

The suspicions that the system is rigged in favor of the largest banks and their elites, so they play by their own set of rules to the disfavor of the taxpayers who funded their bailout, are true. It really happened. These suspicions are valid.

-- Neil Barofsky, TARP Inspector General

The narcissistic orientation is one in which one experiences as real only that which exists within oneself, while the phenomena in the outside world have no reality in themselves, but are experienced only from the viewpoint of their being useful or dangerous to oneself.

-- Erich Fromm

Folks, it's time to evolve. That's why we're troubled. You know why our institutions are failing us, the church, the state, everything's failing? It's because they're no longer relevant. We're supposed to keep evolving.

-- Bill Hicks

But you can't make people listen. They have to come round in their own time, wondering what happened, and why the world blew up around them.

-- Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*

Every government is run by liars and nothing they say should be believed.

-- I.F. Stone

Bitcoin is the only real thing that I have ever done in my life. It's the only thing I've done where I know why I'm doing it.

– Loenen aan de Vecht

The key to understanding the appeal of communism, despite the grim reality on the ground, lay in the fact that it allowed so many followers to believe that they were participants in an historic process of transformation, contributing to something much bigger than themselves, or

anything that had come before.

-- Frank Dikötter, *The Tragedy of Liberation: A History of the Chinese Revolution 1945-1957*

Green Lanterns are powered by the Green Light of Will, the first cause of all creation and the driving force behind the manifestation of any new idea. It is the strongest force in the universe and it unites us all.

-- The Green Lantern

If everyone enjoyed the unrestricted use of his faculties and the free disposition of the fruits of his labor, social progress would be ceaseless, uninterrupted, and unfailing.

-- Frederic Bastiat

In keeping silent about evil, in burying it so deep within us that no sign of it appears on the surface, we are implanting it, and it will rise up a thousand-fold in the future. When we neither punish nor reproach evildoers, we are not simply protecting their trivial old age, we are thereby ripping the foundations of justice from beneath new generations.

-- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

And how we burned in the camps later, thinking: What would things have been like if every Security operative, when he went out at night to make an arrest, had been uncertain whether he would return alive and had to say good-bye to his family? Or if, during periods of mass arrests, as for example in Leningrad, when they arrested a quarter of the entire city, people had not simply sat there in their lairs, paling with terror at every bang of the downstairs door and at every step on the staircase, but had understood they had nothing left to lose and had boldly set up in the downstairs hall an ambush of half a dozen people with axes, hammers, pokers, or whatever else was at hand?... The Organs would very quickly have suffered a shortage of officers and transport and, notwithstanding all of Stalin's thirst, the cursed machine would have ground to a halt! If...if...We didn't love freedom enough. And even more – we had no awareness of the real situation.... We purely and simply deserved everything that happened afterward.

-- Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

The success of a rebellion depends on the crossing of a fear barrier by enough people, not simply the small group of dedicated dissidents. A judgment that the risk is worth it and the rebellion might actually succeed. ... It is at this point, when fear is gone, that whole nations say no. And it is when tyrants fall.

-- Peter Beaumont, *How Dictators Fall*

With rebellion, awareness is born.

-- Albert Camus

In the end, those who rebel require faith — not a formal or necessarily Christian, Jewish or Muslim orthodoxy, but a faith that the good draws to it the good. That we are called to carry out the good insofar as we can determine what the good is.

-- Chris Hedges

Analysis of rebellion leads at least to the suspicion that, contrary to the postulates of contemporary thought, a human nature does exist, as the Greeks believed. Why rebel if there is nothing permanent in oneself worth preserving? ...Rebellion, though apparently

negative, since it creates nothing, is profoundly positive in that it reveals the part of man which must always be defended.

– Albert Camus, *The Rebel*

The aim of art, the aim of a life can only be to increase the sum of freedom and responsibility to be found in every man and in the world. It cannot, under any circumstances, be to reduce or suppress that freedom, even temporarily. No great work has ever been based on hatred and contempt. On the contrary, there is not a single true work of art that has not in the end added to the inner freedom of each person who has known and loved it.

-- Albert Camus

Today, America would be outraged if U.N. troops entered Los Angeles to restore order. Tomorrow they will be grateful! This is especially true if they were told that there were an outside threat from beyond whether real or promulgated, that threatened our very existence. It is then that all peoples of the world will plead to deliver them from this evil. The one thing every man fears is the unknown. When presented with this scenario, individual rights will be willingly relinquished for the guarantee of their well-being granted to them by the World Government.

-- Henry Kissinger, Evian, France, 1992

Come, my friends, tis not too late to seek a newer world.

-- Alfred Lord Tennyson

[In ancient societies] Cosmos, in the sense of all-embracing, all-pervading order, was taken for granted. Everything in heaven and earth, in nature and in society, had been established and set in order by the gods and was still watched over by the gods.

-- P.P. Betancourt

Religion actually served to unite cultural, social and personality systems into a significant unity, involving a common myth, ritual behaviour and something that is regarded as “the holy.” In every more complex society, however, there exists a popular and a more official level at which religion is practiced but both levels, through the performance and repetition of certain rituals, are expected to ensure the link between gods and human beings, the natural order.

-- Jan Dreissen

We are always getting ready to live but never living.

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

It is not usually during a collapse that men rebel, but after it.

-- Frederick Lewis Allen, *Since Yesterday*

In our technique we enter completely into the enemy's attack, completely dissolve into it and control it decisively.

-- Morihei Ueshiba, the founder of Aikido

The exercise of vital powers along lines of excellence in a life affording them scope.

-- Aristotle's definition of happiness, paraphrased in *Babylon 5*

Everybody knows that the dice are loaded.

Everybody rolls with their fingers crossed.
Everybody knows that the game is over.
Everybody knows that the good guys lost.
-- Leonard Cohen, *Everybody Knows*

And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.
-- Revelation 22:17

[Awakenings are] periods of ideological transformation... periods of cultural distortion and grave personal stress, when we lose faith in the legitimacy of our norms, the viability of our institutions, and the authority of our leaders in church and state.

-- William McLoughlin, in *Revivals, Awakenings, and Reform*

An artist is a man of action, whether he creates a personality, invents an expedient, or finds the issue of a complicated situation.
Joseph Conrad, *The Mirror of the Sea*

The studio, a room to which the artist consigns himself for life, is naturally important, not only as workplace, but as a source of inspiration. And it usually manages, one way or another, to turn up in his product.

Grace Glueck, *The New York Times* (29 June 1984)

Dead he is not, but departed,—for the artist never dies.
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, *Nuremberg*

The *curiales*, or members of municipal bodies, had become discouraged and apathetic; on the contrary, the bishops, and the body of priests, full of life and zeal... the clergy alone were strong and animated; they became everywhere powerful. Such is the law of the universe.
-- Francois Guizot, *The History of Civilization in Europe*

All our progress is an unfolding, like the vegetable bud. You have first an instinct, then an opinion, then a knowledge, as the plant has root, bud, and fruit. Trust the instinct to the end, though you can render no reason. It is vain to hurry it. By trusting it to the end it shall ripen into truth, and you shall know why you believe.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Essays* (First series, 1841), Essay XI : Intellect.

What we are creating now is a monster whose influence is going to change history, provided there is any history left.

-- John von Neumann

The liberally educated person is one who is able to resist the easy and preferred answers, not because he is obstinate but because he knows others worthy of consideration.
– Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*

Commitment is a word invented in our abstract modernity to signify the absence of any real motives in the soul for moral dedication.

– Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*

Disobedience is the true foundation of liberty. The obedient must be slaves.

-- Henry David Thoreau

Every human being must have a point at which he stands against the culture, where he says, "This is me and the world be damned!"

-- Rollo May

Many people feel they are powerless to do anything effective with their lives. It takes courage to break out of the settled mold, but most find conformity more comfortable. This is why the opposite of courage in our society is not cowardice, it's conformity.

-- Rollo May, as quoted in *Think and Grow Rich: A Black Choice*

Finding the center of strength within ourselves is in the long run the best contribution we can make to our fellow men... One person with indigenous inner strength exercises a great calming effect on panic among people around him. This is what our society needs — not new ideas and inventions; important as these are, and not geniuses and supermen, but persons who can be, that is, persons who have a center of strength within themselves.

-- Rollo May, *Man's Search For Himself*

Along with the loss of the sense of self has gone a loss of our language for communicating deeply personal meanings to each other. This is one important side of the loneliness now experienced by people in the Western world.

-- Rollo May, *Man's Search For Himself*

Man is the "ethical animal" — ethical in potentiality even if, unfortunately, not in actuality. His capacity for ethical judgment — like freedom, reason and the other unique characteristics of the human being — is based upon his consciousness of himself.

-- Rollo May, *Man's Search For Himself*

We define religion as the assumption that life has meaning. Religion, or lack of it, is shown not in some intellectual or verbal formulations but in one's total orientation to life. Religion is whatever the individual takes to be his ultimate concern. One's religious attitude is to be found at that point where he has a conviction that there are values in human existence worth living and dying for.

-- Rollo May, *Man's Search For Himself*

Memory is not just the imprint of the past time upon us; it is the keeper of what is meaningful for our deepest hopes and fears.

-- Rollo May, *Man's Search For Himself*

It is interesting that the term *mystic* is used in this derogatory sense to mean anything we cannot segmentize and count. The odd belief prevails in our culture that a thing or experience is not real if we cannot make it mathematical, and that somehow it must be real if we can reduce it to numbers. But this means making an abstraction out of it ... Modern Western man thus finds himself in the strange situation, after reducing something to an abstraction, of having then to persuade himself it is real. ... the only experience we let ourselves believe in as real, is that which precisely is not.

-- Rollo May, *Existence*

Increasingly in our time — this is an inevitable result of collectivization — it is the organization man who succeeds. And he is characterized by the fact that he has significance only if he gives up his significance.

-- Rollo May, *Existence*

Anxiety occurs because of a threat to the values a person identifies with his existence as a self ... most anxiety comes from a threat to social, emotional and moral values the person identifies with himself. And here we find that a main source of anxiety, particularly in the younger generation, is that they do not have viable values available in the culture on the basis of which they can relate to their world. The anxiety which is inescapable in an age in which values are so radically in transition is a central cause of apathy ... such prolonged anxiety tends to develop into lack of feeling and the experience of depersonalization.

-- Rollo May, *Existence*

A person can meet anxiety to the extent that his values are stronger than the threat.

-- Rollo May, *Existence*

Depression is the inability to construct a future.

-- Rollo May, *Love And Will*

Care is a state in which something does *matter*; care is the opposite of apathy. Care is the necessary source of eros, the source of human tenderness.

-- Rollo May, *Love And Will*

Physical courage in whatever scene ... seems to hinge on whether the individual can feel he is fighting for others as well as himself.

-- Rollo May, *Power And Innocence*

Artists are generally soft-spoken persons who are concerned with their inner visions and images. But that is precisely what makes them feared by any coercive society. For they are the bearers of the human being's age old capacity to be insurgent. They love to immerse themselves in chaos in order to put it into form, just as God created form out of chaos in Genesis. Forever unsatisfied with the mundane, the apathetic, the conventional, they always push on to newer worlds.

-- Rollo May, *The Courage To Create*

Symbol and myth do bring into awareness infantile, archaic dreads and similar primitive psychic content. This is their *regressive* aspect. But they also bring out new meaning, new forms, and disclose a reality that was literally not present before, a reality that is not merely subjective but has a second pole which is outside ourselves.

-- Rollo May, *The Courage To Create*

The self is made up, on its growing edge, of the models, forms, metaphors, myths, and all other kinds of psychic content which give it direction in its self-creation. This is a process that goes on continuously. As Kierkegaard well said, the self is only that which it is in the process of becoming. Despite the obvious determinism in human life — especially in the physical aspect of ones self in such simple things as color of eyes, height relative length of life, and so on — there is also, clearly, this element of self-directing, self-forming. Thinking and self-

creating are inseparable. When we become aware of all the fantasies in which we see ourselves in the future, pilot ourselves this way or that, this becomes obvious.

-- Rolly May, *The Courage To Create*

The human imagination leaps to form the whole, to complete the scene in order to make sense of it. The instantaneous way this is done shows how we are driven to construct the remainder of the scene. To fill the gaps is essential if the scene is to have meaning. That we may do this in misleading ways — at times in neurotic or paranoid ways — does not gainsay the central point. Our passion for form expresses our yearning to make the world adequate to our needs and desires, and, more important, to experience ourselves as having significance.

-- Rolly May, *The Courage To Create*

The value of dreams, like ... divinations, is not that they give a specific answer, but that they open up new areas of psychic reality, shake us out of our customary ruts, and throw light on a new segment of our lives. Thus the sayings of the shrine, like dreams, were not to be received passively; *the recipients had to "live" themselves into the message.*

-- Rolly May, *The Courage To Create*

Human life begins on the far side of despair.

-- John Paul Sartre

Modern music sees absolute oblivion as its goal. It is not that schizophrenia is directly expressed therein; but the music imprints upon itself an attitude similar to that of the mentally ill. The individual brings about his own disintegration....

-- Theodor Adorno, *The Philosophy of Modern Music*

The timid civilized world has found nothing with which to oppose the onslaught of a sudden revival of barefaced barbarity, other than concessions and smiles.

-- Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn, *Nobel lecture*

This year, the darkness seems darker than any darkness we remember, and so we may be astonished when the light returns to our world. Eventually, we'll memorialize the monsters and they will frighten children for generations to come.

-- James Howard Kunstler, "Flood Tide of Darkness" (December 14, 2021)

One of your duties as men is to oppose false realities to preserve meaning, and you do that first by insisting on being upright yourself and speaking of things as they really are so that you can do with them what you must do.

-- James Howard Kunstler, "Flood Tide of Darkness" (December 14, 2021)

A "free" education that enslaves the mind, is a very high price to pay.

– Vine Deloria, "Custer Died for Your Sins" 1969

At its heart, wokeness is divisive, exclusionary and hateful. It basically gives mean people a shield to be cruel, armored in false virtue.

-- Elon Musk, Babylon Bee interview, December 21, 2021

He who dares not offend cannot be honest.

-- Thomas Paine

Why does listening to Dr. Malone on #JoeRogan feel like WW2 French Resistance trying to get outside info on a ham radio?

— Coop (@ClownPopper), December 31, 2021

People of privilege will always risk their complete destruction rather than surrender any material part of their advantage.

— John Kenneth Galbraith

Reasoning will never make a man correct an ill opinion, which by reasoning he never acquired.

-- Jonathan Swift

The surest way to work up a crusade in favor of some good cause is to promise people they will have a chance of maltreating someone. To be able to destroy with good conscience, to be able to behave badly and call your bad behavior 'righteous indignation' – this is the height of psychological luxury, the most delicious of moral treats.

— Aldous Huxley

The object of life is not to be on the side of the majority, but to escape finding oneself in the ranks of the insane.

-- Marcus Aurelius

The whole Western monetary system is only stable provided it can grow, and it can only grow provided that it has abundant access to quality collateral.

— Alex Krainer, *Gold, Goats And Guns Podcast*, January 25, 2022

It is comfortable to see the standard of reason at length erected, after so many ages during which the human mind has been held in vassalage by kings, priests, and nobles; and it is honorable for us to have produced the first legislature who had the courage to declare that the reason of man may be trusted with the formation of his own opinions.

— Thomas Jefferson, letter to James Madison, late 1786 (regarding the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedoms)

An hour with a book would have brought to your mind,
The secret that took a whole year to find;
The facts that you learned at enormous expense,
Were all on a library shelf to commence.

-- Unknown, *Audel's Electrical Library* books, circa 1931

If you can't take a little bloody nose, maybe you ought to go back home, and crawl under your bed. It's not safe out here! It's wondrous, with treasures to satiate desires both subtle and gross; but it's not for the timid.

-- Q, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*

Fascism is the system of government that cartelizes the private sector, centrally plans the economy to subsidize producers, exalts the police state as the source of order, denies fundamental rights and liberties to individuals, and makes the executive state the unlimited master of society.

-- Lew Rockwell, The Fascist Threat

Nothing worth doing is completed
In one lifetime
Therefore we must be saved by hope.
Nothing true or beautiful makes
Complete sense
In any context of history
Therefore we must be saved by faith
Nothing we do, no matter how virtuous,
Can be accomplished alone.
Therefore we must be saved by love.

-- Reinhold Niebuhr

There have also been proposals for building light-weight anonymous payment schemes on top of heavy-weight non-anonymous systems, so Bitcoin could be leveraged to allow for anonymity.

-- Hal Finney, November 2008

Sometimes it is said that man can not be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the forms of kings to govern him?

-- Thomas Jefferson, *Inaugural Address*

Do you want to know who you are? Don't ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you.

— Thomas Jefferson

Instead of wondering when your next vacation is, maybe you should set up a life you don't need to escape from.

-- Seth Godin

The way we talk to our child becomes their inner voice.

-- Peggy O'Mara

Horace and Aristotle told us of the virtues of their fathers, and the vices of their own time, and authors down through the centuries have told us the same. If they were right, men would now be bears.

-- Montesquieu

I rarely think in words at all. A thought comes and I may try to express it in words afterwards ... I have no doubt that our thinking goes on for the most part without the use of signs and, furthermore, largely unconsciously.

-- Albert Einstein

When we read, we take the words in our mind and translate them into meanings and this will lead to the understanding of a pure concept.

-- Martin Armstrong, *Debt Crisis* (2012)

Money sets a standard that spreads into every area of human activity... Layer by layer we are corrupted when money loses certainty... Fight for gold. Not for profits, though they are helpful... but for a future that returns to sanity. If we have a gold standard we get golden human standard! The two are intertwined. They are the ultimate cause and effect. Gold blesses.

-- Harry Schultz, *HSM*

Capitalism is based on self-interest and self-esteem; it holds integrity and trustworthiness as cardinal virtues and makes them pay off in the marketplace, thus demanding that men survive by means of virtue, not vices. It is this superlatively moral system that the welfare statists propose to improve upon by means of preventative law, snooping bureaucrats, and the chronic goad of fear.

-- Alan Greenspan, *The Assault on Integrity*, 1963

Life sucks order from a sea of chaos.

-- James Gleick, *Chaos*

The book of nature is written in the language of mathematics.

-- Galileo Galilei, 1623

I became healthy while creating.

-- Goethe

The only statistics I believe are the ones I made up myself.

-- Winston Churchill

When the prevailing myth s fail to meet the varieties of man's plight, frustration expresses itself first in mythoclasm and then in the lonely search for internal identity.

– Jerome Bruner

aching hearts in every home, racked incessantly by pangs the mind was powerless to assuage and forced to vent themselves in recalcitrant weeping.

– Lucretius, *The Nature of The Universe* (writing of Greeks in the 3rd century, as myths broke)

It is through myths that men are lifted above their captivity in the ordinary, attain powerful visions of the future, and realize such visions.

– Peter Berger, *Pyramids of Sacrifice*

I think a curse should rest on me — because I love this war. I know it's smashing and shattering the lives of thousands every moment — and yet — I can't help it — I enjoy every second of it.

-- Winston Churchill

There's no such thing as society. There are individual men and women and there are families.

-- Margaret Thatcher, *Womens Own* interview, 1987

It is the myth of scarcity which promotes hierarchy and politics, and the reality of cornucopia which generates prosperity.

-- Jim Davidson (James Dale?)

If you want to improve, be content to be thought foolish and stupid.

– Epictetus

Contra the prevailing belief, “success” isn’t being on top of a hierarchy, it is standing outside all hierarchies.

-- Nassim Nicholas Taleb

Who would you miss more when he goes on vacation, the secretary of state or your garbage man?

-- Jim Nicholson (Philadelphia newspaperman)

The golden age is before us, not behind us.

-- William Shakespeare, *Simon The Zealot*

The possibility to create the context in which people’s lives really matter is undoubtedly the most profound opportunity available to anyone, ever.

– Werner Erhard, *The Graduate Review* (April 1980)

To take a stand for the future is to bring forth a new opportunity, not one derived from the past, but an opportunity created from a future to which we give ourselves.

– Erhard, Interview with USA Today, "Mankind Must Find a New Self Awareness", December 14, 1982

The moment when you really experience that you have created yourself being whatever way you are, at that same moment you will never have to be that way again.

– Werner Erhard, Interview with William Warren Bartley (1978)

Does it really work for us to go through our lives as though there were no realizations beyond the grasp of our system-of-concepts, the awareness of which would transform the quality of our lives?

– Werner Erhard, Interview with William Warren Bartley (1978)

Even the truth, when believed, is a lie. You must experience the truth, not believe it.

– Werner Erhard, Interview with William Warren Bartley (1978)

Most of our notions about the world come from a set of assumptions which we take for granted, and which, for the most part, we don't examine or question. We bring these assumptions to the table with us as a given. They are so much a part of who we are that it is difficult for us to separate ourselves from them enough to be able to talk about them. We do not think these assumptions, we think from them.

– Werner Erhard, "Breaking Out of the Box -A Crash Course in Paradigm Thinking" Debra Feinstein, BENCHMARK Magazine, FALL 1989

When my integrity is lacking, I am clear that I just got to be a bit smaller as a person. That keeps me working on my integrity. And the thing about integrity is it's a mountain with no top.

– Werner Erhard, Peter Haldeman (November 28, 2015). "The Return of Erhard, Father of Self-Help"

Starting after the second world war, a whole host of factors, like rising GDP, rising educational attainment, and rising life-span, forced the industrialized world to grapple with something new: free time. Lots and lots of free time. The amount of unstructured time among the educated population ballooned, accounting for billions of hours a year. And what did we do with that time? Mostly, we watched TV.

-- Clay Shirky, *Here Comes Everybody*

And when the drums of war have reached a fever pitch and the blood boils with hate and the mind is closed, the leader will have no need in seizing the rights of the citizenry. Rather, the citizenry, infused with fear and blinded by patriotism, will offer up all of their rights unto the leader and do it gladly.

-- Julius Caesar

If nothing within you stays rigid, outward things will disclose themselves.

-- Bruce Lee

When I get a hunch and ignore it, I always regret it.

-- *Columbo*

Neurosis comes from internal contradictions.

-- John Hunt

{The essence of rock:] It's what makes us get up, pump our fists, and feel we can transfer that energy to whatever we do, and be a monster at it.

-- Garth Brooks, *Miracles Out of Nowhere* interview

Thesis; antithesis; synthesis. Whereby a proposition (philosophical or other) is introduced. Its opposite is introduced promptly thereafter (Antithesis), and then some intermediary position is adopted as the final truth. You see, this denies the existence of absolute truth. It assumes that every issue can be debated. This is the origin of situational-ethics in philosophy.

-- Dr. Thomas Dorman, on the Hegelian dialectic

Thoughts are like a spider's web, or like twisted roots below the ground reaching in all directions, often amorphous and with many dimensions – but words are a line, straight and one-dimensional, fixed and definite once put on the page. Words are the corpses of thought – fossilized remains of what once lived within a mind. Language as we know it is hopelessly inadequate to capture thought, yet it remains the only tool in our toolbox.

-- Emily Brown

My duty is to give you the requisite foundation and to allow your thoughts to arrange themselves freely. It is best that every man be settled in his own mind, and not be led into other men's ways of thinking under the pretense of studying science. By a careful and diligent study of natural laws I trust that we shall at least escape the dangers of vague and desultory modes of thought and acquire a habit of healthy and vigorous thinking which will enable us to recognize error in all the popular forms in which it appears and hold fast to truth whether it be old or new.

I have no reason to believe that the human intellect is able to weave a system of physics out of its own resources without experimental labor. Whenever the attempt has been made it has resulted in an unnatural and self-contradictory mass of rubbish.

-- Jame Clerk Maxwell, 1856. Introduction to his first lecture at Marischal College

Every one of these (ancient) peoples except the Phoenicians lived under despots, surrendered their souls to superstition, and had small experience of the stimulus of freedom or the life of reason. That is why the Greeks called them all *barbaroi*, barbarians; a barbarian was a man content to believe without reason and to live without liberty.

-- Will Durant, *The Life of Greece*

Thou desirest truth in the inward parts.

-- Psalm 51:6

Who will dwell in God's holy hill? He who walks with integrity, works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart.

-- Psalm 15:2

Baths, wine, and sex can corrupt our bodies, but baths, wine, and sex make life worth living.

-- Epitaph of Tiberius Claudius Secundus, 1st century Rome

The worst, the most corrupting lies, are problems poorly stated.

-- Georges Bernanos

Materialists are sustained by the faith that science will redeem their promises, turning their beliefs into facts. Meanwhile, they live on credit. The philosopher of science Sir Karl Popper described this faith as "promissory materialism" because it depends on promissory notes for discoveries not yet made. Despite all the achievements of science and technology, it is facing an unprecedented credit crunch.

– Rupert Sheldrake.

There is something about most Jews that few non-Jews know: We Jews often ask ourselves if a non-Jew in our lives would hide us in the event of a Nazi-like outbreak.

-- Dennis Prager, *Who Would Hide A Jew If Nazis Took Over America?*

<https://www1.dotster.com/utils/resend-act-email.html>

For the earth will bring them forth, as it brought them forth before.

-- Goethe

"Covert activity" is a semantic disguise for murder, coercion, blackmail, bribery, the spreading of lies and consorting with known torturers and international terrorists.

-- Frank Church, US Senator, on the practices of the CIA, 1975

The peace of the Sabbath, of a stopped world, a time outside time, was palpable, infused everything, and I found myself drenched with wistfulness, something akin to nostalgia, wonder what if: What if A and B and C had been different? What sort of person might I have been?

What sort of a life might I have lived?

Around midday on Friday, my mother doffed her [professional] identity and attire and devoted herself to making gefilte fish and other delicacies for Shabbos. Just before evening fell, she would light ritual candles, cupping the flames with her hands, and murmuring a prayer. We would all put on clean, fresh Shabbos clothes, and gather for the first meal of the Sabbath, the evening meal. My father would lift his silver wine cup and chant the blessing...

– Oliver Sachs, *Gratitude*

I just turned one hundred years young. And I have been ruminating, as encouraged by my wife, Charlotte, on the things that I learned over the course of them. Looking back, I'm struck that there is one lesson that I learned early and have relearned over and over for a century. Put simply: Trust is the coin of the realm. When trust was in the room, whatever room that was—the family room, the schoolroom, the coach's room, the office room, the government room, or the military room—good things happened. When trust was not in the room, good things did not happen. Everything else is details.

-- George Schultz, *Reflections on Trust and Effective Relationships across a New Hinge of History*

In my time, the young looked upon life as an avdventure. Today they regard it as an investment.

-- Isaac Rosenfeld (born 1918), from his journal

A philosopher should be a man willing to listen to every suggestion but determined to judge for himself. He should not be biased by appearances, have no favorite hypothesis, be of no school and in doctrine have no master. ... Truth should be his primary object. If these qualities be added to industry, he may indeed hope to walk within the veil of the temple of nature.

-- Michael Faraday

As musicians, our framework for attention is listening. And to me, that is the number one quality that must be there for all musicians, regardless whether it's a four-piece rock band, a string quartet or whatever. It's the way people live in each other's sounds; the way they are able to take it in and negotiate with that, that allows music to do the thing that I think we're all hoping to do, which is to transcend this all, to offer a window into that other stuff... that we all have on the side of our vision somewhere, that music offers us.

-- Pat Metheny, Rick Beato interview, 2022

What I'm interested in is being a musician... which is to offer a window, that's like a mirror, for people to see the best that might be. And to me, that is something that is transcendent of anything. And I think that our community of people gets to that more than anybody else.

-- Pat Metheny, Rick Beato interview, 2022

. . . the individual gives up his ego ideal and substitutes for it the group ideal embodied in the leader.

-- Sigmund Freud, *Group Psychology*

People don't want to think. And the deeper they get into trouble, the less they want to think. But by some sort of instinct, they feel that they ought to and it makes them feel guilty. So they'll bless and follow anyone who gives them a justification for not thinking. Anyone who makes a virtue – a highly intellectual virtue – out of what they know to be their sin, their weakness and their guilt... They envy achievement, and their dream of greatness is a world where all men have become their acknowledged inferiors. They don't know that that dream is the infallible proof of mediocrity, because that sort of world is what the man of achievement would not be able to bear.

-- Ayn Rand, *Atlas Shrugged*

The melody makes the hit, and the lyrics make it last.

-- Irving Berlin

See clearly, believe strongly, and then go ahead and do it.

-- Hank Stram, interview with Len Dawson for his Hall of Fame induction

Pedagogy is simply animal training, whereas education develops the power to create.

-- Spencer Heath, *Economics And The Spiritual Life of Free Men*

But to every mind there openeth,
A way, and way, and away,
A high soul climbs the highway,
And the low soul gropes the low,
And in between on the misty flats,
The rest drift to and fro.

But to every man there openeth,
A high way and a low,
And every mind decideth,
The way his soul shall go.

One ship sails East,
And another West,
By the self-same winds that blow,
'Tis the set of the sails
And not the gales,
That tells the way we go.

Like the winds of the sea
Are the waves of time,
As we journey along through life,
'Tis the set of the soul,
That determines the goal,
And not the calm or the strife.

-- Ella Wheeler Wilcox, *Tis The Set Of The Sail — Or — One Ship Sails East*

Slavery is probably the one thing about civilization that most profoundly marks ancient societies... If one amuses oneself, as I have done, by going through school textbooks for high school classes, one observes that none of them points out the progressive disappearance of slavery from the fourth century on. They mention medieval serfdom in very severe terms but pass over in silence the rather paradoxical return of slavery in the sixteenth century.

-- Régine Pernoud

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– Rupert Sheldrake

In times of war, the law falls silent.

-- Marcus Tullius Cicero

Socialism will triumph by first capturing the culture via infiltration of schools, universities, churches, and the media by transforming the consciousness of society.

-- Antonio Gramsci (verify)

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

-- Winston Churchill

Might I give counsel to any young man, I would say to him, try to frequent the company of your betters. In books and in life, that is the most wholesome society; learn to admire rightly; the great pleasure of life is that. Note what great men admired; they admired great things; narrow spirits admire basely and worship meanly.

-- W. M. Thackeray

May you live unenvied, and pass many pleasant years unknown to fame; and also have congenial friends.

— Ovid, *Tristium*, III. 4. 43.

From a simple biological perspective, it may appear that the survival of the physical organism ought to be nature's ultimate goal. It would seem, however, that the existence of an autonomous, self regulating psyche is nature's higher purpose. Mind and spirit can survive grievous physical injury, but time and again we see that the physical body begins to succumb when psychic integrity and freedom are jeopardized.

-- Gabor Maté

Goliath made a terrible mistake and made it most egregiously during COVID, which is... It took all of the competent people, took all of the courageous people, and it shoved them out of the institutions where they were hanging on. And it created in so doing The Dream Team. Created every player you could possibly want on your team to fight some historic battle against a terrible evil. All of those people are now at least somewhat awake. They've now been picked on by the same enemy. And yeah, all right, we're outgunned; it has a tremendous amount of power. But we've got all of the people who know how to think. So... I don't think it's a slam dunk, but I like our odds.

-- Brett Weinstein, Tucker Carlson interview, January 2024

If the rich cannot withstand tides that would flatten the rest of us, what is the point of them?

-- Douglas Murray, *The Spectator*, 13 January, 2024

If I use Nonviolent Communication to liberate people to be less depressed, to get along better with their family, but do not teach them at the same time to use their energy to rapidly transform systems in the world, then I am part of the problem. I am essentially calming people down, making them happier to live in the systems as they are, so I am using NVC as a narcotic.

-- Marshall Rosenberg, Swiss retreat, 2005

To wake the soul by tender strokes of art,
To raise the genius, and to mend the heart;
To make mankind, in conscious virtue bold,
Live o'er each scene, and be what they behold:
For this the Tragic Muse first trod the stage.
-- Alexander Pope, *Prologue to Mr. Addison's Cato*

The fact that stupid people are often stubborn should not hide the fact that they are not independent. When talking to him, one feels that one is not dealing with him personally, but with catchphrases, slogans, etc. that have taken possession of him. He is under a spell; he is blinded; he is abused in his own being.

-- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *On Stupidity*

Whate'er the passion, knowledge, fame, or self,
Not one will change his neighbor with himself.
-- Alexander Pope, *An Essay on Man*, Epistle II, line 261

My crown is in my heart, not on my head;
Not deck'd with diamonds and Indian stones,
Nor to be seen: my crown is called content;
A crown it is that seldom kings enjoy.

-- William Shakespeare, *Henry VI*, Part III (c. 1591), Act III, scene 1, line 63.

It is the mass ego that constructs dogmas and laws; for while the individual soul is, if free at all, self-poised, the mass mind is always uncertain, driven by vague, wandering aims; conscious, in a dim fashion, of its own weakness, it builds round itself a grotesque structure in the everlastingness of which it implicitly believes. When each unit of humanity merges itself in the mass, it loses its bearings and must rely on externals. The whole effort of evolution is to the development of individual souls who will dare to be free of the architecture of crowd-morality. For when man is herded, he remembers the savage.

-- Mary Webb, *The House in Dormer Forest* (1920)

Each age always conspires to make its own way of thinking appear to be the only possible or just way, and our age has the least resistance to the triumph of its own way. There is less real presence of respectable alternatives and less knowledge of the titanic intellectual figures who founded our way.

-- Alan Bloom, *Giants And Dwarfs*

Only when the true ends of society have nothing to do with the sublime does "culture" become necessary as a veneer to cover over the void.

-- Alan Bloom, *Giants And Dwarfs*

Men are constituted most essentially by their understanding of the most important things. The law... can force them into a temporary truce, but in any crucial instance the conflict will reemerge, and each will try to destroy the spirit of the law; for each has a different way of life which, if it were universalized... would destroy that of the other.

-- Alan Bloom, *Giants And Dwarfs*

To discover in yourself what is good.

-- Alan Bloom, *Giants And Dwarfs*

[The legislator must] change human nature, transform each individual, who by himself is a perfect and solitary whole, into a part of a greater whole from which that individual as it were gets his life and being; weaken man's constitution to strengthen it; substitute a partial and moral existence for the physical and independent existence which we have all received from nature. He must, in a word, take man's own forces away from him in order to give him forces which are foreign to him and which he cannot use without the help of others. The more the natural forces are dead and annihilated, the greater and more lasting the acquired ones, thus the founding is solid and more perfect; such that if each citizen can do nothing, can do nothing, except by all the others, and the force acquired by the whole is equal or superior to the sum of the natural forces, one can say that the legislation is at the highest point of perfection it can attain.

-- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* (II, 7)

I have received your new book against the human race, and thank you for it. Never was such a cleverness used in the design of making us all stupid. One longs, in reading your book, to walk on all fours.

-- Voltaire's response to Rousseau, after receiving *The Social Contract*

It is our duty not to suppress tenderness by suspicion; it is better to suffer wrong than to do it, and happier to be sometimes cheated than not to trust.

-- Samuel Johnson, *The Rambler*, No. 79

All doubt is cowardice — all trust is brave.

-- Edward Bulwer-Lytton, *King Arthur*

Gratitude is a fruit of great cultivation; you do not find it among gross people.

-- Samuel Johnson, *Tour to the Hebrides*

The deepest craving of human nature is the need to be appreciated.

-- William James

When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around.

-- Willie Nelson

It is impossible to feel grateful and depressed in the same moment.

-- Naomi Williams

The chief lesson I have learned in a long life is that the only way to make a man trustworthy is to trust him; and the surest way to make him untrustworthy is to distrust him and show your distrust.

-- Henry L. Stimson

Those who trust develop a finer sense for the good, even at the high cost of blighted hopes. Charmed by the spell of love, faith is, as it were, imposed upon their heart.

— Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Moral Grandeur & Spiritual Audacity*

The more you become a connoisseur of gratitude, the less you are a victim of resentment, depression and despair. Gratitude will act as an elixir that will gradually dissolve your need to possess and control, and transform you into a generous being. The sense of gratitude produces true spiritual alchemy, makes us magnanimous – large souled.

– Sam Keen

Trust isn't always rewarded. But on the other hand, if you make decisions based on trust, they'll have a sort of rightness to them.

-- David Hare, *Turks & Caicos*