

Who Was It Who Said...?

As a person acts, so he becomes in life. Those who do good become good; those who do harm become bad.....So we are said to be what our desire is. As our desire is, so is our will. As our will is, so are our acts. As we act, so we become.

—Bihadaranyaka Upanishad

Never will I seek nor receive private, individual salvation; never will I enter into final peace alone; but forever and everywhere will I live and strive for the redemption of every creature throughout the world from the bonds of conditioned existence.

—Kwan Yin (Hindu Goddess and Bodhisatva)

Faith grows when it is well expressed in celebration.
Good celebrations foster and nourish faith.
Poor celebrations may weaken and destroy it.

—Music in Catholic Worship, US Bishops, 1972

Through violence you murder the hater; but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate...Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

Set yourself earnestly to discover what you are made to do, and then give yourself passionately to the doing of it.

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

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

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.

—Margaret Mead

Be the change you wish to see in the world.

—Mahatma Gandhi

I don't know Who — or what — put the question, I don't know when it was put. I don't even remember answering. But at some moment I did answer Yes to Someone — or Something — and from that hour, I was certain that existence is meaningful and that, therefore, my life, in self-surrender, had a goal.

—Dag Hammarskjold in *Markings*

The more faithfully you listen to the voices within you, the better you will hear what is sounding outside.

—Dag Hammarskjold in *Markings*

Forgiveness is the answer to the child's dream of a miracle by which what is broken is made whole again, what is soiled is made clean again.

—Dag Hammarskjold in *Markings*

And God stepped out on space, and he looked around and said, "I'm lonely -- I'll make me a world." And as far as the eye of God could see, Darkness covered everything, Blacker than a hundred midnights Down in a cypress swamp. Then God smiled, and the light broke....

— James Weldon Johnson in *The Creation*

The day of my spiritual awakening was the day I saw and knew I saw all things in God and God in all things.

—Mechtild of Magdeburg

To the mind that is still the whole universe surrenders.

—Lao Tzu

Slipping on my shoes, Boiling water, Toasting bread, Buttering the sky: That should be enough contact With God in one day To make anyone Crazy.
—Hafiz

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts.
— Daniel Patrick Moynihan:

I cannot understand a world shameless and cruel enough to divide its people by color, when color is in fact the sign of God's artistic genius.
—Federico Garcia Lorca, 1930

I shall pass this way but once.* Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again.
—Anonymous

...If you knew the secret history of those you would like to punish, you would find a suffering and sorrow enough to disarm all your hostility...
—Anonymous

Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent
—Victor Hugo

To be nobody but yourself in a world that is doing its best, night and day, to make you everybody else, means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight.
—E.E. Cummings

Hold a true friend with both your hands.
—Nigerian Proverb

Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans
—John Lennon

The trouble with being in the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat.
—Lily Tomlin

The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution that has to start with each one of us.
—Dorothy Day

This is the true joy of life, being used up for a mighty 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. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be used up when I die...Life is no "brief candle" to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have got hold of for a moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before I pass it on to future generations.
—George Bernard Shaw

Gamble everything for love -- if you're a true human being --You've distracted me. Don't ask how -- Don't ask why --This we have now is not imagination -- This confusing joy, your doing --You delight me.
—Rumi

Most of us can't do great things. We can only do small things with great love.
—Mother Teresa

It is only with the heart that one can see rightly, what is essential is invisible to the eye.
—Antoine de Saint Exupery

For age is opportunity no less than youth itself, though in another dress, and as the evening twilight fades away the sky is filled with stars invisible by day
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

We are sowing winter wheat which the coming spring will see sprout and which other hands than ours will reap and enjoy.

—Elizabeth Stanton

The human life fully lived is the glory of God

—Meister Eckhart -Teresa of Avila

Constantly regard the universe as one living being, having one substance, and one soul.

—Marcus Aurelius

To see a World in a Grain of Sand And a Heaven in a Wild Flower, Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand, and Eternity in an hour.

—William Blake

My deepest impulses are optimistic; an attitude that seems to me as spiritually necessary and proper as it is intellectually suspect.

—Ellen Willis

Go out and preach the Gospel, and use words if you have to.

—St. Benedict

Beyond ideas of right and wrong, there is a field. I'll meet you there.

— Rumi

He who has realized that sun and stars and souls do not ramble in a vacuum will keep his heart in readiness for the hour when the world is entranced. For things are not mute: the stillness is full of demands, awaiting a soul to breathe in the mystery that all things exhale in their craving for communion. Out of the world comes the behest to instill into the air a rapturous song for God.

—A.J. Heschel

Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive.

—William Wordsworth

And in the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make.

—John Lennon

I don't believe that the accident of birth makes people sisters and brothers. It makes them siblings. Gives them mutuality of parentage. Sisterhood and brotherhood are conditions people have to work at. It's a serious matter. You compromise, you give, you take, you stand firm, and you're relentless...And it is an investment.

—Maya Angelou

Today's problems will not be solved by the same level of thinking which caused them

—Albert Einstein

There is love, and everything else is staring into the abyss.

—Bertrand Russell

Where we've gotten mixed up is that we believe actions follow belief. But experience creates belief

—Cecil Williams.

What you see and hear depends a good deal on where you are standing; it also depends on what sort of person you are.

—CS Lewis

Miracles seem to rest, not so much upon faces or voices or healing power coming suddenly near to us from far off, but upon our perceptions being made finer so that for a moment our eyes can see and our ears can hear that which is about us always.

—Willa Cather

You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses.

—Ziggy

The appearance of things change according to the emotions and thus we see magic and beauty in them, while the magic and beauty are really in ourselves.

—Kahlil Gilbran

What God does first and best and most is to trust his people with their moment in history. He trusts them to do what must be done for the sake of the whole community.

—Walter Brueggeman

To laugh often and love much. To win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children. To earn the approval of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends. To appreciate beauty. To give of one's self without the slightest thought of return. To have accomplished a task, whether by way of a healthy child, a rescued soul, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition. To have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exhaltation. To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived: That is to have succeeded.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less.

We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry too quickly, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too seldom, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor.

We've conquered outer space, but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul.

We've split the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion; tall men, and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships. These are the times of world peace, but domestic warfare; more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition.

These are days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes.

These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throw away morality, one-night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer to quiet, to kill.

It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight, or to just hit delete. Be Kind and Be thoughtful...

—George Carlin

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you passionately ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your hearts' longing...

It doesn't interest me how old you are. I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for passion, for your dreams, for your goals, for the adventure of being alive...

It doesn't interest me what planets and constellations are squaring your moon. I want to know if you have touched the center of your souls' own sorrow, if you have been opened by lifes' betrayals or have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain...

I want to know if you can sit with pain (mine or your own) without moving to hide it or fade it and deal with it...

I want to know if you can be with joy, if you can dance with the wilderness or oceans and let ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes without cautioning us to be careful, to be realistic, to remember the limitations of being human...

It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me is true. I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to yourself, if you can bear the accusation of betrayal and not betray your own soul, if you can be faithless and therefore trustworthy through honesty...

I want to know if you can see beauty, even when it's not pretty, every day, and if you can source your own life from it's presence, pretext or allusion...

I want to know if you can live with failure and still stand on the shore of a lake and shout to the silvery moon "YES"...

It doesn't interest me to know where you live or how much money you have. I want to know if you can get up, after a time of grief and despair, weary and bruised to the bone, and do what needs to be done to feed the children...

It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied. I want to know what energy source sustains you, from the inside, when all else falls away...

I want to know if you can be yourself and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments of being alone in the sanctuary of your heart...

—Oriah Mountain Dreamer, an American Indian Elder-Poet-Philosopher