

— 101 Inspiring Quotations ... with thought-provoking comments —



101 INSPIRING QUOTATIONS

WITH THOUGHT-PROVOKING COMMENTS

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"IMAGINATION IS THE TRUE MAGIC CARPET." ~ NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

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"THE UNIVERSE HAS NO RESTRICTIONS.
YOU PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON THE UNIVERSE WITH YOUR EXPECTATIONS." ~ DEEPAK CHOPRA

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"SUCCESS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A FEW SIMPLE DISCIPLINES, PRACTICED EVERY DAY." ~ JIM ROHN

"THE ONLY CERTAIN MEANS OF SUCCESS IS TO RENDER MORE AND BETTER SERVICE THAN IS EXPECTED OF YOU, NO MATTER WHAT THE TASK MAY BE. THIS IS A HABIT FOLLOWED BY ALL SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME. THEREFORE I SAITH THE SUREST WAY TO DOOM YOURSELF TO MEDIOCRITY IS TO PERFORM ONLY THE WORK FOR WHICH YOU ARE PAID." ~ OG MANDINO

"LET YOUR LIFE LIGHTLY DANCE ON THE EDGES OF TIME
LIKE DEW ON THE TIP OF A LEAF." ~ RABINDRANATH TAGORE

"START BY DOING WHAT'S NECESSARY; THEN DO WHAT'S POSSIBLE; AND SUDDENLY YOU ARE DOING
THE IMPOSSIBLE." ~ FRANCIS OF ASSISI

"GO OUT ON A LIMB. THAT'S WHERE THE FRUIT IS." ~ JIMMY CARTER

"WHATEVER YOU CAN DO, OR DREAM YOU CAN, BEGIN IT.
BOLDNESS HAS GENIUS, POWER, AND MAGIC IN IT." ~ W. H. MURRAY

"OFTEN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SUCCESSFUL MAN AND A FAILURE IS NOT ONE'S BETTER
ABILITIES OR IDEAS, BUT THE COURAGE THAT ONE HAS TO BET ON HIS IDEAS, TO TAKE A
CALCULATED RISK, AND TO ACT." ~ DR. MAXWELL MALTZ

"SOMEWHERE, SOMETHING INCREDIBLE IS WAITING TO BE KNOWN." ~ CARL SAGAN

"YOU CAN'T CONNECT THE DOTS LOOKING FORWARD; YOU CAN ONLY CONNECT THEM LOOKING
BACKWARDS. SO YOU HAVE TO TRUST THAT THE DOTS WILL SOMEHOW CONNECT IN YOUR FUTURE.
YOU HAVE TO TRUST IN SOMETHING – YOUR GUT, DESTINY, LIFE, KARMA, WHATEVER. THIS APPROACH
HAS NEVER LET ME DOWN, AND IT HAS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE." ~ STEVE JOBS



101 INSPIRING QUOTATIONS

WITH THOUGHT-PROVOKING COMMENTS

"THINKING WILL NOT OVERCOME FEAR, BUT ACTION WILL" ~ W. CLEMENT STONE

INTRODUCTION

QUOTES ... *don't we just love 'em! They say so much, and often with such style and wisdom. We hear a particularly wise quotation and we wish we'd been clever enough to say such a thing, but surely that's what makes them special – that it took someone special, or extraordinary, or with such perspicacity and clarity of thought, to come up with it originally. We can't always remember just who said what, of course, but the essence of what was said strikes a chord for each one of us, and we can't forget that.*

QUOTES GO ON FOR GENERATIONS

A quote that resonates with many can live on for generations, maybe even centuries. And apart from what the quote tells us overtly, it speaks also of how people don't change very much at all, not when it comes to the essentials anyway, even over a span of a thousand years or more.

A quote can be wise and insightful, but more than that, it can be uplifting and inspirational. It can lighten the load and sometimes it can lighten the mood. It can be instructive and incisive, and give you that little bit of much-needed advice and encouragement just when the need is greatest. It can help you see a situation from a different standpoint. It can make you realise just how precious and delicate life is, and remind you to savour every precious, fleeting moment of it.

One of the shortest and simplest of quotes is Einstein's. He said:



**"THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF LOOKING AT THE WORLD.
EITHER NOTHING IS A MIRACLE, OR EVERYTHING IS A MIRACLE"**

If you start to look at the world as if everything is a miracle it puts you in a better place instantly. Suddenly your perspective is altered, maybe for ever. It's as though everything starts to shine, as if with an inner glow. Opportunities seem to start springing up all over the place. You see an endless stream of options where before you only saw a minefield of obstacles and trip wires.

A QUOTE CAN CHANGE THE WAY YOU SEE THE WORLD

If you make a habit of viewing the world this way, you sometimes find it difficult to suppress a smile, and people might wonder what you find so amusing. Let them wonder! And as for Nature ... where before you might have just seen it as all the random and messy stuff that goes on all around, now you start to see it the way Henry David Thoreau saw it, as a vast, rich, interconnected and interdependent living tapestry that underlies all creation, and you realise that if you inadvertently tug at one strand of it there really is a danger that it might start to unravel every other.

I really hope that reading through these quotations and the comments that go along with them causes you to slow down and spend some time just quietly thinking. There's not enough of that

these days, I sometimes feel (although too much of it can be just as bad). And maybe you'll be inspired to rediscover the greatness within, and become more of the truly amazing person you really are.

A QUOTE CAN CHANGE YOU ... FOR THE BETTER

Success means different things to different people. But if pondering these quotations means you manage to become a little more tolerant, a little more patient perhaps, more generous, more self-assured, more grateful for life's blessings, or just a little more at peace within yourself, I'll consider the time that went into putting this little book together time well spent, and the book itself a great success.

If you do find it helpful and you'd like to share your thoughts, you can reach me through the contact page on TRULY-AMAZING.COM or the one on REAL-MEMORY-IMPROVEMENT.COM. I'd love to hear from you, and perhaps add your comments to the book itself or the websites I just mentioned.

LIFE ... IS SHORT

I noticed, when I read over this list, that I've included quite a few, a disproportionate number really, on one particular theme – the nature of time, and how brief life really is. This wasn't intentional, but it does betray the fact that these ideas about time are so compelling and occupy the mind to such an extent that the quotes must have been simply jostling with each other for my attention.

Oh, hang on, here's another one, just slipped in now, missed the main book but it was so desperate to be seen that it forced its way in:

"SHORT AS LIFE IS, WE MAKE IT STILL SHORTER BY THE CARELESS WASTE OF TIME" ~

**VICTOR HUGO (1802-1885), FRENCH POET, NOVELIST AND DRAMATIST,
BEST KNOWN FOR 'THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME' AND 'LES MISERABLES'.**



'EXTRA' QUOTATIONS

Mmm ... seems no matter what I do these 'extra' quotations keep quietly slipping in. They're persistent, I'll say that for them! Of course, persistence is one of the keystones of success, so I shouldn't really be surprised that inspirational quotations and those dealing with the various aspects of success actually demonstrate a high level of persistence. Makes a bit of a mockery of my title though ... 101 quotations ... yeah right, and all the rest!

Look, I'll see if I can keep them out, but I think realistically I'll have to resign myself to allowing them to infiltrate the book. It's not very sensible to keep fighting a battle you know you simply cannot win. Discretion being the better part of valour, I'll probably just have to let them be. So if you come across any, just read them and move on. Don't pay them too much heed, it'll only encourage them!

VALUABLE RESOURCES

Now, I know you appreciate quotations (since you're reading this book), and I think it's safe to assume you have an appreciation of the English language too. For that reason I'm including a list of valuable resources at the end. In it you'll find listings of websites that will help you improve your command of the language in all kinds of ways.

Some are aimed squarely at helping you cope with the intricacies of English grammar and the crazy irregularities of English spellings. Others will help you build your vocabulary, while still more will help you learn and understand English better (if it's not your first language). There are also links to some fascinating resources concerned with learning languages.

If you're a writer, or aspire to be one, there are a few resources in there that you'll no doubt find interesting. Some of them provide

lists of useful tools that any writer would value. And if you love reading you'll enjoy the links to some excellent reading lists.

You'll find various other resources listed, all valuable to some extent or other, and aimed at making your quest to improve yourself and your talents more achievable.

COMMENTS

And why the comments? Mmm ... good question. Glad you asked. Actually, I feel almost apologetic about including comments – the quotes themselves are neatly self-contained and just about perfect as they are ... well, I think so, otherwise I wouldn't have chosen them. The exceptions are the few that are there merely because they're humorous, but there's always space to add a bit of humour, right? So there's really nothing to add, in all honesty. Still, I think it can't do any harm to expand a little on a quote, or suggest a new perspective from which to view it.

Any time a comment makes you stop for a moment and look at the quotation afresh, as if through new eyes, it's done its job. And hopefully some of the comments will do just that ... pull you up sharp and make you reconsider what you just read.

Even if you've heard (or read) that particular quote a hundred times before, maybe this time it will seem a little more eloquent, or a little more meaningful. Maybe this time it will resonate a little deeper with you, and make you take stock and reconsider. Maybe the comment will help to make the quotation a little more accessible and of even greater value.

I hope so, anyway.

PS Incidentally, this ebook is provided freely to benefit whoever reads it. If you care to share it among your friends, feel free to do so.

Perhaps the easiest way is to use the prepared email below. Just slot in your friend's name (and your own, of course!), copy-and-paste it into your email client, and that's it! You can change the wording to suit yourself if you like, totally up to you.

Hi [FRIEND'S NAME], I've just been reading a great little ebook full of the most amazing quotations and I thought you'd probably appreciate a copy. Don't worry, it won't cost a penny - it's completely free!

That's right, all you have to do is [CLICK HERE](#) to download a copy for yourself.

And hey, I know you've probably read some of these quotations before (I had anyway), but there's a little twist to it: after each one there's a comment, and some of them are quite interesting too. They do make you stop and think. It's definitely worth a read.

Anyway, take a look for yourself. Here's [THAT LINK](#) again.

Take care,

- [YOUR NAME]



And now, onto the important stuff ... the quotations!

"DON'T BE TOO TIMID AND SQUEAMISH ABOUT YOUR ACTIONS. ALL LIFE IS AN EXPERIMENT. THE MORE EXPERIMENTS YOU MAKE THE BETTER." ~ RALPH WALDO EMERSON

"BEGINNING TODAY, TREAT EVERYONE YOU MEET AS IF THEY WERE GOING TO BE DEAD BY MIDNIGHT. EXTEND TO THEM ALL THE CARE, KINDNESS AND UNDERSTANDING YOU CAN MUSTER, AND DO IT WITH NO THOUGHT OF ANY REWARD. YOUR LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN." ~ OG MANDINO

"CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS AND YOU CHANGE YOUR WORLD." ~ NORMAN VINCENT PEALE

"BELIEVE YOU CAN AND YOU'RE HALFWAY THERE." ~ THEODORE ROOSEVELT

"IF WE LISTENED TO OUR INTELLECT, WE'D NEVER HAVE A LOVE AFFAIR. WE'D NEVER HAVE A FRIENDSHIP. WE'D NEVER GO INTO BUSINESS BECAUSE WE'D BE TOO CYNICAL. WELL, THAT'S NONSENSE. YOU'VE GOT TO JUMP OFF CLIFFS ALL THE TIME AND BUILD YOUR WINGS ON THE WAY DOWN." ~ ANNIE DILLARD

"PUT YOUR HEART, MIND, AND SOUL INTO EVEN YOUR SMALLEST ACTS.
THIS IS THE SECRET OF SUCCESS." ~ SWAMI SIVANANDA

"YOU MUST DO THE THINGS YOU THINK YOU CANNOT DO." ~ ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

"DON'T JUDGE EACH DAY BY THE HARVEST YOU REAP, BUT BY THE SEEDS THAT YOU PLANT."
~ ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

"OFTEN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SUCCESSFUL PERSON AND A FAILURE IS NOT ONE HAS BETTER ABILITIES OR IDEAS, BUT THE COURAGE THAT ONE HAS TO BET ON ONE'S IDEAS, TO TAKE A CALCULATED RISK – AND TO ACT." ~ ANDRE MALRAUX



"SUCCESS ISN'T MEASURED BY MONEY OR POWER OR SOCIAL RANK.
SUCCESS IS MEASURED BY YOUR DISCIPLINE AND INNER PEACE." ~ MIKE DITKA

1

*“Let us remember: one book, one pen,
one child, and one teacher can
change the world.”*

~ Malala Yousafzai b.1997, activist, Nobel
laureate.

*COMMENT: This brave young lady is an
inspiration to the whole world. She
stood up to her oppressors and is
still standing up to them even now,
and speaking out loud and clear, even
after they tried to kill her! And her
message is simple: no, we can't change
the whole world, but we can, and
should, change a little bit of it,
each one of us. If we all took action,
even on this small scale, the results
would be astonishing. Yes, and world-changing.*



2

*“Go for it now. The future
is promised to no one.”*

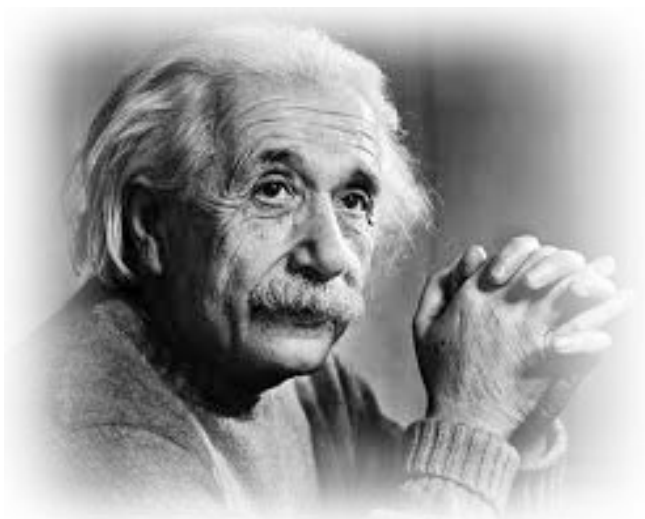
~ Wayne Dyer (1940-2015), philosopher,
author, motivational speaker.

*COMMENT: Oh, this is so true! When we're
young, we have forever. The future
stretches out before us endlessly. As we
get older, that forever becomes finite.
Then you reach a certain point and you
realise ... you really could die*

*anytime ... I mean, **anytime**.*

*It's nothing to do with age really - this enlightening
realisation can happen even to a youngster. It's to do with
achieving a more realistic viewpoint. Even if you're only 10
years old, your time is limited, though it might not feel like
it. Make the most of it. Every. Single. Day. Of. it.*





3

“Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”

~ Albert Einstein (1879-1955),
theoretical physicist, Nobel laureate.

COMMENT: For many people nowadays, success is the goal. They desperately want to be rich, to be famous, to be looked up to. They want to be feted, and featured in celebrity magazines and on TV reality shows. But being rich and successful and having people look up to you can only really happen if you have something to offer.

Instead of aiming for fame or success, we should aim to be of real value, as Einstein points out. People who are of real value often achieve everything else as a bonus.

People who chase fame rarely catch it, and if they do it's often a hollow version of what they expected. If you don't think so, check out all those famous people who end up in rehab, or featuring once again in the news, this time news of their early death, through drug or alcohol abuse.

4

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.”

~ Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962), U.S. First Lady 1933-1945.

COMMENT: It's hard, sometimes, to see the truth in something so simple. No one can make you feel bad about yourself, ever. It takes you to do that! And if you keep a tight rein on your thoughts, it needn't happen at all.



YOUR LIST OF VALUABLE RESOURCES BEGINS ON PAGE 65



5

“If you always put a limit on everything you do, physical or anything else, it will spread into your work and into your life. There are no limits. There are only plateaus, and you must not stay there, you must go beyond them.”

~ Bruce Lee (1940-1973), martial artist, actor, innovator, philosopher.

COMMENT: Bruce Lee certainly went beyond plateaus, and he smashed through any self-imposed limits he ever had. He set his mind firmly on becoming a world famous martial artist, and starring in record-breaking movies. He wanted to drag kung fu movies into the mainstream, and make martial arts accessible to millions.

He achieved all that, and to an unprecedented extent, but perhaps his greatest achievement was to break free from traditional martial arts and create a revolutionary art of his own design, Jeet Kune Do. He developed it through honing and improving whatever worked and ditching anything that failed to meet his exacting standards of efficacy. His influence is still very much felt, more than forty years after his untimely death, and he has become a cult figure.

6

*“Tough times never last ...
tough people do.”*

~ Robert Schuller (1926-2015), evangelist, motivational speaker.

COMMENT: Engrave this on your mind! Think tough! Be tough! It's nothing to do with 'macho', it's about mental toughness, the kind of attitude that will get you successfully through life (the hard bits, that is) when all else fails.



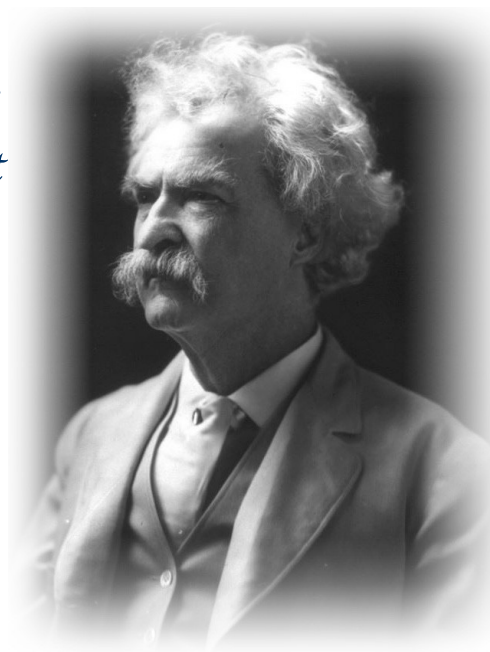
7

“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 (1835-1910), American writer and humourist. Samuel Langhorne Clemens (his real name) was an American writer of great wit and skill. Among his works are 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' and the sequel, 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn'. William Faulkner called him 'the father of American literature'.

When he suffered a huge financial loss, due to a failed investment, he filed for bankruptcy to save him from his creditors. But notably, once he was back on his feet, he paid off every one of them in full, even though he wasn't legally obliged to do so.

COMMENT: We live such timid and timorous lives, most of us. There's so much we could do, so much we could attain, yet we settle for a tiny little bit, barely a nibble at the great feast laid out before us. Why settle for an hors d'oeuvre, no matter how tasty, when a magnificent feast awaits you?



8

*“We don't see things as they are,
we see them as we are.”*

~ Anaïs Nin (1903-1977), author.

COMMENT: The world really is a reflection of yourself, and this says it so eloquently.



9

“Most people give up just when they're about to achieve success. They quit on the one yard line. They give up at the last minute of the game, one foot from a winning touchdown.”

~ Ross Perot b.1930, businessman, ex-presidential candidate.

COMMENT: How many times have you quit when you were inches from success? It's

happened to all of us, and we often become aware of it only much later. And when we do it can leave a very bitter taste. The trick is to learn from this. Once you've set out on a path, stick to it no matter what.

The truth is, you never know how close you are from reaching your goal. It could seem infinitely far away (and no wonder you feel despondent), and then you could make great strides inside of a day or two. But if you quit, you'll never know how close you came.

YOUR LIST OF VALUABLE RESOURCES BEGINS ON PAGE 65

10

“I love deadlines. I love the whooshing noise they make as they go by.”

~ Douglas Adams (1952-2001), English author, scriptwriter, dramatist.

COMMENT: I love this kind of thought! I try to keep this in mind when things are getting on top of me. I try to remember to laugh at everything falling apart around me and pretend it's all okay.

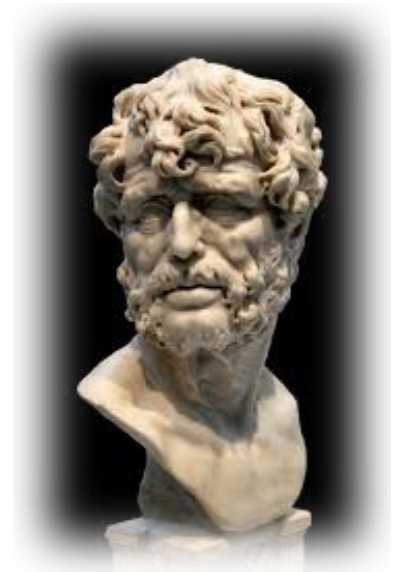


11

“Any person capable of angering you becomes your master; he can anger you only when you permit yourself to be disturbed by him.”

~ Epictetus (55-135 AD), Greek philosopher.

COMMENT: If you can just keep this in mind when you feel yourself getting angry or annoyed, it can make all the difference.



12

“Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be.”

~ Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865), 16th President of the USA.

COMMENT: A great truth, revealed by a great man. And a great speaker too, to encapsulate such a profound truth in so few words.



13

“I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.”

~ Groucho Marx (1890-1977), comic genius.

COMMENT: Thanks, Groucho! I know you weren't totally against TV, since you made such great movies (although they're not really the same animal, to be fair), but it takes someone with your wit to say something like this and make it funny.



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