



CLASSIC WISDOM



QUOTES ON

LIFE

FROM SOME OF THE GREATEST
MINDS IN HUMAN HISTORY

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Words can change your life.

We have collected some of the most powerful quotes in human history in the hope that they may help guide you through life.

As Marcus Aurelius says: 'Your mind will take the shape of what you frequently hold in thought.' So why not contemplate some of the most significant thoughts of all time?

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Man is the only animal
for whom his own
existence is a problem
which he has to solve.

Erich Fromm

The essence of man is really his paradoxical nature, the fact that he is half animal and half symbolic.

Ernest Becker

The significance of life
is living.

Jiddu Krishnamurti

May you live all the
days of your life.

Jonathan Swift

Life has no meaning.
Each of us has meaning
and we bring it to life. It
is a waste to be asking
the question when you
are the answer.

Joseph Campbell

We are what we
pretend to be, so we
must be careful about
what we pretend to be.

Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

A man is but the
product of his thoughts;
what he thinks,
he becomes.

Mahatma Gandhi

When you arise in the morning think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive - to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love.

Marcus Aurelius

Control of
consciousness
determines the
quality of life.

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi

To live is the rarest
thing in the world.
Most people exist,
that is all.

Oscar Wilde

Sometimes even to live
is an act of courage.

Seneca

Life can only be
understood backwards;
but it must be
lived forwards.

Søren Kierkegaard

The way you anything,
is the way you do
everything.

Unknown

This above all:
to thine own self
be true.

William Shakespeare

To be yourself
in a world that is
constantly trying to
make you something
else is the greatest
accomplishment.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Be kind, for everyone
you meet is fighting a
harder battle.

Plato

Life is a disease:
sexually transmitted,
and invariably fatal.

Neil Gaiman

Never attribute to
malice that which is
adequately explained
by stupidity.

Robert J. Hanlon

The aim of life is to
live, and to live means
to be aware, joyously,
drunkenly, serenely,
divinely aware.

Henry Miller

Nothing is absolute.
Everything changes,
everything moves,
everything revolves,
everything flies and
goes away.

Frida Kahlo

Fall.
Stand.
Learn.
Adapt.

Mike Norton

I have to constantly
re-identify myself to
myself, reactivate my
own standards, my own
convictions about what
I'm doing and why.

Nina Simone

It seems that life, in order to maintain itself, must revolt every so often against man's ceaseless attempts to master its irrational forces with his mind.

Otto Rank

So many of us have
forsaken the human
need to feel, and
replaced it with the
societal pressure
to think.

Philip McKernan

Having nothing to hide
relieves stress and
builds trust.

Ray Dalio

I think;
therefore I am.

René Descartes

Be silly.

Be honest.

Be kind.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

In three words I can
sum up everything
I've learned about life:
it goes on.

Robert Frost

You're on Earth.
There's no cure for that.

Samuel Beckett

It is impossible to escape the impression that people commonly use false standards of measurement - that they seek power, success and wealth for themselves and admire them in others, and that they underestimate what is of true value in life.

Sigmund Freud

Instead of wondering
when your next
vacation is, maybe
you should set up a
life you don't need to
escape from.

Seth Godin

We never live;
we are always in the
expectation of living.

Voltaire

The best index to a person's character is how he treats people who can't do him any good, and how he treats people who can't fight back.

Abigail Van Buren

Until we know the
assumptions in which
we are drenched, we
cannot know ourselves.

Adrienne Rich

I don't think there is any
truth. There are only
points of view.

Allen Ginsberg

Many people dedicate their lives to actualizing a concept of what they should be like, rather than actualizing themselves. This difference between self-actualization and self-image actualization is very important. Most people live only for their image.

Bruce Lee

I am not
what I think I am,
and I am not
what you think I am.
I am what I think
you think I am.

Charles Horton Cooley

Every one of us is, in the cosmic perspective, precious. If a human disagrees with you, let him live. In a hundred billion galaxies, you will not find another.

Carl Sagan

We are the cosmos
made conscious and
life is the means by
which the universe
understands itself.

Brian Cox

What we are today
comes from our
thoughts of yesterday,
and our present
thoughts build our life
of tomorrow: our life is
the creation of
our mind.

Buddha

We cannot control the
evil tongues of others,
but a good life enables
us to disregard them.

Cato The Elder

The mass of men
lead lives of quiet
desperation. What is
called resignation is
confirmed desperation.

Henry David Thoreau

Not all those who
wander are lost.

J.R.R. Tolkien

One is never afraid
of the unknown; one
is afraid of the known
coming to an end.

Jiddu Krishnamurti

The meaning of life
is to find your gift.
The purpose of life
is to give it away.

Pablo Picasso

One, remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Two, never give up work. Work gives you meaning and purpose and life is empty without it. Three, if you are lucky enough to find love, remember it is there and don't throw it away.

Stephen Hawking

What is demanded of man is not, as some existential philosophers teach, to endure the meaninglessness of life, but rather to bear his incapacity to grasp its unconditional meaningfulness in rational terms.

Viktor E. Frankl

Be not afraid of life.
Believe that life is worth
living, and your belief
will help create the fact.

William James

You've gotta
dance like there's
nobody watching,
love like you'll
never be hurt,
sing like there's
nobody listening,
and live like it's
heaven on earth.

William W. Purkey

The greatest obstacle to living is expectancy, which hangs upon tomorrow and loses today. You are arranging what is in Fortune's control and abandoning what lies in yours.

Seneca

We're so engaged in doing things to achieve purposes of outer value that we forget the inner value, the rapture that is associated with being alive, is what it is all about.

Joseph Campbell

Waste no more time
arguing about what a
good man should be.
Be one.

Marcus Aurelius

Be yourself; everyone
else is already taken.

Oscar Wilde

What you do speaks
so loudly that I cannot
hear what you say.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Just when you think it
can't get any worse, it
can. And just when you
think it can't get any
better, it can.

Nicholas Sparks

In a world deluged by
irrelevant information,
clarity is power.

Yuval Noah Harari

Don't be trapped by
dogma - which is living
with the results of other
people's thinking.

Steve Jobs

As you care less about
what people think of
you, you will care more
about what others think
of themselves.

Stephen R. Covey

So many people are
shut up tight inside
themselves like boxes,
yet they would open
up, unfolding quite
wonderfully, if only you
were interested in them.

Sylvia Plath

People don't care how
much you know until
they know how much
you care.

Robert B. Cialdini

Wise men speak
because they have
something to say; fools
because they have to
say something.

Plato

It's hard to find
meaning in what we
do if at some level it
doesn't help someone
else or make
someone happier.

Matthew D. Lieberman

The significance of life
is living.

Jiddu Krishnamurti

We are our choices.

Jean-Paul Sartre

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

Anaïs Nin

One's destination
is never a place,
but a new way of
seeing things.

Henry Miller

Don't ask what the
world needs.

Ask what makes you
come alive. Because
what the world needs
most is more people
who have come alive.

Howard Thurman

Wheresoever you go,
go with all your heart.

Confucius

If we think only of ourselves, forget about other people, then our minds occupy very small area. Inside that small area, even tiny problem appears very big.

Dalai Lama

All that we see or seem
is but a dream within
a dream.

Edgar Allan Poe

Don't cry
because it's over,
smile because
it happened.

Dr. Seuss

Do one thing every day
that scares you.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Life isn't about finding
yourself. Life is about
creating yourself.

George Bernard Shaw

The mystery of human
existence lies not
in just staying alive,
but in finding
something to live for.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky

People don't like
to think, if one
thinks, one must
reach conclusions.
Conclusions are not
always pleasant.

Helen Keller

Reality exists in the
human mind, and
nowhere else.

George Orwell

Life is what happens to
us while we are making
other plans.

Allen Saunders

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

Bernard M. Baruch

The problem with
the world is that the
intelligent people are
full of doubts, while the
stupid ones are full of
confidence.

Charles Bukowski

If it is not right
do not do it;
if it is not true
do not say it.

Marcus Aurelius

The best way to
know life is to
love many things.

Vincent Van Gogh

Live out of
your imagination,
not your history.

Stephen R. Covey

Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response.

Viktor E. Frankl

The reasons there are
so many clichés about
universes inside of
dewdrops is because
there are universes
inside of dewdrops.

Steven Kotler

Life is a journey,
not a destination.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

To define is to limit.

Oscar Wilde

You never do find out
what makes you tick,
and after a while it's
unimportant.

Norman Mailer

Good friends, good
books, and a sleepy
conscience: this is the
ideal life.

Mark Twain

Nothing can dim the
light that shines
from within.

Maya Angelou

Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten.

Neil Gaiman

You cannot find peace
by avoiding life.

Michael Cunningham

Never make a decision
when you need to pee.

Leonard Cohen

You cannot laugh
and be unkind at
the same time.

Khalil Gibran

The privilege of a
lifetime is being
who you are.

Joseph Campbell

Challenges are what
make life interesting
and overcoming them
is what makes life
meaningful.

Joshua J. Marine

You only live once,
but if you do it right,
once is enough.

Mae West

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.

Marie Curie

He who hesitates
is lost.

Marcus Porcius Cato

Change your life today.
Don't gamble on the
future, act now,
without delay.

Simone de Beauvoir

This life is what you
make it. No matter
what, you're going to
mess up sometimes,
it's a universal truth.
But the good part is
you get to decide
how you're going
to mess it up.

Marilyn Monroe



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Your mind will take the shape of
what you frequently
hold in thought.

- Marcus Aurelius

