

# Alexander Pope

## Quotes

*Men, Life, Art, Wise, Eye, Lying, Thinking, Giving, Nature, Heart, Soul, Passion,  
Women, Science, Literature, Character, Love, Littles, Pride, Heaven*

The greatest magnifying glasses in the world are a man's own eyes when they look upon his own person.

~Alexander Pope

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

~Alexander Pope

A little learning is a dangerous thing; Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring.

~Alexander Pope

To err is human; to forgive, divine.

~Alexander Pope

In faith and hope the world will disagree, but all mankind's concern is charity.

~Alexander Pope

Teach me to feel another's woe, to hide the fault I see, that mercy I to others show, that mercy show to me.

~Alexander Pope

The best way to prove the clearness of our mind, is by showing its faults; as when a stream discovers the dirt at the bottom, it convinces us of the transparency and purity of the water.

~Alexander Pope

Chiefs who no more in bloody fights engage, But wise through time, and narrative with age, In summer-days like grasshoppers rejoice - A bloodless race, that send a feeble voice.

~Alexander Pope

While pensive poets painful vigils keep, Sleepless themselves, to give their readers sleep.

~Alexander Pope

See! From the brake the whirring pheasant springs, And mounts  
exulting on triumphant wings; Short is his joy! He feels the fiery wound,  
Flutters in blood, and panting beats the ground.

~Alexander Pope

To the Elysian shades dismiss my soul, where no carnation fades.

~Alexander Pope

Genius creates, and taste preserves.

~Alexander Pope

No louder shrieks to pitying heaven are cast, When husbands or  
lap-dogs breathe their last.

~Alexander Pope

Satire's my weapon, but I'm too discreet To run amuck, and tilt at all I  
meet.

~Alexander Pope

No one should be ashamed to admit they are wrong, which is but  
saying, in other words, that they are wiser today than they were  
yesterday.

~Alexander Pope

Seas roll to waft me, suns to light me rise; My footstool earth, my  
canopy the skies.

~Alexander Pope

A little learning is a dangerous thing.

~Alexander Pope

But see, Orion sheds unwholesome dews; Arise, the pines a noxious

shade diffuse; Sharp Boreas blows, and nature feels decay, Time conquers all, and we must time obey.

~Alexander Pope

Every woman is at heart a rake.

~Alexander Pope

The most positive men are the most credulous, since they most believe themselves, and advise most with their falsest flatterer and worst enemy--their own self-love.

~Alexander Pope

Modest plainness sets off sprightly wit, For works may have more with than does 'em good, As bodies perish through excess of blood.

~Alexander Pope

Strength of mind is exercise, not rest.

~Alexander Pope

To be angry is to revenge the faults of others on ourselves.

~Alexander Pope

On life's vast ocean diversely we sail. Reasons the card, but passion the gale.

~Alexander Pope

Of all the causes which conspire to blind Man's erring judgement, and misguide the mind, What the weak head with strongest bias rules, Is PRIDE, the never-failing vice of fools.

~Alexander Pope

Act well your part, there all the honour lies.

~Alexander Pope

Monuments, like men, submit to fate.

~Alexander Pope

He who tells a lie is not sensible of how great a task he undertakes; for he must be forced to invent twenty more to maintain that one.

~Alexander Pope

O peace! how many wars were waged in thy name.

~Alexander Pope

At every trifle take offense, that always shows great pride or little sense.

~Alexander Pope

Hills peep o'er hills, and Alps on Alps arise.

~Alexander Pope

Say, will the falcon, stooping from above, Smit with her varying plumage, spare the dove? Admires the jay the insect's gilded wings? Or hears the hawk when Philomela sings?

~Alexander Pope

Love the offender, yet detest the offense.

~Alexander Pope

Some people will never learn anything, for this reason, because they understand everything too soon.

~Alexander Pope

A tree is a nobler object than a prince in his coronation-robos.

~Alexander Pope

True wit is nature to advantage dressed; What oft was thought, but ne'er so well expressed.

~Alexander Pope

The only time you run out of chances is when you stop taking them

~Alexander Pope

All are but parts of one stupendous whole, Whose body Nature is, and God the soul.

~Alexander Pope

Do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame.

~Alexander Pope

A brain of feathers, and a heart of lead.

~Alexander Pope

The ruling passion, be it what it will. The ruling passion conquers reason still.

~Alexander Pope

A pear-tree planted nigh: 'Twas charg'd with fruit that made a goodly show, And hung with dangling pears was every bough.

~Alexander Pope

Soft is the strain when zephyr gently blows.

~Alexander Pope

How shall I lose the sin, yet keep the sense, and love the offender, yet detest the offence?

~Alexander Pope

Calm, thinking villains, whom no faith could fix, Of crooked counsels and dark politics.

~Alexander Pope

Then marble, soften'd into life, grew warm.

~Alexander Pope

A little learning is a dangerous thing; drink of it deeply, or taste it not, for shallow thoughts intoxicate the brain, and drinking deeply sobers us again.

~Alexander Pope

Never elated when someone's oppressed, never dejected when another one's blessed.

~Alexander Pope

And soften'd sounds along the waters die: Smooth flow the waves, the zephyrs gently play.

~Alexander Pope

Charm strikes the sight, but merit wins the soul.

~Alexander Pope

On wrongs swift vengeance waits.

~Alexander Pope

Remembrance and reflection how allied. What thin partitions divides sense from thought.

~Alexander Pope

All seems infected that th' infected spy, As all looks yellow to the jaundiced eye.

~Alexander Pope

Blessed is the man who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed was the ninth beatitude.

~Alexander Pope

Search then the ruling passion; there alone, The wild are constant, and the cunning known; The fool consistent, and the false sincere; Priests, princes, women, no dissemblers here.

~Alexander Pope

An excuse is worse and more terrible than a lie; for an excuse is a lie guarded.

~Alexander Pope

Fools admire, but men of sense approve.

~Alexander Pope

What then remains, but well our power to use, And keep good-humor still whate'er we lose? And trust me, dear, good-humor can prevail, When airs, and flights, and screams, and scolding fail.

~Alexander Pope

Nature and nature's laws lay hid in the night. God said, Let Newton be! and all was light!

~Alexander Pope

In men, we various ruling passions find; In women, two almost divide the kind Those, only fixed, they first or last obey, The love of pleasure, and the love of sway.

~Alexander Pope

What dire offence from am'rous causes springs, What mighty contests rise from trivial things.

~Alexander Pope

Genius creates, and taste preserves. Taste is the good sense of genius; without taste, genius is only sublime folly.

~Alexander Pope



I am his Highness' dog at Kew; Pray tell me, sir, whose dog are you?

~Alexander Pope

Lo! the poor Indian! whose untutor'd mind Sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind; His soul proud Science never taught to stray Far as the solar walk or milky way.

~Alexander Pope

Luxurious lobster-nights, farewell, For sober, studious days!

~Alexander Pope

He who serves his brother best gets nearer God than all the rest.

~Alexander Pope

The lights and shades, whose well-accorded strife gives all the strength and color of our life.

~Alexander Pope

Soft o'er the shrouds aerial whispers breathe, That seemed but zephyrs to the train beneath.

~Alexander Pope

The difference is too nice - Where ends the virtue or begins the vice.

~Alexander Pope

Order is heaven's first law.

~Alexander Pope

Religion blushing, veils her sacred fires, And unawares Morality expires.

~Alexander Pope

Many men have been capable of doing a wise thing, more a cunning thing, but very few a generous thing.

~Alexander Pope

Beauties in vain their pretty eyes may roll; charms strike the sight, but merit wins the soul.

~Alexander Pope

Light quirks of music, broken and uneven, Make the soul dance upon a jig to Heav'n.

~Alexander Pope

What some call health, if purchased by perpetual anxiety about diet, isn't much better than tedious disease.

~Alexander Pope

What is it to be wise? 'Tis but to know how little can be known, To see all others' faults, and feel our own.

~Alexander Pope

He best can paint them who shall feel them most.

~Alexander Pope

A work of art that contains theories is like an object on which the price tag has been left.

~Alexander Pope

By flatterers besieged And so obliging that he ne'er obliged.

~Alexander Pope

A person who is too nice an observer of the business of the crowd, like one who is too curious in observing the labor of bees, will often be stung for his curiosity.

~Alexander Pope

There never was any party, faction, sect, or cabal whatsoever, in which

the most ignorant were not the most violent; for a bee is not a busier animal than a blockhead.

~Alexander Pope

All looks yellow to a jaundiced eye.

~Alexander Pope

Music resembles poetry, in each Are nameless graces which no methods teach, And which a master hand alone can reach.

~Alexander Pope

Lo! The poor Indian, whose untutored mind sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind.

~Alexander Pope

If, presume not to God to scan; The proper study of Mankind is Man. Plac'd on this isthmus of a middle state, a being darkly wise, and rudely great.

~Alexander Pope

Rogues in rags are kept in countenance by rogues in ruffles.

~Alexander Pope

Expression is the dress of thought, and still Appears more decent as more suitable; A vile conceit in pompous words express'd, Is like a clown in regal purple dress'd.

~Alexander Pope

The Physician, by the study and inspection of urine and ordure, approves himself in the science; and in like sort should our author accustom and exercise his imagination upon the dregs of nature.

~Alexander Pope

Our judgments, like our watches, none go just alike, yet each believes

his own

~Alexander Pope

Love, free as air, at sight of human ties, Spreads his light wings, and in a moment flies.

~Alexander Pope

See plastic Nature working to this end, The single atoms each to other tend, Attract, attracted to, the next in place Form'd and impell'd its neighbor to embrace.

~Alexander Pope

Most women have no characters at all.

~Alexander Pope

The sound must seem an echo to the sense.

~Alexander Pope

Genius involves both envy and calumny.

~Alexander Pope

An honest man's the noblest work of God.

~Alexander Pope

Unthought-of Frailties cheat us in the Wise.

~Alexander Pope

Not always actions show the man; we find who does a kindness is not therefore kind.

~Alexander Pope

Fortune in men has some small difference made, One flaunts in rags, one flutters in brocade, The cobbler apron'd, and the parson gown'd, The friar hooded, and the monarch crown'd.

~Alexander Pope

The most positive men are the most credulous.

~Alexander Pope

Education forms the common mind. Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined.

~Alexander Pope

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