

Arthur Golden Quotes

*Men, Thinking, Water, World, Geisha, Fighting, Mother, Long, Eye, Feelings,
Beautiful, Struggle, Girl, Two, Wish, Moving, Fire, Rain, People, Inspirational*

Never give up; for even rivers someday wash dams away.

~Arthur Golden

We lead our lives like water flowing down a hill, going more or less in one direction until we splash into something that forces us to find a new course.

~Arthur Golden

By the time we arrived, as evening was approaching, I felt as sore as a rock must feel when the waterfall has pounded on it all day long.

~Arthur Golden

I worried she might spend an afternoon chatting with me about the sights and then wish me best of luck.

~Arthur Golden

After all, when a stone is dropped into a pond, the water continues quivering even after the stone has sunk to the bottom.

~Arthur Golden

I don't think any of us can speak frankly about pain until we are no longer enduring it.

~Arthur Golden

We don't become geisha because we want our lives to be happy; we become geisha because we have no choice.

~Arthur Golden

At that moment, beauty itself struck me as a kind of painful melancholy.

~Arthur Golden

A tree may look as beautiful as ever; but when you notice the insects infesting it, and the tips of the branches that are brown from disease,

even the trunk seems to lose some of its magnificence.

~Arthur Golden

He was like a song I'd heard once in fragments but had been singing in my mind ever since.

~Arthur Golden

The heart dies a slow death, shedding each hope like leaves until one day there are none. No hopes. Nothing remains.

~Arthur Golden

If you aren't the woman I think you are, then this isn't the world I thought it was.

~Arthur Golden

If you keep your destiny in mind, every moment in life becomes an opportunity for moving closer to it.

~Arthur Golden

I stumbled out into the courtyard to try to flee my misery, but of course we can never flee the misery that is within us.

~Arthur Golden

When we fight upstream against a rocky undercurrent, every foothold takes on a kind of urgency.

~Arthur Golden

A mind troubled by doubt cannot focus on the course of victory.

~Arthur Golden

And then I became aware of all the magnificent silk wrapped around my body, and had the feeling I might drown in beauty. At that moment, beauty itself struck me as a kind of painful melancholy.

~Arthur Golden

Can't you see? Every step I have taken, since I was that child on the bridge, has been to bring myself closer to you.

~Arthur Golden

At the temple there is a poem called "Loss" carved into the stone. It has three words, but the poet has scratched them out. You cannot read loss, only feel it.

~Arthur Golden

Sometimes we get through adversity only by imagining what the world might be like if our dreams should ever come true.

~Arthur Golden

I had to wonder if men were so blinded by beauty that they would feel privileged to live their lives with an actual demon, so long as it was a beautiful demon.

~Arthur Golden

I will think of you every time I need to be reminded that there is beauty and goodness in the world.

~Arthur Golden

Anyone can have a good day. The question is what do you do on a bad day. That's when you're being tested. In a very tangible sense, a bad day shows your innermost essence more than a good day.

~Arthur Golden

Even stone can be worn down with enough rain.

~Arthur Golden

The swan who goes on living in its parents' tree will die; this is why those who are beautiful and talented bear the burden of finding their own way in the world.

~Arthur Golden

Neither you nor I can know your destiny. You may never know it! Destiny isn't always like a party at the end of the evening. Sometimes it's nothing more than struggling through life from day to day.

~Arthur Golden

Watch for the thing that will show itself to you. Because that thing, when you find it, will be your future.

~Arthur Golden

Sometimes," he sighed, "I think the things I remember are more real than the things I see.

~Arthur Golden

Passion can quickly slip to jealousy, or even hatred.

~Arthur Golden

The corridor couldn't have smelled more strongly of fish guts if we had actually been inside a fish.

~Arthur Golden

We can never flee the misery that is within us.

~Arthur Golden

We must use whatever methods we can to understand the movement of the universe around us and time our actions so that we are not fighting the currents, but moving with them.

~Arthur Golden

Of course, a sign doesn't mean anything unless you know how to interpret it.

~Arthur Golden

Hopes are like hair ornaments. Girls want to wear too many of them. When they become old women they look silly wearing even one.

~Arthur Golden

Perhaps it seems odd that a casual meeting on the street could have brought about such change. But sometimes life is like that isn't it

~Arthur Golden

My tears simply broke through the fragile wall that had held them, and with a terrible feeling of shame, I laid my head upon the table and let them drain out of me.

~Arthur Golden

Water is powerful. It can wash away earth, put out fire, and even destroy iron.

~Arthur Golden

Nothing in life is ever as simple as we imagine.

~Arthur Golden

We none of us find as much kindness in this world as we should.

~Arthur Golden

Here again, I saw life in all its noisy excitement passing me by.

~Arthur Golden

It was what we Japanese called the onion life, peeling away a layer at a time and crying all the while.

~Arthur Golden

You know, the men go to tea houses with the expectation that they will have a nice quiet evening and not read about it the next morning in the newspaper.

~Arthur Golden

Sadness was a very heavy thing.

~Arthur Golden

If a few minutes of suffering could make me so angry, what would years of it do? Even a stone can be worn down with enough rain.

~Arthur Golden

Well, a peach has a lovely taste and so does a mushroom, but you can't put the two together.

~Arthur Golden

It's less a matter of looking the other way than of closing our eyes to what we can't stop from happening.

~Arthur Golden

My mother once told me I was like water. Water can carve its way even through stone. And when trapped, water makes a new path.

~Arthur Golden

I don't like things held up before me that I cannot have.

~Arthur Golden

Was life nothing more than a storm that constantly washed away what had been there only a moment before, and left behind something barren and unrecognizable?

~Arthur Golden

How many times already had I encountered the painful lesson that although we may wish for the barb to be pulled from our flesh, it leaves a welt that doesn't heal?

~Arthur Golden

This is why dreams can be such dangerous things: they smolder on like a fire does, and sometimes they consume us completely.

~Arthur Golden

Geisha is always called beautiful even if she is not.

~Arthur Golden

of course the pace of change never slows, even when we've convinced ourselves it will.

~Arthur Golden

Every man has his destiny. But who needs to go to a fortune-teller to find it? Do I go to a chef to find out if I'm hungry?

~Arthur Golden

A woman who acts like a fool is a fool.

~Arthur Golden

No one knows the author of memoir so well like himself.

~Arthur Golden

The prettiest of them all is a girl who is pretty on the inside.

~Arthur Golden

Those of us with water in our personalities don't pick where we'll flow to. All we can do is flow where the landscape of our lives carries us

~Arthur Golden

A memoir provides a record not so much of the memoirist as of the memoirist's world.

~Arthur Golden

Yet somehow the thing that startled me most, after a week or two had passed, was that I had in fact survived.

~Arthur Golden

Finally the homeless eel marked its territory, I suppose, and the Doctor lay heavily upon me, moist with sweat.

~Arthur Golden

A wounded tiger is a dangerous beast.

~Arthur Golden

If Mother and Mameha couldn't come to an agreement, I would remain a maid all my life just as surely as a turtle remains a turtle

~Arthur Golden

Nothing is as bleak as the future, except the past.

~Arthur Golden

As an American man of the 1990s writing about a Japanese woman of the 1930s, I needed to cross three cultural divides - man to woman, American to Japanese, and present to past.

~Arthur Golden

You seemed so desperate, like you might drown if someone didn't save you.

~Arthur Golden

I've lived my life again just telling it to you.

~Arthur Golden

I began to feel that all the people I'd ever known who had died or left me had not in fact gone away, but continued to live on inside me just as this man's wife lived on inside him.

~Arthur Golden

When a man takes a mistress, he doesn't turn around and divorce his wife.

~Arthur Golden

We human beings have a remarkable way of growing accustomed to

things.

~Arthur Golden

And when I raised myself to look at the man who'd spoken, I had a feeling of leaving my misery behind me there on the stone wall.

~Arthur Golden

If those sorts of moments would be the only pleasure life offered me, I'd be better off shutting out that one brilliant source of light to let my eyes begin to adjust to the darkness.

~Arthur Golden

Flowers that grow where old ones have withered serve to remind us that death will one day come to us all.

~Arthur Golden

A geisha has studied a man's moods and his seasons. She fusses and he blooms.

~Arthur Golden

All at once I felt so vain, like a girl posturing for the crowds as she walks along, only to discover the street is empty.

~Arthur Golden

Seeing him again after so long awakened something inside me. I was surprised to find myself feeling sad rather than joyful, as I would have imagined.

~Arthur Golden

I didn't say to act dead. I said act helpless.

~Arthur Golden

Friendship is a precious thing, Sayuri. One mustn't throw it away.

~Arthur Golden

Occasionally in life we come upon things we can't understand, because we have never seen anything similar.

~Arthur Golden

My feelings of disgust had been so loud within me, they'd nearly drowned out everything else.

~Arthur Golden

A mouse who wishes to fool the cat doesn't simply scamper out of its hole whenever it feels the slightest urge.

~Arthur Golden

Time your actions so you're not fighting against the currents but moving with them.

~Arthur Golden

If you have experienced an evening more exciting than any in your life, you're sad to see it end; and yet you still feel grateful that it happened.

~Arthur Golden

I could no more have stopped myself from feeling that sadness than you could stop yourself from smelling an apple that has been cut open on the table before you.

~Arthur Golden

I was thanking him for...well, for something I'm not sure I can explain even now. For showing me that something besides cruelty could be found in the world, I suppose.

~Arthur Golden

Some people have difficulty telling the difference between something great and something they've simply heard of.

~Arthur Golden

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- Girl Quotes
- Two Quotes
- Wish Quotes
- Moving Quotes
- Fire Quotes
- Rain Quotes
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