

# Ben Jonson

## Quotes

*Men, Art, Sweet, Time, Wise, Good Man, Honor, May, Virtue, Love, Heaven,  
Fall, Mean, Writing, Mind, Lying, Life, Hate, Book, Giving*

To speak and to speak well are two things. A fool may talk, but a wise man speaks.

~Ben Jonson

Honor's a good brooch to wear in a man's hat at all times.

~Ben Jonson

The poet is the nearest borderer upon the orator.

~Ben Jonson

The voice so sweet, the words so fair, As some soft chime had stroked the air; And though the sound had parted thence, Still left an echo in the sense.

~Ben Jonson

True happiness consists not in the multitude of friends, but in the worth and choice.

~Ben Jonson

A good man will avoid the spot of any sin. The very aspersion is grievous, which makes him choose his way in his life, as he would in his journey.

~Ben Jonson

There is no greater hell than to be a prisoner of fear.

~Ben Jonson

Drink to me only with thine eyes, And I will pledge with mine; Or leave a kiss but in the cup And I'll not look for wine.

~Ben Jonson

Success produces confidence; confidence relaxes industry, and negligence ruins the reputation which accuracy had raised.

~Ben Jonson

Memory, of all the powers of the mind, is the most delicate and frail.

~Ben Jonson

Ambition, like a torrent, never looks back.

~Ben Jonson

The pipe marks the point at which the orangutan ends and man begins.

~Ben Jonson

He who is taught only by himself has a fool for a master.

~Ben Jonson

Blueness doth express trueness.

~Ben Jonson

The dignity of truth is lost with much protesting.

~Ben Jonson

Calumnies are answered best with silence.

~Ben Jonson

Great honours are great burdens, but on whom They are cast with envy, he doth bear two loads.

~Ben Jonson

Get money, still get money, boy, no matter by what means.

~Ben Jonson

You learn nothing about someone by the way they win the fight, you learn everything about the way they lose and keep coming back.

~Ben Jonson

A prince without letters is a Pilot without eyes. All his government is

groping.

~Ben Jonson

Woman, the more careful she is about her face, the more careless about her house.

~Ben Jonson

Of all wild beasts preserve me from a tyrant; and of all tame a flatterer.

~Ben Jonson

Thy praise or dispraise is to me alike; One doth not stroke me, nor the other strike.

~Ben Jonson

Confound these ancestors... They've stolen our best ideas!

~Ben Jonson

No man so wise that he may not easily err if he takes no other counsel than his own. He that is taught only by himself has a fool for a master.

~Ben Jonson

Queen and huntress, chaste and fair  
Now the sun is laid to sleep,  
Seated in thy silver chair, State in wonted manner keep:  
Hesperus entreats thy light Goddess, excellently bright.

~Ben Jonson

I have no urns, no dusty monuments; No broken images of ancestors,  
Wanting an ear, or nose; no forged tales Of long descents, to boast  
false honors from.

~Ben Jonson

We are persons of quality, I assure you, and women of fashion, and come to see and to be seen.

~Ben Jonson

The Devil is an Ass , I do acknowledge it.

~Ben Jonson

Court a mistress, she denies you; let her alone, she will court you.

~Ben Jonson

My thoughts and I were of another world.

~Ben Jonson

It is virtue that gives glory; that will endenizen a man everywhere.

~Ben Jonson

It is less dishonor to hear imperfectly than to speak imperfectly. The ears are excused; the understanding is not.

~Ben Jonson

Drink today, and drown all sorrow; You shall perhaps not do it tomorrow; Best, while you have it, use your breath; There is no drinking after death.

~Ben Jonson

To struggle when hope is banished! To live when life's salt is gone! To dwell in a dream that's vanished- To endure, and go calmly on!

~Ben Jonson

In the hope to meet Shortly again, and make our absence sweet.

~Ben Jonson

Who will not judge him worthy to be robbed That sets his doors wide open to a thief, And shows the felon where his treasure lies?

~Ben Jonson

Poor worms, they hiss at me, whilst I at home Can be contented to applaud myself, . . . with joy To see how plump my bags are and my

barns.

~Ben Jonson

Nothing is more short-lived than pride.

~Ben Jonson

If you be sick, your own thoughts make you sick

~Ben Jonson

Good men are the stars, the planets of the ages wherein they live, and illustrate the times.

~Ben Jonson

Let argument bear no unmusical sound.

~Ben Jonson

Folly often goes beyond her bounds, but impudence knows none.

~Ben Jonson

Forbear, you things That stand upon the pinnacles of state, To boast your slippery height! when you do fall, You dash yourselves in pieces, ne'er to rise: And he that lends you pity, is not wise.

~Ben Jonson

Heaven prepares good men with crosses; but no ill can happen to a good man.

~Ben Jonson

Nor shall our cups make any guilty men; But at our parting, we will be, as when We innocently met.

~Ben Jonson

Tis no sin love's fruits to steal; But the sweet thefts to reveal; To be taken, to be seen, These have crimes accounted been.

~Ben Jonson

What excellent fools religion makes of men.

~Ben Jonson

Many might go to heaven with half the labour they go to hell, if they would venture their industry the right way.

~Ben Jonson

A good dog deserves a good bone.

~Ben Jonson

Fortune, that favors fools.

~Ben Jonson

It strikes! one, two, Three, four, five, six. Enough, enough, dear watch,  
Thy pulse hath beat enough. Now sleep and rest; Would thou could'st  
make the time to do so too; I'll wind thee up no more.

~Ben Jonson

Money never made any man rich, but his mind. He that can order  
himself to the law of nature, is not only without the sense, but the fear  
of poverty.

~Ben Jonson

Language most shows a man, speak that I may see thee.

~Ben Jonson

[The play] is like to be a very conceited scurvy one, in plain English.

~Ben Jonson

Where it concerns himself, Who's angry at a slander, makes it true.

~Ben Jonson

Success hath made me wanton.

~Ben Jonson

Ods me I marle what pleasure or felicity they have in taking their roguish tobacco. It is good for nothing but to choke a man, and fill him full of smoke and embers.

~Ben Jonson

All the wise world is little else, in nature, But parasites or subparasites.

~Ben Jonson

... the best pilots have need of mariners, besides sails, anchor and other tackle.

~Ben Jonson

The burnt child dreads the fire.

~Ben Jonson

Tis the common disease of all your musicians that they know no mean, to be entreated, either to begin or end.

~Ben Jonson

He that is respectless in his courses oft sells his reputation at cheap market.

~Ben Jonson

He that departs with his own honesty For Vulgar , doth it too dearly buy.

~Ben Jonson

O! How vain and vile a passion is this fear! What base uncomely things it makes men do.

~Ben Jonson



All concord's born of contraries.

~Ben Jonson

I am beholden to calumny, that she hath so endeavored to belie me.-It shall make me set a surer guard on myself, and keep a better watch upon my actions.

~Ben Jonson

The two chief things that give a man reputation in counsel, are the opinion of his honesty, and the opinion of his wisdom; the authority of those two will persuade.

~Ben Jonson

The covetous man never has money. The prodigal will have none shortly.

~Ben Jonson

I have discovered that a famed familiarity in great ones is a note of certain usurpation on the less; for great and popular men feign themselves to be servants to others to make those slaves to them.

~Ben Jonson

He threatens many that hath injured one.

~Ben Jonson

There is no bounty to be showed to such As have real goodness:  
Bounty is A spice of virtue; and what virtuous act  
Can take effect on them that have no power  
Of equal habitude to apprehend it?

~Ben Jonson

Sweet meat must have sour sauce.

~Ben Jonson

They, who know no evil, will suspect none.

~Ben Jonson

Wine it is the milk of Venus, And the poet's horse accounted: Ply it and you all are mounted.

~Ben Jonson

Force works on servile natures, not the free.

~Ben Jonson

Neither do thou lust after that tawny weed tobacco.

~Ben Jonson

Ambition makes more trusty slaves than need

~Ben Jonson

The soul of man is infinite in what it covets.

~Ben Jonson

O, for an engine, to keep back all clocks, or make the sun forget his motion!

~Ben Jonson

Let those that merely talk and never think, That live in the wild anarchy of drink

~Ben Jonson

The world knows only two, that's Rome and I.

~Ben Jonson

The way to rise is to obey and please.

~Ben Jonson

To the old, long life and treasure; To the young, all health and pleasure.

~Ben Jonson

A good life is a main argument.

~Ben Jonson

I see compassion may become a justice, though it be a weakness, I confess, and nearer a vice than a virtue.

~Ben Jonson

A good poet's made as well as born.

~Ben Jonson

Cares that have entered once in the breast, will have whole possession of the rest.

~Ben Jonson

Minds that are great and free, should not on fortune pause: 'Tis crown enough to virtue still, her own applause.

~Ben Jonson

Fear to do base, unworthy things is valor; if they be one to us, to suffer them is valor too.

~Ben Jonson

For he that once is good, is ever great.

~Ben Jonson

Cut Men's throats with whisperings.

~Ben Jonson

Vice Is like a fury to the vicious mind, And turns delight itself to punishment.

~Ben Jonson

One woman reads another's character Without the tedious trouble of deciphering

~Ben Jonson

As it is a great point of art, when our matter requires it, to enlarge and veer out all sail, so to take it in and contract it is of no less praise when the argument doth ask it.

~Ben Jonson

How Fortune piles her sports when she begins to practise them!

~Ben Jonson

How near to good is what is fair!

~Ben Jonson

In small proportions we just beauties see; And in short measures, life may perfect be.

~Ben Jonson

Good men but see death, the wicked taste it.

~Ben Jonson

Soul of the age! The applause! delight! The wonder of our stage!

~Ben Jonson

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