

Dag Hammarskjöld

Quotes

Life, Self, Inspiration, Death, Dream, Men, Love, Peace, Loneliness, Simple, Fall, Reality, Humility, Animal, Faith, Light, Morning, Sacrifice, Political, Spiritual

Constant attention by a good nurse may be just as important as a major operation by a surgeon.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Never, for the sake of peace and quiet, deny your own experience or convictions.

~Dag Hammarskjold

It is easy to be nice, even to an enemy - from lack of character.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Our work for peace must begin within the private world of each of us. To build for man a world without fear, we must be without fear. To build a world of justice, we must be just.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was.

~Dag Hammarskjold

It is playing safe that we create a world of utmost insecurity.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Never look down to test the ground before taking your next step; only he who keeps his eye fixed on the far horizon will find the right road.

~Dag Hammarskjold

If even dying is to be made a social function, then, grant me the favor of sneaking out on tiptoe without disturbing the party.

~Dag Hammarskjold

'Freedom from fear' could be said to sum up the whole philosophy of human rights.

~Dag Hammarskjold

For all that has been, Thank you. For all that is to come, Yes!

~Dag Hammarskjold

Peacekeeping is not a job for soldiers, but only soldiers can do it.

~Dag Hammarskjold

For all that has been, Thanks. To all that shall be, Yes.

~Dag Hammarskjold

There is a point at which everything becomes simple and there is no longer any question of choice, because all you have staked will be lost if you look back. Life's point of no return.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Each morning we must hold out the chalice of our being to receive, to carry, and give back. It must be held out empty - for the past must only be reflected in its polish, its shape, its capacity.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Forgiving is forgetting, in spite of remembering.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Your position never gives you the right to command. It only imposes on you the duty of so living your life that others can receive your orders without being humiliated.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Pray that your loneliness may spur you into finding something to live for, great enough to die for.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The only kind of dignity which is genuine is that which is not diminished by the indifference of others.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Friendship needs no words - it is solitude delivered from the anguish of loneliness.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Only one feat is possible: not to have run away.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Forgiveness is the answer to the child's dream of a miracle by which what is broken is made whole again, what is soiled is made clean again.

~Dag Hammarskjold

If only I may grow: firmer, simpler, quieter, warmer.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Everything will be all right - you know when? When people, just people, stop thinking of the United Nations as a weird Picasso abstraction and see it as a drawing they made themselves.

~Dag Hammarskjold

It is more important to understand the ground of your own behavior than to understand the motives of another.

~Dag Hammarskjold

What makes loneliness an anguish is not that I have no one to share my burden, But this: I have only my own burden to bear.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The UN wasn't created to take mankind into paradise, but rather, to save humanity from hell.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Life only demands from you the strength that you possess. Only one feat is possible; not to run away.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Do not seek death. Death will find you. But seek the road which makes death a fulfillment.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Friendship needs no words.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Here man is no longer the center of the world, only a witness, but a witness who is also a partner in the silent life of Nature, bound by secret affinities of the trees.

~Dag Hammarskjold

I believe that we should die with decency so that at least decency will survive.

~Dag Hammarskjold

You dare your Yes - and experience a meaning...You repeat your Yes - and all things acquire a meaning...When everything has a meaning, how can you live anything but a YES.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Life yields only to the conqueror.

~Dag Hammarskjold

What you must dare: is to be yourself.

~Dag Hammarskjold

I am the vessel. The draft is God's. And God is the thirsty one.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Time always seems long to the child who is waiting - for Christmas, for next summer, for becoming a grownup: long also when he surrenders

his whole soul to each moment of a happy day.

~Dag Hammarskjold

We are not permitted to choose the frame of our destiny. But what we put into it is ours.

~Dag Hammarskjold

We cannot afford to forget any experience, not even the most painful.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The longest journey is the journey inwards. Of him who has chosen his destiny, Who has started upon his quest For the source of his being.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The concept of loyalty is distorted when it is understood to mean blind acceptance. It is correctly interpreted when it is assumed to cover honest criticism.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Your cravings as a human animal do not become a prayer just because it is God whom you ask to attend to them.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Life yields only to the conqueror. Never accept what can be gained by giving in. You will be living off stolen goods, and your muscles will atrophy.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Perhaps a great love is never returned.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Do not look back and do not dream about the future. It will neither give you back the past, nor satisfy your other daydreams. Your duty, your reward, your destiny, is in the present moment

~Dag Hammarskjold

Our work for peace must begin within the private world of each one of us.

~Dag Hammarskjold

In the last analysis, it is our conception of death which decides our answers to all the questions that life puts to us.

~Dag Hammarskjold

It was when Lucifer first congratulated himself upon his angelic behavior that he became the tool of evil.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Each day the first day: Each day a life.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The longest journey is the journey inward.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Unless there is a spiritual renaissance, the world will know no peace.

~Dag Hammarskjold

If a good person does you wrong, act as though you had not noticed it. They will make note of this and not remain in your debt long.

~Dag Hammarskjold

A task becomes a duty from the moment you suspect it to be an essential part of that integrity which alone entitles a man to assume responsibility.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Be grateful as your deeds become less and less associated with your name, as your feet ever more lightly tread the earth.

~Dag Hammarskjold

It is more noble to give yourself completely to one individual than to labor diligently for the salvation of the masses.

~Dag Hammarskjold

On the bookshelf of life, God is a useful work of reference, always at hand but seldom consulted.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Only he deserves power who every day justifies it.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Destiny is something not to be desired and not to be avoided. A mystery not contrary to reason, for it implies that the world, and the course of human history, have meaning.

~Dag Hammarskjold

In the presence of God, nothing stands between Him and us - we are forgiven. But we cannot feel His presence if anything is allowed to stand between ourselves and others.

~Dag Hammarskjold

We all have within us a center of stillness surrounded by silence.

~Dag Hammarskjold

I have only my own burden to bear.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Do not seek death. Death will find you.

~Dag Hammarskjold

I never discuss discussions.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Is life so wretched? Isn't it rather your hands which are too small, your vision which is muddled? You are the one who must grow up.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Time goes by, reputation increases, ability declines.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Praise those of your critics for whom nothing is up to standard.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The light died in the low clouds. Falling snow drank in the dusk. Shrouded in silence, the branches wrapped me in their peace. When the boundaries were erased, once again the wonder: that *I* exist.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Creative people have to be fed from the divine source.

~Dag Hammarskjold

He who wants to keep his garden tidy doesn't reserve a plot for weeds.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The more faithfully you listen to the voices within you, the better you will hear what is sounding outside.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Humility is just as much the opposite of self-abasement as it is of self-exaltation.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Those who invoke history will certainly be heard by history. And they will have to accept its verdict.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Set-backs in efforts to implement an ideal do not prove that the ideal is

wrong...

~Dag Hammarskjold

Better than other people.' Sometimes he says: 'That, at least, you are.' But more often: 'Why should you be? Either you are what you can be, or you are not - like other people.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The myths have always condemned those who 'looked back.' Condemned them, whatever the paradise may have been which they were leaving. Hence this shadow over each departure from your decision.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The longest journey is the journey inwards. Of him who has chosen his destiny, Who has started upon his quest for the source of his being.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The big, shoe-thumping fellow continues as a dark thunderhead to threaten all unrepentant non-Communists with hail and thunder.

~Dag Hammarskjold

To reach perfection, we must all pass, one by one, through the death of self-effacement.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The 'great' commitment is so much easier than the ordinary everyday one.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Maturity - among other things, the unclouded happiness of the child at play, who takes it for granted that he is at one with his play-mates.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The devils enter uninvited when the house stands empty. For other kinds of guests, you have to first open the door.

~Dag Hammarskjold

You wake from dreams of doom and--for a moment--you know: beyond all the noise and the gestures, the only real thing, love's calm unwavering flame in the half-light of an early dawn.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Beneath the hush a whisper from long ago, promising peace of mind and a burden shared. No peace which is not peace for all, no rest until all has been fulfilled.

~Dag Hammarskjold

This accidental meeting of possibilities calls itself I. I ask: what am I doing here? And, at once, this I becomes unreal.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The life of simplicity is simple, but it opens to us a book in which we never get beyond the first syllable.

~Dag Hammarskjold

At some moment I did answer "Yes" to someone or something. And from that hour on I was certain that existence is meaningful.

~Dag Hammarskjold

In a political context of the utmost significance, ["freedom from fear"] recognizes a human right which, in a broad sense, may be said to sum up the whole philosophy of human rights.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Acts of violence-- Whether on a large or a small scale, the bitter paradox: the meaningfulness of death--and the meaninglessness of killing.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Isn't the fulfillment of our duty towards our neighbor an expression of deepest desire?

~Dag Hammarskjold

He is one of those who has had the wilderness for a pillow, and called a star his brother. Alone. But loneliness can be a communion.

~Dag Hammarskjold

The truth is so simple that it is regarded as a pretentious banality.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Humility before the flower at the timber line is the gate which gives access to the path up the open fell.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Doffing the ego's safe glory, he finds his naked reality.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Like the bee, we distill poison from honey for our self-defense--what happens to the bee if it uses its sting is well known.

~Dag Hammarskjold

Smiling, sincere, incorruptible - His body disciplined and limber. A man who had become what he could, And was what he was- Ready at any moment to gather everything Into one simple sacrifice.

~Dag Hammarskjold

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