

# Diogenes Laertius

## Quotes

*Men, Said, Sacrifice, Country, Causes, Plato, Boys, Doe, Grace, World, Hands,  
Fate, Distance, Eye, Soul, Greatest Love, Estates, Life Is, Teacher, Hate*

Courage, my boy! that is the complexion of virtue.

~Diogenes Laertius

As some say, Solon was the author of the apophthegm, "Nothing in excess.

~Diogenes Laertius

There is a written and an unwritten law. The one by which we regulate our constitutions in our cities is the written law; that which arises from customs is the unwritten law.

~Diogenes Laertius

Bury me on my face," said Diogenes; and when he was asked why, he replied, "Because in a little while everything will be turned upside down.

~Diogenes Laertius

Anaxagoras said to a man who was grieving because he was dying in a foreign land, "The descent to Hades is the same from every place.

~Diogenes Laertius

Diogenes, when asked from what country he came, replied, "I am a citizen of the world."

~Diogenes Laertius

He used to say that it was better to have one friend of great value than many friends who were good for nothing.

~Diogenes Laertius

Sacrifice to the Graces.

~Diogenes Laertius

Antisthenes used to say that envious people were devoured by their own disposition, just as iron is by rust.

~Diogenes Laertius

Aristippus being asked what were the most necessary things for well-born boys to learn, said, "Those things which they will put in practice when they become men."

~Diogenes Laertius

Socrates said, "Those who want fewest things are nearest to the gods."

~Diogenes Laertius

Euripides says, "Who knows but that this life is really death, and whether death is not what men call life?"

~Diogenes Laertius

When asked what learning was the most necessary, he said, "Not to unlearn what you have learned!"

~Diogenes Laertius

Ignorance plays the chief part among men, and the multitude of words.

~Diogenes Laertius

Time is the image of eternity.

~Diogenes Laertius

Fortune is unstable, while our will is free.

~Diogenes Laertius

That man does not possess his estate, but his estate possesses him.

~Diogenes Laertius

Thales said there was no difference between life and death. Why, then, said some one to him, do not you die? Because, said he, it does make no difference.

~Diogenes Laertius

Apollodorus says, "If any one were to take away from the books of Chrysippus all the passages which he quotes from other authors, his paper would be left empty.

~Diogenes Laertius

Heraclitus says that Pittacus, when he had got Alcæus into his power, released him, saying, "Forgiveness is better than revenge.

~Diogenes Laertius

The sun too penetrates into privies, but is not polluted by them.

~Diogenes Laertius

Diogenes lighted a candle in the daytime, and went round saying, "I am looking for a man.

~Diogenes Laertius

When Thales was asked what was difficult, he said, To know one's self. And what was easy, To advise another.

~Diogenes Laertius

Aristippus said that a wise man's country was the world.

~Diogenes Laertius

Bion used to say that the way to the shades below was easy; he could go there with his eyes shut.

~Diogenes Laertius

Diogenes said once to a person who was showing him a dial, "It is a very useful thing to save a man from being too late for supper.

~Diogenes Laertius

A man once asked Diogenes what was the proper time for supper, and he made answer, "If you are a rich man, whenever you please; and if you are a poor man, whenever you can.

~Diogenes Laertius

One of the sophisms of Chrysippus was, "If you have not lost a thing, you have it.

~Diogenes Laertius

If appearances are deceitful, then they do not deserve any confidence when they assert what appears to them to be true.

~Diogenes Laertius

Plato was continually saying to Xenocrates, "Sacrifice to the Graces.

~Diogenes Laertius

Whichever you do, you will repent it.

~Diogenes Laertius

Pittacus said that half was more than the whole.

~Diogenes Laertius

Anarcharsis, on learning that the sides of a ship were four fingers thick, said that "the passengers were just that distance from death.

~Diogenes Laertius

But Chrysippus, Posidonius, Zeno, and Boëthius thus say, that all things are produced by fate. And fate is a connected cause of existing things, or the reason according to which the world is regulated.

~Diogenes Laertius

The mountains too, at a distance, appear airy masses and smooth, but seen near at hand they are rough.

~Diogenes Laertius

Xenophanes speaks thus:-And no man knows distinctly anything,And no man ever will.

~Diogenes Laertius

Anaximander used to assert that the primary cause of all things was the Infinite,-not defining exactly whether he meant air or water or anything else.

~Diogenes Laertius

Arcesilaus had a peculiar habit while conversing of using the expression, "My opinion is," and "So and so will not agree to this.

~Diogenes Laertius

Plato affirmed that the soul was immortal and clothed in many bodies successively.

~Diogenes Laertius

Pythagoras used to say that he had received as a gift from Mercury the perpetual transmigration of his soul, so that it was constantly transmigrating and passing into all sorts of plants or animals.

~Diogenes Laertius

The Stoics also teach that God is unity, and that he is called Mind and Fate and Jupiter, and by many other names besides.

~Diogenes Laertius

Diogenes would frequently praise those who were about to marry, and yet did not marry.

~Diogenes Laertius

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