

# Edgar Lee Masters Quotes

*Soul, Men, Mirrors, Atheism, Silence, Sea, Love Life, Heaven, Fate, Heart,  
Strong, Eye, Wisdom, Broken, Gold, Shapes, This Generation, Giving,  
Memorial, Cities*

Work for your own soul's sake.

~Edgar Lee Masters

To put meaning in one's life may end in madness, But life without meaning is the torture Of restlessness and vague desire-It is a boat longing for the sea and yet afraid.

~Edgar Lee Masters

In time you shall see Fate approach you In the shape of your own image in the mirror.

~Edgar Lee Masters

Immortality is not a gift, Immortality is an achievement; And only those who strive mightily Shall possess it.

~Edgar Lee Masters

To love is to find your own soul Through the soul of the beloved one.

~Edgar Lee Masters

There is the silence of age, too full of wisdom for the tongue to utter it in words intelligible to those who have not lived the great range of life.

~Edgar Lee Masters

The tongue may be an unruly member-- But silence poisons the soul.

~Edgar Lee Masters

To this generation I would say: Memorize some bit of verse of truth or beauty.

~Edgar Lee Masters

I have known the silence of the stars and of the sea. And the silence of the city when it pauses, And the silence of a man and a maid, And the silence for which music alone finds the word.

~Edgar Lee Masters

The snows and the roses of yesterday are vanished; And what is love but a rose that fades?

~Edgar Lee Masters

Those who first oppose a good work, seize it and make it their own, when the cornerstone is laid and memorial tablets are erected.

~Edgar Lee Masters

It takes life to love life.

~Edgar Lee Masters

Did I follow Truth wherever she led, And stand against the whole world for a cause, And uphold the weak against the strong? If I did I would be remembered among men.

~Edgar Lee Masters

O maternal earth which rocks the fallen leaf to sleep!

~Edgar Lee Masters

. . . the weal of the race, and the cause of humanity, here and now, are enough To give life meaning and death as well.

~Edgar Lee Masters

the much-sought prize of eternal youth Is just arrested growth.

~Edgar Lee Masters

What is this I hear of sorrow and weariness, Anger, discontent and drooping hopes? Degenerate sons and daughters, Life is too strong for youâ€™” It takes life to love Life.

~Edgar Lee Masters

The mind sees the world as a thing apart, And the soul makes the world at one with itself. A mirror scratched reflects no imageâ€™” And this is the silence of wisdom.

~Edgar Lee Masters

Many books have been written to show that Christianity has emasculated the world, that it shoved aside the enlightenment and wisdom of Hellas for a doctrine of superstition and ignorance.

~Edgar Lee Masters

The Typical American? He is sent to school Little or much, where he imbibes the rule Of safety first and comfort; in his youth He joins the church and ends the quest of truth.

~Edgar Lee Masters

Such phantom blossoms palely shining Over the lifeless boughs of Time.

~Edgar Lee Masters

Why, a moral truth is a hollow tooth Which must be propped with gold.

~Edgar Lee Masters

He stripped off the armor of institutional friendships To dedictate his soul To the terrible deities of Truth and Beauty.

~Edgar Lee Masters

The dust's for crawling, heaven's for flying, Wherefore, O Soul, whose wings are grown, Soar upward to the sun!

~Edgar Lee Masters

How shall the soul of a man be larger than the life he has lived?

~Edgar Lee Masters

Beware of the man who rises to power from one suspender.

~Edgar Lee Masters

There is no marriage in Heaven, but there is love.

~Edgar Lee Masters

The earth keeps some vibration going  
There in your heart, and that is  
you. And if the people find you can fiddle,  
why fiddle you must, for all  
your life.

~Edgar Lee Masters

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