

Edward Abbey Quotes

*Men, Book, World, People, Government, Nature, Writing, Art, War, Dream,
Horse, Two, Home, Heart, Philosophy, Real, Mean, Enemy, May, Believe*

To the intelligent man or woman, life appears infinitely mysterious. But the stupid have an answer for every question.

~Edward Abbey

The duty of a patriot is to protect his country from its government.

~Edward Abbey

May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds.

~Edward Abbey

I hold no preference among flowers, so long as they are wild, free, spontaneous.

~Edward Abbey

Society is like a stew. If you don't stir it up every once in a while then a layer of scum floats to the top.

~Edward Abbey

A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government.

~Edward Abbey

Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell.

~Edward Abbey

Civilization is a youth with a molotov cocktail in his hand. Culture is the Soviet tank or L.A. cop that guns him down.

~Edward Abbey

Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit.

~Edward Abbey

There is science, logic, reason; there is thought verified by experience.
And then there is California.

~Edward Abbey

Why is it that the destruction of something created by humans is called vandalism, yet the destruction of something created by God is called development?

~Edward Abbey

The only thing worse than a knee-jerk liberal is a knee-pad conservative.

~Edward Abbey

The ideal society can be described, quite simply, as that in which no man has the power of means to coerce others.

~Edward Abbey

If the end does not justify the means - what can?

~Edward Abbey

Life is too short for grief. Or regret. Or bullshit.

~Edward Abbey

How to Overthrow the System: brew your own beer; kick in your Tee Vee; kill your own beef; build your own cabin and piss off the front porch whenever you bloody well feel like it.

~Edward Abbey

In the dog-eat-dog economy, the Doberman is boss.

~Edward Abbey

I'm tired of doing what I don't want to do to live the way I don't want to live.

~Edward Abbey

A world without huge regions of total wilderness would be a cage; a world without lions and tigers and vultures and snakes and elk and bison would be - will be - a human zoo. A high-tech slum.

~Edward Abbey

Power is always dangerous. Power attracts the worst and corrupts the best.

~Edward Abbey

Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul.

~Edward Abbey

Truth is always the enemy of power. And power the enemy of truth.

~Edward Abbey

Anarchism is founded on the observation that since few men are wise enough to rule themselves, even fewer are wise enough to rule others.

~Edward Abbey

Only the half-mad are wholly alive.

~Edward Abbey

If people persist in trespassing upon the grizzlies' territory, we must accept the fact that the grizzlies, from time to time, will harvest a few trespassers.

~Edward Abbey

Defiance is beautiful. The defiance of power, especially great or overwhelming power, exalts and glorifies the rebel.

~Edward Abbey

The idea of wilderness needs no defense, it only needs defenders.

~Edward Abbey

It is not enough to understand the natural world; the point is to defend and preserve it.

~Edward Abbey

Walking takes longer... than any other known form of locomotion except crawling. Thus it stretches time and prolongs life. Life is already too short to waste on speed.

~Edward Abbey

Abolition of a woman's right to abortion, when and if she wants it, amounts to compulsory maternity: a form of rape by the State.

~Edward Abbey

I choose to listen to the river for a while, thinking river thoughts, before joining the night and the stars.

~Edward Abbey

A leader leads from in front, by the power of example. A ruler pushes from behind, by means of the club, the whip, the power of fear.

~Edward Abbey

The most common form of terrorism in the U.S.A. is that carried on by bulldozers and chain saws.

~Edward Abbey

You can't study the darkness by flooding it with light.

~Edward Abbey

I want my body to help fertilize the growth of a cactus or cliff rose or sagebrush or tree.

~Edward Abbey

In the Soviet Union, government controls industry. In the United States, industry controls government. That is the principal structural difference

between the two great oligarchies of our time.

~Edward Abbey

So I lived alone. The first thing I did was take off my pants. Naturally.

~Edward Abbey

The extreme clarity of the desert light is equaled by the extreme individuation of desert life forms. Love flowers best in openness and freedom.

~Edward Abbey

From the point of view of a tapeworm, man was created by God to serve the appetite of the tapeworm.

~Edward Abbey

Homosexuality, like androgyny, might be an instinctive racial response to overpopulation, crowding, and stress. Both flourish when empire reaches its apogee.

~Edward Abbey

When the philosopher's argument becomes tedious, complicated, and opaque, it is usually a sign that he is attempting to prove as true to the intellect what is plainly false to common sense.

~Edward Abbey

There never was a good war or a bad revolution.

~Edward Abbey

Are people more important than the grizzly bear? Only from the point of view of some people.

~Edward Abbey

Whenever I see a photograph of some sportsman grinning over his kill, I am always impressed by the striking moral and esthetic superiority of

the dead animal to the live one.

~Edward Abbey

Hierarchical institutions are like giant bulldozers -- obedient to the whim of any fool who takes the controls.

~Edward Abbey

The longest journey begins with a single step, not with a turn of the ignition key.

~Edward Abbey

There is beauty, heartbreaking beauty, everywhere.

~Edward Abbey

Baseball serves as a good model for democracy in action: Every player is equally important and each has a chance to be a hero.

~Edward Abbey

Counterpart to the knee-jerk liberal is the new knee-pad conservative, always groveling before the rich and the powerful.

~Edward Abbey

“If my decomposing carcass helps nourish the roots of a juniper tree or the wings of a vulture--that is immortality enough for me. And as much as anyone deserves.” E.Abbey

~Edward Abbey

Lightning streaks like gunfire through the clouds, volleys of thunder shake the air.

~Edward Abbey

The function of an ideal is not to be realized but, like that of the North Star, to serve as a guiding point.

~Edward Abbey

A house built on greed cannot long endure.

~Edward Abbey

I am not an atheist but an earthiest. Be true to the earth.

~Edward Abbey

High technology has done us one great service: It has retaught us the delight of performing simple and primordial tasks - chopping wood, building a fire, drawing water from a spring

~Edward Abbey

I believe in nothing that I cannot touch, kiss, embrace.... The rest is only hearsay.

~Edward Abbey

Be loyal to what you love, be true to the earth, fight your enemies with passion and laughter.

~Edward Abbey

Reincarnation? There is such a thing. What could be more Mozartian than the Nutcracker Suite?

~Edward Abbey

Our culture runs on coffee and gasoline, the first often tasting like the second.

~Edward Abbey

Cold morning on Aztec Peak Fire Lookout. First, build fire in old stove. Second, start coffee. Then, heat up last night's pork chops and spinach for breakfast. Why not? And why the hell not?

~Edward Abbey

When a man's best friend is his dog, that dog has a problem.

~Edward Abbey

Every important change in our society, for the good, at least, has taken place because of popular pressure-pressure from below, from the great mass of people.

~Edward Abbey

Why this cult of wilderness?... because we like the taste of freedom; because we like the smell of danger.

~Edward Abbey

In the American Southwest, I began a lifelong love affair with a pile of rock.

~Edward Abbey

An empty man is full of himself.

~Edward Abbey

Better a cruel truth than a comfortable delusion.

~Edward Abbey

My sole literary ambition is to write one good novel, then retire to my hut in the desert, assume the lotus position, compose my mind and senses, and sink into meditation, contemplating my novel.

~Edward Abbey

A rancher is a farmer who farms the public lands with a herd of four-legged lawn mowers.

~Edward Abbey

Freedom begins between the ears.

~Edward Abbey

Let us praise the noble turkey vulture: No one envies him; he harms nobody; and he contemplates our little world from a most serene and noble height.

~Edward Abbey

I wish to be an inspector of volcanoes. I want to study cloud formations and memorize the wind and learn by heart the habits of the ponderosa pine.

~Edward Abbey

A drink a day keeps the shrink away.

~Edward Abbey

When guns are outlawed, only the Government will have guns. The Government - and a few outlaws. If that happens, you can count me among the outlaws.

~Edward Abbey

The idea of wilderness needs no defense. It only needs more defenders. Remaining silent about the destruction of nature is an endorsement of that destruction.

~Edward Abbey

The tragedy of modern war is that the young men die fighting each other - instead of their real enemies back home in the capitals.

~Edward Abbey

Wilderness. The word itself is music.

~Edward Abbey

Where all think alike there is little danger of innovation.

~Edward Abbey

Life is too tragic for sadness: Let us rejoice.

~Edward Abbey

Who needs astrology? The wise man gets by on fortune cookies.

~Edward Abbey

Roosters: The cry of the male chicken is the most barbaric yawp in all of nature.

~Edward Abbey

If it's knowledge and wisdom you want, then seek out the company of those who do real work for an honest purpose.

~Edward Abbey

There are some places so beautiful they can make a grown man break down and weep.

~Edward Abbey

Concrete is heavy; iron is hard - but the grass will prevail.

~Edward Abbey

But of the seven deadly sins, wrath is the healthiest - next only to lust.

~Edward Abbey

God bless America. Let's try to save some of it.

~Edward Abbey

All power rests on hierarchy: An army is nothing but a well-organized lynch mob.

~Edward Abbey

Somewhere in the depths of solitude, beyond wilderness and freedom, lay the trap of madness.

~Edward Abbey

Page, Arizona, Shithead Capital of Coconino County: any town with thirteen churches and only four bars has got an incipient social problem. That town is looking for trouble.

~Edward Abbey

For myself I hold no preferences among flowers, so long as they are wild, free, spontaneous. Bricks to all greenhouses! Black thumb and cutworm to the potted plant!

~Edward Abbey

If you feel that you're not ready to die, never fear; nature will give you complete and adequate assistance when the time comes.

~Edward Abbey

Love implies anger. The man who is angered by nothing cares about nothing.

~Edward Abbey

Heaven is home. Utopia is here. Nirvana is now.

~Edward Abbey

J. Edgar Hoover, J. Bracken Lee, J. Parnell Thomas, J. Paul Getty -- you can always tell a shithead by that initial initial.

~Edward Abbey

The greater your dreams, the more terrible your nightmares.

~Edward Abbey

One man alone can be pretty dumb sometimes, but for real bona fide stupidity, there ain't nothing can beat teamwork.

~Edward Abbey

And if the computer gives you any back talk, pour some well-sugared office coffee into its evil little silicon brain.

~Edward Abbey

Romanticism was more than merely an alternative to a sterile

classicism; romanticism made possible, especially in art, a great expansion of the human consciousness.

~Edward Abbey

Those who fear death most are those who enjoy life least.

~Edward Abbey

Charity should be spontaneous. Calculated altruism is an affront.

~Edward Abbey

I'm in favor of animal liberation. Why? Because I'm an animal.

~Edward Abbey

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