

Ezra Pound Quotes

*Men, Art, Literature, Writing, Book, Artist, Real, America, Reading, People,
Language, Thinking, Poetry, Race, War, Lying, Genius, Cutting, Ideas, Fear*

The act of bell ringing is symbolic of all proselytizing religions. It implies the pointless interference with the quiet of other people.

~Ezra Pound

The Image is more than an idea. It is a vortex or cluster of fused ideas and is endowed with energy.

~Ezra Pound

Genius... is the capacity to see ten things where the ordinary man sees one.

~Ezra Pound

The technique of infamy is to start two lies at once and get people arguing heatedly over which is the truth.

~Ezra Pound

Colloquial poetry is to the real art as the barber's wax dummy is to sculpture.

~Ezra Pound

As a bathtub lined with white porcelain, When the hot water gives out or goes tepid, So is the slow cooling of our chivalrous passion, O my much praised but-not-altogether-satisfactory lady.

~Ezra Pound

The ant's a centaur in his dragon world.

~Ezra Pound

All great art is born of the metropolis.

~Ezra Pound

'Tis the white stag, Fame, we're a-hunting, bid the world's hounds come to horn!

~Ezra Pound

What matters is not the idea a man holds, but the depth at which he holds it.

~Ezra Pound

I have never known anyone worth a damn who wasn't irascible.

~Ezra Pound

Real education must ultimately be limited to men who insist on knowing, the rest is mere sheep-herding.

~Ezra Pound

What thou lovest well remains, the rest is dross
What thou lov'st well shall not be reft from thee
What thou lov'st well is thy true heritage

~Ezra Pound

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~Ezra Pound

What thou lovest well remains.

~Ezra Pound

The real trouble with war (modern war) is that it gives no one a chance to kill the right people.

~Ezra Pound

Either move or be moved.

~Ezra Pound

America is a lunatic asylum.

~Ezra Pound

USURY is the cancer of the world, which only the surgeon's knife of Fascism can cut out of the life of the nations.

~Ezra Pound

Great literature is simply language charged with meaning to the utmost possible degree.

~Ezra Pound

A slave is one who waits for someone to come and free him.

~Ezra Pound

Wars in old times were made to get slaves. The modern implement of imposing slavery is debt.

~Ezra Pound

Wars are made to make debt.

~Ezra Pound

If a nation's literature declines, the nation atrophies and decays.

~Ezra Pound

In our time, the curse is monetary illiteracy, just as inability to read plain print was the curse of earlier centuries.

~Ezra Pound

Poetry is a language pared down to its essentials.

~Ezra Pound

Why fight for a flag when you can buy one for a nickel.

~Ezra Pound

Democracy is now currently defined in Europe as a 'country run by Jews,'

~Ezra Pound

Liberty is not a right but a duty.

~Ezra Pound

If a man isn't willing to take some risk for his opinions, either his opinions are no good or he's no good.

~Ezra Pound

Adolf Hitler was a Jeanne d'Arc, a saint. He was a martyr. Like many martyrs, he held extreme views.

~Ezra Pound

The temple is holy because it is not for sale.

~Ezra Pound

The sum of human wisdom is not contained in any one language.

~Ezra Pound

From the colour the nature And by the nature the sign! Beatific spirits welding together As in one ash-tree in Ygdrasil.

~Ezra Pound

If a patron buys from an artist who needs money (needs money to buy tools, time, food), the patron then makes himself equal to the artist; he is building art into the world; he creates.

~Ezra Pound

Literature is news that stays news.

~Ezra Pound

The age demanded an image Of its accelerated grimace, Something for the modern stage, Not, at any rate, an Attic grace.

~Ezra Pound

The apparition of these faces in the crowd; Petals on a wet black bough.

~Ezra Pound

Be not cheap or mediocre in desiring.

~Ezra Pound

A civilized man is one who will give a serious answer to a serious question. Civilization itself is a certain sane balance of values.

~Ezra Pound

I guess the definition of a lunatic is a man surrounded by them.

~Ezra Pound

Rhythm is form cut into time.

~Ezra Pound

I did not enter into silence. Silence captured me.

~Ezra Pound

Mass ought to be in Latin, unless you could do it in Greek or Chinese. In fact, any abracadabra that no bloody member of the public or half-educated ape of a clargimint could think he understood.

~Ezra Pound

Religion I have defined as "Another of those numerous failures resulting from an attempt to popularize art".

~Ezra Pound

Nothing written for pay is worth printing. Only what has been written against the market.

~Ezra Pound

And the days are not full enough
And the nights are not full enough
And life slips by like a field mouse
Not shaking the grass

~Ezra Pound

It is the business of the artist to make humanity aware of itself.

~Ezra Pound

Don't be blinded by the theorists and a lying press.

~Ezra Pound

In verse one can take any damn constant one likes, one can alliterate, or assone, or rhyme, or quant, or smack, only one **MUST** leave the other elements irregular.

~Ezra Pound

The flavors of the peach and the apricot are not lost from generation to generation. Neither are they transmitted by book learning.

~Ezra Pound

Consider the way of the scientists rather than the way of an advertising agent for a new soap.

~Ezra Pound

What matters most is not the idea, but the capacity to believe in it completely.

~Ezra Pound

Rhythm must have meaning.

~Ezra Pound

Anyone who is too lazy to master the comparatively small glossary necessary to understand Chaucer deserves to be shut out from the reading of good books forever.

~Ezra Pound

I would hold the rosy, slender fingers of the dawn for you.

~Ezra Pound

The artist is the antenna of the race.

~Ezra Pound

The artist is always beginning. Any work of art which is not a beginning, an invention, a discovery is of little worth.

~Ezra Pound

No man understands a deep book until he has seen and lived at least part of its contents.

~Ezra Pound

The concept of genius as akin to madness has been carefully cultivated by the inferiority complex of the public.

~Ezra Pound

Music begins to atrophy when it departs too far from the dance... poetry begins to atrophy when it gets too far from music.

~Ezra Pound

To say that a state cannot pursue its aims because there is no money, is like saying that an engineer cannot build roads, because there are no kilometers.

~Ezra Pound

Pay no attention to the criticism of men who have never themselves written a notable work.

~Ezra Pound

Fundamental accuracy of statement is the ONE sole morality of writing.

~Ezra Pound

There is no reason why the same man should like the same books at eighteen and at forty-eight

~Ezra Pound

It is difficult to write a paradiso when all the superficial indications are that you ought to write an apocalypse.

~Ezra Pound

The worst mistake I made was that stupid, suburban prejudice of anti-Semitism.

~Ezra Pound

Properly, we should read for power. Man reading should be man intensely alive. The book should be a ball of light in one's hand.

~Ezra Pound

Good writers are those who keep the language efficient. That is to say, keep it accurate, keep it clear.

~Ezra Pound

Every great change is simple.

~Ezra Pound

When two men in business always agree, one of them is unnecessary.

~Ezra Pound

A great age of literature is perhaps always a great age of translations.

~Ezra Pound

Come, let us pity those who are better off than we are. Come, my friend, and remember that the rich have butlers and no friends, And we have friends and no butlers. (excerpt from 'The Garrett')

~Ezra Pound

The primary pigment of poetry is the IMAGE.

~Ezra Pound

I desired my dust to be mingled with yours Forever and forever and

forever.

~Ezra Pound

The only history that matters is the history we know.

~Ezra Pound

Fit for kings, formal gardens afford an earthly Elysium and the odd impression that we mere men might actually control nature for a time.

~Ezra Pound

The secret of popular writing is never to put more on a given page than the common reader can lap off it with no strain whatsoever on his habitually slack attention.

~Ezra Pound

Humanity is the rich effluvium, it is the waste and the manure and the soil, and from it grows the tree of the arts.

~Ezra Pound

I found after seventy years that I was not a lunatic but a moron.... I should have been able to do better.

~Ezra Pound

A classic is classic not because it conforms to certain structural rules, or fits certain definitions It is classic because of a certain eternal and irrepressible freshness.

~Ezra Pound

The curse of me and my nation is that we always think things can be bettered by immediate action of some sort, any sort rather than no sort.

~Ezra Pound

Here is our poetry, for we have pulled down the stars to our will.

~Ezra Pound

Good art however 'immoral' is wholly a thing of virtue. Good art can NOT be immoral. By good art I mean art that bears true witness, I mean the art that is most precise.

~Ezra Pound

A man of genius has a right to any mode of expression.

~Ezra Pound

I have always thought the suicide should bump off at least one swine before taking off for parts unknown.

~Ezra Pound

Discoveries are made by gluttons and addicts. The man who forgets to eat and sleep has an appetite for fact, for interrelations among causes.

~Ezra Pound

The only thing one can give an artist is leisure in which to work. To give an artist leisure is actually to take part in his creation.

~Ezra Pound

Man is an over-complicated organism. If he is doomed to extinction he will die out for want of simplicity.

~Ezra Pound

When words cease to cling close to things, kingdoms fall, empires wane and diminish.

~Ezra Pound

Glance is the enemy of vision.

~Ezra Pound

People find ideas a bore because they do not distinguish between live ones and stuffed ones on a shelf.

~Ezra Pound

A general loathing of a gang or sect usually has some sound basis in instinct.

~Ezra Pound

If I could believe the Quakers banned music because church music is so damn bad, I should view them with approval.

~Ezra Pound

Literature does not exist in a vacuum. Writers as such have a definite social function exactly proportional to their ability as writers. This is their main use.

~Ezra Pound

The difference between a gun and a tree is a difference of tempo. The tree explodes every spring.

~Ezra Pound

Utter originality is, of course, out of the question.

~Ezra Pound

Poetry is a very complex art.... It is an art of pure sound bound in through an art of arbitrary and conventional symbols.

~Ezra Pound

Genius is the capacity to see ten things where the ordinary man sees one, and the man of talent sees two or three, plus the ability to register that multiple perception in the material of his art.

~Ezra Pound

The art of letters will come to an end before A.D. 2000. I shall survive as a curiosity.

~Ezra Pound

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