

# Fernando Pessoa

## Quotes

*Dream, Thinking, Soul, Men, Writing, Book Of Disquiet, Book, Heart, World, Art,  
Real, People, Sleep, Want, Pain, Life Is, Reality, Feels, Self, Mirrors*

The value of things is not the time they last, but the intensity with which they occur. That is why there are unforgettable moments and unique people!

~Fernando Pessoa

Life is what we make of it. Travel is the traveler. What we see isn't what we see but what we are.

~Fernando Pessoa

My soul is a hidden orchestra; I know not what instruments, what fiddlestrings and harps, drums and tamboura I sound and clash inside myself. All I hear is the symphony.

~Fernando Pessoa

The slope takes you to the windmill, but effort takes you nowhere.

~Fernando Pessoa

We never love anyone. What we love is the idea we have of someone. It's our own conceptâ€”our own selvesâ€”that we love.

~Fernando Pessoa

There are no norms. All people are exceptions to a rule that doesn't exist.

~Fernando Pessoa

Everything interests me, but nothing holds me.

~Fernando Pessoa

I am nothing. I'll never be anything. I couldn't want to be something. Apart from that, I have in me all the dreams in the world.

~Fernando Pessoa

It's been a long time since I've been me.

~Fernando Pessoa

I bear the wounds of all the battles I avoided.

~Fernando Pessoa

I wasn't meant for reality, but life came and found me.

~Fernando Pessoa

I always live in the present. I don't know the future and no longer have the past. The former oppresses me as the possibility of everything, the latter as the reality of nothing.

~Fernando Pessoa

Everything is worthwhile if the soul is not small.

~Fernando Pessoa

I've always rejected being understood. To be understood is to prostitute oneself. I prefer to be taken seriously for what I'm not, remaining humanly unknown, with naturalness and all due respect

~Fernando Pessoa

We worship perfection because we can't have it; if we had it, we would reject it. Perfection is inhuman, because humanity is imperfect.

~Fernando Pessoa

Literature is the most agreeable way of ignoring life.

~Fernando Pessoa

There are ships sailing to many ports, but not a single one goes where life is not painful.

~Fernando Pessoa

To be great, be whole; Exclude nothing. Be whole in everything.

~Fernando Pessoa

I always live in the present. The future I can't know. The past I no

longer have.

~Fernando Pessoa

I look for myself but find no one. I belong to the chrysanthemum hour of bright flowers placed in tall vases. I should make an ornament of my soul.

~Fernando Pessoa

Stones in the road? I save every single one, and one day I'll build a castle.

~Fernando Pessoa

I'd woken up early, and I took a long time getting ready to exist.

~Fernando Pessoa

If you cannot live alone, you were born a slave.

~Fernando Pessoa

Sometimes, when I wake up at night, I feel invisible hands weaving my destiny.

~Fernando Pessoa

Life is full of paradoxes, as roses are of thorns.

~Fernando Pessoa

To know how to think with emotions and to feel with intellect.

~Fernando Pessoa

Destiny gave me only two things: a few accounting books and the gift of dreaming.

~Fernando Pessoa

We are two abysses - a well staring at the sky.

~Fernando Pessoa

In order to understand, I destroyed myself.

~Fernando Pessoa

I feel as if I'm always on the verge of waking up.

~Fernando Pessoa

I sometimes think that I enjoy suffering. But the truth is I would prefer something else.

~Fernando Pessoa

Strength without agility is a mere mass.

~Fernando Pessoa

I seek and don't find myself. I belong to chrysanthemum hours, neatly lined up in flowerpots.

~Fernando Pessoa

La literatura es la manera más agradable de ignorar la vida.

~Fernando Pessoa

To love is to tire of being alone; it is therefore a cowardice, a betrayal of ourselves. (It is exceedingly important that we not love.)

~Fernando Pessoa

As we wash our body so we should wash destiny, change life as we change clothes.

~Fernando Pessoa

The end of lower art is to please, the end of average art is to raise the top, the end of superior art is to free.

~Fernando Pessoa

My past is everything I failed to be.

~Fernando Pessoa

To feel today what one felt yesterday isn't to feel - it's to remember today what was felt yesterday, to be today's living corpse of what yesterday was lived and lost.

~Fernando Pessoa

Wise is he who enjoys the show offered by the world.

~Fernando Pessoa

For I am the size of what I see / not my height's size.

~Fernando Pessoa

No intelligent idea can gain general acceptance unless some stupidity is mixed in with it.

~Fernando Pessoa

To kill our dream life would be to kill ourselves, to mutilate our soul. Dreaming is the one thing we have that's really ours, invulnerably and inalterably ours.

~Fernando Pessoa

For who expects nothing, all that comes is grateful

~Fernando Pessoa

I don't know what I feel or what I want to feel. I don't know what to think or what I am.

~Fernando Pessoa

If I write what I feel, it's to reduce the fever of feeling. What I confess is unimportant, because everything is unimportant.

~Fernando Pessoa

At first I felt dizzy - not with the kind of dizziness that makes the body reel but the kind that's like a dead emptiness in the brain, an instinctive awareness of the void.

~Fernando Pessoa

Decadence is the total loss of unconsciousness, which is the very basis of life. Could it think, the heart would stop beating.

~Fernando Pessoa

Look, there's no metaphysics on earth but chocolates.

~Fernando Pessoa

Without madness what is man But a wholesome beast, Postponed corpse that begets?

~Fernando Pessoa

I believe that saying a thing is to keep its virtues and take away its terror.

~Fernando Pessoa

I'm something that I used to be. I'm never where I feel I am, and if I seek myself, I don't know who's seeking me. My boredom with everything has numbed me. I feel banished from my soul.

~Fernando Pessoa

To have opinions is to sell out to yourself. To have no opinions is to exist. To have every opinion is to be a poet.

~Fernando Pessoa

My soul's the present shadow of a presence gone.

~Fernando Pessoa

I'm the empty stage where various actors act out various plays.

~Fernando Pessoa

I don't believe in the landscape.

~Fernando Pessoa

Every spoken word double-crosses us. The written word is the only tolerable form of communication, as it isn't a stone in a bridge between souls but a ray of light between stars.

~Fernando Pessoa

The inventor of the mirror poisoned the human heart.

~Fernando Pessoa

Oh salty sea, how much of your salt Is tears from Portugal?

~Fernando Pessoa

I search and can't find myself. I belong in chrysanthemum time, sharp in calla lily elongations. God made my soul into an ornamental thing.

~Fernando Pessoa

There's a non-existent peace in the uncertain quietness

~Fernando Pessoa

I'm beginning to know myself. I don't exist. I'm the space between what I'd like to be and what others made of me. Just let me be at ease and all by myself in my room.

~Fernando Pessoa

But I am not perfect in my way of putting things Because I lack the divine simplicity Of being only what I appear to be.

~Fernando Pessoa

Lord, may the pain be ours, And the weakness that it brings, But at least give us the strength, Of not showing it to anyone!

~Fernando Pessoa

...the painful intensity of my sensations, even when they're happy ones; the blissful intensity of my sensations, even when they're sad.

~Fernando Pessoa



Literature exists because the world isn't enough.

~Fernando Pessoa

I'm sick of everything, and of the everythingness of everything.

~Fernando Pessoa

I've never done anything but dream. This, and this alone, has been the meaning of my life. My only real concern has been my inner life.

~Fernando Pessoa

I pass times, I pass silences, formless worlds pass me by.

~Fernando Pessoa

Success consists in being successful, not in having potential for success. Any wide piece of ground is the potential site of a palace, but there's no palace till it's built.

~Fernando Pessoa

And, like the great damned souls, I shall always feel that thinking is worth more than living.

~Fernando Pessoa

The human soul is an abyss

~Fernando Pessoa

Between me and life is a faint glass. No matter how sharply I see and understand life, I cannot touch it.

~Fernando Pessoa

There's no regret more painful than the regret of things that never were.

~Fernando Pessoa

To think is to destroy. The very process of thought indicates it for the

same thought, as thinking is decomposing.

~Fernando Pessoa

Let us sculpt in hopeless silence all our dreams of speaking.

~Fernando Pessoa

I realize that, while often happy and often cheerful, I am always sad.

~Fernando Pessoa

What Hells and Purgatories and Heavens I have inside of me! But who sees me do anything that disagrees with life--me, so calm and peaceful?

~Fernando Pessoa

Whether or not they exist we are slaves to our gods.

~Fernando Pessoa

Who am I to myself? Just a feeling of mine.

~Fernando Pessoa

I look at myself but I'm missing. I know myself: it's not me.

~Fernando Pessoa

I know not what tomorrow will bring.

~Fernando Pessoa

Ah, what a morning this is, awakening me to life's stupidity. [98 - Zenith trans.]

~Fernando Pessoa

Art consists in making others feel what we feel.

~Fernando Pessoa

Better to dream than to be.

~Fernando Pessoa

It is noble to be shy, illustrious not to know how to act, great not to have a gift for living.

~Fernando Pessoa

The unnatural and the strange have a perfume of their own

~Fernando Pessoa

Everyone has his vanity, and each one's vanity is his forgetting that there are others with an equal soul.

~Fernando Pessoa

Friends: not one. Just a few acquaintances who imagine they feel something for me and who might be sorry if a train ran over me and the funeral was on a rainy day.

~Fernando Pessoa

Every man who deserves to be famous knows it is not worth the trouble.

~Fernando Pessoa

Ah, who will save me from existing? It's neither death nor life that I want.

~Fernando Pessoa

My dreams are a stupid refuge, like an umbrella against a thunderbolt.

~Fernando Pessoa

But my sadness is comforting Because it's right and natural And because it's what the soul should feel When it already thinks it exists And the hand pick flowers And the soul takes no notice.

~Fernando Pessoa

Smell is a strange sight. It evokes sentimental landscapes through a sudden sketching of the subconscious.

~Fernando Pessoa

What is art but the denial of life?

~Fernando Pessoa

Art gives us the illusion of liberation from the sordid business of being.

~Fernando Pessoa

Having touched Christ's feet is not an excuse for punctuation mistakes.

~Fernando Pessoa

I never meant to be but a dreamer.

~Fernando Pessoa

The sea with an end can be Greek or Roman: the endless sea is Portuguese.

~Fernando Pessoa

There are metaphors more real than the people who walk in the street.

~Fernando Pessoa

**Related Links:**

- Dream Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Soul Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Book Of Disquiet Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Heart Quotes
- World Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Real Quotes
- People Quotes
- Sleep Quotes
- Want Quotes
- Pain Quotes
- Life Is Quotes
- Reality Quotes
- Feels Quotes
- Self Quotes
- Mirrors Quotes