

Franz Grillparzer

Quotes

*Men, Art, People, Love, Thinking, Poetry, Life, Children, Self, Appreciate,
Needs, Mind, Country, Two, Character, Freedom, Animal, Order, World,
Religion*

I look around me and nowhere do I see a stamp of disapproval with which nature marked a woman's candid brow.

~Franz Grillparzer

Genius unrefined resembles a flash of lightning, but wisdom is like the sun.

~Franz Grillparzer

The uneducated person perceives only the individual phenomenon, the partly educated person the rule, and the educated person the exception.

~Franz Grillparzer

History is the zoology of the human race.

~Franz Grillparzer

I love the pride whose measure is its own eminence and not the insignificance of someone else.

~Franz Grillparzer

The character of the crowds is made up of mimicry and hostility.

~Franz Grillparzer

Drink and be thankful to the host! What seems insignificant when you have it, is important when you need it.

~Franz Grillparzer

Someone who is reluctant to say what he needs to say, often ends up doing so with an insolence whose crassness is proportionate to his fear, once he gathers the necessary courage.

~Franz Grillparzer

To test a modest man's modesty do not investigate if he ignores applause, find out if he abides criticism.

~Franz Grillparzer

Once you have looked at the land from atop the Kahlenberg, you will understand what I write and who I am.

~Franz Grillparzer

Isn't it awful that cold feet make for a cold imagination and that a pair of woollen socks induce good thoughts!

~Franz Grillparzer

A woman's passion is not the measure of a man's love.

~Franz Grillparzer

Piety is the fermentation of the forming mind and the putrefaction of the disintegrating one.

~Franz Grillparzer

You even called me stupid in your verse, and I'm almost agreeing, for where stupidity is involved, you are quite an expert, friend.

~Franz Grillparzer

Without a notion of the transcendental, human beings would, indeed, be animals; however, only fools can be convinced of it, and only degenerates need such a conviction.

~Franz Grillparzer

To declaim freedom verses seems like a poem within a poem; freedom requires guns, it requires arms, but no feet.

~Franz Grillparzer

No shortcomings of other people cause us to be more intolerant than those which are caricatures of our own.

~Franz Grillparzer

German radicalism: freedom-masturbation.

~Franz Grillparzer

Plato calls complacency the companion of loneliness.

~Franz Grillparzer

Moons and years pass by and are gone forever, but a beautiful moment shimmers through life a ray of light.

~Franz Grillparzer

Why do villains have so much influence? Because the honest people are terribly dense.

~Franz Grillparzer

As youth lives in the future, so the adult lives in the past: No one rightly knows how to live in the present.

~Franz Grillparzer

A heart that overflows may seek out merrymaking and boisterous festivities to quietly rejoice, unnoticed amidst the reveling crowds.

~Franz Grillparzer

Freedom requires guns.

~Franz Grillparzer

Love wants to be confirmed with concrete symbols, but recklessness loves instability.

~Franz Grillparzer

This searching and doubting and vacillating where nothing is clear but the arrogance of quest. I, too, had such noble ideas when I was still a boy.

~Franz Grillparzer

Ideas are not thoughts; the thought respects the boundaries that the idea ignores thereby failing to realize itself.

~Franz Grillparzer

A tailor can adapt to any medium, be it poetry, be it criticism. As a poet, he can mend, and with the scissors of criticism he can divide.

~Franz Grillparzer

In order to succeed in a profession, a person not only needs to have its good, but also its bad qualities. The former are the spirit, the latter is the body of the job.

~Franz Grillparzer

The main reason why men and women make different aesthetic judgments is the fact that the latter, generally incapable of abstraction, only admire what meets their complete approval.

~Franz Grillparzer

Boundless in your charity, but shrewd and cautious as a lender, you delight all those today whom you made beggars the day before.

~Franz Grillparzer

Mankind is getting smarter every day. Actually, it only seems so. At least we are making progress. We're progressing, to be sure, ever more deeply into the forest.

~Franz Grillparzer

Before passing different laws for different people, I'd relinquish myself unto you as your slave.

~Franz Grillparzer

Jealousy is a grievous passion that jealously seeks what causes grief.

~Franz Grillparzer

The military and the clergy cause us much annoyance; the clergy and the military, they empty our wallets and rob our intelligence.

~Franz Grillparzer

Morality, a muzzle for the will; logic, a climbing iron for the mind.

~Franz Grillparzer

A wise man can and should stand above his times, not so the poet, but he should be their apex.

~Franz Grillparzer

I am a woman, and even if I could proceed with harshness and rigidity, it would disgust me nonetheless.

~Franz Grillparzer

Science and art, or by the same token, poetry and prose differ from one another like a journey and an excursion. The purpose of the journey is its goal, the purpose of an excursion is the process.

~Franz Grillparzer

Do old people always live in the past? What yesterday was firm and true, may not be so today.

~Franz Grillparzer

The cradle of the future is the grave of the past.

~Franz Grillparzer

Captivating the spirit of the age is a matter of great talent; being swept away by it characterizes an average mind. The two are as different from one another as activity and passivity.

~Franz Grillparzer

Why does the past look so enticing to us? For the same reason why from a distance a meadow with flowers looks like a flower bed.

~Franz Grillparzer

Poetry, it is often said and loudly so, is life's true mirror. But a monkey looking into a work of literature looks in vain for Socrates.

~Franz Grillparzer

When the theater gates open, a mob pours inside, and it is the poet's task to turn it into an audience.

~Franz Grillparzer

What are the characteristics of today's world so that one may recognize it by them?" It pays pensions and borrows money: credit and monuments.

~Franz Grillparzer

Those who want to row on the ocean of human knowledge do not get far, and the storm drives those out of their course who set sail.

~Franz Grillparzer

The ideas of an age are most abundant where they are not crowded by original ideas.

~Franz Grillparzer

Prose talks and poetry sings.

~Franz Grillparzer

Art is eternally young, but the poet ages. If only he remained as young as art! If only it aged with him!

~Franz Grillparzer

The course of modern learning leads from humanism via nationalism to bestiality.

~Franz Grillparzer

Reason and the ability to use it are two separate skills.

~Franz Grillparzer

A person who looks different all the time frightens me. Only one animal changes its skin: the snake.

~Franz Grillparzer

Human life, old and young, takes place between hope and remembrance. The young man sees all the gates to his desires open, and the old man remembers--his hopes.

~Franz Grillparzer

No matter which word it is, when I pronounce repeatedly, it ends up sounding utterly ridiculous and meaningless to me.

~Franz Grillparzer

Is it true that one travels in order to know mankind? It is easier to get to know other people at home, but abroad one gets to know oneself.

~Franz Grillparzer

What's the meaning of all the pious clamor, condemning cocks and hens? Those who have no teeth are the greatest meat-haters.

~Franz Grillparzer

Woman is the crown of all creation, but Man is the head who wears it, and even the servant is master in his house.

~Franz Grillparzer

Progress will always have as its recourse to exaggerate what it cannot surpass.

~Franz Grillparzer

The sun of a prince's good graces resembles that in the skies in that it shines most kindly upon the blackest people.

~Franz Grillparzer

Those whom the gods chose as their property must not consort with mortals.

~Franz Grillparzer

You ardently strive for freedom, and I do wish you were free--but, rather than for your sake, so that government won't be.

~Franz Grillparzer

Robespierre, this pedant of freedom!

~Franz Grillparzer

The verdict on Prince Metternich will soon be out: An excellent diplomat and a bad politician.

~Franz Grillparzer

A love that dies has never lived.

~Franz Grillparzer

Two soldiers and a villain are enough to blow up the rights of the citizens.

~Franz Grillparzer

Feeling and thinking are actually the blind man who carries the lame.

~Franz Grillparzer

Since love is folly, a foolish woman is more dangerous than a wise one.

~Franz Grillparzer

A cure by regression is homeopathic, like healing the damage done by ministers and ignorance with stupidity and Jesuits.

~Franz Grillparzer

When receiving an order, many servants repeat their "yes" numerous times, especially the lazy ones.

~Franz Grillparzer

Distinctly different as a child, as an adolescent, in his prime and in his old age, man considers himself as one, not because he acts, but because he knows.

~Franz Grillparzer

Lap-dogs and blood-hounds enjoy the greatest respect at court; house-dogs and no dogs at all are not even considered.

~Franz Grillparzer

Never expect any recognition here--the system prohibits it. The cross is not affixed to the genius, no, the genius is affixed to the cross.

~Franz Grillparzer

In Germany, a certain artistic sense is fairly common, but the artist's sense is foreign there.

~Franz Grillparzer

Schiller moves upward. Goethe comes from up above.

~Franz Grillparzer

A pious woman's neighbor, a philanthropist's child, a liberal's servant--these three have a hard life.

~Franz Grillparzer

In early times, before the floods swept across the world, there was life, albeit odd, as one can see from the fossils of mammoth bones, and there was the regime of Prince Metternich.

~Franz Grillparzer

Right and proof are two crutches for everything bent and crooked that

limps along.

~Franz Grillparzer

Dilettantes appreciate the work, professors the master at the same time.

~Franz Grillparzer

Gold is the gift of vanity and common pride, but flowers are the gift of love and friendship.

~Franz Grillparzer

Man lives two lives, woe, were it otherwise! One is seized by death, the other one, his honor, remains.

~Franz Grillparzer

Gold schenkt die Eitelkeit, der rauhe Stolz, Die Freundschaft und die Liebe schenken Blumen. Gold is the gift of vanity and pride, Friendship and love offer flowers.

~Franz Grillparzer

Mozart starved, but you allow Thalberg and Liszt make tons of gold: Of course, you may think that someone immortal cannot die of hunger

~Franz Grillparzer

I would love to be able to write a tragedy in my imagination--it would turn into a masterpiece.

~Franz Grillparzer

Who could deny that our Austria is richer than any other country? As the saying goes: "We have money like manure.

~Franz Grillparzer

The Germans believe that, no matter where, they can get by on knowledge alone. Art, however, requires skill.

~Franz Grillparzer

Let no one say that taking action is hard. Action is aided by courage, by the moment, by impulse, and the hardest thing in the world is making a decision.

~Franz Grillparzer

The courts used to be, fair and square, the avengers of secular crimes; but nowadays they demand respect even for the criminal.

~Franz Grillparzer

Critics are reprimanded when they get sarcastic. How absurd! Is the torch of criticism supposed to shine without burning?

~Franz Grillparzer

The likeness of the world? A shadow! And world's glory? A dream!

~Franz Grillparzer

The most irascible person is most likely to become apathetic in dangerous situations.

~Franz Grillparzer

The noble woman is half a man, even a complete one. Only their imperfections make them women.

~Franz Grillparzer

From a distance the rushing of the torrent delights and uplifts us, but it rocks us in a flimsy boat, we are overwhelmed by despair. The same applies to danger.

~Franz Grillparzer

How great seems human progress when we consider where it began, and how insignificant, when we contemplate the goals for which it strives.

~Franz Grillparzer

What a pathetic creature is man! His senses are awakened by the hope for the very thing whose consummation puts him to sleep.

~Franz Grillparzer

Grief, first take on shape! what is shapeless causes fear and torment but when the enemy materializes, half the victory is won.

~Franz Grillparzer

Metaphysics must be based on what exists, for it has the task of explicating it.

~Franz Grillparzer

No one will stop to help you when you are in need, but everyone forces opinions upon you that you do not require.

~Franz Grillparzer

Nothing genuinely historical was ever lost in this country. For this reason we have two ruling parties: villains and fools.

~Franz Grillparzer

It's actually the spirit helping the spirit; it is the doctor, the bed, the potion.

~Franz Grillparzer

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