

Freya Stark Quotes

*Art, Thinking, People, Travel, World, Lying, Home, Two, Heart, Integrity,
Journey, Style, Men, Wise, Body, Inspirational, Believe, War, Giving, Hands*

There can be no happiness if the things we believe in are different from the things we do.

~Freya Stark

To awaken quite alone in a strange town is one of the most pleasant sensations in the world. You are surrounded by adventure.

~Freya Stark

Tolerance cannot afford to have anything to do with the fallacy that evil may convert itself to good.

~Freya Stark

Christmas... is not an external event at all, but a piece of one's home that one carries in one's heart.

~Freya Stark

The most ominous of fallacies - the belief that things can be kept static by inaction

~Freya Stark

The world has become too full of many things, an over furnished room.

~Freya Stark

You will, if you're wise and know the art of travel, let yourself go on the stream of the unknown and accept whatever comes in the spirit in which the gods may offer it.

~Freya Stark

This is one of the charms of the desert, that removing as it does nearly all the accessories of life, we see the thin thread of necessities on which our human existence is suspended.

~Freya Stark

The art of advertising - untruthfulness combined with repetition.

~Freya Stark

The true fruit of travel is perhaps the feeling of being nearly everywhere at home.

~Freya Stark

Curiosity is the one thing invincible in Nature.

~Freya Stark

To feel, and think, and learn - learn always: surely that is being alive and young in the real sense

~Freya Stark

The only thing for a pacifist to do is to find a substitute for war.

~Freya Stark

Manners are like zero in arithmetic. They may not be much in themselves, but they are capable of adding a great deal of value to everything else.

~Freya Stark

The unexpectedness of life, waiting round every corner, catches even wise women unawares (...) To avoid corners altogether is, after all, to refuse to live.

~Freya Stark

I have long come to believe that, more than any other destruction, our word-recklessness is endangering the future of us all.

~Freya Stark

The great and almost only comfort about being a woman is that one can always pretend to be more stupid than one is and no one is surprised.

~Freya Stark

The art of learning fundamental common values is perhaps the greatest gain of travel to those who wish to live at ease among their fellows.

~Freya Stark

Most people, after accomplishing something, use it over and over again like a gramophone record till it cracks, forgetting that the past is just the stuff with which to make more future.

~Freya Stark

A work of art is static; and its value and its weakness lie in being so: but the tuft of grass and the clouds above it belong to our own travelling brotherhood.

~Freya Stark

I do think we should be provided with a new body about the age of thirty or so when we have learnt to attend to it with consideration.

~Freya Stark

A part of all art is to make silence speak. The things left out in painting, the note withheld in music, the void in architecture - all are as necessary and as active as the utterance itself.

~Freya Stark

monotony is not to be worshipped as a virtue; nor the marriage bed treated as a coffin for security rather than a couch from which to rise refreshed.

~Freya Stark

One has to resign oneself to being a nuisance if one wants to get anything done.

~Freya Stark

... it is a matter of civilizing everyone or not being civilized at all: the decay has always come from a partial civilization.

~Freya Stark

... freshness trembles beneath the surface of Everyday, a joy perpetual to all who catch its opal lights beneath the dust of habit.

~Freya Stark

Few are the giants of the soul who actually feel that the human race is their family circle.

~Freya Stark

Risk is the salt and sugar of life.

~Freya Stark

Love of learning is a pleasant and universal bond since it deals with what one is and not what one has.

~Freya Stark

Time is the sea in which men grow, are born, or die.

~Freya Stark

advertisement ... has brought our disregard for truth into the open without even a figleaf to cover it.

~Freya Stark

Absence is one of the most useful ingredients of family life, and to dose it rightly is an art like any other.

~Freya Stark

If we are strong, and have faith in life and its richness of surprises, and hold the rudder steadily in our hands. I am sure we will sail into quiet and pleasant waters for our old age.

~Freya Stark

Pain and fear and hunger are effects of causes which can be foreseen

and known: but sorrow is a debt which someone else makes for us.

~Freya Stark

In one form or another, conscious or unconscious, we have all become propagandists; integrity alone can keep us truthful.

~Freya Stark

The true call of the desert, of the mountains, or the sea, is their silence - free of the networks of dead speech.

~Freya Stark

I do like people who have not yet made up their minds about everything, who in fact are still receiving

~Freya Stark

... the thwarting of the instinct to love is the root of all sorrow and not sex only but divinity itself is insulted when it is repressed.

~Freya Stark

the main necessity on both sides of a revolution is kindness, which makes possible the most surprising things. To treat one's neighbor as oneself is the fundamental maxim for revolution.

~Freya Stark

every frontier is doomed to produce an opposition beyond it. Nothing short of the universal can build the unfenced peace.

~Freya Stark

every word calls up far more of a picture than its actual meaning is supposed to do, and the writer has to deal with all these silent associations as well as with the uttered significance.

~Freya Stark

I dislike being an anvil for the hammering out of other people's virtues.

~Freya Stark

All the feeling which my father could not put into words was in his hand-any dog, child or horse would recognize the kindness of it.

~Freya Stark

An absolute condition of all successful living, whether for an individual or a nation, is the acceptance of death.

~Freya Stark

I first noticed how the sound of water is like the talk of human voices, and would sometimes wake in the night and listen, thinking that a crowd of people were coming through the woods.

~Freya Stark

The Persian's mind, like his illuminated manuscripts, does not deal in perspective: two thousand years, if he happens to know anything about them, are as exciting as the day before yesterday.

~Freya Stark

All our acts have sacramental possibilities.

~Freya Stark

What I find trying in a country which you do not understand and where you cannot speak, is that you can never be yourself.

~Freya Stark

The essence of travel is diffuse. It is never there on the spot as it were, but always beyond: its symbol is the horizon, and its interest always lies over that edge in the unseen.

~Freya Stark

One life is an absurdly small allowance.

~Freya Stark

It is better to be passionate than to be tolerant at the expense of one's soul.

~Freya Stark

... there are few things that can reconcile us fully to our parting with a world of which the longest life can see so little and whose beauties have so extraordinary a variety.

~Freya Stark

The perpetual charm of Arabia is that the traveler finds his level there simply as a human being; the people's directness, deadly to the sentimental or pedantic, likes the less complicated virtues.

~Freya Stark

From love one can only escape at the price of life itself; and no lessening of sorrow is worth exile from that stream of all things human and divine.

~Freya Stark

The portion we see of human beings is very small: their forms and faces, voices and words.... beyond these, like an immense dark continent, lies all that has made them.

~Freya Stark

The beckoning counts, and not the clicking of the latch behind you.

~Freya Stark

The greatest of mythologies divided its gods into creators, preservers and destroyers. Tidiness obviously belongs to the second category, which mitigates the terrific impact of the other two.

~Freya Stark

This is excellence - the following of anything for its own sake and with its own integrity.

~Freya Stark

Life, to be happy at all, must be in its way a sacrament, and it is a failure in religion to divorce it from the holy acts of everyday, of ordinary human existence.

~Freya Stark

I do dislike people with Moral Aims. Everyone asks me why I learn Arabic, and when I say I just like it, they looked shocked and incredulous.

~Freya Stark

Who dares to be intellectual in the presence of death?

~Freya Stark

A pen and a notebook and a reasonable amount of discrimination will change a journey from a mere annual into a perennial, its pleasures and pains renewable at will.

~Freya Stark

Nearly all trouble comes from mis-timing.

~Freya Stark

Revolution is man's normal activity, and if he is wise he will grade it slowly so that it may be almost imperceptible - otherwise it will jerk in fits and starts and cause discomfort.

~Freya Stark

Things good in themselves ... perfectly valid in the integrity of their origins, become fetters if they cannot alter.

~Freya Stark

I feel like a divorced wife once my book is published and has left me, and hate to be brought back into intimate contact!

~Freya Stark

Your real progressives are never fair: they are never sufficiently neutral.

~Freya Stark

Conventions are like coins, an easy way of dealing with the commerce of relations.

~Freya Stark

If one were given a single window from which to look upon the changing Eastern world, it should face, I think, the road.

~Freya Stark

Whoever designed this frigging map was having a laugh. Just around the corner, my arse.

~Freya Stark

It is only the unexpected that ever makes a customs officer think.

~Freya Stark

It is not badness, it is the absence of goodness, which, in Art as in Life, is so depressing.

~Freya Stark

I think that the worst unpleasantness of age is not its final fact ... but the tediousness of preparation, the accumulating number of defeats.

~Freya Stark

Words are the only arteries of thought our poor human body possesses.

~Freya Stark

Fair and unfair are among the most influential words in English and

must be delicately used.

~Freya Stark

There is generosity in giving, but gentleness in receiving.

~Freya Stark

I suspect anyone self-satisfied enough to refuse lawful pleasures: we are not sufficiently rich in our separate resources to reject the graces of the universe when offered.

~Freya Stark

The symbol is greater than visible substance. . . . Unhappy the land that has no symbols, or that chooses their meaning without great care.

~Freya Stark

... I want to be one of those people who are always to be found at home, nice restful people whom everybody likes because they give a feeling of permanence to this rushing world.

~Freya Stark

We love those people who give with humility, or who accept with ease.

~Freya Stark

There are, I sometimes think, only two sorts of people in this world - the settled and the nomad - and there is a natural antipathy between them, whatever the land to which they may belong.

~Freya Stark

words are but drops pressed out of the lives of those who lived them.

~Freya Stark

Style is something peculiar to one person; it expresses one personality and one only; it cannot be shared.

~Freya Stark

To think to keep things as they are, is to let them move unpredictably, since nothing but death will still the beat of the heart or keep the universe from its perpetual motion.

~Freya Stark

it is a lean employment of time to brood on what might have happened along some other turning.

~Freya Stark

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