

# Fyodor Dostoevsky

## Quotes

*Men, People, Heart, Suffering, Lying, World, Life, Thinking, Believe, Children,  
Deep Thought, Ideas, Love, Fall, Two, Ifs, Dream, Punishment, Eye, Real*

The best way to keep a prisoner from escaping is to make sure he never knows he's in prison.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Pain and suffering are always inevitable for a large intelligence and a deep heart. The really great men must, I think, have great sadness on earth.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

If you wish to glimpse inside a human soul and get to know a man ... just watch him laugh. If he laughs well, he's a good man.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

What is hell? I maintain that it is the suffering of being unable to love.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Learning to love is hard and we pay dearly for it. It takes hard work and a long apprenticeship, for it is not just for a moment that we must learn to love, but forever.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Nothing in this world is harder than speaking the truth, nothing easier than flattery.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

People speak sometimes about the "bestial" cruelty of man, but that is terribly unjust and offensive to beasts, no animal could ever be so cruel as a man, so artfully, so artistically cruel.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

It is better to be unhappy and know the worst, than to be happy in a fool's paradise.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Nothing is easier than to denounce the evildoer; nothing is more difficult than to understand him.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The darker the night, the brighter the stars, The deeper the grief, the closer is God!

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The soul is healed by being with children.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

It takes something more than intelligence to act intelligently.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

I think the devil doesn't exist, but man has created him, he has created him in his own image and likeness.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Don't be overwise; fling yourself straight into life, without deliberation; don't be afraid - the flood will bear you to the bank and set you safe on your feet again.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The most offensive is not their lying - one can always forgive lying - lying is a delightful thing, for it leads to truth - what is offensive is that they lie and worship their own lying.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Destroy my desires, eradicate my ideals, show me something better, and I will follow you.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

If everything on earth were rational, nothing would happen.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Perhaps I really regard myself as an intelligent man only because throughout my entire life I've never been able to start or finish anything.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The more you succeed in loving, the more you'll be convinced at the existence of God and the immortality of your soul.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Man has it all in his hands, and it all slips through his fingers from sheer cowardice.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

She looked much younger than her age, indeed, which is almost always the case with women who retain serenity of spirit, sensitiveness and pure sincere warmth of heart to old age.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Man is sometimes extraordinarily, passionately, in love with suffering.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

A society should be judged not by how it treats its outstanding citizens but by how it treats its criminals.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Only through suffering can we find ourselves.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The greatest happiness is to know the source of unhappiness.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

But how could you live and have no story to tell?

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The more incompetent one feels, the more eager he is to fight.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The cleverest of all, in my opinion, is the man who calls himself a fool at least once a month.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The man who is happy is fulfilling the purpose of existence

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

I believe there is no one deeper, lovelier, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Only one thing matters, one thing; to be able to dare!

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

I gave up caring about anything, and all the problems disappeared.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

We sometimes encounter people, even perfect strangers, who begin to interest us at first sight, somehow suddenly, all at once, before a word has been spoken.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

They tease me now, telling me it was only a dream. But does it matter whether it was a dream or reality, if the dream made known to me the truth?

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

If you want to be respected by others, the great thing is to respect

yourself. Only by that, only by self-respect will you compel others to respect you.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything? Taking a new step, uttering a new word, is what people fear most.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The world will be saved by beauty.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Much unhappiness has come into the world because of bewilderment and things left unsaid.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

To love is to suffer and there can be no love otherwise.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Deprived of meaningful work, men and women lose their reason for existence; they go stark, raving mad.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

It seems, in fact, as though the second half of a man's life is made up of nothing, but the habits he has accumulated during the first half.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

I believe the best definition of man is the ungrateful biped.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

You will burn and you will burn out; you will be healed and come back again.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

My friend, the truth is always implausible, did you know that? To make

the truth more plausible, it's absolutely necessary to mix a bit of falsehood with it. People have always done so.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

From a hundred rabbits you can't make a horse.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Above all, avoid falsehood, every kind of falsehood, especially falseness to yourself. Watch over your own deceitfulness and look into it every hour, every minute.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

He who masters the grey everyday is a hero.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

There is immeasurably more left inside than what comes out in words.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

I can see the sun, but even if I cannot see the sun, I know that it exists. And to know that the sun is there - that is living.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

A cultivated and decent man cannot be vain without setting a fearfully high standard for himself, and without despising and almost hating himself at certain moments.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

My soul bleeds and the blood steadily, silently, disturbingly slowly, swallows me whole.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

To go wrong in one's own way is better than to go right in someone else's.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

I am a sick man...I am a spiteful man. An unattractive man. I think that my liver hurts.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

To be in love is not the same as loving. You can be in love with a woman and still hate her.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

There is nothing higher and stronger and more wholesome and useful for life in later years than some good memory, especially a memory connected with childhood, with home.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Man is fond of counting his troubles, but he does not count his joys. If he counted them up as he ought to, he would see that every lot has enough happiness provided for it.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

If God does not exist, then everything is permissible.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Intelligence alone is not nearly enough when it comes to acting wisely.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

And if there's love, you can do without happiness too. Even with sorrow, life is sweet.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Wealth is the number of things one can do without.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky



A real gentleman, even if he loses everything he owns, must show no emotion. Money must be so far beneath a gentleman that it is hardly worth troubling about.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

You can be sincere and still be stupid.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

To love another person is to see them as God intended them to be.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Faith does not, in the realist, spring from the miracle but the miracle from the faith.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Nothing is more seductive for a man than his freedom of conscience, but nothing is a greater cause of suffering.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

At first, art imitates life. Then life will imitate art. Then life will find its very existence from the arts.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The more I detest men individually the more ardent becomes my love for humanity.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

What man wants is simply independent choice, whatever that independence may cost and wherever it may lead.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Let us not forget that the reasons for human actions are usually incalculably more complex and diverse than we tend to explain them later, and are seldom clearly manifest.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

People really do like seeing their best friends humiliated; a large part of the friendship is based on humiliation; and that is an old truth, well known to all intelligent people.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The death of a child is the greatest reason to doubt the existence of God.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Man is a creature that can get accustomed to anything, and I think that is the best definition of him.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

A hundred suspicions don't make a proof.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

One can know a man from his laugh, and if you like a man's laugh before you know anything of him, you may confidently say that he is a good man.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

May you be for ever blessed for that moment of bliss and happiness which you gave to another lonely and grateful heart. Isn't such a moment sufficient for the whole of one's life?

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Men do not accept their prophets and slay them, but they love their martyrs and worship those whom they have tortured to death.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

The secret of man's being is not only to live but to have something to live for.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Paradise is hidden in each one of use, it is concealed within me too, right now, and if I wish, it will come for me in reality, tomorrow even, and for the rest of my life.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Above all, don't lie to yourself.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

If you want to overcome the whole world, overcome yourself.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

They were renewed by love; the heart of each held infinite sources of life for the heart of the other.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Besides, nowadays, almost all capable people are terribly afraid of being ridiculous, and are miserable because of it.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

A single day is sufficient for a man to discover what happiness is.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

If you can put the question, 'Am I or am I not responsible for my acts?' then you are responsible.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Lack of originality, everywhere, all over the world, from time immemorial, has always been considered the foremost quality and the recommendation of the active, efficient and practical man.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

People with new ideas, people with the faintest capacity for saying

something new, are extremely few in number, extraordinarily so, in fact.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

I want to suffer and be purified by suffering!

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Nature doesn't ask your permission; it doesn't care about your wishes, or whether you like its laws or not. You're obliged to accept it as it is, and consequently all its results as well.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Reality is infinitely diverse, compared with even the subtlest conclusions of abstract thought, and does not allow of clear-cut and sweeping distinctions. Reality resists classification.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Love is such a priceless treasure that you can buy the whole world with it, and redeem not only your own but other people's sins. Go, and do not be afraid.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Times of crisis, of disruption or constructive change, are not only predictable, but desirable. They mean growth. Taking a new step, uttering a new word, is what people fear most.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

To live without Hope is to Cease to live.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Talking nonsense is man's only privilege that distinguishes him from all other organisms.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

It is not the brains that matter most, but that which guides them – the character, the heart, generous qualities, progressive ideas.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

It is not as a child that I believe and confess Jesus Christ. My hosanna is born of a furnace of doubt.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Beauty is mysterious as well as terrible. God and devil are fighting there, and the battlefield is the heart of man.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

To begin with unlimited freedom is to end with unlimited despotism.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

Happiness does not lie in happiness, but in the achievement of it.

~Fyodor Dostoevsky

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