

Gary Snyder Quotes

*Home, World, Years, Animal, Self, People, Water, Writing, Rocks, Nature,
Trying, Space, Mind, Coffee, Magic, Ecosystems, Kind, Journey, Mountain,
Sight*

Nature is not a place to visit. It is home.

~Gary Snyder

Walking is the great adventure, the first meditation, a practice of heartiness and soul primary to humankind. Walking is the exact balance between spirit and humility.

~Gary Snyder

Find your place on the planet. Dig in, and take responsibility from there.

~Gary Snyder

Wildness It is perennially within us, dormant as a hard-shelled seed, awaiting the fire or flood that awakes it again.

~Gary Snyder

Range after range of mountains. Year after year after year. I am still in love.

~Gary Snyder

Nature is orderly. That which appears to be chaotic in nature is only a more complex kind of order.

~Gary Snyder

When the mind is exhausted of images, it invents its own.

~Gary Snyder

I hold the most archaic values on earth ... the fertility of the soul, the magic of the animals, the power-vision in solitude.... the love and ecstasy of the dance, the common work of the tribe.

~Gary Snyder

The lessons we learn from the wild become the etiquette of freedom.

~Gary Snyder

Three-fourths of philosophy and literature is the talk of people trying to convince themselves that they really like the cage they were tricked into entering.

~Gary Snyder

In Western Civilization, our elders are books.

~Gary Snyder

Revolutionary consciousness is to be found among the most ruthlessly exploited masses: animals, trees, water, air, grasses

~Gary Snyder

The size of the place that one becomes a member of is limited only by the size of one's heart.

~Gary Snyder

True affluence is to not need anything.

~Gary Snyder

Gratitude to the Great Sky who holds billions of stars - and goes yet beyond that - beyond all powers, and thoughts and yet is within us - Grandfather Space. The Mind is his Wife

~Gary Snyder

Streams and mountains never stay the same.

~Gary Snyder

Why should the peculiarities of human consciousness be the narrow standard by which other creatures are judged?

~Gary Snyder

The best thing you can do for the planet is to stay home.

~Gary Snyder

With no surroundings there can be no path, and with no path one cannot become free.

~Gary Snyder

Wildness is not just the "preservation of the world," it is the world

~Gary Snyder

All this new stuff goes on top turn it over, turn it over wait and water down from the dark bottom turn it inside out let it spread through Sift down even. Watch it sprout. A mind like compost.

~Gary Snyder

Walking is the exact balance between spirit and humility.

~Gary Snyder

To work on behalf of the wild is to restore culture

~Gary Snyder

You don't want to be victimized by your lesser talents.

~Gary Snyder

After weeks of watching the roof leak I fixed it tonight by moving a single board

~Gary Snyder

stay together learn the flowers go light

~Gary Snyder

I pledge allegiance to the soil of Turtle Island, and to the beings who thereon dwell one ecosystem in diversity under the sun With joyful interpenetration for all.

~Gary Snyder

Clouds sink down the hills Coffee is hot again. The dog Turns and turns

about, stops and sleeps.

~Gary Snyder

A great poet does not express his or her self; he expresses all of our selves.

~Gary Snyder

Thought is just an apprehension of touch.

~Gary Snyder

I try to hold both history and wilderness in mind, that my poems may the true measure of things and stand against the unbalance and ignorance of our times.

~Gary Snyder

Knowing where and who are intimately linked.

~Gary Snyder

All those years and their momentsâ€” Crackling bacon, slamming car doors, Poems tried out on friends, Will be one more archive, One more shaky text.

~Gary Snyder

O, ah! The awareness of emptiness brings forth a heart of compassion!

~Gary Snyder

I recalled when I worked in the woods and the bars of Madras, Oregon. That short-haired joy and roughness America your stupidity. I could almost love you again.

~Gary Snyder

I don't know of any other city where you can walk through so many culturally diverse neighborhoods, and you're never out of sight of the wild hills. Nature is very close here.

~Gary Snyder

True affluence is not needing anything.

~Gary Snyder

Our relation to the natural world takes place in a place.

~Gary Snyder

Burning the small dead branches broke from beneath thick spreading whitebark pine. A hundred summers snowmelt rock and air hiss in a twisted bough.

~Gary Snyder

My Grandmother standing wordless fifteen minutes Between rows of loganberries, clippers poised in her hand.

~Gary Snyder

Zen aims at freedom but its practice is disciplined.

~Gary Snyder

I thought, that day I started, I sure would hate to do this all my life, And dammit, that's just what I've gone and done.

~Gary Snyder

All that we did was human, stupid, easily forgiven, Not quite right.

~Gary Snyder

Place and the scale of space must be measured against our bodies and their capabilities.

~Gary Snyder

I never find words right away. Poems for me always begin with images and rhythms, shapes, feelings, forms, dances in the back of my mind.

~Gary Snyder

You run into people who want to write poetry who don't want to read anything in the tradition. That's like wanting to be a builder but not finding out what different kinds of wood you use.

~Gary Snyder

If, after obtaining Buddhahood, anyone in my land gets tossed in jail on a vagrancy rap, may I not attain highest perfect enlightenment.

~Gary Snyder

In the 40,000 year time scale we're all the same people. We're all equally primitive, give or take two or three thousand years here or a hundred years there.

~Gary Snyder

The other side of the "sacred" is the sight of your beloved in the underworld, dripping with maggots.

~Gary Snyder

When making an axe handle the pattern is not far off.

~Gary Snyder

The mercy of the West has been social revolution; the mercy of the East has been individual insight into the basic self/void.

~Gary Snyder

Will be but corpses dressed in frocks, who cannot speak to birds or rocks.

~Gary Snyder

A reading is a kind of communion. The poet articulates the semi-known for the tribe.

~Gary Snyder

Grandfather Space. The Mind is his Wife

~Gary Snyder

Poetry a riprap on the slick rock of metaphysics

~Gary Snyder

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