

Giacomo Leopardi

Quotes

*Men, World, People, Age, Evil, Dream, Expression, Discipline, Pain, Real,
Happiness, Childhood, Way, Laughing, Art, May, Suffering, Desire, Years, Life
And Death*

Real misanthropes are not found in solitude, but in the world; since it is experience of life, and not philosophy, which produces real hatred of mankind.

~Giacomo Leopardi

No human trait deserves less tolerance in everyday life, and gets less, than intolerance.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Children find everything in nothing; men find nothing in everything.

~Giacomo Leopardi

He who has the courage to laugh is almost as much a master of the world as he who is ready to die.

~Giacomo Leopardi

It's interesting to observe that almost all truly worthy men have simple manners, and that simple manners are almost always taken as a sign of little worth

~Giacomo Leopardi

People are ridiculous only when they try or seem to be that which they are not.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Ignorance is the greatest source of happiness.

~Giacomo Leopardi

The most solid pleasure in this life is the empty pleasure of illusion.

~Giacomo Leopardi

In all climates, under all skies, man's happiness is always somewhere else.

~Giacomo Leopardi

What do you do there, moon, in the sky? Tell me what you do, silent moon. When evening comes you rise and go contemplating wastelands; then you set.

~Giacomo Leopardi

No one is so completely disenchanted with the world, or knows it so thoroughly, or is so utterly disgusted with it, that when it begins to smile upon him he does not become partially reconciled to it.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Irresolute men are sometimes very persistent in their undertakings, because if they give up their designs they would have to make a second resolution.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Nothing in the world is so rare as a person one can always put up with.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Men do not so much hate an evil-doer, or evil itself, as they hate the man who calls evil by its real name.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Everything since Homer has improved, except poetry.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Freedom is the dream you dream While putting thought in chains again

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~Giacomo Leopardi

The world laughs at things it would really prefer to admire, and like Aesop's fox it criticizes things it covets.

~Giacomo Leopardi

I may be wrong, but it seems rare in our age to find a widely praised

person whose own mouth is not the source of that praise.

~Giacomo Leopardi

He who doubts, knows - knows as much as can be known.

~Giacomo Leopardi

The end of pain we take as happiness.

~Giacomo Leopardi

The surest way of concealing from others the boundaries of one's own knowledge is not to overstep them.

~Giacomo Leopardi

A dictionary can embrace only a small part of the vast tapestry of a language.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Every man remembers his childhood as a kind of mythical age, just as every nation's childhood is its mythical age.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Men are ready to suffer anything from others or from heaven itself, provided that, when it comes to words, they are untouched.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Man is almost always as wicked as his needs require.

~Giacomo Leopardi

If the best company is that which we leave feeling most satisfied with ourselves, it follows that it is the company we leave most bored.

~Giacomo Leopardi

There's no greater sign of being a poor philosopher and wise man than wanting all of life to be wise and philosophical.

~Giacomo Leopardi

If content with himself and mankind, a man is never harsh or curt.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Since the world never faults a man who refuses to yield...it is generally recognized that weak men live in obedience to the world's will, while the strong obey only their own.

~Giacomo Leopardi

The commonplace expression that life is nothing but a play is verified above all in this: the world speaks absolutely consistently in one way and acts absolutely consistently in another.

~Giacomo Leopardi

It's not our disadvantages or shortcomings that are ridiculous, but rather the studious way we try to hide them, and our desire to act as if they did not exist.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Men seldom act from a correct sense of what may be harmful or useful to them.

~Giacomo Leopardi

I find it awfully difficult to determine if the habit of talking about oneself at length runs contrary to the basic rules of propriety, or if instead the man exempt from this vice is rare.

~Giacomo Leopardi

The thought that really crushes us is the thought of the futility of life of which death is the visible manifestation.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Of men eternally dear! happy indeed If you have breathing-space

From pain: blessed all the more If death should heal you of the pain you fear!

~Giacomo Leopardi

The artist's conception of his art or the scientist's of his science is usually as great as his conception of his own worth is small.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Death is not evil, for it frees man from all ills and takes away his desires along with desire's rewards.

~Giacomo Leopardi

There are some centuries which - apart from everything else - in the art and other disciplines presume to remake everything because they know how to make nothing.

~Giacomo Leopardi

We remember childhood as the fabulous years of our lives, and nations remember their childhood as fabulous years.

~Giacomo Leopardi

Old age is the supreme evil, for it deprives man of all pleasures while allowing his appetites to remain, and it brings with it every possible sorrow. Yet men fear death and desire old age.

~Giacomo Leopardi

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