

# Henrik Ibsen

## Quotes

*Men, Lying, Majority, Believe, Life, Thinking, Literature, People, Mother, Writing,  
Heart, Truth, Home, Freedom, War, Use, Women, Law, World, Mean*

The sea possesses a power over one's moods that has the effect of a will. The sea can hypnotize. Nature in general can do so.

~Henrik Ibsen

A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.

~Henrik Ibsen

A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed.

~Henrik Ibsen

It is inexcusable for scientists to torture animals; let them make their experiments on journalists and politicians.

~Henrik Ibsen

The spirit of truth and the spirit of freedom-they are the pillars of society.

~Henrik Ibsen

The strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone.

~Henrik Ibsen

Don't use that foreign word: ideals. We have the excellent native word: lies.

~Henrik Ibsen

The most dangerous enemy of the truth and freedom amongst us is the compact majority

~Henrik Ibsen

...I'm no longer prepared to accept what people say and what's written in books. I must think things out for myself, and try to find my own answer.

~Henrik Ibsen

I don't imagine you will dispute the fact that at present the stupid people are in an absolutely overwhelming majority all the world over.

~Henrik Ibsen

The greatest victory is defeat.

~Henrik Ibsen

The majority is always wrong; the minority is rarely right.

~Henrik Ibsen

What's a man's first duty? The answer is brief: To be himself.

~Henrik Ibsen

A forest bird never wants a cage.

~Henrik Ibsen

Money brings you food, but not appetite; medicine, but not health; acquaintances, but not friends.

~Henrik Ibsen

It is the very mark of the spirit of rebellion to crave for happiness in this life

~Henrik Ibsen

There is always a risk in being alive, and if you are more alive, there is more risk.

~Henrik Ibsen

To live is to war with trolls.

~Henrik Ibsen

To see one's goal and to drive toward it, steeling one's heart, is most uplifting.

~Henrik Ibsen

Home life ceases to be free and beautiful as soon as it is founded on borrowing and debt.

~Henrik Ibsen

I must make up my mind which is right - society or I.

~Henrik Ibsen

The costliness of keeping friends does not lie in what one does for them, but in what one, out of consideration for them, refrains from doing.

~Henrik Ibsen

What is the difference in being alone with another and being alone by one's self?

~Henrik Ibsen

The starving poet business is no good nowadays.

~Henrik Ibsen

To crave for happiness in this world is simply to be possessed by a spirit of revolt. What right have we to happiness?

~Henrik Ibsen

A party is like a sausage machine, it grinds up all sorts of heads together into the same baloney.

~Henrik Ibsen

People who don't know how to keep themselves healthy ought to have the decency to get themselves buried, and not waste time about it.

~Henrik Ibsen

The spectacles of experience; through them you will see more clearly a second time.

~Henrik Ibsen

NORA: I must stand on my own two feet if I'm to get to know myself and the world outside. That's why I can't stay here with you any longer.

~Henrik Ibsen

Writing has... been to me like a bath from which I have risen feeling cleaner, healthier, and freer.

~Henrik Ibsen

The worst that a man can do to himself is to do injustice to others.

~Henrik Ibsen

Really to sin you have to be serious about it.

~Henrik Ibsen

Before I write down one word, I have to have the character in my mind through and through. I must penetrate into the last wrinkle of his soul.

~Henrik Ibsen

Our whole being is nothing but a fight against the dark forces within ourselves.

~Henrik Ibsen

If you doubt yourself, then indeed you stand on shaky ground.

~Henrik Ibsen

...every man shares the responsibility and the guilt of the society to which he belongs.

~Henrik Ibsen

Castles in the air - they are so easy to take refuge in. And so easy to build too.

~Henrik Ibsen

If only I could master that demon of procrastination that goes about like

a roaring lion and devours all my good intentions, I should become the most punctual man in the world.

~Henrik Ibsen

The devil is compromise.

~Henrik Ibsen

Look into any man's heart you please, and you will always find, in every one, at least one black spot which he has to keep concealed.

~Henrik Ibsen

The great secret of power is never to will to do more than you can accomplish.

~Henrik Ibsen

It's such sport with these heroes of finance: they are like beads on a string – when one slips off, all the rest follow.

~Henrik Ibsen

Take the life-lie away from the average man and straight away you take away his happiness.

~Henrik Ibsen

Public opinion is an extremely mutable thing

~Henrik Ibsen

Happiness is worth a daring deed; we are both free if we but will it, and then the game is won.

~Henrik Ibsen

The strong must learn to be lonely.

~Henrik Ibsen

Each bird must sing with his own throat.

~Henrik Ibsen

Friends are to be feared, not so much for what they make us do as what they keep us from doing.

~Henrik Ibsen

Happiness is above all things the calm, glad certainty of innocence.

~Henrik Ibsen

It is not by spectacular achievements that man can be transformed, but by will.

~Henrik Ibsen

You have never loved me. You have only thought it pleasant to be in love with me.

~Henrik Ibsen

Marriage! Nothing else demands so much of a man

~Henrik Ibsen

You see, there are some people that one loves, and others that perhaps one would rather be with.

~Henrik Ibsen

Nothing is impossible that one desires with an indomitable will.

~Henrik Ibsen

Everything I touch seems destined to turn into something mean and farcical.

~Henrik Ibsen

To live is - to war with trolls In the holds of the heart and mind

~Henrik Ibsen

Nobody can put a character on paper without - at any rate in part and at times - sitting as a model for it himself.

~Henrik Ibsen

To live is to war with trolls in heart and woul. To write is to sit in judgement on oneself.

~Henrik Ibsen

The man-at-arms is the only man.

~Henrik Ibsen

Rob the average man of his life-illusion, and you rob him of his happiness at the same stroke.

~Henrik Ibsen

A friend married is a friend lost.

~Henrik Ibsen

That is the accursed thing about small surroundings -- they make the soul small.

~Henrik Ibsen

Oh yes, rightâ€™right. What is the use of having right on your side if you have not got might?

~Henrik Ibsen

It is no use lying to one's self.

~Henrik Ibsen

In the decisive moment I won the victory over myself. I chose to live. And believe me, it takes courage to choose life under those circumstances.

~Henrik Ibsen



Oh, law and order! I often think it is that that is at the bottom of all the misery in the world.

~Henrik Ibsen

Poetry is to hold judgment on your soul.

~Henrik Ibsen

What ought a man be? Well, my short answer is 'himself'.

~Henrik Ibsen

And what if I did run my ship aground; oh, still it was splendid to sail it!

~Henrik Ibsen

Different people have different duties assigned them by Nature; Nature has given one the power or the desire to do this, the other that. Each bird must sing with his own throat.

~Henrik Ibsen

When we dead awaken ... we see that we have never lived.

~Henrik Ibsen

But a scientific man must live in a little bit of style.

~Henrik Ibsen

Do you know what we are those of us who count as pillars of society? We are society's tools, neither more nor less.

~Henrik Ibsen

I have other duties equally sacred ... Duties to myself.

~Henrik Ibsen

I go to scale the Future's possibilities! Farewell!

~Henrik Ibsen

Oh, yes--you can shout me down, I know! But you cannot answer me. The majority has might on its side--unfortunately; but right it has not.

~Henrik Ibsen

It's a liberation to know that an act of spontaneous courage is yet possible in this world. An act that has something of unconditional beauty.

~Henrik Ibsen

Whether I pound or am being pounded, all the same there will be moaning!

~Henrik Ibsen

The majority never has right on its side.

~Henrik Ibsen

I am in revolt against the age-old lie that the majority is always right.

~Henrik Ibsen

So to conduct one's life as to realize oneself--this seems to me the highest attainment possible to a human being. It is the task of one and all of us, but most of us bungle it.

~Henrik Ibsen

I propose to raise a revolution against the lie that the majority has the monopoly of the truth.

~Henrik Ibsen

One should never put on one's best trousers to go out to fight for freedom.

~Henrik Ibsen

If I cannot be myself in what I write, then the whole is nothing but lies and humbug.

~Henrik Ibsen

Everything that I have written is closely related to something that I have lived through.

~Henrik Ibsen

Oh, life would be all right if we didn't have to put up with these damned creditors who keep pestering us with the demands of their ideals.

~Henrik Ibsen

Now I am steel-set: I follow the call to the clear radiance and glow of the heights.

~Henrik Ibsen

I am sticking as closely to my subject as I can; for my subject is precisely this, that it is the masses, the majority

~Henrik Ibsen

There can be no freedom or beauty about a home life that depends on borrowing and debt.

~Henrik Ibsen

This is life! It can harden and it can exalt!

~Henrik Ibsen

You don't get nothing for nothing in this life.

~Henrik Ibsen

Almost everyone who has gone to the bad early in life has had a deceitful mother.

~Henrik Ibsen

The strongest men are the most alone.

~Henrik Ibsen

In your power, all the same. Subject to your will and your demands. No longer free! No! That's a thought I'll never endure! Never.

~Henrik Ibsen

The younger generation will come knocking at my door.

~Henrik Ibsen

Oh courage...oh yes! If only one had that...Then life might be livable, in spite of everything.

~Henrik Ibsen

In great memories there lies the seed of growth.

~Henrik Ibsen

Many a man can save himself if he admits he's done wrong and takes his punishment.

~Henrik Ibsen

Helmer: "Before all else you are a wife and a mother." Nora: "That I no longer believe. I believe that before all else I am a human being."

~Henrik Ibsen

A thousand words can't make the mark a single deed will leave.

~Henrik Ibsen

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