

Herman Melville

Quotes

*Men, Heart, Sea, World, Thinking, War, Soul, Book, Literature, May, Lying, Life,
Light, Inspirational, Ocean, Mind, Eye, Hands, Love, Character*

I am, as I am; whether hideous, or handsome, depends upon who is made judge.

~Herman Melville

Of all the preposterous assumptions of humanity over humanity, nothing exceeds most of the criticisms made on the habits of the poor by the well-housed, well- warmed, and well-fed.

~Herman Melville

It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation.

~Herman Melville

Dream tonight of peacock tails, Diamond fields and spouter whales. Ills are many, blessing few, But dreams tonight will shelter you.

~Herman Melville

Toil is man's allotment; toil of brain, or toil of hands, or a grief that's more than either, the grief and sin of idleness.

~Herman Melville

Meditation and water are wedded for ever.

~Herman Melville

I love to sail forbidden seas, and land on barbarous coasts.

~Herman Melville

Aye, aye! and I'll chase him round Good Hope, and round the Horn, and round the Norway Maelstrom, and round perdition's flames before I give him up.

~Herman Melville

War should be carried on like a monsoon; one changeless determination of every particle towards the one unalterable aim.

~Herman Melville

It is better to fail in originality, than to succeed in imitation. He who has never failed somewhere, that man can not be great. Failure is the true test of greatness.

~Herman Melville

There is a savor of life and immortality in substantial fare. Like balloons, we are nothing till filled.

~Herman Melville

No philosophers so thoroughly comprehend us as dogs and horses.

~Herman Melville

We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow men.

~Herman Melville

A whale ship was my Yale College and my Harvard.

~Herman Melville

Give me a condor's quill! Give me Vesuvius crater for an inkstand!

~Herman Melville

It is not down in any map; true places never are.

~Herman Melville

To produce a mighty book, you must choose a mighty theme.

~Herman Melville

for there is no folly of the beast of the earth which is not infinitely outdone by the madness of men

~Herman Melville

Let us only hate hatred; and once give love a play, we will fall in love with a unicorn.

~Herman Melville

I know not all that may be coming, but be it what it will, I'll go to it laughing.

~Herman Melville

A book in a man's brain is better off than a book bound in calf - at any rate it is safer from criticism.

~Herman Melville

There is no quality in this world that is not what it is merely by contrast. Nothing exists in itself.

~Herman Melville

A hermitage in the forest is the refuge of the narrow-minded misanthrope; a hammock on the ocean is the asylum for the generous distressed.

~Herman Melville

Faith, like a jackal, feeds among the tombs, and even from these dead doubts she gathers her most vital hope.

~Herman Melville

Nature is nobody's ally.

~Herman Melville

Any appellative at all savouring of arbitrary rank is unsuitable to a man of liberal and catholic mind.

~Herman Melville

Hope is the struggle of the soul, breaking loose from what is perishable, and attesting her eternity.

~Herman Melville

There is a touch of divinity even in brutes, and a special halo about a horse, that should forever exempt him from indignities.

~Herman Melville

All wars are boyish, and are fought by boys.

~Herman Melville

Ignorance is the parent of fear.

~Herman Melville

There never was a great man yet who spent all his life inland.

~Herman Melville

Life's a voyage that's homeward bound.

~Herman Melville

Talk not to me of blasphemy, man; I'd strike the sun if it insulted me.

~Herman Melville

You cannot spill a drop of American blood without spilling the blood of the whole world.... We are not a nation, so much as a world.

~Herman Melville

For as this appalling ocean surrounds the verdant land, so in the soul of man there lies one insular Tahiti, full of peace and joy, but encompassed by all the horrors of the half known life.

~Herman Melville

Art is the objectification of feeling.

~Herman Melville

The most mighty of nature's laws is this, that out of Death she brings Life.

~Herman Melville

There are some enterprises in which a careful disorderliness is the true method.

~Herman Melville

A smile is the chosen vehicle of all ambiguities.

~Herman Melville

Silence is the only Voice of our God.

~Herman Melville

They talk of the dignity of work. The dignity is in leisure.

~Herman Melville

Heaven have mercy on us all - Presbyterians and Pagans alike - for we are all somehow dreadfully cracked about the head, and sadly need mending.

~Herman Melville

You know nothing till you know all; which is the reason we never know any thing.

~Herman Melville

An utterly fearless man is a far more dangerous comrade than a coward.

~Herman Melville

Friendship at first sight, like love at first sight, is said to be the only truth.

~Herman Melville

A man of true science... thinks, that by mouthing hard words, he proves that he understands hard things.

~Herman Melville

We are only what we are; not what we would be; nor every thing we hope for. We are but a step in a scale, that reaches further above us than below.

~Herman Melville

Immortality is but ubiquity in time.

~Herman Melville

To know how to grow old is the master work of wisdom, and one of the most difficult chapters in the great art of living.

~Herman Melville

Why, ever since Adam, who has got to the meaning of this great allegory - the world? Then we pygmies must be content to have our paper allegories but ill comprehended.

~Herman Melville

Better be an old maid, a woman with herself as a husband, than the wife of a fool; and Solomon more than hints that all men are fools; and every wise man knows himself to be one.

~Herman Melville

If you can get nothing better out of the world, get a good dinner out of it, at least.

~Herman Melville

Everyone knows that in most people's estimation, to do anything coolly is to do it genteelly.

~Herman Melville

In a multitude of acquaintances is less security, than in one faithful friend.

~Herman Melville

Of all nature's animated kingdoms, fish are the most unchristian, inhospitable, heartless, and cold-blooded of creatures.

~Herman Melville

Are there no Moravians in the Moon, that not a missionary has yet visited this poor pagan planet of ours, to civilise civilisation and christianise Christendom?

~Herman Melville

At sea a fellow comes out. Salt water is like wine, in that respect.

~Herman Melville

There is no dignity in wickedness, whether in purple or rags; and hell is a democracy of devils, where all are equals.

~Herman Melville

As for me, I am tormented with an everlasting itch for things remote. I love to sail forbidden seas, and land on barbarous coasts.

~Herman Melville

When the passage "All men are born free and equal," when that passage was being written were not some of the signers legalised owners of slaves?

~Herman Melville

To produce a mighty book, you must choose a mighty theme. No great and enduring volume can ever be written on the flea, though many there be that have tried it.

~Herman Melville

An intense copper calm, like a universal yellow lotus, was more and more unfolding its noiseless measureless leaves upon the sea.

~Herman Melville

Better to sleep with a sober cannibal than a drunken Christian.

~Herman Melville

There is one knows not what sweet mystery about this sea, whose gently awful stirrings seem to speak of some hidden soul beneath.

~Herman Melville

Aid my disillusionment, my friend!

~Herman Melville

Hell is an idea first born on an undigested apple dumpling.

~Herman Melville

Yet habit - strange thing! what cannot habit accomplish?

~Herman Melville

Benevolent desires, after passing a certain point, can not undertake their own fulfillment without incurring the risk of evils beyond those sought to be remedied.

~Herman Melville

Beneath those stars is a universe of gliding monsters.

~Herman Melville

Ladies are like creeds; if you cannot speak well of them, say nothing.

~Herman Melville

Do not presume, well-housed, well-warmed, and well-fed, to criticize the poor

~Herman Melville

To be hated cordially, is only a left-handed compliment.

~Herman Melville

Niggards are oftentimes neat.

~Herman Melville

The path to my fixed purpose is laid with iron rails whereon my soul is grooved to run

~Herman Melville

Whenever we discover a dislike in us, toward any one, we should ever be a little suspicious of ourselves.

~Herman Melville

Only the man who says no is free

~Herman Melville

Whatever my fate, I'll go to it laughing.

~Herman Melville

My body is but the lees of my better being.

~Herman Melville

Stay true to the dreams of thy youth.

~Herman Melville

It is impossible to talk or to write without apparently throwing oneself helplessly open.

~Herman Melville

It is only when caught in the swift, sudden turn of death, that mortals realise the silent, subtle, ever-present perils of life.

~Herman Melville

All wars are boyish, and are fought by boys, The champions and enthusiasts of the state: Turbid ardors and vain joys Not barrenly abate-- Stimulants to the power mature, Preparatives of fate.

~Herman Melville

The eyes are the gateway to the soul.

~Herman Melville

The only true infidelity is for a live man to vote himself dead.

~Herman Melville

Towards thee I roll, thou all-destroying but unconquering whale... from hell's heart I stab at thee.

~Herman Melville

Truth is ever incoherent, and when the big hearts strike together, the concussion is a little stunning.

~Herman Melville

All the world over, the picturesque yields to the pocketesque.

~Herman Melville

Honor lies in the mane of a horse.

~Herman Melville

Failure is the true test of greatness

~Herman Melville

I do not think I have any uncharitable prejudice against the rattlesnake, still, I should not like to be one.

~Herman Melville

The sailor is frankness, the landsman is finesse. Life is not a game with the sailor, demanding the long head

~Herman Melville

Truth is in things, and not in words.

~Herman Melville

For whatever is truly wondrous and fearful in man, never yet was put into words or books.

~Herman Melville

And what is it, thought I, after all! It's only his outside; a man can be honest in any sort of skin.

~Herman Melville

There are two places in the world where men can most effectively disappear - the city of London and the South Seas.

~Herman Melville

To the last, I grapple with thee; From Hell's heart, I stab at thee; For hate's sake, I spit my last breath at thee.

~Herman Melville

I try all things, I achieve what I can.

~Herman Melville

He who has never failed somewhere, that man can not be great.

~Herman Melville

There are certain queer times and occasions in this strange mixed affair we call life when a man takes his whole universe for a vast practical joke.

~Herman Melville

There is nothing so slipperily alluring as sadness; we become sad in the first place by having nothing stirring to do; we continue in it, because we have found a snug sofa at last.

~Herman Melville

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