

# Ivan Turgenev

## Quotes

*Nature, Fate, Heart, Want, Men, Long, Feelings, Art, People, Fall, Life, Thinking,  
Lying, Two, Soul, Self, Children, Law, Rights, Force*

If we wait for the moment when everything, absolutely everything is ready, we shall never begin.

~Ivan Turgenev

I do not know what the heart of a bad man is like. But i do know what the heart of a good man is like. And it is terrible.

~Ivan Turgenev

We sit in the mud... and reach for the stars.

~Ivan Turgenev

Go forward while you can, but if your strength fails you, sit down near the road and gaze without anger or envy at those who pass by. They don't have far to go, either.

~Ivan Turgenev

Death's an old joke, but each individual encounters it anew.

~Ivan Turgenev

Circumstances define us; they force us onto one road or another, and then they punish us for it.

~Ivan Turgenev

Time, as is well known, sometimes flies like a bird and sometimes crawls like a worm, but human beings are generally particularly happy when they don't notice whether it's passing quickly or slowly.

~Ivan Turgenev

Love, I thought, is stronger than death or the fear of death. Only by it, by love, life holds together and advances.

~Ivan Turgenev

Nothing is worse and more hurtful than a happiness that comes too late.

~Ivan Turgenev

Take what you can yourself, and don't let others get you into their hands; to belong to oneself, that is the whole thing in life.

~Ivan Turgenev

In my case there was no first love. I began with the second.

~Ivan Turgenev

To desire and expect nothing for oneself and to have profound sympathy for others is genuine holiness.

~Ivan Turgenev

People without firmness of character love to make up a fate for themselves; that relieves them of the necessity of having their own will and of taking responsibility for themselves.

~Ivan Turgenev

Whatever a person may pray for, that person prays for a miracle. Every prayer comes down to this - Almighty God, grant that two times two not equal four.

~Ivan Turgenev

A poet must be a psychologist, but a secret one: he should know and feel the roots of phenomena but present only the phenomena themselves in full bloom or as they fade away.

~Ivan Turgenev

Nature cares nothing for logic, our human logic: she has her own, which we do not recognize and do not acknowledge until we are crushed under its wheel

~Ivan Turgenev

No matter how often you knock at nature's door, she won't answer in

words you can understand--for Nature is dumb. She'll vibrate and moan like a violin, but you mustn't expect a song.

~Ivan Turgenev

That is what poetry can do. It speaks to us of what does not exist, which is not only better than what exists, but even more like the truth.

~Ivan Turgenev

You may live a long while with some people and be on friendly terms with them and never speak openly with them from your soul.

~Ivan Turgenev

The word tomorrow was invented for indecisive people and for children.

~Ivan Turgenev

I was afraid of looking into my heart...afraid of thinking seriously about anything...I did not want to know whether I was loved, and I did not want to admit to myself that I was not loved.

~Ivan Turgenev

Nothing is worse and more hurtful than a happiness that comes too late. It can give no pleasure, yet it deprives you of that most precious of rights - the right to swear and curse at your fate!

~Ivan Turgenev

Nature is not a temple, but a workshop, and man's the workman in it.

~Ivan Turgenev

There are some moments in life, some feelings; one can only point to them and pass by.

~Ivan Turgenev

I never started from ideas but always from character.

~Ivan Turgenev

So long as one's just dreaming about what to do, one can soar like an eagle and move mountains, it seems, but as soon as one starts doing it one gets worn out and tired.

~Ivan Turgenev

I look up to heaven only when I want to sneeze.

~Ivan Turgenev

I'm through with Tolstoy. He has ceased to exist for me.... If I eat a bowl of soup and like it, I know by that fact alone and with absolute certainty that Tolstoy will find it bad, and vice versa.

~Ivan Turgenev

That's what children are forâ€”that their parents may not be bored.

~Ivan Turgenev

Oh, gentle feelings, soft sounds, the goodness and the gradual stilling of a soul that has been moved; the melting happiness of the first tender, touching joys of love- where are you?

~Ivan Turgenev

All human beings hang by a thread, an abyss may open under their feet at any moment, and yet they have to go and invent all sorts of difficulties for themselves and spoil their lives.

~Ivan Turgenev

I don't see why it's impossible to express everything that's on one's mind.

~Ivan Turgenev

Every man's happiness is built on the unhappiness of another.

~Ivan Turgenev

I agree with no one's opinion. I have some of my own.

~Ivan Turgenev

It was only the vulgarly mediocre that repelled her.

~Ivan Turgenev

I am a flirt: I have no heart: I have an actor's nature.

~Ivan Turgenev

Belonging to oneself--the whole essence of life lies in that.

~Ivan Turgenev

Even nightingales can't be fed on fairy tales.

~Ivan Turgenev

Whatever man prays for, he prays for a miracle. Every prayer reduces itself.

~Ivan Turgenev

Nature creates while destroying, and doesn't care whether it creates or destroys as long as life isn't extinguished, as long as death doesn't lose its rights.

~Ivan Turgenev

Who among us has the strength to oppose petty egoism, those petty good feelings, pity and remorse?

~Ivan Turgenev

Youth eats all the sugared fancy cakes and regards them as its daily bread. But there'll come a time when you'll start asking just for a crust.

~Ivan Turgenev

One may speak about anything on earth with fire, with enthusiasm, with ecstasy, but one only speaks about oneself with avidity.

~Ivan Turgenev

Great God, grant that twice two be not four.

~Ivan Turgenev

So many memories and so little worth remembering, and in front of me  
- a long, long road without a goal.

~Ivan Turgenev

Everyone needs help from everyone else.

~Ivan Turgenev

Most people can't understand how others can blow their noses  
differently than they do.

~Ivan Turgenev

In days of doubt, in days of dreary musings on my country's fate, you  
alone are my comfort and support, oh great, powerful, righteous, and  
free Russian language!

~Ivan Turgenev

The past was a dream wasn't it? And who ever remembers dreams?

~Ivan Turgenev

However much you knock at nature's door, she will never answer you in  
comprehensible words.

~Ivan Turgenev

Illness isn't the only thing that spoils the appetite.

~Ivan Turgenev

I've become convinced that every person should treat himself strictly  
and even rudely and distrustfully; it's difficult to tame the beast in  
oneself.

~Ivan Turgenev

a person who gets angry at his own illness is sure to overcome it

~Ivan Turgenev

I believe love produces a certain flowering of the whole personality which nothing else can achieve.

~Ivan Turgenev

There is a sweetness in being the sole source, the autocratic and irresponsible cause of the greatest joy and profoundest pain to another.

~Ivan Turgenev

Behind me there are already so many memories (...) Lots of memories, but no point in remembering them, and ahead of me a long, long road with nothing to aim for ... I just don't want to go along it.

~Ivan Turgenev

Bazarov drew himself up haughtily. "I don't adopt any one's ideas; I have my own.

~Ivan Turgenev

What did I hope for, what did I expect, what rich future did I foresee, when the phantom of my first love, rising up for an instant, barely called forth one sigh, one mournful sentiment?

~Ivan Turgenev

Sternly, remorselessly, fate guides each of us; only at the beginning, when we're absorbed in details, in all sorts of nonsense, in ourselves, are we unaware of its harsh hand.

~Ivan Turgenev

A son is like a lopped off branch. As a falcon he comes when he wills



and goes where he lists.

~Ivan Turgenev

I was as happy as a fish in water, and I could have stayed in that room for ever, have never left that place.

~Ivan Turgenev

Each individual is more or less dimly aware of his significance, is aware that he's something innately superior, something eternal--and lives, is obligated to live, in the moment and for the moment.

~Ivan Turgenev

Don't force me into saying what I don't want to say, and what I won't say.

~Ivan Turgenev

What's terrible is that there's nothing terrible, that the very essence of life is petty, uninteresting, and degradingly trite.

~Ivan Turgenev

It's all romanticism, nonsense, rottenness, art.

~Ivan Turgenev

I walked in the meadows of green grieving for my life.

~Ivan Turgenev

Ah, but in time the heat of noontide passes, and to it there succeed nightfall and dusk, with a return to the quiet fold where for the weary and the heavy-laden there waits sleep, sweet sleep.

~Ivan Turgenev

The temerity to believe in nothing.

~Ivan Turgenev

He was the soul of politeness to everyone -- to some with a hint of aversion, to others with a hint of respect.

~Ivan Turgenev

What a magnificent body, how I should like to see it on the dissecting table.

~Ivan Turgenev

We're young, we're not monsters, no fools: we'll conquer happiness for ourselves.

~Ivan Turgenev

Anyone who has crossed from the district of Bolkhov into that of Zhizdra will probably have been struck by the sharp difference between the natives of the provinces of Orel and Kaluga.

~Ivan Turgenev

To tell about a drunken muzhik's beating his wife is incomparably harder than to compose a whole tract about the 'woman question.'

~Ivan Turgenev

I share no man's opinions; I have my own.

~Ivan Turgenev

Significance is sweet.

~Ivan Turgenev

What's important is that twice two is four and all the rest's nonsense.

~Ivan Turgenev

I'm incapable of describing the feeling with which I left. I wouldn't want it ever to be repeated, but I would have considered myself unfortunate if I'd never experienced it.

~Ivan Turgenev

Go and try to disprove death. Death will disprove you, and that's all!

~Ivan Turgenev

I only know that I feel tired, antiquated; I feel as though I had been living a long, long time.

~Ivan Turgenev

The fact is that previously they were simply dunces and now they've suddenly become nihilists.

~Ivan Turgenev

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