

James Branch Cabell

Quotes

*Men, Life, Dream, People, Doe, Book, Beautiful, Writing, Heart, Time, Body,
Lying, Drink, World, Animal, Believe, Literature, Mean, Earth, Tasks*

Poetry is man's rebellion against being what he is.

~James Branch Cabell

No lady is ever a gentleman.

~James Branch Cabell

Why is the King of Hearts the only one that hasn't a moustache?

~James Branch Cabell

There is not any memory with less satisfaction than the memory of some temptation we resisted.

~James Branch Cabell

While it is well enough to leave footprints on the sands of time, it is even more important to make sure they point in a commendable direction.

~James Branch Cabell

People never want to be told anything they do not believe already.

~James Branch Cabell

Time changes all things and cultivates even in herself an appreciation of irony, and, therefore, why shouldn't I have changed a trifle?

~James Branch Cabell

Literature is a vast bazaar where customers come to purchase everything except mirrors.

~James Branch Cabell

People must have both their dreams and their dinners in this world, and when we go out of it we must take what we find. That is all.

~James Branch Cabell

Good and evil keep very exact accounts... and the face of every man is

their ledger.

~James Branch Cabell

Creeds matter very little... The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds; and the pessimist fears this is true. So I elect for neither label.

~James Branch Cabell

Whatever pretended pessimists in search of notoriety may say, most people are naturally kind, at heart.

~James Branch Cabell

I do that which I do in every place. Here also, at the gateway of that garden into which time has not entered, I fight with time my ever-losing battle, because to do that diverts me.

~James Branch Cabell

I am willing to taste any drink once.

~James Branch Cabell

What am I that I am called upon to have prejudices concerning the universe?

~James Branch Cabell

Patriotism is the religion of hell.

~James Branch Cabell

But with man the case is otherwise, in that when logic leads to any humiliating conclusion, the sole effect is to discredit logic.

~James Branch Cabell

Whatever there is to know, That shall we know one day.

~James Branch Cabell

As it is, plain reasoning assures me I am not indispensable to the universe: but with this reasoning, somehow, does not travel my belief.

~James Branch Cabell

I ask of literature precisely those things of which I feel the lack in my own life.

~James Branch Cabell

Every notion that any man, dead, living, or unborn, might form as to the universe will necessarily prove wrong

~James Branch Cabell

Thou shalt not offend against the notions of thy neighbor.

~James Branch Cabell

The man was not merely very human; he was humanity. And I reflected that it is only by preserving faith in human dreams that we may, after all, perhaps some day make them come true.

~James Branch Cabell

Some few there must be in every age and every land of whom life claims nothing very insistently save that they write perfectly of beautiful happenings.

~James Branch Cabell

Trapped dreams must die.

~James Branch Cabell

No person of quality ever remembers social restrictions save when considering how most piquantly to break them.

~James Branch Cabell

A man possesses nothing certainly save a brief loan of his own body.

~James Branch Cabell

There is no escaping, at times, the gloomy suspicion that fiddling with pens and ink is, after all, no fit employment for a grown man.

~James Branch Cabell

Life is very marvelous... and to the wonders of the earth there is no end appointed.

~James Branch Cabell

At all events, I do not mean to leave it unaltered.

~James Branch Cabell

There are many of our so-called captains on industry who, if the truth were told, and a shorter and uglier word were not unpermissible, are little better than malefactors of great wealth.

~James Branch Cabell

Oh, do the Overlords of Life and Death always provide some obstacle to prevent what all of us have known in youth was possible from ever coming true?

~James Branch Cabell

In what else, pray, does man differ from the other animals except in that he is used by words?

~James Branch Cabell

The desire to write perfectly of beautiful happenings is, as the saying runs, old as the hills "and as immortal.

~James Branch Cabell

I have followed after the truth, across this windy planet upon which every person is nourished by one or another lie.

~James Branch Cabell

There is no gift more great than love.

~James Branch Cabell

I take it that I must be the eternal playfellow of time. For piety and common-sense and death are rightfully time's toys; and it is with these three that I divert myself.

~James Branch Cabell

In religious matters a traveller loses nothing by civility.

~James Branch Cabell

The realization that life is absurd cannot be an end, but only a beginning. This is a truth nearly all great minds have taken as their starting point.

~James Branch Cabell

The only way of rendering life endurable is to drink as much wine as one can come by.

~James Branch Cabell

Love, I take it, must look toward something not quite accessible, something not quite understood.

~James Branch Cabell

People marry through a variety of other reasons, and with varying results: but to marry for love is to invite inevitable tragedy.

~James Branch Cabell

The touch of time does more than the club of Hercules.

~James Branch Cabell

Man alone of animals plays the ape to his dreams .

~James Branch Cabell

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