

John Donne

Quotes

*Men, Love, Soul, Death, Art, Sleep, Angel, Heaven, Two, Heart, Book, Running,
World, Thinking, Time, Life, War, Night, Fall, Joy*

No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumnal face.

~John Donne

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent.

~John Donne

Love, all alike, no season knows, nor clime, nor hours, days, months, which are the rags of time.

~John Donne

Death comes equally to us all, and makes us all equal when it comes.

~John Donne

Busy old fool, unruly Sun, why dost thou thus through windows and through curtains call on us? Must to thy motions lovers seasons run?

~John Donne

Twice or thrice had I loved thee before I knew thy face or name, so in a voice, so in a shapeless flame, angels affect us oft, and worshiped be.

~John Donne

What gnashing is not a comfort, what gnawing of the worm is not a tickling, what torment is not a marriage bed to this damnation, to be secluded eternally, eternally, eternally from the sight of God?

~John Donne

Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.

~John Donne

More than kisses, letters mingle souls.

~John Donne

When one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language.

~John Donne

ask not for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee

~John Donne

Full nakedness! All my joys are due to thee, as souls unbodied, bodies unclothed must be, to taste whole joys.

~John Donne

Be thine own palace, or the world's thy jail.

~John Donne

True joy is the earnest which we have of heaven, it is the treasure of the soul, and therefore should be laid in a safe place, and nothing in this world is safe to place it in.

~John Donne

Love's mysteries in souls do grow, But yet the body is his book.

~John Donne

Come live with me, and be my love, And we will some new pleasures prove Of golden sands, and crystal brooks, With silken lines, and silver hooks.

~John Donne

we give each other a smile with a future in it

~John Donne

Love built on beauty, soon as beauty, dies.

~John Donne

O Lord, never suffer us to think that we can stand by ourselves, and not need thee.

~John Donne

Sleep with clean hands, either kept clean all day by integrity or washed clean at night by repentance.

~John Donne

The flea, though he kill none, he does all the harm he can.

~John Donne

In heaven it is always autumn.

~John Donne

I am two fools, I know, For loving, and for saying so.

~John Donne

As peace is of all goodness, so war is an emblem, a hieroglyphic, of all misery.

~John Donne

To roam Giddily, and be everywhere but at home, Such freedom doth a banishment become.

~John Donne

Death is an ascension to a better library.

~John Donne

For love all love of other sights controls and makes one little room an everywhere

~John Donne

I wonder, by my troth, what thou and I Did, till we lov'd?

~John Donne

In the first minute that my soul is infused, the Image of God is imprinted in my soul; so forward is God in my behalf, and so early does he visit me.

~John Donne

At the round earth's imagined corners, blow your trumpets, angels.

~John Donne

Despair is the damp of hell, as joy is the serenity of heaven.

~John Donne

No man is an island unto himself.

~John Donne

Art is the most passionate orgy within man's grasp.

~John Donne

As soon as there was two there was pride.

~John Donne

So in a voice, so in a shapeless flame, Angels affect us often.

~John Donne

So, so, break off this last lamenting kiss, Which sucks two souls, and vapors both away.

~John Donne

The Phoenix riddle hath more wit
By us, we two being one, are it. So to
one neutral thing both sexes fit,
We die and rise the same, and prove
Mysterious by this love.

~John Donne

Humiliation is the beginning of sanctification.

~John Donne

How imperfect is all our knowledge!

~John Donne

Our two souls therefore which are one, Though I must go, endure not yet A breach, but an expansion, Like gold to airy thinness beat.

~John Donne

I am a little world made cunningly.

~John Donne

If I dream I have you, I have you, for all our joys are but fantastical.

~John Donne

Solitude is a torment which is not threatened in hell itself.

~John Donne

Nothing but man of all envenomed things, doth work upon itself, with inborn stings.

~John Donne

As he that fears God fears nothing else, so he that sees God sees everything else.

~John Donne

Commemoration of John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631 He was the Word that spake it; He took the bread and brake it; And what that Word did make it I do believe, and take it.

~John Donne

Only our love hath no decay; this, no tomorrow hath, nor yesterday, running it never runs from us away, but truly keeps his first, last, everlasting day.

~John Donne

God himself took a day to rest in, and a good man's grave is his Sabbath.

~John Donne

I shall not live 'till I see God; and when I have seen Him, I shall never die.

~John Donne

Nature's great masterpiece, an elephant; the only harmless great thing.

~John Donne

Death be not proud, though some have called thee Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so. For, those, whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow. Die not, poor death, nor yet canst thou kill me.

~John Donne

How much shall I be changed, before I am changed!

~John Donne

Reason is our soul's left hand, Faith her right, By these we reach divinity

~John Donne

Affliction is a treasure, and scarce any man hath enough of it.

~John Donne

Eternity is not an everlasting flux of time, but time is as a short parenthesis in a long period.

~John Donne

Poor intricated soul! Riddling, perplexed, labyrinthical soul!

~John Donne

I observe the physician with the same diligence as the disease.

~John Donne

For God's sake hold your tongue, and let me love.

~John Donne

Licence my roving hands, and let them go
Before, behind, between,
above, below.

~John Donne

But I do nothing upon myself, and yet I am my own executioner.

~John Donne

Can there be worse sickness, than to know that we are never well, nor
can be so?

~John Donne

He must pull out his own eyes, and see no creature, before he can say,
he sees no God; He must be no man, and quench his reasonable soul,
before he can say to himself, there is no God.

~John Donne

There is hook in every benefit, that sticks in his jaws that takes that
benefit, and draws him whither the benefactor will.

~John Donne

And new Philosophy calls all in doubt, the element of fire is quite put
out; the Sun is lost, and the earth, and no mans wit can well direct him
where to look for it.

~John Donne

Take me to you, imprison me, for I, except you enthrall me, never shall
be free, nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.

~John Donne

God employs several translators; some pieces are translated by age, some by sickness, some by war, some by justice.

~John Donne

To be no part of any body, is to be nothing.

~John Donne

I do not love a man, except I hate his vices, because those vices are the enemies, and the destruction of that friend whom I love.

~John Donne

Be more than man, or thou'rt less than an ant.

~John Donne

I shall die reading; since my book and a grave are so near.

~John Donne

A man that is not afraid of a Lion is afraid of a Cat .

~John Donne

Pleasure is none, if not diversified.

~John Donne

Chastity is not chastity in an old man, but a disability to be unchaste.

~John Donne

Then love is sin, and let me sinful be.

~John Donne

Thy face is mine eye, and mine is thine.

~John Donne

If poisonous minerals, and if that tree, Whose fruit threw death on else immortal us, If lecherous goats, if serpents envious Cannot be damned;

alas; why should I be?

~John Donne

I neglect God and his angles for the noise of a fly, for the rattling of a coach, for the whining of a door.

~John Donne

All our life is but a going out to the place of execution, to death.

~John Donne

Sleep is pain's easiest salve, and doth fulfil All offices of death, except to kill.

~John Donne

O how feeble is man's power, that if good fortune fall, cannot add another hour, nor a lost hour recall!

~John Donne

Affliction is a treasure, and scarce any man hath enough of it. No man hath affliction enough that is not matured and ripened by it and made fit for God.

~John Donne

In best understandings, sin began, Angels sinned first, then Devils, and then Man.

~John Donne

From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be, Much pleasure, then from thee much more, must flow, And soonest our best men with thee do go, Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.

~John Donne

I long to talk with some old lover's ghost, Who died before the god of love was born.

~John Donne

True and false fears let us refrain, Let us love nobly, and live, and add
again Years and years unto years, till we attain To write threescore ;
this is the second of our reign.

~John Donne

And swear No where Lives a woman true, and fair.

~John Donne

Die not, poore death, nor yet canst thou kill me.

~John Donne

This only is charity, to do all, all that we can.

~John Donne

All occasions invite His mercies, and all times are His seasons.

~John Donne

When I died last, and, Dear, I die As often as from thee I go Though it
be but an hour ago, And lovers' hours be full eternity.

~John Donne

Love is a growing, or full constant light; And his first minute, after noon,
is night.

~John Donne

God affords no man the comfort, the false comfort of Atheism: He will
not allow a pretending Atheist the power to flatter himself, so far, as to
seriously think there is no God.

~John Donne

How great love is, presence best trial makes, But absence tries how
long this love will be.

~John Donne

Poetry is a counterfeit creation, and makes things that are not, as though they were

~John Donne

Who are a little wise the best fools be.

~John Donne

There is nothing that God hath established in a constant course of nature, and which therefore is done every day, but would seem a Miracle, and exercise our admiration, if it were done but once.

~John Donne

If they be two, they are two so As stiff twin compasses are two, Thy soul the fixt foot, makes no show To move, but doth, if the other do.

~John Donne

And what is so intricate, so entangling as death? Who ever got out of a winding sheet?

~John Donne

The sun must not set upon anger, much less will I let the sun set upon the anger of God towards me.

~John Donne

Wicked is not much worse than indiscreet.

~John Donne

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