

Laurence Sterne

Quotes

*Men, Heart, Book, World, Thinking, Literature, Writing, Passion, May, Ideas,
Mind, Father, People, Forgiveness, Soul, Hypocrisy, Pain, Reading, Character,
Light*

Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners.

~Laurence Sterne

A good simile,--as concise as a king's declaration of love.

~Laurence Sterne

I take a simple view of life. It is keep your eyes open and get on with it.

~Laurence Sterne

Men tire themselves in pursuit of rest.

~Laurence Sterne

Only the brave know how to forgive... a coward never forgave; it is not in his nature.

~Laurence Sterne

The desire of knowledge, like the thirst of riches, increases ever with the acquisition of it.

~Laurence Sterne

There is nothing so awkward as courting a woman whilst she is making sausages.

~Laurence Sterne

Freethinkers are generally those who never think at all.

~Laurence Sterne

Keyholes are the occasions of more sin and wickedness, than all other holes in this world put together.

~Laurence Sterne

So much of motion, is so much of life, and so much of joy, and to stand still, or get on but slowly, is death and the devil.

~Laurence Sterne

Only the brave know how to forgive; it is the most refined and generous pitch of virtue human nature can arrive at.

~Laurence Sterne

The best hearts are ever the bravest.

~Laurence Sterne

So long as a man rides his hobbyhorse peaceably and quietly along the King's highway, and neither compels you or me to get up behind him - pray, Sir, what have either you or I to do with it?

~Laurence Sterne

Pain and pleasure, like light and darkness, succeed each other.

~Laurence Sterne

It is not in the power of every one to taste humor, however he may wish it; it is the gift of God! and a true feeler always brings half the entertainment along with him.

~Laurence Sterne

In solitude the mind gains strength and learns to lean upon itself.

~Laurence Sterne

Simplicity is the great friend to nature, and if I would be proud of anything in this silly world, it should be of this honest alliance.

~Laurence Sterne

A large volume of adventures may be grasped within this little span of life, by him who interests his heart in everything.

~Laurence Sterne

Of all duties, prayer certainly is the sweetest and most easy.

~Laurence Sterne

Solitude is the best nurse of wisdom.

~Laurence Sterne

Writings may be compared to wine. Sense is the strength, but wit the flavor.

~Laurence Sterne

People who overly take care of their health are like misers. They hoard up a treasure which they never enjoy.

~Laurence Sterne

Religion which lays so many restraints upon us, is a troublesome companion to those who will lay no restraints upon themselves.

~Laurence Sterne

Nothing is so perfectly amusing as a total change of ideas.

~Laurence Sterne

Every thing in this world, said my father, is big with jest,--and has wit in it, and instruction too,--if we can but find it out.

~Laurence Sterne

Sciences may be learned by rote, but wisdom not.

~Laurence Sterne

The loneliness is the mother of wisdom.

~Laurence Sterne

The histories of the lives and fortunes of men are full of instances of this nature,--where favorable times and lucky accidents have done for them, what wisdom or skill could not.

~Laurence Sterne

Writing, when properly managed, (as you may be sure I think mine is) is but a different name for conversation.

~Laurence Sterne

Courtship consists in a number of quiet attentions, not so pointed as to alarm, nor so vague as not to be understood.

~Laurence Sterne

Titles of honour are like the impressions on coin; â€” which add no value to gold and silver, but only render brass current.

~Laurence Sterne

What is the life of man! Is it not to shift from side to side? From sorrow to sorrow? To button up one cause of vexation! And unbutton another!

~Laurence Sterne

The brave only know how to forgive.

~Laurence Sterne

An inward sincerity will of course influence the outward deportment; but where the one is wanting, there is great reason to suspect the absence of the other.

~Laurence Sterne

I had had an affair with the moon, in which there was neither sin nor shame.

~Laurence Sterne

We are born to trouble; and we may depend upon it, whilst we live in this world, we shall have it, though with intermissions.

~Laurence Sterne

A coward never forgives.

~Laurence Sterne

Keep away from the fire!

~Laurence Sterne

Patience cannot remove, but it can always dignify and alleviate, misfortune.

~Laurence Sterne

I am persuaded that every time a man smiles - but much more so when he laughs - it adds something to this fragment of life.

~Laurence Sterne

I wish either my father or my mother, or indeed both of them, as they were in duty both equally bound to it, had minded what they were about when they begot me.

~Laurence Sterne

Chance is the providence of adventurers.

~Laurence Sterne

The most accomplished way of using books is to serve them as some people do lords; learn their titles and then brag of their acquaintance.

~Laurence Sterne

In all unmerciful actions, the worst of men pay this compliment at least to humanity, as to endeavour to wear as much of the appearance of it, as the case will well let them.

~Laurence Sterne

Alas! if the principles of contentment are not within us, the height of station and worldly grandeur will as soon add a cubit to a man's stature as to his happiness.

~Laurence Sterne

It is a great pity but tis certain from every day's observation of man, that

he may be set on fire like a candle, at either end provided there is a sufficient wick standing out.

~Laurence Sterne

Of all the cants which are canted in this canting world - though the cant of hypocrites may be the worst - the cant of criticism is the most tormenting!

~Laurence Sterne

Lessons of wisdom have the most power over us when they capture the heart through the groundwork of a story, which engages the passions.

~Laurence Sterne

The insolence of base minds in success is boundless; and would scarce admit of a comparison, did not they themselves furnish us with one in the degrees of their abjection when evil returns upon them.

~Laurence Sterne

There have been no sects in the Christian world, however absurd, which have not endeavoured to support their opinions by arguments drawn from Scripture.

~Laurence Sterne

There is no such thing as real happiness in life. The justest definition that was ever given of it was "a tranquil acquiescence under an agreeable delusion"--I forget where.

~Laurence Sterne

We lose the right of complaining sometimes, by denying something, but this often triples its force.

~Laurence Sterne

I begin with writing the first sentenceâ€”and trusting to Almighty God for the second.

~Laurence Sterne

The more tickets you have in a lottery, the worse your chance. And it is the same of virtues, in the lottery of life.

~Laurence Sterne

The most affluent may be stripped of all, and find his worldly comforts, like so many withered leaves, dropping from him.

~Laurence Sterne

An English man does not travel to see English men.

~Laurence Sterne

I am positive I have a soul; nor can all the books with which materialists have pestered the world ever convince me to the contrary.

~Laurence Sterne

I once asked a hermit in Italy how he could venture to live alone, in a single cottage, on the top of a mountain, a mile from any habitation? He replied, that Providence was his next-door neighbor.

~Laurence Sterne

Whatever stress some may lay upon it, a death-bed repentance is but a weak and slender plank to trust our all on.

~Laurence Sterne

The sad vicissitude of things.

~Laurence Sterne

For I begin with writing the first sentence, "and trusting to Almighty God for the second.

~Laurence Sterne

God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb.

~Laurence Sterne

Vanity bids all her sons be brave, and all her daughters chaste and courteous.

~Laurence Sterne

The way to fame, is like the way to heaven,--through much tribulation.

~Laurence Sterne

There is one sweet lenitive at least for evils, which nature holds out; so I took it kindly at her hands, and fell asleep.

~Laurence Sterne

A dwarf who brings a standard along with him to measure his own size, take my word, is a dwarf in more articles than one.

~Laurence Sterne

An atheist is more reclaimable than a papist, as ignorance is sooner cured than superstition.

~Laurence Sterne

Trust that man in nothing who has not a conscience in everything.

~Laurence Sterne

An actor should be able to create the universe in the palm of his hand.

~Laurence Sterne

When a man is discontented with himself, it has one advantage - that it puts him into an excellent frame of mind for making a bargain.

~Laurence Sterne

Death opens the gate of fame, and shuts the gate of envy after it; it unlooses the chain of the captive, and puts the bondsman's task into another man's hand.

~Laurence Sterne

Some people pass through life soberly and religiously enough, without knowing way, or reasoning about it, but, from force of habit merely, go to heaven like fools.

~Laurence Sterne

Any one may do a casual act of good-nature; but a continuation of them shows it a part of the temperament.

~Laurence Sterne

The accusing spirit, which flew up to heaven's chancery with the oath, blushed as he gave it in; and the recording angel as he wrote it down dropped a tear upon the word and blotted it out forever.

~Laurence Sterne

I never drink. I cannot do it, on equal terms with others. It costs them only one day; but me three, the first in sinning, the second in suffering, and the third in repenting.

~Laurence Sterne

Disguise thyself as thou wilt, still, Slavery," said I, "still thou art a bitter draught.

~Laurence Sterne

The chaste mind, like a polished plane, may admit foul thoughts, without receiving their tincture.

~Laurence Sterne

We may imitate the Deity in all His attributes; but mercy is the only one in which we can pretend to equal Him. We cannot, indeed, give like God; but surely we may forgive like Him.

~Laurence Sterne

...beauty, like truth, never is so glorious as when it goes the plainest.

~Laurence Sterne

'Tis known by the name of perseverance in a good cause,-and of obstinacy in a bad one.

~Laurence Sterne

Before an affliction is digested, consolation ever comes too soon; and after it is digested, it comes too late.

~Laurence Sterne

Our passion and principals are constantly in a frenzy, but begin to shift and waver, as we return to reason.

~Laurence Sterne

What persons are by starts they are by nature.

~Laurence Sterne

There are worse occupations in this world than feeling a woman's pulse.

~Laurence Sterne

Shall we for ever make new books, as apothecaries make new mixtures, by pouring only out of one vessel into another?

~Laurence Sterne

Always carry it in thy mind, and act upon it, as a sure maxim: "That women are timid:" And 'tis well they are--else there would beno dealing with them.

~Laurence Sterne

When a man gives himself up to the government of a ruling passion,--or, in other words, when his HOBBY-HORSE grows head-strong,--farewell cool reason and fair discretion.

~Laurence Sterne

Heat is in proportion to the want of true knowledge.

~Laurence Sterne

One may as well be asleep as to read for anything but to improve his mind and morals, and regulate his conduct.

~Laurence Sterne

Positiveness is a most absurd foible. If you are in the right, it lessens your triumph; if in the wrong, it adds shame to your defeat.

~Laurence Sterne

Great is the power of Eloquence; but never is it so great as when it pleads along with nature, and the culprit is a child strayed from his duty, and returned to it again with tears.

~Laurence Sterne

If a man has a right to be proud of anything, it is of a good action done as it ought to be, without any base interest lurking at the bottom of it.

~Laurence Sterne

Hail! the small courtesies of life, for smooth do ye make the road of it, like grace and beauty, which beget inclinations to love at first sight; it is ye who open the door and let the stranger in.

~Laurence Sterne

It is sweet to feel by what fine spun threads our affections are drawn together.

~Laurence Sterne

My father, whose way was to force every event in nature into an hypothesis, by which means never man crucified TRUTH at the rate he did.

~Laurence Sterne

Endless is the search of truth.

~Laurence Sterne

Injuries come only from the heart.

~Laurence Sterne

Now or never was the time.

~Laurence Sterne

There is such a torture, happily unknown to ancient tyranny, as talking a man to death. Marcus Aurelius advises to assent readily to great talkers--in hopes, I suppose, to put an end to the argument.

~Laurence Sterne

A man who values a good night's rest will not lie down with enmity in his heart, if he can help it.

~Laurence Sterne

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