

# Leonard Cohen

## Quotes

*Song, Men, Thinking, Heart, People, Writing, Morning, Light, Night, Love,  
Spiritual, Long, Life, Dream, Want, Children, Knows, Loneliness, Passion,  
Reality*

There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in.

~Leonard Cohen

We are not mad. We are human. We want to love, and someone must forgive us for the paths we take to love, for the paths are many and dark, and we are ardent and cruel in our journey.

~Leonard Cohen

I don't consider myself a pessimist. I think of a pessimist as someone who is waiting for it to rain. And I feel soaked to the skin.

~Leonard Cohen

I greet you from the other side of sorrow and despair, with a love so vast and shattered it will reach you everywhere.

~Leonard Cohen

I wish I could say everything in one word. I hate all the things that can happen between the beginning of a sentence and the end.

~Leonard Cohen

We are so lightly here. It is in love that we are made. In love we disappear.

~Leonard Cohen

May you be surrounded by friends and family, and if this is not your lot, may the blessings find you in your solitude.

~Leonard Cohen

We are so small between the stars, so large against the sky.

~Leonard Cohen

You live your life as if it's real.....a thousand kisses deep

~Leonard Cohen

Reality is one of the possibilities I cannot afford to ignore

~Leonard Cohen

Like a bird on a wire, like a drunk in a midnight choir, I have tried in my way to be free!!

~Leonard Cohen

When things get really bad, just raise your glass and stamp your feet and do a little jig. That's about all you can do.

~Leonard Cohen

When we are touched by a song, it is because the artist cannot hide himself.

~Leonard Cohen

To keep our hearts open is probably the most urgent responsibility you have as you get older.

~Leonard Cohen

How can I begin anything new with all of yesterday in me?

~Leonard Cohen

I don't really understand that process called reincarnation but if there is such a thing I'd like to come back as my daughter's dog.

~Leonard Cohen

a kite is a victim you are sure of. you love it because it pulls.

~Leonard Cohen

Dance me to your beauty with a burning violin  
Dance me through the panic 'til I'm gathered safely in  
Lift me like an olive branch and be my  
homeward dove  
Dance me to the end of love

~Leonard Cohen

Never make a decision when you need to pee.

~Leonard Cohen

The last refuge of the insomniac is a sense of superiority to the sleeping world.

~Leonard Cohen

Fare thee well my nightingale, I lived but to be near you. Thow you are singing somewhere still I can no longer hear you.

~Leonard Cohen

I cannot understand why my arm is not a lilac tree.

~Leonard Cohen

I've seen the nations rise and fall. I've heard their stories, heard them all, but love's the only engine of survival.

~Leonard Cohen

The blizzard of the world has crossed the threshold and it's overturned the order of the soul.

~Leonard Cohen

I always loved those little creatures [hummingbird], always feel blessed when they appear nearby. There's a magical quality to them. I finally put one in a song.

~Leonard Cohen

At the very center of our culture is a crucified man, a tortured man hanging on a cross of wood. You have an image of violence at the very center of our spiritual investigation.

~Leonard Cohen

And I'll bury my soul in a scrapbook, with the photographs there and the moths.

~Leonard Cohen

The cutting of the gem has to be finished before you can see whether it shines.

~Leonard Cohen

In the broken places, the light shines through.

~Leonard Cohen

The older I get, the surer I am that I'm not running the show.

~Leonard Cohen

Follow me, the wise man said, but he walked behind.

~Leonard Cohen

Act the way you'd like to be and soon you'll be the way you act.

~Leonard Cohen

Poetry is just the evidence of life. If your life is burning well, poetry is just the ash.

~Leonard Cohen

I am an old scholar, better-looking now than when I was young. That's what sitting on your ass does to your face.

~Leonard Cohen

You lose your grip, and then you slip into the Masterpiece.

~Leonard Cohen

Your heart opens and of course you're completely panicked because you're used to guarding this organ with your life.

~Leonard Cohen

Children show scars like medals. Lovers use them as secrets to reveal.

A scar is what happens when the word is made flesh.

~Leonard Cohen

When you stop thinking about yourself all the time, a certain sense of repose overtakes you.

~Leonard Cohen

My two great heroes are W. B. Yeats and Federico Garcia Lorca.

~Leonard Cohen

If you don't become the ocean, you'll be seasick every day.

~Leonard Cohen

It's not a cry you can hear at night. It's not somebody who has seen the light. It's a cold and it's a broken Hallelujah.

~Leonard Cohen

We're always experiencing joy or sadness. But there are lots of people who've closed down. And there are times in one's life when one has to close down just to regroup.

~Leonard Cohen

Do not be a magician - be magic!

~Leonard Cohen

But remember when I moved in you  
And the holy dove was moving too  
And every breath we drew was Hallelujah.

~Leonard Cohen

A saint is someone who has achieved a remote human possibility. It is impossible to say what that possibility is. I think it has something to do with the energy of love.

~Leonard Cohen

I've often said if I knew where the good songs came from, I'd go there more often.

~Leonard Cohen

A scar is what happens when the word is made flesh.

~Leonard Cohen

I told the truth, I didn't come to fool you

~Leonard Cohen

My page was too white My ink was too thin The day wouldn't write  
What the night pencilled in.

~Leonard Cohen

May everyone live, And may everyone die. Hello, my love, And my love,  
Goodbye.

~Leonard Cohen

My reputation as a ladies' man was a joke that caused me to laugh  
bitterly through the ten thousand nights I spent alone.

~Leonard Cohen

She was made of flesh and eyelashes.

~Leonard Cohen

Songs don't dignify human activity. Human activity dignifies the song.

~Leonard Cohen

Garages, barns and attics are always older than the buildings to which  
they are attached.

~Leonard Cohen

Seriousness is not Calvinistic, it's not a renunciation, it's the very  
opposite of that.

~Leonard Cohen

You who wish to conquer pain, you must learn what makes one kind.

~Leonard Cohen

I am not the one who loves - It's love that chooses me. When hatred with his package comes, you forbid delivery...

~Leonard Cohen

But I'm stubborn as those garbage bags that time cannot decay, I'm junk but I'm still holding up this little wild bouquet: Democracy is coming to the U.S.A.

~Leonard Cohen

A heavy burden lifted from my soul, I heard that love was out of my control.

~Leonard Cohen

I think there's an appetite for seriousness. Seriousness is voluptuous, and very few people have allowed themselves the luxury of it.

~Leonard Cohen

Dream after dream we all lie in each other's arms

~Leonard Cohen

Here's to the few who forgive what you do, and the fewer who don't even care

~Leonard Cohen

You have to keep cracking yourself open or you become a parody of yourself.

~Leonard Cohen

The less I was of who I was, the better I felt.

~Leonard Cohen

Lift me like an olive branch and be my homeward dove  
Dance me to the end of love.

~Leonard Cohen

There are no letters in the mailbox  
And there are no grapes upon the vine  
And there are no chocolates in your boxes anymore  
And there are no diamonds in the mine

~Leonard Cohen

I turned my back on the devil, turned my back on the angel too.

~Leonard Cohen

A man never got a woman back... not by begging on his knees.

~Leonard Cohen

Music is the emotional life of the most people.

~Leonard Cohen

Here is your cross, Your nails and your hill;  
And here is your love, That lists where it will

~Leonard Cohen

A woman watches her body uneasily, as though it were an unreliable ally in the battle for love.

~Leonard Cohen

I couldn't feel so I learned to touch.

~Leonard Cohen

It's hard to hold the hand of anyone who is reaching for the sky just to surrender

~Leonard Cohen

The birds they sang at the break of day. Start again!! I heard them say

~Leonard Cohen

Only in Canada could somebody with a voice like mine win 'Vocalist of the Year'.

~Leonard Cohen

Silence And a deeper silence When the crickets Hesitate

~Leonard Cohen

He can love the shape of human beings, the fine and twisted shapes of the heart. It is good to have among us such men, such balancing monsters of love.

~Leonard Cohen

Some people are graced with a flow; some people are graced with something less than a flow. I'm one of those.

~Leonard Cohen

The big change is the proximity to death.

~Leonard Cohen

I dreamed about you baby. It was just the other night. Most of you was naked Ah, but some of you was light.

~Leonard Cohen

As our eyes grow accustomed to sight they armour themselves against wonder.

~Leonard Cohen

I guess you go for nothing, if you really want to go that far.

~Leonard Cohen

Everybody knows the dice are loaded.

~Leonard Cohen

Ring the bells that still can ring.

~Leonard Cohen

Love is not a victory march

~Leonard Cohen

I swear by this song and by all that I have done wrong, I will make it all up to thee.

~Leonard Cohen

If I knew where the good songs came from, I'd go there more often. It's a mysterious condition. It's much like the life of a Catholic nun. You're married to a mystery.

~Leonard Cohen

And here you are hurried, And here you are gone; And here is the love, That it's all built upon.

~Leonard Cohen

I would say the hummingbird really deserves the royalties on [some of my songs].

~Leonard Cohen

To every people the land is given on condition. Perceived or not, there is a Covenant, beyond the constitution, beyond sovereign guarantee, beyond the nation's sweetest dreams of itself.

~Leonard Cohen

I'm planning a catastrophe.

~Leonard Cohen

I don't have any spiritual strategy.

~Leonard Cohen

Some say that no one ever leaves Montreal, for that city, like Canada itself, is designed to preserve the past, a past that happened somewhere else.

~Leonard Cohen

First of all nothing will happen and a little later nothing will happen again.

~Leonard Cohen

I have tried in my way to be free.

~Leonard Cohen

The duty of lovers is to tarnish the Golden Rule

~Leonard Cohen

Love is the only engine of survival

~Leonard Cohen

even damnation is poisoned with rainbows.

~Leonard Cohen

This is the most challenging activity that humans get into, which is love. You know, where we have the sense that we can't live without love. That life has very little meaning without love.

~Leonard Cohen

The term clinical depression finds its way into too many conversations these days. One has a sense that a catastrophe has occurred in the psychic landscape.

~Leonard Cohen

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