

Lin Yutang Quotes

*Men, Philosophy, Thinking, Wise, World, Inspirational, People, Life, Believe,
Dream, Reading, Mind, Mean, Chinese, Heart, Unhappy, Art, Simplicity, Dog,
Book*

Besides the noble art of getting things done, there is the noble art of leaving things undone. The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of non-essentials.

~Lin Yutang

No one realizes how beautiful it is to travel until he comes home and rests his head on his old, familiar pillow.

~Lin Yutang

Happiness has always seemed like a bluebird, and consists of moments.

~Lin Yutang

A man who has to be punctually at a certain place at five o'clock has the whole afternoon ruined for him already.

~Lin Yutang

Those who are wise won't be busy, and those who are too busy can't be wise.

~Lin Yutang

When small men begin to cast big shadows, it means that the sun is about to set.

~Lin Yutang

Neckties strangle clear thinking.

~Lin Yutang

Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road, but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence.

~Lin Yutang

There is so much to love and to admire in this life that it is an act of ingratitude not to be happy and content in this existence.

~Lin Yutang

I have a hankering to go back to the Orient and discard my necktie. Neckties strangle clear thinking.

~Lin Yutang

The wisdom of life consists in the elimination of non-essentials.

~Lin Yutang

I have done my best. That is about all the philosophy of living one needs.

~Lin Yutang

The man who has not the habit of reading is imprisoned in his immediate world.

~Lin Yutang

Instead of holding on to the Biblical view that we are made in the image of God, we come to realize that we are made in the image of the monkey.

~Lin Yutang

The Chinese do not draw any distinction between food and medicine.

~Lin Yutang

There is nothing more beautiful in this world than a healthy, wise old man.

~Lin Yutang

There is something in the nature of tea that leads us into a world of quiet contemplation of life.

~Lin Yutang

We should not expect people to be good, but should make it impossible

for them to be bad.

~Lin Yutang

Sometimes it is more important to discover what one cannot do, than what one can do.

~Lin Yutang

Our lives are not in the lap of the gods, but in the lap of our cooks.

~Lin Yutang

Let us face ourselves bravely as we are. For only a philosophy that recognizes reality can lead us into true happiness, and only that kind of philosophy is sound and healthy.

~Lin Yutang

If one's bowels move, one is happy, and if they don't move, one is unhappy. That is all there is to it.

~Lin Yutang

The busy man is never wise and the wise man is never busy.

~Lin Yutang

Of all the rights of women, the greatest is to be a mother

~Lin Yutang

Happiness for me is largely a matter of digestion.

~Lin Yutang

What is patriotism but the love of the food one ate as a child?

~Lin Yutang

I do not think that any civilization can be called complete until it has progressed from sophistication to unsophistication, and made a conscious return to simplicity of thinking and living.

~Lin Yutang

In the West, the insane are so many that they are put in an asylum, in China the insane are so unusual that we worship them.

~Lin Yutang

The world I believe is far too serious, and being far too serious ... it has need of a wise and merry philosophy.

~Lin Yutang

Where there are too many policemen, there is no liberty. Where there are too many soldiers, there is no peace. Where there are too many lawyers, there is no justice.

~Lin Yutang

I rather despise claims to objectivity in philosophy; the point of view is the thing.

~Lin Yutang

Alas, our rulers are not gods, but puny, fallible men, like the kings who constantly forget their parts, and we common men should be their prompters.

~Lin Yutang

Only he who handles his ideas lightly is master of his ideas, and only he who is master of his ideas is not enslaved by them.

~Lin Yutang

Anyone who reads a book with a sense of obligation does not understand the art of reading.

~Lin Yutang

The wise man reads both books and life itself.

~Lin Yutang

True peace of mind comes from accepting the worst. Psychologically, I think it means a release of energy.

~Lin Yutang

This I conceive to be the chemical function of humor: to change the character of our thought.

~Lin Yutang

Such is human psychology that if we don't express our joy, we soon cease to feel it.

~Lin Yutang

The best that we can hope for in this life is that we shall not have sons and grandsons of whom we need to be ashamed.

~Lin Yutang

Probably the difference between man and the monkeys is that the monkeys are merely bored, while man has boredom plus imagination.

~Lin Yutang

The only test of a soul's salvation is its inward happiness.

~Lin Yutang

It is important that man dreams, but it is perhaps equally important that he can laugh at his own dreams.

~Lin Yutang

Only friendship which can stand occasional plain speaking is worth having.

~Lin Yutang

Today we are afraid of simple words like goodness and mercy and kindness. We don't believe in the good old words because we don't believe in good old values anymore. And that's why the world is sick.

~Lin Yutang

The three great American vices seem to be efficiency, punctuality, and the desire for achievement and success. They are the things that make the Americans so unhappy and so nervous.

~Lin Yutang

All women's dresses, in every age and country, are merely variations on the eternal struggle between the admitted desire to dress and the unadmitted desire to undress.

~Lin Yutang

No child is born with a really cold heart, and it is only in proportion as we lose that youthful heart that we lose the inner warmth in ourselves.

~Lin Yutang

Of all the unhappy people in the world, the unhappiest are those who have not found something they want to do.

~Lin Yutang

Simplicity is the outward sign and symbol of depth of thought.

~Lin Yutang

A tendency to fly too straight at a goal, instead of circling around it, often carries one too far.

~Lin Yutang

Life is too short to make an over-serious business out of it.

~Lin Yutang

All I know is that if God loves me only half as much as my mother does, he will not send me to Hell.

~Lin Yutang

It is not so much what you believe in that matters, as the way in which you believe it and proceed to translate that belief into action.

~Lin Yutang

Nothing matters to a man who says nothing matters.

~Lin Yutang

If there is anything we are serious about, it is neither religion nor learning, but food.

~Lin Yutang

Not until we see the richness of the Hindu mind and its essential spirituality can we understand India

~Lin Yutang

No man is inherently respectable, but all women are by nature.

~Lin Yutang

Why should man bother himself so much about salvation, unless he has a feeling of being doomed?

~Lin Yutang

Art is both creation and recreation.

~Lin Yutang

Society can exist only on the basis that there is some amount of polished lying and that no one says exactly what he thinks.

~Lin Yutang

It is not dirt but the fear of dirt which is the sign of man's degeneration, and it is dangerous to judge a man's physical and moral sanity by outside standards.

~Lin Yutang

There are no books in this world that everybody must read, but only books that a person must read at a certain time in a given place under given circumstances and at a given period of his life.

~Lin Yutang

In contrast to logic, there is common sense, or still better, the Spirit of Reasonableness.

~Lin Yutang

There is no proper time and place for reading. When the mood for reading comes, one can read anywhere

~Lin Yutang

To glorify the past and paint the future is easy, to survey the present and emerge with some light and understanding is difficult.

~Lin Yutang

Peace of mind is that mental condition in which you have accepted the worst.

~Lin Yutang

A good traveller is one who does not know where he is going to, and a perfect traveller does not know where he came from.

~Lin Yutang

Even in despair, man must laugh.

~Lin Yutang

Few men who have liberated themselves from the fear of God and the fear of death are yet able to liberate themselves from the fear of man.

~Lin Yutang

Now it is characteristic of play that one plays without reason and there must be no reason for it. Play is its own good reason.

~Lin Yutang

O wise humanity, terribly wise humanity! How inscrutable is the civilization where men toil and work and worry their hair gray to get a living and forget to play!

~Lin Yutang

Business men who are busy the whole day and immediately go to bed after supper, snoring like cows, are not likely to contribute anything to culture.

~Lin Yutang

Men resort to talking only when they haven't the power to enforce their convictions upon others.

~Lin Yutang

The most bewildering thing about man is his idea of work and the amount of work he imposes upon himself, or civilization has imposed upon him. All nature loafs, while man alone works for a living.

~Lin Yutang

The more we justify our beliefs, the more narrow-minded we become.

~Lin Yutang

The age calls for simple statements and restatements of simple truths. The prophets of doom are involved, those who would bring light must be clear.

~Lin Yutang

It is that unoccupied space which makes a room habitable, as it is our leisure hours which make life endurable.

~Lin Yutang

The human mind is a curious thing. It can take just so much and no

more.

~Lin Yutang

China is the greatest mystifying and stupefying fact in the modern world.

~Lin Yutang

He who is afraid to use an "I" in his writing will never make a good writer.

~Lin Yutang

By association with nature's enormities, a man's heart may truly grow big also.

~Lin Yutang

The dog which remembers only to bark and not to bite, and is led through the streets as a lady's pet, is only a degenerate wolf.

~Lin Yutang

A solemn funeral is inconceivable to the Chinese mind.

~Lin Yutang

Once [China] had a destiny. Once she was a conqueror. Now her greatest destiny seems to be merely to exist, to survive.

~Lin Yutang

Of the many rights of ladies, the best should be to be considered a mother.

~Lin Yutang

All human happiness is sensuous happiness.

~Lin Yutang

There is more hope in a heather rose than in all the tons of Teutonic

philosophy.

~Lin Yutang

And if the reader has no taste for what he reads, all the time is wasted

~Lin Yutang

The end of living is the true enjoyment of it.

~Lin Yutang

The only part of Christian teachings which will be truly accepted by the Chinese people is Christ's injunction to be "harmless as doves" but "wise as serpents."

~Lin Yutang

Nobody is ever misunderstood at a fireside; he may only be disagreed with.

~Lin Yutang

When we demand liberty of a person as a constitutional right, we are taking away from the officials their liberty to chop off people's heads.

~Lin Yutang

Somewhere in [China's] soul lurks the cunning of an old dog, and it is a cunning that is strangely impressive. What a strange old soul! What a great old soul!

~Lin Yutang

The fonder you are of your ideals, the greater your heartbreaks.

~Lin Yutang

We (the Chinese) eat food for its texture, the elastic or crisp effect it has on our teeth, as well as for fragrance, flavor and color.

~Lin Yutang

The greater success a man has made, the more he fears a climb down.

~Lin Yutang

Any good practical philosophy must start out with the recognition of our having a body.

~Lin Yutang

An educated man is one who has the loves and hatreds together.

~Lin Yutang

Creative work carries with it a form of intense love.

~Lin Yutang

As for international understanding, I feel that macaroni has done more for our appreciation of Italy than Mussolini.

~Lin Yutang

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