

# Marcel Proust

## Quotes

*Men, Reality, People, Art, Book, Love, Mind, Lying, Memories, Eye, Thinking,  
Suffering, Real, World, Literature, Believe, Heart, Reading, Dream, Desire*

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.

~Marcel Proust

The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes.

~Marcel Proust

Do not wait for life. Do not long for it. Be aware, always and at every moment, that the miracle is in the here and now.

~Marcel Proust

My destination is no longer a place, rather a new way of seeing.

~Marcel Proust

When you work to please others you can't succeed, but the things you do to satisfy yourself stand a chance of catching someone's interest.

~Marcel Proust

We don't receive wisdom; we must discover it for ourselves after a journey that no one can take for us or spare us.

~Marcel Proust

Remembrance of things past is not necessarily the remembrance of things as they were.

~Marcel Proust

One must never miss an opportunity of quoting things by others which are always more interesting than those one thinks up oneself.

~Marcel Proust

If we are to make reality endurable, we must all nourish a fantasy or two.

~Marcel Proust

Sometimes in this life, under the stress of an exceptional emotion, people do say what they think.

~Marcel Proust

If a little dreaming is dangerous, the cure for it is not to dream less but to dream more, to dream all the time.

~Marcel Proust

Everything great in the world comes from neurotics. They alone have founded our religions and composed our masterpieces.

~Marcel Proust

Love is a striking example of how little reality means to us.

~Marcel Proust

Happiness is beneficial for the body, but it is grief that develops the powers of the mind.

~Marcel Proust

Time, which changes people, does not alter the image we have retained of them.

~Marcel Proust

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy.

~Marcel Proust

In a separation it is the one who is not really in love who says the more tender things.

~Marcel Proust

We think and name in one world, we live and feel in another.

~Marcel Proust

Always try to keep a patch of sky above your life.

~Marcel Proust

There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favorite book.

~Marcel Proust

The only true voyage of discovery, . . . would be not to visit strange lands but to possess other eyes.

~Marcel Proust

The sensitiveness claimed by neurotic is matched by their egotism: they cannot abide the flaunting by others of the sufferings to which they pay an even increasing amount of attention in themselves.

~Marcel Proust

The bonds that unite another person to our self exist only in our mind.

~Marcel Proust

Like everybody who is not in love, he thought one chose the person to be loved after endless deliberations and on the basis of particular qualities or advantages.

~Marcel Proust

A photograph acquires something of the dignity which it ordinarily lacks when it ceases to be a reproduction of reality and shows us things that no longer exist.

~Marcel Proust

Even though our lives wander, our memories remain in one place.

~Marcel Proust

Like a kaleidoscope which is every now and then given a turn, society arranges successively in different orders elements which one would have supposed immutable, and composes a new pattern.

~Marcel Proust

Le temps qui change les e" tres ne modifie pas l'image que nous avons garde e d'eux. Although time changes people, it cannot change the image we have already made of them.

~Marcel Proust

As long as men are free to ask what they must, free to say what they think, free to think what they will, freedom can never be lost and science can never regress.

~Marcel Proust

A change in the weather is sufficient to recreate the world and ourselves.

~Marcel Proust

Nine tenths of the ills from which intelligent people suffer spring from their intellect.

~Marcel Proust

The creation of the world did not occur at the beginning of time, it occurs every day.

~Marcel Proust

Thanks to art, instead of seeing one world, our own, we see it multiplied and as many original artists as there are, so many worlds are at our disposal.

~Marcel Proust

To write that essential book, a great writer does not need to invent it but merely to translate it, since it already exists in each one of us. The duty and task of a writer are those of translator.

~Marcel Proust

The time at our disposal each day is elastic; the passions we feel dilate it, those that inspire us shrink it, and habit fills it.

~Marcel Proust

Love...., ever unsatisfied, lives always in the moment that is about to come.

~Marcel Proust

We are healed of a suffering only by experiencing it to the full.

~Marcel Proust

Love is space and time measured by the heart.

~Marcel Proust

It comes so soon, the moment when there is nothing left to wait for.

~Marcel Proust

We must never be afraid to go too far, for truth lies beyond.

~Marcel Proust

Even from the simplest, the most realistic point of view, the countries which we long for occupy, at any given moment, a far larger place in our actual life than the country in which we happen to be.

~Marcel Proust

Your soul is a dark forest. But the trees are of a particular species, they are genealogical trees.

~Marcel Proust

Desire makes everything blossom; possession makes everything wither and fade.

~Marcel Proust

An hour is not merely an hour, it is a vase full of scents and sounds and

projects and climates.

~Marcel Proust

Instead of seeking new landscapes, develop new eyes.

~Marcel Proust

A fashionable milieu is one in which everybody's opinion is made up of the opinion of all the others. Has everybody a different opinion? Then it is a literary milieu.

~Marcel Proust

She's got feet like boats, whiskers like an American, and her undies are filthy.

~Marcel Proust

The memory of a particular image is but regret for a particular moment.

~Marcel Proust

We do not succeed in changing things according to our desire, but gradually our desire changes.

~Marcel Proust

The bonds that unite us to another human being are sanctified when he or she adopts the same point of view as ourselves in judging one of our imperfections.

~Marcel Proust

Love is a reciprocal torture.

~Marcel Proust

In his younger days a man dreams of possessing the heart of the woman whom he loves; later, the feeling that he possesses the heart of a woman may be enough to make him fall in love with her.

~Marcel Proust

It is often hard to bear the tears that we ourselves have caused.

~Marcel Proust

If only for the sake of elegance, I try to remain morally pure.

~Marcel Proust

Time passes, and little by little everything that we have spoken in falsehood becomes true.

~Marcel Proust

We are at times too ready to believe that the present is the only possible state of things.

~Marcel Proust

Just as those who practice the same profession recognize each other instinctively, so do those who practice the same vice.

~Marcel Proust

It is always during a passing state of mind that we make lasting resolutions.

~Marcel Proust

Illness is the doctor to whom we pay most heed; to kindness, to knowledge, we make promise only; pain we obey.

~Marcel Proust

People wish to learn to swim and at the same time to keep one foot on the ground.

~Marcel Proust

A little insomnia is not without its value in making us appreciate sleep, in throwing a ray of light upon that darkness.

~Marcel Proust



The only paradise is paradise lost.

~Marcel Proust

When from a long distant past nothing subsists after the things are broken and scattered, the smell and taste of things remain.

~Marcel Proust

Perfume is that last and best reserve of the past, the one which when all our tears have run dry, can make us cry again!

~Marcel Proust

Our worst fears, like our greatest hopes, are not outside our powers, and we can come in the end to triumph over the former and to achieve the latter.

~Marcel Proust

There comes in all our lives a time ... when the ears can listen to no music save what the moonlight breathes through the flute of silence.

~Marcel Proust

It is not because other people are dead that our affection for them grows faint, it is because we ourselves are dying.

~Marcel Proust

A woman one loves rarely suffices for all our needs, so we deceive her with another whom we do not love.

~Marcel Proust

A work in which there are theories is like an object which still has the ticket that shows its price.

~Marcel Proust

There are optical illusions in time as well as space.

~Marcel Proust

Desire makes everything blossom

~Marcel Proust

Like many intellectuals, he was incapable of saying a simple thing in a simple way.

~Marcel Proust

A woman whom we need and who makes us suffer elicits from us a whole gamut of feelings far more profound and vital than a man of genius who interests us.

~Marcel Proust

A powerful idea communicates some of its strength to him who challenges it.

~Marcel Proust

We love only what we do not wholly possess.

~Marcel Proust

All our final decisions are made in a state of mind that is not going to last.

~Marcel Proust

Reading is that fruitful miracle of a communication in the midst of solitude.

~Marcel Proust

An hour or so later he received a note from Odette. Swann had left his cigarette case at her house. "If only," she wrote, "you had also forgotten your heart! I should never have let you have it back.

~Marcel Proust

Human altruism which is not egoism, is sterile.

~Marcel Proust

Our passions shape our books, repose writes them in the intervals.

~Marcel Proust

The true voyage of discovery is not a journey to a new place; it is learning to see with new eyes.

~Marcel Proust

...a writer's works, like the water in an artesian well, mount to a height which is in proportion to the depth to which suffering has penetrated his soul.

~Marcel Proust

Masterpieces are no more than the shipwrecked flotsam of great minds.

~Marcel Proust

It is always thus, impelled by a state of mind which is destined not to last, we make our irrevocable decisions

~Marcel Proust

To be an artist is to fail, as no other dare to fail... failure is his world and the shrink from it desertion

~Marcel Proust

The moments of the past do not remain still; they retain in our memory the motion which drew them towards the future, towards a future which has itself become the past, and draw us on in their train.

~Marcel Proust

We live not alone but chained to a creature of a different kingdom: our body.

~Marcel Proust

Habit is a second nature which prevents us from knowing the first, of

which it has neither the cruelties nor the enchantments.

~Marcel Proust

Only by art can we get outside ourselves, instead of seeing only one world, our own, we see it under multiple forms.

~Marcel Proust

Illness is the most heeded of doctors: to goodness and wisdom we only make promises; pain we obey.

~Marcel Proust

There's nothing like desire to prevent the things one says from having any resemblance to the things in one's mind.

~Marcel Proust

The inertia of the mind urges it to slide down the easy slope of imagination, rather than to climb the steep slope of introspection.

~Marcel Proust

A cathedral, a wave of a storm, a dancer's leap, never turn out to be as high as we had hoped.

~Marcel Proust

At the heart of our friendly or purely social relations, there lurks a hostility momentarily cured but recurring by fits and starts.

~Marcel Proust

A language which we do not know is a fortress sealed.

~Marcel Proust

Adultery breathes new life into marriages which have been left for dead.

~Marcel Proust

...the nose is generally the organ in which stupidity is most readily displayed.

~Marcel Proust

The opinions which we hold of one another, our relations with friends and kinsfolk are in no sense permanent, save in appearance, but are as eternally fluid as the sea itself.

~Marcel Proust

People don't know when they are happy. They're never so unhappy as they think they are.

~Marcel Proust

The fixity of a habit is generally in direct proportion to its absurdity.

~Marcel Proust

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