

Martial Quotes

*Men, Life, Giving, Wise, Wish, Past, Too Late, Joy, Writing, Book, Believe,
Hands, Adversity, Art, Long, Lasts, Good Man, May, Wealth, Bird*

Life is not merely to be alive, but to be well.

~Martial

Why do strong arms fatigue themselves with frivolous dumbbells? To dig a vineyard is worthier exercise for men.

~Martial

There is nothing more revolting than an old busybody.

~Martial

Rarity gives a charm; so early fruits and winter roses are the most prized; and coyness sets off an extravagant mistress, while the door always open tempts no suitor.

~Martial

I would not miss your face, your neck, your hands, your limbs, your bosom and certain other of your charms. Indeed, not to become boring by naming them all, I could do without you, Chloe, altogether.

~Martial

Tomorrow's life is too late. Live today.

~Martial

There is no living with thee, nor without thee.

~Martial

Remember, cobbler, to keep to your leather. [Lat., Memento, in pellicula, cerdo, tenere tuo.]

~Martial

Conceal a flaw, and the world will imagine the worst.

~Martial

He who writes distichs, wishes, I suppose, to please by brevity. But, tell

me, of what avail is their brevity, when there is a whose book full of them?

~Martial

Wine and women bring misery.

~Martial

There is no glory in outstripping donkeys.

~Martial

The African lions rush to attack bulls; they do not attack butterflies.
[Lat., In tauros Libyci ruunt leones; Non sunt papilionibus molesti.]

~Martial

He who weighs his burdens, can bear them.

~Martial

Be merry if you are wise.

~Martial

You're obstinate, pliant, merry, morose, all at once. For me there's no living with you, or without you.

~Martial

Givers of great dinners know few enemies.

~Martial

The bee is enclosed, and shines preserved in amber, so that it seems enshrined in its own nectar.

~Martial

Believing hear, what you deserve to hear: Your birthday as my own to me is dear... But yours gives most; for mine did only lend Me to the world; yours gave to me a friend.

~Martial

He writes nothing whose writings are not read.

~Martial

It is easy in adversity to despise death; he has real fortitude who dares to live and be wretched.

~Martial

Virtue extends our days: he lives two lives who relives his past with pleasure.

~Martial

A man who lives everywhere lives nowhere.

~Martial

It is feeling and force of imagination that make us eloquent.

~Martial

If fame is to come only after death, I am in no hurry for it.

~Martial

If your slave commits a fault, do not smash his teeth with your fists; give him some of the (hard) biscuit which famous Rhodes has sent you.

~Martial

Spare the person but lash the vice.

~Martial

She grieves sincerely who grieves unseen.

~Martial

Whoever makes great presents, expects great presents in return.

~Martial

I believe that man to be wretched whom none can please.

~Martial

He who prefers to give Linus the half of what he wishes to borrow, rather than to lend him the whole, prefers to lose only the half.

~Martial

A good man enlarges the term of his own existence.

~Martial

My poems are naughty, but my life is pure.

~Martial

Can the fish love the fisherman? [Lat., Piscatorem piscis amare potest?]

~Martial

Live thy life as it were spoil and pluck the joys that fly.

~Martial

Whoever is not too wise is wise. [Lat., Quisquis plus justo non sapit, ille sapit.]

~Martial

Fortune gives too much to many, enough to none.

~Martial

The face that cannot smile is never fair.

~Martial

If fame comes after death, I'm in no hurry for it. [Lat., Si post fata venit gloria non propero.]

~Martial

The swan murmurs sweet strains with a flattering tongue, itself the singer of its own dirge.

~Martial

However great the dish that holds the turbot, the turbot is still greater than the dish.

~Martial

Your page stands against you and says to you that you are a thief.

~Martial

The flaw which is hidden is deemed greater than it is.

~Martial

Fortune gives many too much, but none enough.

~Martial

In adversity it is easy to despise life; he is truly brave who can endure a wretched life

~Martial

Service cannot be expected from a friend in service; let him be a freeman who wishes to be my master.

~Martial

There is nothing more contemptible than a bald man who pretends to have hair.

~Martial

In adversity it is easy to despise life; he is truly brave who can endure a wretched life. [Lat., Rebus in angustis facile est contemnere vitam; Fortiter ille facit qui miser esse potest.]

~Martial

When your crowd of attendants so loudly applaud you, Pomponius, it is not you, but your banquet, that is eloquent.

~Martial

Nothing is more ill-timed than an ill-timed laugh.

~Martial

It is not he who forms idols in gold or marble that makes them gods, but he who kneels before them.

~Martial

I have granted you much that you asked: and yet you never cease to ask of me. He who refuses nothing, Atticilla, will soon have nothing to refuse.

~Martial

From no place can you exclude the fates. [Lat., *Nulla fata loco possis excludere.*]

~Martial

You crystal break, for fear of breaking it: Careless and careful hands like faults commit.

~Martial

Be content to be what you are, and prefer nothing to it, and do not fear or wish for your last day.

~Martial

If you have any shame, forbear to pluck the beard of a dead lion.

~Martial

One genius has made many clever artists.

~Martial

You give me nothing during your life, but you promise to provide for me at your death. If you are not a fool, you know what I wish for!

~Martial

Every epigram should resemble a bee; it should have sting, honey, and brevity.

~Martial

That which prevents disagreeable flies from feeding on your repast, was once the proud tail of a splendid bird.

~Martial

Who gives to friends so much from Fate secures, That is the only wealth for ever yours. [Lat., Extra fortunam est, quidquid donatur amicis; Quas dederis, selas semper habebis opes.]

~Martial

Gifts are like fish-hooks; for who is not aware that the greedy char is deceived by the fly which he swallows?

~Martial

Short is the life of those who possess great accomplishments, and seldom do they reach a good old age. Whatever thou lovest, pray that thou mayest not set too high a value on it.

~Martial

Work divided is in that manner shortened.

~Martial

If my opinion is of any worth, the fieldfare is the greatest delicacy among birds, the hare among quadrupeds.

~Martial

Life's not just about being alive, but being well.

~Martial

See, how the liver is swollen larger than a fat goose! In amazement you will exclaim: Where could this possibly grow?

~Martial

I am a shell-fish just come from being saturated with the waters of the Lucrine lake, near Baiae; but now I luxuriously thrust for noble pickle.

~Martial

I seem to you cruel and too much addicted to gluttony, when I beat my cook for sending up a bad dinner. If that appears to you too trifling a cause, say for what cause you would have a cook flogged.

~Martial

Every bird that upwards swings Bears the Cross upon its wings.

~Martial

What quick wit is found in sudden straits!

~Martial

I do not like the man who squanders life for fame; give me the man who living makes a name. [Lat., Nolo virum facili redimit qui sanquine famam; Hunc volo laudari qui sine morte potest.]

~Martial

I'm what I seem; not any dyer gave, But nature dyed this colour that I have.

~Martial

Man loves malice, but not against one-eyed men nor the unfortunate, but against the fortunate and proud.

~Martial

While you remain at home your hair is at the hairdresser's; you take out your teeth at night and sleep tucked away in a hundred cosmetics boxes - even your face does not sleep with you.

~Martial

A cook should double one sense have: for he Should taster for himself and master be.

~Martial

You should not fear, nor yet should you wish for your last day.

~Martial

What's a wretched man? A man whom no man pleases.

~Martial

You are sad in the midst of every blessing. Take care that Fortune does not observe--or she will call you ungrateful.

~Martial

You are so pure in mind and heart, In aspect, too, so mild, I wonder that you ever could Implant your wife with child.

~Martial

Joys do not stay, but take wing and fly away.

~Martial

Life is not living, but living in health.

~Martial

You praise, in three hundred verses, Sabellus, the baths of Ponticus, who gives such excellent dinners. You wish to dine, Sabellus, not to bathe.

~Martial

If you want him to mourn, you had best leave him nothing.

~Martial

A vagrant is everywhere at home.

~Martial

If you are poor now, Aemilianus, you will always be poor. Riches are now given to none but the rich.

~Martial

To have nothing is not poverty. [Lat., Non est paupertas, Nestor, habere nihil.]

~Martial

While an ant was wandering under the shade of the tree of Phaeton, a drop of amber enveloped the tiny insect; thus she, who in life was disregarded, became precious by death.

~Martial

I won't let a wife lead me to the altar. [I will not have a wife that shall be my master.]

~Martial

If pale beans bubble for you in a red earthenware pot, you can often decline the dinners of sumptuous hosts.

~Martial

A fisherman's walk: three steps and overboard.

~Martial

Some good, some so-so, and lots plain bad: that's how a book of poems is made, my Friend.

~Martial

It is as good as second life to be able to look back upon our past life with pleasure

~Martial

Gifts are like hooks.

~Martial

You admire, Vacerra, only the poets of old and praise only those who are dead. Pardon me, I beseech you, Vacerra, if I think death too high a price to pay for your praise.

~Martial

Genuine is the sorrow endured without anyone else knowing about it.

~Martial

You may envy every one, but no one envies you.

~Martial

They let out on hire their passions and eloquence. [Referring to lawyers.]

~Martial

Hidden evils are most dreaded.

~Martial

A good man doubles the length of his existence; to have lived so as to look back with pleasure on our past existence is to live twice.

~Martial

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