

# Maurice Maeterlinck

## Quotes

*Men, Soul, Happiness, Death, Flower, May, Life, Love, Wisdom, World, Events,  
Justice, Past, Dog, Joy, Masters, Lying, Giving, Thinking, Years*

Do we not all spend the greater part of our lives under the shadow of an event that has not yet come to pass?.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

An act of goodness is of itself an act of happiness.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Happiness is rarely absent; it is we that know not of its presence.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

If the bee disappeared off the face of the earth, man would only have four years left to live.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

How strangely do we diminish a thing as soon as we try to express it in words.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

The living are just the dead on holiday

~Maurice Maeterlinck

We are never the same with others as when we are alone. We are different, even when we are in the dark with them.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Many a happiness in life, a many a disaster, is due to chance alone; but the peace within us can never be governed by chance.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

At every crossroads on the path that leads to the future, tradition has placed 10,000 men to guard the past.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

An act of goodness is of itself an act of happiness. No reward coming

after the event can compare with the sweet reward that went with it.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

We possess only the happiness we able to understand.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Wisdom requires no form; her beauty must vary, as varies the beauty of flame. She is no motionless goddess, for ever couched on her throne.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

All our knowledge merely helps us to die a more painful death than animals that know nothing.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

When we lose one we love, our bitterest tears are called forth by the memory of hours when we loved not enough.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

At every crossroad on the way that leads to the future, each progressive spirit is opposed by a thousand men appointed to guard the past.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

To be happy is only to have freed one's soul from the unrest of unhappiness.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Remember that happiness is as contagious as gloom. It should be the first duty of those who are happy to let others know of their gladness.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Can we conceive what humanity would be if it did not know the flowers?

~Maurice Maeterlinck

To have known how to change the past into a few saddened smiles-is this not to master the future?

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Nothing in the whole world is so athirst for beauty as the soul, nor is there anything to which beauty clings so readily.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

We can never judge a soul above the high water mark of our own.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Happiness will never be any greater than the idea we have of it.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

All mothers are rich when they love their children. There are no poor mothers, no ugly ones, no old ones. Their love is always the most beautiful of joys.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

To be good we must needs have suffered; but perhaps it is necessary to have caused suffering before we can become better.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Our reason may prove what it will: our reason is only a feeble ray that has issued from Nature.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

They think that nothing will happen because they have closed their doors, and they do not know that it is in the soul that things always happen, and that the world does not end at their hosedoor.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

I count only the hours that are serene.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

I have never for one instant seen clearly within myself. How then would you have me judge the deeds of others?

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Each man has to seek out his own special aptitude for a higher life in the midst of the humble and inevitable reality of daily existence. Than this, there can be no nobler aim in life.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

The dog who meets with a good master is the happier of the two.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

If you love yourself meanly, childishly, timidly, even so shall you love your neighbor.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

It is the evil that lies in ourselves that is ever least tolerant of the evil that dwells within others.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

In any event, a truth that disheartens, because it is true, is still of far more value than the most stimulating of falsehoods.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

You do well to have visions of a better life than of every day, but it is the life of every day from which the elements of a better life must come.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

It is not from reason that justice springs, but goodness is born of wisdom.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

It is death that is the guide of our life, and our life has no goal but death.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

I have done what I could do in life, and if I could not do better, I did not deserve it. In vain I have tried to step beyond what bound me.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

An obstacle is not a discouragement. It may become one, but only with our own consent. So long as we refuse to be discouraged, we cannot be discouraged.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

And on this earth of ours there are but few souls that can withstand the dominion of the soul that has suffered itself to become beautiful.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

What man is there that does not laboriously, though all unconsciously, himself fashion the sorrow that is to be the pivot of his life.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

To disdain today is to prove that yesterday has been misunderstood.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

There is no soul that does not respond to love, for the soul of man is a guest that has gone hungry these centuries back.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Justice is the very last thing of all wherewith the universe concerns itself. It is equilibrium that absorbs its attention.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

The true sage is not he who sees, but he who, seeing the furthest, has the deepest love for mankind.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Men's weaknesses are often necessary to the purposes of life.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

It's good to slowly come to the realization that you understand nothing.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

I am moved by the light.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

The hour of justice does not strike On the dials of this world.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

The thoughts you think will irradiate you as though you are a transparent vase.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Physical suffering apart, not a single sorrow exists that can touch us except through our thoughts.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

The future is a world limited by ourselves; in it we discover only what concerns us and, sometimes, by chance, what interests those whom we love the most.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

The manner in which the hours of freedom are spent determines, no less than labor and war, the moral worth of a nation.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

There comes no adventure but wears to our soul the shape of our everyday thoughts.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

The value of ourselves is but the value of our melancholy and our

disquiet.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

It is far more important that one's life should be perceived than that it should be transformed; for no sooner has it been perceived, than it transforms itself of its own accord.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

It is only in the space that our thoughts and our feelings enclose that our happiness can breathe in freedom.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

He who sees without loving is only straining his eyes in the darkness.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Once at a potent leader's voice I stayed; Once I went back when a good monarch prayed; Mortals, howe'er we grieve, howe'er deplore, The flying shadow will return no more.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

No great inner event befalls those who summon it not

~Maurice Maeterlinck

Sacrifice may be a flower that virtue will pluck on its road, but it was not to gather this flower that virtue set forth on its travels.

~Maurice Maeterlinck

The souls of all our brethren are ever hovering about us, craving for a caress, and only waiting for the signal.

~Maurice Maeterlinck



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