

# Michel de Montaigne Quotes

*Men, Book, Soul, Life, Mind, World, Giving, Self, Opinion, Art, Wisdom, People,  
Death, Inspirational, Law, Children, Educational, Lying, Wise, Thinking*

The value of life lies not in the length of days, but in the use we make of them... Whether you find satisfaction in life depends not on your tale of years, but on your will.

~Michel de Montaigne

Valor is stability, not of legs and arms, but of courage and the soul.

~Michel de Montaigne

The greatest thing in the world is to know how to belong to oneself.

~Michel de Montaigne

A man who fears suffering is already suffering from what he fears.

~Michel de Montaigne

My life has been full of terrible misfortunes most of which never happened.

~Michel de Montaigne

There is no conversation more boring than the one where everybody agrees.

~Michel de Montaigne

A good marriage would be between a blind wife and a deaf husband.

~Michel de Montaigne

~The value of life lies not in the length of days, but in the use we make of them ~

~Michel de Montaigne

Experience has taught me this, that we undo ourselves by impatience. Misfortunes have their life and their limits, their sickness and their health.

~Michel de Montaigne

Marriage is like a cage; one sees the birds outside desperate to get in, and those inside equally desperate to get out.

~Michel de Montaigne

The most certain sign of wisdom is cheerfulness.

~Michel de Montaigne

We are all patchwork, and so shapeless and diverse in composition that each bit, each moment, plays its own game.

~Michel de Montaigne

The most fruitful and natural exercise for our minds is, in my opinion, conversation.

~Michel de Montaigne

There is nothing more notable in Socrates than that he found time, when he was an old man, to learn music and dancing, and thought it time well spent.

~Michel de Montaigne

The daughter-in-law of Pythagoras said that a woman who goes to bed with a man ought to lay aside her modesty with her skirt, and put it on again with her petticoat

~Michel de Montaigne

Man is quite insane. He wouldn't know how to create a maggot, and he creates Gods by the dozen.

~Michel de Montaigne

It is good to rub and polish our brain against that of others.

~Michel de Montaigne

Every man has within himself the entire human condition

~Michel de Montaigne

I prefer the company of peasants because they have not been educated sufficiently to reason incorrectly.

~Michel de Montaigne

Stubborn and ardent clinging to one's opinion is the best proof of stupidity.

~Michel de Montaigne

No pleasure has any savor for me without communication.

~Michel de Montaigne

The soul which has no fixed purpose in life is lost; to be everywhere, is to be nowhere.

~Michel de Montaigne

We can be knowledgeable with other men's knowledge, but we cannot be wise with other men's wisdom.

~Michel de Montaigne

Make your educational laws strict and your criminal ones can be gentle; but if you leave youth its liberty you will have to dig dungeons for ages.

~Michel de Montaigne

When I quote others I do so in order to express my own ideas more clearly.

~Michel de Montaigne

I want death to find me planting my cabbages.

~Michel de Montaigne

On the highest throne in the world, we still sit only on our own bottom.

~Michel de Montaigne

Lend yourself to others, but give yourself to yourself.

~Michel de Montaigne

When I play with my cat, who knows whether she is not amusing herself with me more than I with her.

~Michel de Montaigne

A man must become wise at his own expense.

~Michel de Montaigne

My home...It is my retreat and resting place from wars, I try to keep this corner as a haven against the tempest outside, as I do another corner in my soul.

~Michel de Montaigne

I care not so much what I am to others as what I am to myself. I will be rich by myself, and not by borrowing.

~Michel de Montaigne

There is, nevertheless, a certain respect and a general duty of humanity that ties us, not only to beasts that have life and sense, but even to trees and plants.

~Michel de Montaigne

He who establishes his argument by noise and command shows that his reason is weak.

~Michel de Montaigne

There is no more expensive thing than a free gift.

~Michel de Montaigne

There are some defeats more triumphant than victories.

~Michel de Montaigne

Not being able to govern events, I govern myself.

~Michel de Montaigne

If you press me to say why I loved him, I can say no more than it was because he was he, and I was I.

~Michel de Montaigne

I know well what I am fleeing from but not what I am in search of.

~Michel de Montaigne

Nothing is so firmly believed as what we least know.

~Michel de Montaigne

When all is summed up, a man never speaks of himself without loss; his accusations of himself are always believed; his praises never.

~Michel de Montaigne

Age imprints more wrinkles in the mind than it does on the face.

~Michel de Montaigne

Confidence in the goodness of another is good proof of one's own goodness.

~Michel de Montaigne

Excellent memories are often coupled with feeble judgments.

~Michel de Montaigne

Our great and glorious masterpiece is to live appropriately.

~Michel de Montaigne

The public weal requires that men should betray, and lie, and massacre.

~Michel de Montaigne

The souls of emperors and cobblers are cast in the same mold...The

same reason that makes us wrangle with a neighbor creates a war betwixt princes.

~Michel de Montaigne

Man is the sole animal whose nudities offend his own companions, and the only one who, in his natural actions, withdraws and hides himself from his own kind.

~Michel de Montaigne

I have never seen a greater monster or miracle in the world than myself.

~Michel de Montaigne

I know that the arms of friendship are long enough to reach from the one end of the world to the other

~Michel de Montaigne

True freedom is to have power over oneself for everything.

~Michel de Montaigne

I quote others only in order the better to express myself.

~Michel de Montaigne

Of all our infirmities, the most savage is to despise our being.

~Michel de Montaigne

Man in sooth is a marvellous, vain, fickle, and unstable subject.

~Michel de Montaigne

I speak the truth, not my fill of it, but as much as I dare speak; and I dare to do so a little more as I grow old.

~Michel de Montaigne

Rejoice in the things that are present; all else is beyond thee.

~Michel de Montaigne

The lack of wealth is easily repaired but the poverty of the soul is irreplaceable.

~Michel de Montaigne

I am myself the matter of my book.

~Michel de Montaigne

When I am attached by gloomy thoughts, nothing helps me so much as running to my books. They quickly absorb me and banish the clouds from my mind.

~Michel de Montaigne

I enjoy books as misers enjoy treasures, because I know I can enjoy them whenever I please.

~Michel de Montaigne

We must learn to suffer what we cannot evade.

~Michel de Montaigne

He who does not live in some degree for others, hardly lives for himself.

~Michel de Montaigne

It is not necessity but abundance which produces greed.

~Michel de Montaigne

If you don't know how to die, don't worry; Nature will tell you what to do on the spot, fully and adequately. She will do this job perfectly for you; don't bother your head about it.

~Michel de Montaigne

Princes give mee sufficiently, if they take nothing from me, and doe me



much good, if they doe me no hurt: it is all I require of them.

~Michel de Montaigne

We do not know where death awaits us: so let us wait for it everywhere. To practice death is to practice freedom. A man who has learned how to die has unlearned how to be a slave.

~Michel de Montaigne

Kings and philosophers defecate, and so do ladies.

~Michel de Montaigne

A man must keep a little back shop where he can be himself without reserve. In solitude alone can he know true freedom.

~Michel de Montaigne

The pleasantest things in the world are pleasant thoughts, and the great art of life is to have as many of them as possible.

~Michel de Montaigne

The souls of emperors and cobblers are cast in the same mould

~Michel de Montaigne

There is no wish more natural than the wish to know.

~Michel de Montaigne

Nothing fixes a thing so intensely in the memory as the wish to forget it.

~Michel de Montaigne

Once conform, once do what others do because they do it, and a kind of lethargy steals over all the finer senses of the soul.

~Michel de Montaigne

Valor is strength, not of legs and arms, but of heart and soul; it consists

not in the worth of our horse or our weapons, but in our own.

~Michel de Montaigne

It is in the enjoyment and not in mere possession that makes for happiness.

~Michel de Montaigne

It is a sign of contraction of the mind when it is content, or of weariness. A spirited mind never stops within itself; it is always aspiring and going beyond its strength.

~Michel de Montaigne

Only the fools are certain and assured.

~Michel de Montaigne

I have often seen people uncivil by too much civility, and tiresome in their courtesy.

~Michel de Montaigne

Lying is a terrible vice, it testifies that one despises God, but fears men.

~Michel de Montaigne

Wise men have more to learn of fools than fools of wise men.

~Michel de Montaigne

Learned we may be with another man's learning: we can only be wise with wisdom of our own.

~Michel de Montaigne

It is the part of cowardliness, and not of virtue, to seek to squat itself in some hollow lurking hole, or to hide herself under some massive tomb, thereby to shun the strokes of fortune.

~Michel de Montaigne

The only thing certain is nothing is certain.

~Michel de Montaigne

If there is such a thing as a good marriage, it is because it resembles friendship rather than love.

~Michel de Montaigne

We trouble our life by thoughts about death, and our death by thoughts about life.

~Michel de Montaigne

A man should not so much respect what he eats, as with whom he eats.

~Michel de Montaigne

Things are not bad in themselves, but our cowardice makes them so.

~Michel de Montaigne

Let us permit nature to have her way. She understands her business better than we do.

~Michel de Montaigne

Don't discuss yourself, for you are bound to lose; if you belittle yourself, you are believed; if you praise yourself, you are disbelieved.

~Michel de Montaigne

We judge a horse not only by its pace on a racecourse, but also by its walk, nay, when resting in its stable.

~Michel de Montaigne

A man should ever, as much as in him lieth, be ready booted to take his journey, and above all things look he have then nothing to do but with himself.

~Michel de Montaigne

No wind serves him who addresses his voyage to no certain port.

~Michel de Montaigne

If I speak of myself in different ways, that is because I look at myself in different ways.

~Michel de Montaigne

It is in vain that we get upon stilts, for once on them, it is still with our legs that we must walk. And on the highest throne in the world we are still sitting on our own ass.

~Michel de Montaigne

We are more unhappy to see people ahead of us than happy to see people behind us.

~Michel de Montaigne

There is no man so good, who, were he to submit all his thoughts and actions to the laws, would not deserve hanging ten times in his life.

~Michel de Montaigne

The beautiful souls are they that are universal, open, and ready for all things.

~Michel de Montaigne

Saying is one thing and doing is another; we are to consider the sermon and the preacher distinctly and apart.

~Michel de Montaigne

We are all of us richer than we think we are; but we are taught to borrow and to beg, and brought up more to make use of what is another's than of our own.

~Michel de Montaigne

Poverty of goods is easily cured; poverty of soul, impossible.

~Michel de Montaigne

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