

Naguib Mahfouz

Quotes

*Literature, People, Writing, Believe, Nobel, Men, Home, Egypt, Stories,
Reading, Islamic, Art, Expression, Giving, Forever, Party, Love Is, Heart,
Country, Doe*

Home is not where you were born; home is where all your attempts to escape cease.

~Naguib Mahfouz

You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Fear does not prevent death. It prevents life.

~Naguib Mahfouz

It's a most distressing affliction to have a sentimental heart and a skeptical mind.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I found myself in a sea in which the waves of joy and sorrow were clashing against each other.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Madness is the acme of intelligence.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I love Sufism as I love beautiful poetry, but it is not the answer. Sufism is like a mirage in the desert. It says to you, come and sit, relax and enjoy yourself for a while.

~Naguib Mahfouz

You know what I'm afraid of? That God is sick of us.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Visit me once each year, for it's wrong to abandon people forever.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Nothing records the effects of a sad life so graphically as the human

body.

~Naguib Mahfouz

The calendar has a magic that makes us imagine a memory can be resurrected and revived, but nothing returns.

~Naguib Mahfouz

The real malady is fear of life, not of death

~Naguib Mahfouz

If you want to move people, you look for a point of sensitivity, and in Egypt nothing moves people as much as religion.

~Naguib Mahfouz

The heart is a place of secrets.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Happy is he who can give himself up.

~Naguib Mahfouz

The Arab world also won the Nobel with me. I believe that international doors have opened, and that from now on, literate people will consider Arab literature also. We deserve that recognition.

~Naguib Mahfouz

There are no heroes in most of my stories. I look at our society with a critical eye and find nothing extraordinary in the people I see.

~Naguib Mahfouz

If life has no meaning, why don't we create a meaning for it?

~Naguib Mahfouz

Excessive concern with religion seems to me a last resort for people who have been exhausted by life.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Art is a criticism of society and life, and I believe that if life became perfect, art would be meaningless and cease to exist.

~Naguib Mahfouz

"Death by love is fairer by far than death by illness", said Amenhotep III.

~Naguib Mahfouz

At my age it is unseemly to be pessimistic.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Events at home, at work, in the street - these are the bases for a story.

~Naguib Mahfouz

The writer interweaves a story with his own doubts, questions, and values. That is art.

~Naguib Mahfouz

An allegory is not meant to be taken literally. There is a great lack of comprehension on the part of some readers.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I defend both the freedom of expression and society's right to counter it. I must pay the price for differing. It is the natural way of things.

~Naguib Mahfouz

God did not intend religion to be an exercise club.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Only the poor are handicapped by honor.

~Naguib Mahfouz

According to Islamic principles, when a man is accused of heresy, he is given the choice between repentance and punishment.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I accepted the interviews and encounters that had to be held with the media, but I would have preferred to work in peace.

~Naguib Mahfouz

When will the state of the country be sound?... When its people believe that the end result of cowardice is more disastrous than that of behaving with integrity.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Literature should be more revolutionary than revolutions themselves; writers must find the means to continue to be critical of the negative elements in the sociopolitical reality.

~Naguib Mahfouz

He seemed to be waiting for a miracle to save him from the depths his life had reached and take him to a land of dreams.

~Naguib Mahfouz

We are like a woman with a difficult pregnancy. We have to rebuild the social classes in Egypt, and we must change the way things were.

~Naguib Mahfouz

History is full of people who went to prison or were burned at the stake for proclaiming their ideas. Society has always defended itself.

~Naguib Mahfouz

If the urge to write should ever leave me, I want that day to be my last.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Freedom of expression must be considered sacred and thought can

only be corrected by counter thought.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Insults are the business of the court.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I reject any path which rejects life, but I can't help loving Sufism because it sounds so beautiful. It gives relief in the midst of battle.

~Naguib Mahfouz

It's clearly more important to treat one's fellow man well than to be always praying and fasting and touching one's head to a prayer mat.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Today's interpretations of religion are often backward and contradict the needs of civilization.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I believe society has a right to defend itself, just as the individual has the right to attack that with which he disagrees.

~Naguib Mahfouz

In the calculus of good deeds you have the most to gain.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I was suffering from a peculiar and persistent sense that I was being pursued, and also the conviction that under the political order of the times, our lives had no meaning.

~Naguib Mahfouz

One effect that the Nobel Prize seems to have had is that more Arabic literary works have been translated into other languages.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I was a government employee in the morning and a writer in the evening.

~Naguib Mahfouz

As the tension eases, we must look in the direction of agriculture, industry and education as our final goals, and toward democracy under Mr Mubarak.

~Naguib Mahfouz

The criminal is trying to solve his immediate problems.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I wake up early in the morning and walk for an hour. If I have something to write, I prefer to write in the morning until midday, and in the afternoon, I eat.

~Naguib Mahfouz

My wife thought I deserved it, but I always thought the Nobel a Western prize.

~Naguib Mahfouz

We used the Western style to express our own themes and stories. But don't forget that our heritage includes The Thousand and One Nights.

~Naguib Mahfouz

It is simply not part of my culture to preserve notes. I have never heard of a writer preserving his early drafts.

~Naguib Mahfouz

The Koran and the laws of all civilized nations legislate against the vilification of religions.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I was afraid of marriage. I had the impression married life would take up

all my time. I saw myself drowning in visits and parties. No freedom.

~Naguib Mahfouz

paraphrasing.. "Science is the language of the intellect of society. Art is language of the entire human personality.

~Naguib Mahfouz

My countrymen have the right to shake my hand and talk to me if they so wish. Don't forget that their support and their reading of my works is what brought me the Nobel prize.

~Naguib Mahfouz

The Nobel Prize has given me, for the first time in my life, the feeling that my literature could be appreciated on an international level.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I've never worked in politics, never been a member of an official committee or a political party.

~Naguib Mahfouz

In Egypt today most people are concerned with getting bread to eat. Only some of the educated understand how democracy works.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I thought they would never select an Eastern writer for the Nobel. I was surprised.

~Naguib Mahfouz

We are passing through a very sensitive time, and on the whole, this country is facing very big problems.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Hosni Mubarak... his constitution is not democratic, but he is democratic. We can voice our opinions now. The press is free.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I consider Khomeini's position dangerous. He does not have the right to pass judgment-that is not the Islamic way.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Without literature my life would be miserable.

~Naguib Mahfouz

Winning Nobel imposed on me a lifestyle to which I am not used and which I would not have preferred.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I am practically in the employ of Mr. Nobel. I have to meet everyone he sends my way.

~Naguib Mahfouz

We wont develop until we accept that reading is a vital necessity.

~Naguib Mahfouz

I didn't make any money from my writing until much later. I published about 80 stories for nothing. I spent on literature.

~Naguib Mahfouz

If we reject science, we reject the common man.

~Naguib Mahfouz

A priest's life is spent between question and answer-- or between a question and the attempt to answer it. The question is the summary of the spiritual life.

~Naguib Mahfouz

It's not surprising that truly humanitarian manifestos originate frequently in minority circles or with people whose consciences are troubled by the

problems of minorities.

~Naguib Mahfouz

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