

# Nikos Kazantzakis

## Quotes

*Men, Heart, Soul, Believe, Eye, Struggle, Mean, Dream, Two, Light, Hands,  
World, Giving, Inspirational, Life, Strong, Earth, Long, Heaven, Stars*

As I watched the seagulls, I thought, That's the road to take; find the absolute rhythm and follow it with absolute trust.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

By believing passionately in something that still does not exist, we create it. The nonexistent is whatever we have not sufficiently desired.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I hope for nothing. I fear nothing. I am free.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross; then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create their own.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Since we cannot change reality, let us change the eyes which see reality.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

The only thing I know is this: I am full of wounds and still standing on my feet.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

My soul comes from better worlds and I have an incurable homesickness of the stars.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

You have your brush, you have your colors, you paint the paradise, then in you go.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I said to the almond tree, 'Sister, speak to me of God.' And the almond tree blossomed.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

A person needs a little madness, or else they never dare cut the rope and be free.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

No! No! Never acknowledge the limitations of man. Smash all boundaries! Deny whatever your eyes see. Die every moment, but say: Death does not exist.'

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Go as far as you can. Go further than you can!

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I am a weak, ephemeral creature made of mud and dream. But I feel all the powers of the universe whirling within me.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I felt once more how simple and frugal a thing is happiness: a glass of wine, a roast chestnut, a wretched little brazier, the sound of the sea. Nothing else.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

The only way to save yourself is to endeavor to save others.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Three kinds of souls, three prayers: 1) I am a bow in your hands, Lord. Draw me, lest I rot. 2) Do not overdraw me, Lord. I shall break. 3) Overdraw me, Lord, and who cares if I break.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Everything in this world has a hidden meaning.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

In religions which have lost their creative spark, the gods eventually become no more than poetic motifs or ornaments for decorating human solitude and walls.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

How simple and frugal a thing is happiness.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

God changes his appearance every second. Blessed is the man who can recognize him in all his disguises.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

To succeed, you must first believe you can.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Be always restless, unsatisfied, unconforming. Whenever a habit becomes convenient, smash it! The greatest sin of all is satisfaction.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

You can knock on a deaf man's door forever.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Every perfect traveler always creates the country where he travels.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

There is no harsher means of punishment, than to answer malice with kindness.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

The heart unites whatever the mind separates, pushes on beyond the arena of necessity and transmutes the struggle into love.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

As long as there are flowers and children and birds in the world, have no fears: everything will be fine.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

The more devils we have within us, the more chance we have to form angels.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

When everyone drowns and I'm the only one to escape, God is protecting me. When everyone else is saved and I'm the only one to drown, God is protecting me then too.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

What a strange machine man is! You fill him with bread, wine, fish, and radishes, and out comes sighs, laughter, and dreams.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

The real meaning of enlightenment is to gaze with undimmed eyes on all darkness.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Be sure to live up to your reputation for honesty and goodness, because many souls who believe you to be honest and good have placed themselves in your hands.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Life is trouble. Only death is not. To be alive is to undo your belt and \*look\* for trouble.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

My principle anguish and the source of all my joys and sorrows from my youth onward has been the incessant, merciless battle between the spirit and the flesh.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

As you walk, you cut open and create that river bed into which the stream of your descendants shall enter and flow.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Happy is the man, I thought, who, before dying, has the good fortune to sail the Aegean sea.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

the highest point a man can attain is not Knowledge, or Virtue, or Goodness, or Victory, but something even greater, more heroic and more despairing: Sacred Awe!

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Reach what you cannot

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Time is round, and it rolls quickly.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

The canary is like a man's soul. It sees bars around it, but instead of despairing, it sings.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I collect my tools: sight, smell, touch, taste, hearing, intellect. Night has fallen.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

The truth is that we all are one, that all of us together create god, that god is not man's ancestor, but his descendant.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

All those who actually live the mysteries of life haven't the time to write, and all those who have the time don't live them! D'you see?

~Nikos Kazantzakis

If a woman sleeps alone it puts a shame on all men. God has a very big heart, but there is one sin He will not forgive. If a woman calls a man to her bed and he will not go.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

It doesn't matter whether or not you have a head, you must wear the right sort of hat

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I felt this was my duty, my sole duty: to reconcile the irreconcilables, to draw the thick ancestral darkness out of my loins and transform it, to the best of my ability, into light.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

There is only one sin god will not forgive Boss, and that is to deny a woman who is in wanting ~ Zorba

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Ah, if you could dance all that you've just said, then I'd understand.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

The ultimate, most holy form of theory is action.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

When I encounter a sunrise, a painting, a woman, or an idea that makes my heart bound like a young calf, then I know I am standing in front of happiness.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

We're going to start with small, easy things; then, little by little we shall try our hand at the big things. And after that, after we finish the big things, we shall undertake the impossible.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Beauty always had a purpose: to be of service to life.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I said only one word, brought only one message: Love. Love - nothing else.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Inexperience loves to preach.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

You gave me your curse, holy Fathers. I give you a blessing: May you be as moral and religious as I am.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Only after I've seen the visible can I imagine what the invisible is.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Every word is an adamantine shell which encloses a great explosive force. To discover its meaning you must let it burst inside you like a bomb and in this way liberate the soul which it imprisons.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

The sole way to save oneself is to save others. Or to struggle to save others -even that is sufficient.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Every man has his folly, but the greatest folly of all is not to have one.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I possess no weapon but love. With that I have come to do battle. Help me!

~Nikos Kazantzakis



A woman's body is a dark and monstrous mystery; between her supple thighs a heavy whirlpool swirls, two rivers crash, and woe to him who slips and falls!

~Nikos Kazantzakis

The doors of heaven and hell are adjacent and identical.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I know now: I do not hope for anything. I do not fear anything, I have freed myself from both the mind and the heart, I have mounted much higher, I am free .

~Nikos Kazantzakis

What happiness this is: to fly, skimming over the earth just as we do in our dreams! Life has become a dream. Can this be the meaning of paradise?

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Each man must have his own special route to lead him to God.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Man is able, and has the duty, to reach the furthest point on the road he has chosen. Only by means of hope can we attain what is beyond hope.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

For I realize today that it is a mortal sin to violate the great laws of nature. We should not hurry, we should not be impatient, but we should confidently obey the eternal rhythm.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

By believing passionately in that which doesn't exist, you create it and that which has not been sufficiently desired is what we call the non-existent.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

No wide road leads to God.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Freedom was my first great desire. The second, which remains hidden within me to this day, tormenting me, was the desire for sanctity. Hero together with saint: such is mankind's supreme model.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

To cleave that sea [the Aegean] in the gentle autumnal season, murmuring the name of each islet, is to my mind the joy most apt to transport the heart of man into paradise.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I surrender myself to everything. I love, I feel pain, I struggle. The world seems to me wider than the mind, my heart a dark and almighty mystery.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Throughout my life, my greatest benefactors have been my dreams and my travels; very few men, living or dead, have helped me in my struggle.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Let your youth have free reign, it won't come again, so be bold and no repenting.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Never in my life have I feared death as much as I feared that resurrection.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

My entire soul is a cry, and all my work is a commentary on that cry.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Two equally steep and bold paths may lead to the same peak. To act as if death did not exist, or to act thinking every minute of death, is perhaps the same thing.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Yes, there is weeping, even in heaven, but it is for those who are still crawling on the earth.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Every obstacle in his journey became a milestone, an occasion for further triumph. We have a model in front of us now, a model who blazes our trail and gives us strength.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

God, what is all this talk put out by the popes? Paradise is here, my good man. God, give me no other paradise!

~Nikos Kazantzakis

We have our brush and colors - paint Paradise and in we go.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

The human soul is heavy, clumsy, held in the mud of the flesh. Its perceptions are still coarse and brutish. It can divine nothing clearly, nothing with certainty.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

God sends rain, but He also sends hoods; and when the rain grows heavier, He sends a cave.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

How does the light of a star set out and plunge into black eternity in its immortal course? The star dies, but the light never dies; such also is

the cry of freedom.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Beauty is merciless. You do not look at it, it looks at you and does not forgive.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

He who is invisible sees more clearly, hears more clearly, and is better able to read the thoughts of men.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

This, I thought, is how great visionaries and poets see everything- as if for the first time. Each morning they see a new world before their eyes; they do not really see it, they create it.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I've stopped thinking all the time of what happened yesterday. And stopped asking what's going to happen tomorrow. What's happening today, this minute, is what I care about.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Life on earth means: the sprouting of wings.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Before me is the abyss. How can I leap across it? And if I do not leap, how shall I ever be able to reach God?

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Life's true face is the skull.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

I loved my body and did not want it to perish; I loved my soul and did not want it to decay. I have fought to reconcile these two primordial forces.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

We come from a dark abyss, we end in a dark abyss, and we call the luminous interval life.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Die every day. Be reborn again every day.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Discipline is the highest of all virtues. Only so may strength and desire be counterbalanced and the endeavors of man bear fruit.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Lord, bend me, or I shall rot. Lord do not bend me too much, for I shall break. Lord bend me too much, who cares if I break!

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Monarch of earth, I shall confess my secret craft: I've always fought to purify wild flame to light, and kindle whatever light I found to burst in flame.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Lions and Lambs, love and force, light and fire, good and evil: all things climb the same mountain, the mountain of God.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

Alas for him who seeks salvation in good only! Balanced on God's strong shoulders, Good and Evil flap together like two mighty wings and lift him high.

~Nikos Kazantzakis

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