

# Octavio Paz

## Quotes

*Art, Men, Thinking, Love Is, Two, Lying, Reality, Civilization, Criticism, Names, Discovery, Eye, Wall, Desire, Real, Light, Differences, Self, Progress, Poetry*

The Mexican...is familiar with death. [He] jokes about it, caresses it, sleeps with it, celebrates it. It is one of his favorite toys and his most steadfast love.

~Octavio Paz

Beyond myself, somewhere, I wait for my arrival.

~Octavio Paz

Solitude is the profoundest fact of the human condition. Man is the only being who knows he is alone.

~Octavio Paz

To love is to battle, to open doors, to cease to be a ghost with a number forever in chains, forever condemned by a faceless master; the world changes if two look at each other and see.

~Octavio Paz

A flower without a stem, is beauty waiting to die. A heart without love, is a tear waiting to cry.

~Octavio Paz

Deserve your dream.

~Octavio Paz

Love is not a desire for beauty; it is a yearning for completion.

~Octavio Paz

A civilization that denies death ends by denying life.

~Octavio Paz

Every moment is nothing without end.

~Octavio Paz

Whatever is not stone is light

~Octavio Paz

To love is to undress our names.

~Octavio Paz

To read a poem is to hear it with our eyes; to hear it is to see it with our ears.

~Octavio Paz

Man does not speak because he thinks; he thinks because he speaks. Or rather, speaking is no different than thinking: to speak is to think.

~Octavio Paz

Humankind is never what he is but the self he seeks.

~Octavio Paz

The American: a titan enamored of progress, a fanatical giant who worships "getting things done" but never asks himself what he is doing nor why he is doing it.

~Octavio Paz

By suppressing differences and peculiarities, by eliminating different civilizations and cultures, progress weakens life and favors death

~Octavio Paz

Light is time thinking about itself.

~Octavio Paz

Each time we try to express ourselves we have to break with ourselves.

~Octavio Paz

I don't believe that there are dangerous writers: the danger of certain books is not in the books themselves but in the passions of their

readers.

~Octavio Paz

Love is an attempt at penetrating another being, but it can only succeed if the surrender is mutual.

~Octavio Paz

Love is born at first sight; the friendship of a frequent and lengthy exchange.

~Octavio Paz

Poetry, in the past, was the center of our society, but with modernity it has retreated to the outskirts. I think the exile of poetry is also the exile of the best of humankind.

~Octavio Paz

Contemporary man has rationalized the myths, but he has not been able to destroy them.

~Octavio Paz

Love is the revelation of the other person's freedom.

~Octavio Paz

What distinguishes modern art from the art of other ages is criticism.

~Octavio Paz

The world is born when two people kiss

~Octavio Paz

The purpose of poetry is to restore to mankind the possibility to wonder.

~Octavio Paz

Art is an invention of aesthetics, which in turn is an invention of

philosophers... What we call art is a game.

~Octavio Paz

Self-discovery is above all the realization that we are alone.

~Octavio Paz

If each of my words were a drop of water, you would see through them and glimpse what I feel: gratitude, acknowledgement.

~Octavio Paz

Without democracy freedom is a chimera

~Octavio Paz

Poet: gardener of epitaphs.

~Octavio Paz

Tradition is no longer a continuity but a series of sharp breaks. The modern tradition is the tradition of revolt.

~Octavio Paz

Wisdom lies neither in fixity nor in change, but in the dialectic between the two.

~Octavio Paz

For every language that becomes extinct, an image of man disappears.

~Octavio Paz

We are condemned to kill time, thus we die bit by bit.

~Octavio Paz

There can be no society without poetry, but society can never be realized as poetry, it is never poetic. Sometimes the two terms seek to break apart. They cannot.

~Octavio Paz

The universe unfolds in the body, which is its mirror and its creature.

~Octavio Paz

Writers, you know, are the beggars of Western society.

~Octavio Paz

Death is the mother of forms.

~Octavio Paz

Social criticism begins with grammar and the re-establishing of meanings.

~Octavio Paz

Every view of the world that becomes extinct, every culture that disappears, diminishes a possibility of life

~Octavio Paz

If society abolishes poetry it commits spiritual suicide.

~Octavio Paz

Reality is a staircase going neither up nor down, we don't move; today is today, always is today.

~Octavio Paz

My body, plowed by your body, will turn into a field where one is sown and a hundred reaped.

~Octavio Paz

Solitude is the profoundest fact

~Octavio Paz

Grace is gratuitous; it is a gift.

~Octavio Paz

The woman who died night after night and her dying was a long goodbye, a train that never left.

~Octavio Paz

It is the Revolution, the magical word, the word that is going to change everything, that is going to bring us immense delight and a quick death.

~Octavio Paz

The ideal of a single civilization for everyone, implicit in the cult of progress and technique, impoverishes and mutilates us

~Octavio Paz

When a society decays, it is language that is first to become gangrenous. As a result, social criticism begins with grammar and the re-establishing of meanings

~Octavio Paz

What characterizes a poem is its necessary dependence on words as much as its struggle to transcend them.

~Octavio Paz

To fight evil is to fight ourselves.

~Octavio Paz

When we learn to speak, we learn to translate.

~Octavio Paz

Self-discovery is above all the realization that we are alone: it is the opening of an impalpable, transparent wall-that of our consciousness-between the world and ourselves.

~Octavio Paz

What sets worlds in motion is the interplay of differences, their attractions and repulsions; life is plurality, death is uniformity.

~Octavio Paz

Changes are inseparable from democracy. To defend democracy is to defend the possibility of change; in turn, changes alone can strengthen democracy.

~Octavio Paz

Poetry is not truth, it is the resurrection of presences.

~Octavio Paz

No one behind, no one ahead. The path the ancients cleared has closed. And the other path, everyone's path, easy and wide, goes nowhere. I am alone and find my way.

~Octavio Paz

Art is what remains of religion: the dance above the yawning abyss.

~Octavio Paz

Drugs are nihilistic: they undermine all values and radically overturn all our ideas about good and evil, what is just and what is unjust, what is permitted and what is forbidden.

~Octavio Paz

The value of e-commerce is not in the e, but in the commerce.

~Octavio Paz

Solitude lies at the lowest depth of the human condition. Man is the only being who feels himself to be alone and the only one who is searching for the Other.

~Octavio Paz

Power immobilizes; it freezes with a single gesture-grandiose, terrible,



theatrical, or finally, simply monotonous-the variety which is life.

~Octavio Paz

Language lies outside of society because it is its foundation; but it also lies within society because that is the only place where it exists and the only place where it develops.

~Octavio Paz

Poets have the gift to speak for others, Vasko Popa had the very rare quality of hearing the others.

~Octavio Paz

The whole motley confusion of acts, omissions, regrets and hopes which is the life of each one of us finds in death, not meaning or explanation, but an end.

~Octavio Paz

Loving means getting rid of names.

~Octavio Paz

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