

# Orhan Pamuk

## Quotes

*Writing, Book, People, Turkeys, Heart, Country, Istanbul, Want, Years, Thinking, Eye, Real, Believe, Men, Color, Football, Art, Falling In Love, Europe, Memories*

Life can't be all that bad,' i'd think from time to time. 'Whatever happens, i can always take a long walk along the Bosphorus.

~Orhan Pamuk

Tell me then, does love make one a fool or do only fools fall in love?

~Orhan Pamuk

Before my birth there was infinite time, and after my death, inexhaustible time. I never thought of it before: I'd been living luminously between two eternities of darkness.

~Orhan Pamuk

Dogs do speak, but only to those who know how to listen.

~Orhan Pamuk

I read a book one day and my whole life was changed.

~Orhan Pamuk

Life is beautiful if you are on the road to somewhere

~Orhan Pamuk

For if a lover's face survives emblazoned on your heart, the world is still your home.

~Orhan Pamuk

Happiness is holding someone in your arms and knowing you hold the whole world.

~Orhan Pamuk

To savour Istanbul's back streets, to appreciate the vines and trees that endow its ruins with accidental grace, you must, first and foremost, be a stranger to them.

~Orhan Pamuk

After all, a woman who doesn't love cats is never going to be make a man happy.

~Orhan Pamuk

Love is a sacred silence.

~Orhan Pamuk

The first thing I learned at school was that some people are idiots; the second thing I learned was that some are even worse.

~Orhan Pamuk

We live but for a short time, we see but very little, and we know almost nothing; so, at least, let's do some dreaming. Have yourself a very good Sunday, my dear readers.

~Orhan Pamuk

The challenge is to lend conviction even to the voices which advocate views I find personally abhorrent, whether they are political Islamists or officers justifying a coup.

~Orhan Pamuk

In fact, my entire childhood consisted of looking at photographs in which the viewer sees the ball behind the line, looking through the goal net, and the poor goalkeeper in front of the net.

~Orhan Pamuk

Suddenly Ka realized he was in love with Ä°pek. And realizing that this love would determine the rest of his life, he was filled with dread.

~Orhan Pamuk

The secularists in Turkey haven't underestimated religion, they just made the mistake of believing they could control it with the power of the army alone.

~Orhan Pamuk

Censorship should never be allowed. One should be able to say anything. But I refuse to let politics be foisted on me.

~Orhan Pamuk

In a brutal country like ours, where human life is 'cheap', it's stupid to destroy yourself for the sake of your beliefs. Beliefs? High ideas? Only people in rich countries can enjoy such luxuries.

~Orhan Pamuk

Mankind's greatest error, the biggest deception of the past thousand years is this: to confuse poverty with stupidity.

~Orhan Pamuk

People only tell lies when there is something they are terribly frightened of losing.

~Orhan Pamuk

The real choice we have to make is between peace and nationalism.

~Orhan Pamuk

I think it's horrible that we Turks are always seen under the aspect of Islam first. I am constantly asked about religion, and almost always with a negative undercurrent that makes me furious.

~Orhan Pamuk

If we give what we treasure most to a Being we love with all our hearts, if we can do that without expecting anything in return, then the world becomes a beautiful place.

~Orhan Pamuk

HÃ¼n does not just paralyze the inhabitants of Istanbul, it also gives them poetic license to be paralyzed.

~Orhan Pamuk

Real museums are places where Time is transformed into Space.

~Orhan Pamuk

National consciousness is truly a miraculous thing. When I am not in Turkey I feel even more Turkish than in Istanbul. But when I'm home my European side becomes more apparent.

~Orhan Pamuk

I think perhaps it is a generational thing. I talk to younger people and they say, Where is this melancholy city you talk about My Istanbul is a sunny place.

~Orhan Pamuk

â€žThe past is always an invented land.

~Orhan Pamuk

Sometimes I would see them not as mementos of the blissful hours but as the tangible precious debris of the storm raging in my soul.

~Orhan Pamuk

True literature is more than just a story someone has told. It must provide the reader with the essence of the world on a moral, philosophical and emotional level.

~Orhan Pamuk

Heaven was the place where you kept alive the dreams of your memories.

~Orhan Pamuk

The silence of snow, thought the man sitting just behind the bus driver.

~Orhan Pamuk

The gap between compassion and surrender is love's darkest, deepest region.

~Orhan Pamuk

Painting is the silence of thought and the music of sight.

~Orhan Pamuk

Whatever anybody says, the most important thing in life is to be happy.

~Orhan Pamuk

A writer is someone who spends years patiently trying to discover the second being inside him, and the world that makes him who he is.

~Orhan Pamuk

I need the pain of loneliness to make my imagination work.

~Orhan Pamuk

My unhappiness protects me from life.

~Orhan Pamuk

Without patience and the skill of a craftsman, even the greatest talent is wasted.

~Orhan Pamuk

When another writer in another house is not free, no writer is free.

~Orhan Pamuk

Books, which we mistake for consolation, only add depth to our sorrow.

~Orhan Pamuk

Well, on the one hand the Turks have the legitimate need to defend their national dignity - and this includes being recognized as a part of the west and Europe.

~Orhan Pamuk

I don't want to be a tree; I want to be its meaning.

~Orhan Pamuk

There's a lot of pride involved in my refusal to believe in god.

~Orhan Pamuk

I realized that the longing for art, like the longing for love, is a malady that blinds us, and makes us forget the things we already know, obscuring reality.

~Orhan Pamuk

Istanbul is a vast place. There are very conservative neighbourhoods, there are places that are upper class, Westernised, consuming Western culture.

~Orhan Pamuk

I see Turkey's future as being in Europe, as one of many prosperous, tolerant, democratic countries.

~Orhan Pamuk

East and West are coming together. Whether in peace or anarchy - they are coming together. There needn't be a clash between East and West, between Islam and Europe.

~Orhan Pamuk

In the mornings I used to say goodbye to my wife like someone going to work. I'd leave the house, walk around a few blocks, and come back like a person arriving at the office.

~Orhan Pamuk

I identify with my culture, but I am happy to be living on a tolerant, intellectual island where I can deal with Dostoyevsky and Sartre, both great influences for me.

~Orhan Pamuk

...a nation could change its way of life, its history, its technology, its art, literature, and culture, but it would never have a real chance to change its gestures.

~Orhan Pamuk

...the endless repetition of an ordinary miracle.

~Orhan Pamuk

Where there is true art and genuine virtuosity the artist can paint an incomparable masterpiece without leaving even a trace of his identity.

~Orhan Pamuk

I was at the end of my tether when my first book was published. For eight years I didn't make a penny, I worked so hard, didn't drink, didn't enjoy life.

~Orhan Pamuk

My hero wants to belong too, but he doesn't want to give up all the things he came to value in the west.

~Orhan Pamuk

My diary has its own kind of magic. It gives me the feeling of having accomplished something. On days when I don't have time for this, I feel tortured.

~Orhan Pamuk

I believe that it isn't victories but defeats that promote nationalism.

~Orhan Pamuk

Colour is the touch of the eye, Music to the deaf, A word out of darkness.

~Orhan Pamuk

After all, isn't the purpose of the novel, or of a museum, for that matter,

to relate our memories with such sincerity as to transform individual happiness into a happiness all can share?

~Orhan Pamuk

The real question is how much suffering we've caused our womenfolk by turning headscarves into symbols - and using women as pawns in a political game.

~Orhan Pamuk

As much as I live I shall not imitate them or hate myself for being different to them

~Orhan Pamuk

As always after drinking too much, I felt like my own ghost trying to take it's first solo walk outside the body.

~Orhan Pamuk

I believe strongly in an author's moral responsibility. But his first obligation is to write good books.

~Orhan Pamuk

I need a moment of time for myself every day, like a child playing with his things. When I travel, I routinely find a quiet place, open my diary and write something in it.

~Orhan Pamuk

Happiness is laughing together.

~Orhan Pamuk

It's very gratifying to me to see my works bringing people closer to my country.

~Orhan Pamuk

The urbanized life has led to the destruction of the legends.

~Orhan Pamuk

Try to discover who I am from my choice of words and colors, as attentive people like yourselves might examine footprints to catch a thief.

~Orhan Pamuk

What was venerated as style was nothing more than an imperfection or flaw that revealed the guilty hand.

~Orhan Pamuk

To read a novel is to wonder constantly, even at moments when we lose ourselves most deeply in the book: How much of this is fantasy, and how much is real?

~Orhan Pamuk

Nationalism stems from catastrophes, whether they are caused by earthquakes or lost wars.

~Orhan Pamuk

Turkish football serves the cause of nationalism, but not of the nation.

~Orhan Pamuk

In poetically well built museums, formed from the heart's compulsions, we are consoled not by finding in them old objects that we love, but by losing all sense of Time.

~Orhan Pamuk

We're not stupid! We're just poor! And we have a right to insist on this distinction

~Orhan Pamuk

I have hired a bodyguard, on the recommendation of my friends and the government. It's outrageous, having to live like this.

~Orhan Pamuk

Morality is probably the last thing one can learn from football.

~Orhan Pamuk

Enjoyment of football is part of the social context, and I have lost my faith in this social context.

~Orhan Pamuk

Yet does illustrating in a new way signify a new way of seeing?

~Orhan Pamuk

More than anything I am a novelist. But for me, an author's job is not only to create linguistically accomplished works. As an author I also want to stimulate discussion.

~Orhan Pamuk

I consider myself a person who comes from a Muslim culture. In any case, I would not say that I'm an atheist. So I'm a Muslim who associates historical and cultural identification with this religion.

~Orhan Pamuk

Now everyone is prouder and poorer

~Orhan Pamuk

I do not believe in a personal connection to God; that's where it gets transcendental.

~Orhan Pamuk

Let me first state forthright that contrary to what we've often read in books and heard from preachers, when you are a woman, you don't feel like the Devil.

~Orhan Pamuk

I don't like to make strong statements. I want to write strong novels â€¦ I keep my deep radical things for my novels.

~Orhan Pamuk

[N]othing is as surprising as life. Except for writing. Except for writing. Yes, of course, except for writing, the only consolation.

~Orhan Pamuk

I am nothing but a corpse now, a body at the bottom of a well.

~Orhan Pamuk

Great changes in the direction of peace have often come from people who were no great advocates of peace to begin with.

~Orhan Pamuk

When something explosive is kept hidden away, a tension builds within that must ultimately be released.

~Orhan Pamuk

For the traveler we see leaning on his neighbor is an honest and well-meaning man and full of melancholy, like those Chekhov characters so laden with virtues that they never know success in life.

~Orhan Pamuk

I am proud to be a Turk, and to write in Turkish about Turkey - and to have been translated into about 40 languages. But I don't want to politicize things by dramatizing them.

~Orhan Pamuk

I very much enjoy reading other writers' diaries, mainly because it makes me ask myself: Are they like you? How do they think?

~Orhan Pamuk

It's such a shame that we know so little about our own country, that we

can't find it in our hearts to love our own kind. Instead we admire those who show our country disrespect and betray its people.

~Orhan Pamuk

No one drives me into exile, not even the nationalists.

~Orhan Pamuk

Age had not made him less handsome, as is so often the case; it had simply made him less visible.

~Orhan Pamuk

I work seven days a week, from 9 in the morning till 8 at night. I have the titles of the next eight novels I want to write. I feel myself pitiable, degraded on a day that I don't write.

~Orhan Pamuk

Clocks and calendars do not exist to remind us of the Time we've forgotten but to regulate our relations with others and indeed all of society, and this is how we use them.

~Orhan Pamuk

Immersing oneself in the problems of a book is a good way to keep from thinking of love.

~Orhan Pamuk

How different from the cosy world of RÃ¼ya's detective novels, where authors never vexed a hero with more signs than he needed.

~Orhan Pamuk

I really don't want to portray the Islamists as simply evil, the way it's often done in the west.

~Orhan Pamuk

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