

# Pliny the Elder

## Quotes

*Men, Wine, Food, Mind, Novelty, Names, Water, Science, Dream, Lust,  
Country, Adversity, Sea, Wise, Latin, Evil, Cooking, Eye, Example, Knows*

Hope is the pillar that holds up the world. Hope is the dream of a waking man.

~Pliny the Elder

The feasant hens of Colchis, which have two ears as it were consisting of feathers, which they will set up and lay down as they list.

~Pliny the Elder

It has become quite a common proverb that in wine there is truth (In Vino Veritas).

~Pliny the Elder

The depth of darkness to which you can descend and still live is an exact measure of the height to which you can aspire to reach.

~Pliny the Elder

Why do we believe that in all matters the odd numbers are more powerful?

~Pliny the Elder

An object in possession seldom retains the same charm that it had in pursuit.

~Pliny the Elder

In these matters the only certainty is that nothing is certain.

~Pliny the Elder

From the end spring new beginnings.

~Pliny the Elder

Nature is to be found in her entirety nowhere more than in her smallest creatures.

~Pliny the Elder

Home is where the heart is.

~Pliny the Elder

In wine, there's truth.

~Pliny the Elder

Better do nothing than do ill.

~Pliny the Elder

There is, to be sure, no evil without something good.

~Pliny the Elder

But with man, â€” by Hercules! most of his misfortunes are occasioned by man.

~Pliny the Elder

Such is the audacity of man, that he hath learned to counterfeit Nature, yea, and is so bold as to challenge her in her work.

~Pliny the Elder

Grief has limits, whereas apprehension has none. For we grieve only for what we know has happened, but we fear all that possibly may happen.

~Pliny the Elder

It is generally much more shameful to lose a good reputation than never to have acquired it.

~Pliny the Elder

Nothing is so unequal as equality.

~Pliny the Elder

As for the garden of mint, the very smell of it alone recovers and refreshes our spirits, as the taste stirs up our appetite for meat.

~Pliny the Elder

As touching peaches in general, the very name in Latine whereby they are called Persica, doth evidently show that they were brought out of Persia first.

~Pliny the Elder

How many things... are looked upon as quite impossible until they have been actually effected?

~Pliny the Elder

When a building is about to fall down, all the mice desert it.

~Pliny the Elder

There is always something new out of Africa.

~Pliny the Elder

The perverted ingenuity of man has given to water the power of intoxicating where wine is not procured. Western nations intoxicate themselves by moistened grain.

~Pliny the Elder

Always act in such a way as to secure the love of your neighbour.

~Pliny the Elder

Nothing is more useful than wine for strengthening the body and also more detrimental to our pleasure if moderation be lacking.

~Pliny the Elder

Truth comes out in wine.

~Pliny the Elder

There is no book so bad that some good can not be got out of it.

~Pliny the Elder

No man's abilities are so remarkably shining as not to stand in need of a proper opportunity.

~Pliny the Elder

Lust is an enemy to the purse, a foe to the person, a canker to the mind, a corrosive to the conscience, a weakness of the wit, a besotter of the senses, and finally, a mortal bane to all the body.

~Pliny the Elder

His only fault is that he has no fault.

~Pliny the Elder

Nature has given man no better thing than shortness of life.

~Pliny the Elder

Among these things, one thing seems certain - that nothing certain exists and that there is nothing more pitiful or more presumptuous than man.

~Pliny the Elder

As land is improved by sowing it with various seeds, so is the mind by exercising it with different studies.

~Pliny the Elder

Simple diet is best: for many dishes bring many diseases, and rich sauces are worse than even heaping several meats upon each other.

~Pliny the Elder

....shellfish are the prime cause of the decline of morals and the adaptation of an extravagant lifestyle.

~Pliny the Elder

The javelin-snake amphiptere hurls itself from the branches of trees.

~Pliny the Elder

Wine refreshes the stomach, sharpens the appetite, blunts care and sadness, and conduces to slumber.

~Pliny the Elder

The agricultural population produces the bravest men, the most valiant soldiers,<sup>46</sup> and a class of citizens the least given of all to evil designs.

~Pliny the Elder

On a farm the best fertilizer is the master's eye.

~Pliny the Elder

The great business of man is to improve his mind, and govern his manners; all other projects and pursuits, whether in our power to compass or not, are only amusements.

~Pliny the Elder

The most disgraceful cause of the scarcity [of remedies] is that even those who know them do not want to point them out, as if they were going to lose what they pass on to others.

~Pliny the Elder

Wine maketh the hand quivering, the eye watery, the night unquiet, lewd dreams, a stinking breath in the morning, and an utter forgetfulness of all things.

~Pliny the Elder

The best kind of wine is that which is most pleasant to him who drinks it.

~Pliny the Elder

Most men are afraid of a bad name, but few fear their consciences.

~Pliny the Elder

The only certainty is uncertainty

~Pliny the Elder

We neglect those things which are under our very eyes, and heedless of things within our grasp, pursue those which are afar off.

~Pliny the Elder

The lust of avarice as so totally seized upon mankind that their wealth seems rather to possess them than they possess their wealth.

~Pliny the Elder

I think it is the most beautiful and humane thing in the world, so to mingle gravity with pleasure that the one may not sink into melancholy, nor the other rise up into wantonness.

~Pliny the Elder

We ought to be guarded against every appearance of envy, as a passion that always implies inferiority wherever it resides.

~Pliny the Elder

Suicide is a privilege of man which deity does not possess.

~Pliny the Elder

Men are most apt to believe what they least understand; and through the lust of human wit obscure things are more easily credited.

~Pliny the Elder

True glory consists in doing what deserves to be written, and writing what deserves to be read.

~Pliny the Elder

The brain is the citadel of sense perception.

~Pliny the Elder

It is this earth that, like a kind mother, receives us at our birth, and

sustains us when born; it is this alone, of all the elements around us, that is never found an enemy of man.

~Pliny the Elder

In wine there is health (In vino sanitas)

~Pliny the Elder

A short death is the sovereign good hap of human life.

~Pliny the Elder

The graceful tear that streams for others' Man is the weeping animal born to govern all the rest.

~Pliny the Elder

Our civilization depends largely on paper.

~Pliny the Elder

Chance is a second master.

~Pliny the Elder

I would have a man generous to his country, his neighbors, his kindred, his friends, and most of all his poor friends. Not like some who are most lavish with those who are able to give most of them.

~Pliny the Elder

To laugh, if but for an instant only, has never been granted to man before the fortieth day from his birth, and then it is looked upon as a miracle of precocity.

~Pliny the Elder

The best plan is to profit by the folly of others.

~Pliny the Elder

Let honor be to us as strong an obligation as necessity is to others.



~Pliny the Elder

No one is wise at all times.

~Pliny the Elder

Our youth and manhood are due to our country, but our declining years are due to ourselves.

~Pliny the Elder

Man is the only one that knows nothing, that can learn nothing without being taught. He can neither speak nor walk nor eat, and in short he can do nothing at the prompting of nature only, but weep.

~Pliny the Elder

No book so bad but some part may be of use.

~Pliny the Elder

Let not things, because they are common, enjoy for that the less share of our consideration.

~Pliny the Elder

The brain is the highest of the organs in position, and it is protected by the vault of the head; it has no flesh or blood or refuse. It is the citadel of sense-perception.

~Pliny the Elder

God has no power over the past except to cover it with oblivion.

~Pliny the Elder

Amid the sufferings of life on earth, suicide is God's best gift to man.

~Pliny the Elder

This only is certain, that there is nothing certain.

~Pliny the Elder

In time of sickness the soul collects itself anew.

~Pliny the Elder

When collapse is imminent, the little rodents flee.

~Pliny the Elder

War should neither be feared nor provoked.

~Pliny the Elder

Human nature is fond of novelty.

~Pliny the Elder

Envy always implies conscious inferiority wherever it resides.

~Pliny the Elder

The desire to know a thing is heightened by its gratification being deferred.

~Pliny the Elder

Hope is a working-man's dream.

~Pliny the Elder

Nulla dies sine linea - Not a day without a line.

~Pliny the Elder

Why is it that we entertain the belief that for every purpose odd numbers are the most effectual?

~Pliny the Elder

Many dishes bring many diseases.

~Pliny the Elder

Cats too, with what silent stealthiness, with what light steps do they creep up to a bird!

~Pliny the Elder

Let that which is wanting in income be supplied by economy.

~Pliny the Elder

The enjoyments of this life are not equal to its evils.

~Pliny the Elder

In the literary as well as military world, most powerful abilities will often be found concealed under a rustic garb.

~Pliny the Elder

We listen with deep interest to what we hear, for to man novelty is ever charming.

~Pliny the Elder

Example is the softest and least invidious way of commanding.

~Pliny the Elder

We live by reposing trust in each other.

~Pliny the Elder

The most valuable discoveries have found their origin in the most trivial accidents.

~Pliny the Elder

Nature makes us buy her presents at the price of so many sufferings that it is doubtful whether she deserves most the name of parent or stepmother.

~Pliny the Elder

A dear bargain is always disagreeable, particularly as it is a reflection upon the buyer's judgment.

~Pliny the Elder

The only thing man knows instinctively is how to weep.

~Pliny the Elder

In comparing various authors with one another, I have discovered that some of the gravest and latest writers have transcribed, word for word, from former works, without making acknowledgment.

~Pliny the Elder

True happiness consists in being considered deserving of it.

~Pliny the Elder

No mortal man, moreover is wise at all moments.

~Pliny the Elder

Now, that the sovereign power and deity, whatsoever it is, should have regard of mankind, is a toy and vanity worthy to be laughed at.

~Pliny the Elder

Man naturally yearns for novelty.

~Pliny the Elder

The happier the moment the shorter.

~Pliny the Elder

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