

# Robert E. Howard

## Quotes

*Men, Real, Civilization, Soul, Writing, Dream, Natural, Wine, Oil, Thinking,  
Death, Kings, Ocean, Fighting, Palate, Hands, Suicide, People, Dog, Hell*

Civilized men are more discourteous than savages because they know they can be impolite without having their skulls split, as a general thing.

~Robert E. Howard

The more I see of what you call civilization, the more highly I think of what you call savagery!

~Robert E. Howard

Barbarianism is the natural state of mankind. Civilization is unnatural. It is the whim of circumstance. And barbarianism must ultimately triumph

~Robert E. Howard

Any but the most brutish of men must be touched with a certain awe or wonder at the baring of a woman's naked soul.

~Robert E. Howard

Break the skin of civilization and you find the ape, roaring and red-handed.

~Robert E. Howard

The only safe enemy was a headless enemy.

~Robert E. Howard

For man's only weapon is courage that flinches not from the gates of Hell itself, and against such not even the legions of Hell can stand.

~Robert E. Howard

But not all men seek rest and peace; some are born with the spirit of the storm in their blood.

~Robert E. Howard

What is death but a traversing of eternities and a crossing of cosmic oceans?

~Robert E. Howard

Man can be that which he wishes to be; form and substance, they are but shadows. The mind, the ego, the essence of the god-dream -- that is real, that is immortal.

~Robert E. Howard

I had neither expert aid nor advice. I studied no courses in writing; until a year or so ago, I never read a book by anybody advising writers how to write.

~Robert E. Howard

I know this: if life is illusion, then I am no less an illusion, and being thus, the illusion is real to me. I live, I burn with life, I love, I slay, and am content.

~Robert E. Howard

If I was wealthy I'd never do anything but poke around in ruined cities all over the world - and probably get snake-bit.

~Robert E. Howard

Man is still an ape in that he forgets what is not ever before his eyes.

~Robert E. Howard

I live, I burn with life, I love, I slay, & am content.

~Robert E. Howard

One man's bane is another's bliss.

~Robert E. Howard

Before the invader sound was born, the Universe was silent and shall be again.

~Robert E. Howard

The people among which I lived - and yet live, mainly - made their living from cotton, wheat, cattle, oil, with the usual percentage of business

men and professional men.

~Robert E. Howard

Civilization is a network and a maze of precedences and custom.

~Robert E. Howard

A woman in such an emotional tempest is as perilous as a blind cobra to any about her.

~Robert E. Howard

Barbarism is the natural state of mankind.

~Robert E. Howard

While we may open the books of the past, we may but grant flying glances of the future, through the mist that veils it.

~Robert E. Howard

How can I wear the harness of toil  
And sweat at the daily round,  
While in my soul forever  
The drums of Pictdom sound?

~Robert E. Howard

I have accomplished little enough, but such as it is, it is the result of my own efforts.

~Robert E. Howard

All fledâ€”all done, so lift me on the pyreâ€”  
The Feast is over, and the  
lamps expire.

~Robert E. Howard

It seems to me that many writers, by virtue of environments of culture, art and education, slip into writing because of their environments.

~Robert E. Howard

But the idea of a man making his living by writing seemed, in that hardy

environment, so fantastic that even today I am sometimes myself assailed by a feeling of unreality.

~Robert E. Howard

Rome got some peachy pastings when she tried to lick the Irish.

~Robert E. Howard

I don't believe I ever saw an Oklahoman who wouldn't fight at the drop of a hat - and frequently drop the hat himself.

~Robert E. Howard

Coming, as I do, from mountain folk on one side and sea followers on the other, there are few old songs of the hills or the sea with which I am not familiar.

~Robert E. Howard

A kingdom is not lost by a single defeat.

~Robert E. Howard

We're making tin gods out of those poor buffoons in Hollywood; I dote on movies and appreciate the scanty art therein but I consider the profession about the most debased and debasing I know.

~Robert E. Howard

I'll say one thing about an oil boom; it will teach a kid that Life's a pretty rotten thing as quick as anything I can think of.

~Robert E. Howard

Animals are neither gods nor fiends, but men in their way without the lust and greed of man.

~Robert E. Howard

I have known many gods. He who denies them is blind as he who trusts them too deeply.

~Robert E. Howard

Aye, you white dog, you are like all your race; but to a black man gold can never pay for blood.

~Robert E. Howard

Civilization is a natural and inevitable consequence - whether good or evil I am not prepared to state.

~Robert E. Howard

I have no fear of the Hereafter. An orthodox hell could hardly be more torture than my life has been.

~Robert E. Howard

It is better to go in the dark when the road must pass a lion and there is no other road.

~Robert E. Howard

I'm not going out of my way looking for devils; but I wouldn't step out of my path to let one go by.

~Robert E. Howard

I have gone into yesterday and tomorrow and both were as real as today -- which is like the dreams of ghosts!

~Robert E. Howard

Youngsters of this generation seem not quite so hazardous except in the way of mechanical speed, bad liquor and venereal diseases.

~Robert E. Howard

Wits and swords are as straws against the wisdom of the Darkness.

~Robert E. Howard

I became a writer in spite of my environments.

~Robert E. Howard

Don't you think that as a people, Americans have less poetry, real poetry, in their souls than any other nations?

~Robert E. Howard

In the hill country, civilization steals in last, and the people retain much of the crude but vigorous mode of expression of the colonial days and earlier.

~Robert E. Howard

What always was must always be.

~Robert E. Howard

The printed page was like wine to me.

~Robert E. Howard

I am unable to rouse much interest in any highly civilized race, country or epoch, including this one.

~Robert E. Howard

When I cannot stand alone, it will be time to die.

~Robert E. Howard

I have not been a success, and probably never will be.

~Robert E. Howard

It is not pleasant to come upon Death in a lonely place at midnight.

~Robert E. Howard

Every twinge of sensation, even of agony, was a negation of death.

~Robert E. Howard

No man can be convinced when he will not.

~Robert E. Howard

I reckon if I ever marry, she will have to be a strong woman in a circus or something.

~Robert E. Howard

I see in the papers where Roy Guthrie committed suicide. Why, I wonder?

~Robert E. Howard

I have put off the past like a worn-out cloak.

~Robert E. Howard

It is an ill thing to meet a man you thought dead in the woodland at dusk.

~Robert E. Howard

My body seems a mere encumbrance to me; an imbecillic wagon, hitched to the horse of desire, which is the soul.

~Robert E. Howard

Men are but men, and the greatest men are they who soonest learn the simpler things.

~Robert E. Howard

The sea-road is good for wanderers and landless men. There is quenching of thirst on the grey paths of the winds, and the flying clouds to still the sting of lost dreams.

~Robert E. Howard

What shall a man say when a friend has vanished behind the doors of Death? A mere tangle of barren words, only words.

~Robert E. Howard



Life is but a web spun of ghosts and dreams and illusions.

~Robert E. Howard

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