

Robert Fitzgerald Quotes

*Thinking, Way, Wish, Different, Latin, Heart, Character, Impact, Men, Beauty,
Pope, Stories, Courses, Taken, Should, Elegance, Greek, Encouragement, Use,
Performers*

Poetry is at least an elegance and at most a revelation.

~Robert Fitzgerald

I think it was lucky that during most of the work on the *Odyssey* I lived on Homer's sea in houses that were, in one case, shaken by the impact of the Mediterranean winter storms on the rocks below.

~Robert Fitzgerald

Is encouragement what the poet needs? Open question. Maybe he needs discouragement. In fact, quite a few of them need more discouragement, the most discouragement possible.

~Robert Fitzgerald

Sing in me, Muse, and through me tell the story

~Robert Fitzgerald

The invention of Bob Dylan with his guitar belongs in its way to the same kind of tradition of something meant to be heard, as the songs of Homer.

~Robert Fitzgerald

Yes, and there were changes of light on landscapes and changes of direction of the wind and the force of the wind and weather. That whole scene is too important in Homer to neglect.

~Robert Fitzgerald

In fact, eloquence in English will inevitably make use of the Latin element in our vocabulary.

~Robert Fitzgerald

The question is how to bring a work of imagination out of one language that was just as taken-for-granted by the persons who used it as our language is by ourselves. Nothing strange about it.

~Robert Fitzgerald

I think that everyone who took part has always been grateful for it.

~Robert Fitzgerald

Of course the other and more serious way in which it all happens is that one finds in poems and language some quality one appropriates for oneself and wishes to reproduce.

~Robert Fitzgerald

In a way you can feel that the poet actually is looking over your shoulder, and you say to yourself, now, how would this go for him? Would this do or not?

~Robert Fitzgerald

I think there are perhaps two ways in which one can begin.

~Robert Fitzgerald

What the translator - myself in particular - does is not comparable to what the Homeric performer was doing.

~Robert Fitzgerald

There must of course be a relationship between translating and making poems of your own, but what it is I just don't know.

~Robert Fitzgerald

Yes, living voices in a living language, so it seemed to us.

~Robert Fitzgerald

One should indeed read Pope with his notes available, in the Twickenham edition possibly, to see what a vast amount he did understand about Homer.

~Robert Fitzgerald

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