

Robert Graves

Quotes

Poetry, Men, Writing, People, War, Hands, Children, Eye, Heart, Poet, Religious, Dream, Cutting, Taken, Believe, Book, Art, Fighting, Civilization, Hate

Love is a universal migraine. A bright stain on the vision, Blotting out reason.

~Robert Graves

There is no such thing as good writing, only good rewriting.

~Robert Graves

There's no money in poetry, but then there's no poetry in money, either.

~Robert Graves

Every English poet should master the rules of grammar before he attempts to bend or break them.

~Robert Graves

The remarkable thing about Shakespeare is that he really is very good, in spite of all the people who say he is very good.

~Robert Graves

Kill if you must, but never hate: Man is but grass and hate is blight, The sun will scorch you soon or late, Die wholesome then, since you must fight

~Robert Graves

I was last in Rome in AD 540 when it was full of Goths and their heavy horses. It has changed a great deal since then.

~Robert Graves

New beginnings and new shoots Spring again from hidden roots Pull or stab or cut or burn, Love must ever yet return.

~Robert Graves

What we now call "finance" is, I hold, an intellectual perversion of what began as warm human love.

~Robert Graves

One smile relieves a heart that grieves.

~Robert Graves

To be a poet is a condition rather than a profession.

~Robert Graves

I was thinking, "So, I'm Emperor, am I? What nonsense! But at least I'll be able to make people read my books now.

~Robert Graves

If I were a girl, I'd despair. The supply of good women far exceeds that of the men who deserve them.

~Robert Graves

Fact is not truth, but a poet who wilfully defies fact cannot achieve truth.

~Robert Graves

Anthropologists are a connecting link between poets and scientists; though their field-work among primitive peoples has often made them forget the language of science.

~Robert Graves

Any honest housewife would sort them out,/ Having a nose for fish, an eye for apples.

~Robert Graves

The butterfly, a cabbage-white, (His honest idiocy of flight) Will never now, it is too late, Master the art of flying straight.

~Robert Graves

As you are woman, so be lovely: As you are lovely, so be various,

Merciful as constant, constant as various, So be mine, as I yours for ever.

~Robert Graves

A well-chosen anthology is a complete dispensary of medicine for the more common mental disorders, and may be used as much for prevention as cure.

~Robert Graves

This seems to me a philosophical question, and therefore irrelevant, question. A poet's destiny is to love.

~Robert Graves

Genius not only diagnoses the situation but supplies the answers.

~Robert Graves

Marriage, like money, is still with us; and, like money, progressively devalued.

~Robert Graves

One gets to the heart of the matter by a series of experiences in the same pattern, but in different colors.

~Robert Graves

The award of a pure gold medal for poetry would flatter the recipient unduly: no poem ever attains such carat purity.

~Robert Graves

We forget cruelty and past betrayal, Heedless of where the next bright bolt may fall.

~Robert Graves

A perfect poem is impossible. Once it had been written, the world would end. Immature poets imitate; mature poets steal.

~Robert Graves

Every fairy child may keep Two strong ponies and ten sheep; All have houses, each his own, Built of brick or granite stone; They live on cherries, they run wild I'd love to be a Fairy's child.

~Robert Graves

As was the custom in such cases, the pear tree was charged with murder and sentenced to be uprooted and burned.

~Robert Graves

Prose books are the show dogs I breed and sell to support my cat.

~Robert Graves

Patriotism, in the trenches, was too remote a sentiment, and at once rejected as fit only for civilians, or prisoners. A new arrival who talked patriotism would soon be told to cut it out.

~Robert Graves

The function of poetry is religious invocation of the muse; its use is the experience of mixed exaltation and horror that her presence excites.

~Robert Graves

Children born of fairy stock Never need for shirt or frock, Never want for food or fire, Always get their heart's desire.

~Robert Graves

In love as in sport, the amateur status must be strictly maintained.

~Robert Graves

No honest theologian therefore can deny that his acceptance of Jesus as Christ logically binds every Christian to a belief in reincarnation - in Elias case (who was later John the Baptist) at least.

~Robert Graves

Nine-tenths of English poetic literature is the result either of vulgar careerism or of a poet trying to keep his hand in. Most poets are dead by their late twenties.

~Robert Graves

No poem is worth anything unless it starts from a poetic trance, out of which you can be wakened by interruption as from a dream. In fact, it is the same thing.

~Robert Graves

Take your delight in momentariness, Walk between dark and dark a shining space With the grave 's narrowness, though not its peace.

~Robert Graves

Hate is a fear, and fear is rot That cankers root and fruit alike, Fight cleanly then, hate not, fear not, Strike with no madness when you strike.

~Robert Graves

The gift of independence once granted cannot be lightly taken away again.

~Robert Graves

Originally marriage meant the sale of a woman by one man to another; now most women sell themselves though they have no intention of delivering the goods listed in the bill of sale.

~Robert Graves

There is one story and one story only.

~Robert Graves

Myths are seldom simple, and never irresponsible.

~Robert Graves

I made no more protests. What was the use of struggling against fate

~Robert Graves

Truth-loving Persians do not dwell upon The trivial skirmish fought near Marathon.

~Robert Graves

You mean that people who continue virtuous in an old-fashioned way must inevitably suffer in times like these?

~Robert Graves

The poet's first rule must be never to bore his readers; and his best way of keeping this rule is never to bore himself-which, of course, means to write only when he has something urgent to say.

~Robert Graves

Love without hope, as when the young bird-catcher Swept off his tall hat to the Squire's own daughter, So let the imprisoned larks escape and fly Singing about her head, as she rode by.

~Robert Graves

Faults in English prose derive not so much from lack of knowledge, intelligence or art as from lack of thought, patience or goodwill.

~Robert Graves

Well, we've been lucky devils both And there is no need for a pledge or oath To bind our lovely friendship fast, By firmer stuff Close bound enough.

~Robert Graves

He found a formula for drawing comic rabbits: This formula for drawing comic rabbits paid. Till in the end he could not change the tragic habits This formula for drawing comic rabbits made.

~Robert Graves

When I'm killed, don't think of me Buried there in Cambrin Wood, Nor as in Zion think of me With the Intolerable Good. And there's one thing that I know well, I'm damned if I'll be damned to Hell!

~Robert Graves

Kaisers and Czars will strut the stage Once more with pomp and greed and rage; Courtly ministers will stop At home and fight to the last drop; By the million men will die In some new horrible agony.

~Robert Graves

For words of rapture groping, they "Never such love," swore "ever before was!"

~Robert Graves

Let all the poison that lurks in the mud, hatch out.

~Robert Graves

Never use the word 'audience.' The very idea of a public, unless the poet is writing for money, seems wrong to me. Poets don't have an 'audience'. They're talking to a single person all the time.

~Robert Graves

Though philosophers like to define poetry as irrational fancy, for us it is practical, humorous, reasonable way of being ourselves.

~Robert Graves

About this business of being a gentleman: I paid so heavily for the fourteen years of my gentleman's education that I feel entitled, now and then, to get some sort of return.

~Robert Graves

I don't really feel my poems are mine at all. I didn't create them out of nothing. I owe them to my relations with other people.

~Robert Graves

Lovers to-day and for all time Preserve the meaning of my rhyme: Love is not kindly nor yet grim But does to you as you to him.

~Robert Graves

There's a cool web of language winds us in, Retreat from too much joy or too much fear: We grow sea-green at last and coldly die In brininess and volubility.

~Robert Graves

She tells her love while half asleep, In the dark hours, With half-words whispered low: As Earth stirs in her winter sleep And puts out grass and flowers Despite the snow, Despite the falling snow.

~Robert Graves

Related Links:

- Poetry Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- People Quotes
- War Quotes
- Hands Quotes
- Children Quotes
- Eye Quotes
- Heart Quotes
- Poet Quotes
- Religious Quotes
- Dream Quotes
- Cutting Quotes
- Taken Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Fighting Quotes
- Civilization Quotes
- Hate Quotes