

Simone Weil

Quotes

*Men, Real, Soul, Thinking, Evil, Suffering, Order, War, Giving, World, Lying,
Beautiful, Spiritual, Light, Inspirational, Science, Two, Art, Doe, Life*

Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity.

~Simone Weil

We must not wish for the disappearance of our troubles but for the grace to transform them.

~Simone Weil

Pain and suffering are a kind of currency passed from hand to hand until they reach someone who receives them but does not pass them on.

~Simone Weil

There are only two things that pierce the human heart. One is beauty. The other is affliction.

~Simone Weil

If you want to know what a man is really like, take notice of how he acts when he loses money.

~Simone Weil

A hurtful act is the transference to others of the degradation which we bear in ourselves.

~Simone Weil

There is one, and only one, thing in modern society more hideous than crime namely, repressive justice.

~Simone Weil

The joy of learning is as indispensable in study as breathing is in running.

~Simone Weil

Equality is the public recognition, effectively expressed in institutions and manners, of the principle that an equal degree of attention is due to

the needs of all human beings.

~Simone Weil

More than in any other performing arts the lack of respect for acting seems to spring from the fact that every layman considers himself a valid critic.

~Simone Weil

Real genius is nothing else but the supernatural virtue of humility in the domain of thought.

~Simone Weil

The love of our neighbor in all its fullness simply means being able to say, "What are you going through?"

~Simone Weil

Stars and blossoming fruit-trees: utter permanence and extreme fragility give an equal sense of eternity.

~Simone Weil

God is rich in mercy. I know this wealth of his with the certainty of experience, I have touched it.

~Simone Weil

Imagination and fiction make up more than three quarters of our real life.

~Simone Weil

Love consents to all and commands only those who consent. Love is abdication. God is abdication.

~Simone Weil

For when two beings who are not friends are near each other there is no meeting, and when friends are far apart there is no separation.

~Simone Weil

Official history is a matter of believing murderers on their own word.

~Simone Weil

Evil when we are in its power is not felt as evil but as a necessity, or even a duty.

~Simone Weil

Every being cries out in silence to be read differently. Do not be indifferent to these cries.

~Simone Weil

The intelligent man who is proud of his intelligence is like the condemned man who is proud of his large cell.

~Simone Weil

To be rooted is perhaps the most important and least recognized need of the human soul.

~Simone Weil

Human existence is so fragile a thing and exposed to such dangers that I cannot love without trembling.

~Simone Weil

Everything beautiful has a mark of eternity.

~Simone Weil

Whenever one tries to suppress doubt , there is tyranny .

~Simone Weil

It is a fault to wish to be understood before we have made ourselves clear to ourselves.

~Simone Weil

The sea is not less beautiful in our eyes because we know that sometimes ships are wrecked by it.

~Simone Weil

To die for God is not a proof of faith in God. To die for an unknown and repulsive convict who is a victim of injustice, that is a proof of faith in God.

~Simone Weil

Imaginary evil is romantic and varied; real evil is gloomy, monotonous, barren, boring. Imaginary good is boring; real good is always new, marvelous, intoxicating.

~Simone Weil

Every sin is an attempt to fly from emptiness.

~Simone Weil

I suffer more from the humiliations inflicted by my country than from those inflicted on her.

~Simone Weil

Love is not consolation, it is light.

~Simone Weil

Absolutely unmixed attention is prayer.

~Simone Weil

What is surprising is not that oppression should make its appearance only after higher forms of economy have been reached, but that it should always accompany them.

~Simone Weil

Difficult as it is really to listen to someone in affliction, it is just as difficult for him to know that compassion is listening to him.

~Simone Weil

The beauty of the world is Christ's tender smile for us coming through matter.

~Simone Weil

In struggling against anguish one never produces serenity; the struggle against anguish only produces new forms of anguish.

~Simone Weil

To be a hero or a heroine, one must give an order to oneself.

~Simone Weil

When once a certain class of people has been placed by the temporal and spiritual authorities outside the ranks of those whose life has value, then nothing comes more naturally to men than murder.

~Simone Weil

It is an eternal obligation toward the human being not to let him suffer from hunger when one has a chance of coming to his assistance.

~Simone Weil

At the centre of the human heart is the longing for an absolute good, a longing which is always there and is never appeased by any object in this world.

~Simone Weil

Fortunately the sky is beautiful everywhere.

~Simone Weil

I can, therefore I am.

~Simone Weil

Patriotism is idolatry of the self.

~Simone Weil

Love: To feel with one's whole self the existence of another being.

~Simone Weil

Every perfect life is a parable invented by God.

~Simone Weil

Attachment is the great fabricator of illusions; reality can be attained only by someone who is detached.

~Simone Weil

The highest ecstasy is the attention at its fullest.

~Simone Weil

The great error of nearly all studies of war... has been to consider war as an episode in foreign policies, when it is an act of interior politics.

~Simone Weil

Science is voiceless; it is the scientists who talk.

~Simone Weil

Uprooting is by far the most dangerous of the ills of human society, for it perpetuates itself.

~Simone Weil

It is much easier to imagine ourselves in the place of God the Creator than in the place of Christ crucified.

~Simone Weil

It is grace that forms the void inside us and it is grace that can fill the void.

~Simone Weil

God's love for us is not the reason for which we should love him. God's love for us is the reason for us to love ourselves.

~Simone Weil

Justice, truth, and beauty are sisters and comrades. With three such beautiful words we have no need to look for any others.

~Simone Weil

One cannot imagine St. Francis of Assisi talking about rights.

~Simone Weil

All sins are attempts to fill voids.

~Simone Weil

Power ... is the supreme end for all those who have not understood.

~Simone Weil

Those who are unhappy have no need for anything in this world but people capable of giving them their attention.

~Simone Weil

We must prefer real hell to an imaginary paradise.

~Simone Weil

Oppression that is clearly inexorable and invincible does not give rise to revolt but to submission.

~Simone Weil

Everything which originates from pure love is lit with the radiance of beauty.

~Simone Weil

Humanism was not wrong in thinking that truth, beauty, liberty, and equality are of infinite value, but in thinking that man can get them for

himself without grace.

~Simone Weil

Attentiveness is the heart of prayer.

~Simone Weil

To claim that theft or adultery or lying are "evil" simply reflects our degraded idea of good-â€”that it has something to do with respect for property, respectability, and sincerity.

~Simone Weil

Even if our efforts of attention seem for years to be producing no result, one day a light that is in exact proportion to them will flood the soul.

~Simone Weil

Religion as a source of consolation is an obstacle to true faith.

~Simone Weil

Beauty always promises, but never gives anything.

~Simone Weil

Humility is attentive patience.

~Simone Weil

The glossy surface of our civilization hides a real intellectual decadence.

~Simone Weil

Never react to an evil in such a way as to augment it.

~Simone Weil

A mind enclosed in language is in prison.

~Simone Weil

To set up as a standard of public morality a notion which can neither be defined nor conceived is to open the door to every kind of tyranny.

~Simone Weil

What a country calls its vital... interests are not things that help its people live, but things that help it make war.

~Simone Weil

We have to endure the discordance between imagination and fact. It is better to say, "I am suffering," than to say, "This landscape is ugly."

~Simone Weil

Fire destroys that which feeds it.

~Simone Weil

Art is the symbol of the two noblest human efforts: to construct and to refrain from destruction.

~Simone Weil

Love of God is pure when joy and suffering inspire an equal degree of gratitude.

~Simone Weil

True definition of science: the study of the beauty of the world.

~Simone Weil

We are like plants which have the one choice of being in or out of the light.

~Simone Weil

Those who love a cause are those who love the life which has to be led in order to serve it.

~Simone Weil

If we forgive God for his crime against us, which is to have made us finite creatures, He will forgive our crime against him, which is that we are finite creatures.

~Simone Weil

Nothing can have as its destination anything other than its origin. The contrary idea, the idea of progress, is poison.

~Simone Weil

I also am other than what I imagine myself to be. To know this is forgiveness.

~Simone Weil

Compassion directed toward oneself is true humility.

~Simone Weil

We have to try to cure our faults by attention and not by will.

~Simone Weil

The extreme greatness of Christianity lies in the fact that it does not seek a supernatural remedy for suffering but a supernatural use for it.

~Simone Weil

The world is God's language to us.

~Simone Weil

The most important part of teaching is to teach what it is to know.

~Simone Weil

Beauty is a fruit which we look at without trying to seize it.

~Simone Weil

The mysteries of faith are degraded if they are made into an object of affirmation and negation, when in reality they should be an object of

contemplation.

~Simone Weil

It is not my business to think about myself. My business is to think about God. It is for God to think about me.

~Simone Weil

There is no detachment where there is no pain. And there is no pain endured without hatred or lying unless detachment is present too.

~Simone Weil

It is not religion but revolution which is the opium of the people.

~Simone Weil

The danger is not lest the soul should doubt whether there is any bread, but lest, by a lie, it should persuade itself that it is not hungry.

~Simone Weil

A Pharisee is someone who is virtuous out of obedience to the Great Beast.

~Simone Weil

We can only know one thing about God - that he is what we are not. Our wretchedness alone is an image of this. The more we contemplate it, the more we contemplate him.

~Simone Weil

Evil being the root of mystery, pain is the root of knowledge.

~Simone Weil

A test of what is real is that it is hard and rough. Joys are found in it, not pleasure. What is pleasant belongs to dreams.

~Simone Weil

To wish to escape from solitude is cowardice. Friendship is not to be sought, not to be dreamed, not to be desired; it is to be exercised (it is a virtue).

~Simone Weil

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