

# T. E. Lawrence

## Quotes

*Men, War, Desert, Arabia, Military, Dream, Book, Hands, Army, Stars, Years,  
People, Clothes, Tired, Eye, Fighting, Winning, Details, Pillars, Animal*

Your success will be proportioned to the amount of mental effort you devote to it.

~T. E. Lawrence

Cling tight to your sense of humour. You will need it every day.

~T. E. Lawrence

Nine-tenths of tactics are certain, and taught in books: but the irrational tenth is like the kingfisher flashing across the pool, and that is the test of generals.

~T. E. Lawrence

The dreamers of the day are dangerous... for they may act their dream with open eyes, to make it possible.

~T. E. Lawrence

Do not try and do too much with your own hands. Better the Arabs do it tolerably than you do it perfectly. It is their war, and you are to help them, not win it for them.

~T. E. Lawrence

He was old and wise, which meant tired and disappointed.

~T. E. Lawrence

Misery, anger, indignation, discomfort-those conditions produce literature. Contentment-never. So there you are.

~T. E. Lawrence

The people of England have been led in Mesopotamia into a trap from which it will be hard to escape with dignity and honor.

~T. E. Lawrence

This creed of the desert seemed inexpressible in words, and indeed in thought.

~T. E. Lawrence

The desert is an ocean in which no oar is dipped.

~T. E. Lawrence

To have news value is to have a tin can tied to one's tail.

~T. E. Lawrence

The printing press is the greatest weapon in the armoury of the modern commander.

~T. E. Lawrence

Dream your dreams with open eyes and make them come true.

~T. E. Lawrence

An opinion can be argued with; a conviction is best shot. The logical end of a war of creeds is the final destruction of one, and Salamambo is the classical text-book instance.

~T. E. Lawrence

There is an ideal standard somewhere and only that matters and I cannot find it. Hence the aimlessness.

~T. E. Lawrence

The greatest commander is he whose intuitions most nearly happen.

~T. E. Lawrence

To me an unnecessary action, or shot, or casualty, was not only waste but sin.

~T. E. Lawrence

I loved you, so I drew these tides of men into my hands/and wrote my will across the sky in stars

~T. E. Lawrence

They taught me that no man could be their leader except he ate the ranks' food, wore their clothes, lived level with them, and yet appeared better in himself.

~T. E. Lawrence

The literature of disease is more interesting to me than all the healthy books.

~T. E. Lawrence

Some of the evil of my tale may have been inherent in our circumstances. For years we lived anyhow with one another in the naked desert, under the indifferent heaven.

~T. E. Lawrence

It is difficult to keep quiet when everything is being done wrong, but the less you lose your temper the greater your advantage. Also then you will not go mad yourself.

~T. E. Lawrence

Half a calamity is better than a whole one.

~T. E. Lawrence

To make war upon rebellion is messy and slow, like eating soup with a knife.

~T. E. Lawrence

Many men would take the death-sentence without a whimper, to escape the life-sentence which fate carries in her other hand.

~T. E. Lawrence

A thick headcloth forms a good protection against the sun, and if you wear a hat your best Arab friends will be ashamed of you in public.

~T. E. Lawrence

I could write for hours on the lustfulness of moving Swiftly.

~T. E. Lawrence

Mankind has had ten-thousand years of experience at fighting and if we must fight, we have no excuse for not fighting well.

~T. E. Lawrence

As long as the Arabs fight tribe against tribe, so long will they be a little people, a silly people, greedy, barbarous and cruel.

~T. E. Lawrence

I wrote my will across the sky, in stars

~T. E. Lawrence

He feared his maturity as it grew upon him with its ripe thought, its skill, its finished art; yet which lacked the poetry of boyhood to make living a full end of life.

~T. E. Lawrence

Club Secretary: I say, Lawrence. You are a clown! Lawrence: We can't all be lion tamers.

~T. E. Lawrence

Isn't it true that the fault of birth rests somewhat on the child? I believe it's we who led our parents on to bear us, and it's our unborn children who make our flesh itch.

~T. E. Lawrence

The beginning and ending of the secret of handling Arabs is unremitting study of them.

~T. E. Lawrence

It seems to me that the conquest of the air is the only major task for our generation.

~T. E. Lawrence

The desert was held in a crazed communism by which Nature and the elements were for the free use of every known friendly person for his own purposes and no more.

~T. E. Lawrence

I prefer lies to truth, especially when the lies are about me.

~T. E. Lawrence

If I could talk it like Dahoum, you would never be tired of listening to me.

~T. E. Lawrence

The Beduin could not look for God within him: he was too sure that he was within God.

~T. E. Lawrence

We lived always in the stretch or sag of nerves, either on the crest or in the trough of waves of feeling.

~T. E. Lawrence

Immorality, I know. Immortality, I cannot judge.

~T. E. Lawrence

If you wear Arab things, wear the best. Clothes are significant among the tribes, and you must wear the appropriate, and appear at ease in them. Dress like a Sherif, if they agree to it.

~T. E. Lawrence

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