

# T. S. Eliot

## Quotes

*Men, Life, Thinking, Art, People, Poetry, Inspirational, Cat, Time, Past, Way,  
Death, Ends, Writing, Believe, May, Feelings, Quartets, Love, Mean*

Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people wanting to be important.

~T. S. Eliot

Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.

~T. S. Eliot

We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.

~T. S. Eliot

If we really want to pray we must first learn to listen, for in the silence of the heart God speaks.

~T. S. Eliot

I learn a great deal by merely observing you, and letting you talk as long as you please, and taking note of what you do not say.

~T. S. Eliot

Where is the Life we have lost in living? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

~T. S. Eliot

Finding a way to live the simple life is one of life's supreme complications.

~T. S. Eliot

April is the cruelest month, breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain.

~T. S. Eliot

The journey, Not the destination matters.

~T. S. Eliot

Now that the lilacs are in bloom She has a bowl of lilacs in her room

~T. S. Eliot

Survival is your strength not your shame.

~T. S. Eliot

If you haven't the strength to impose your own terms upon life, then you must accept the terms it offers you.

~T. S. Eliot

To do the useful thing, to say the courageous thing, to contemplate the beautiful thing: that is enough for one man's life.

~T. S. Eliot

If you do not push the boundaries, you will never know where they are.

~T. S. Eliot

Everyone gets the experience. Some get the lesson.

~T. S. Eliot

We are the hollow men We are the stuffed men Leaning together...

~T. S. Eliot

Men live by forgetting and woman live on memories.

~T. S. Eliot

The True Church can never fail. For it is based upon a rock.

~T. S. Eliot

The end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started.

~T. S. Eliot

Playwriting gets into your blood and you can't stop it. At least not until the producers or the public tell you to.

~T. S. Eliot

Between the conception and the creation, between the emotion and the response, Falls the shadow.

~T. S. Eliot

Distracted from distraction by distraction

~T. S. Eliot

Those who arrive at the end of the journey are not those who began.

~T. S. Eliot

It's strange that words are so inadequate. Yet, like the asthmatic struggling for breath, so the lover must struggle for words.

~T. S. Eliot

Philosophy: a purple bullfinch in a lilac tree.

~T. S. Eliot

So the darkness shall be the light, and the stillness the dancing.

~T. S. Eliot

Let's not be narrow, nasty, and negative.

~T. S. Eliot

Humility is the most difficult of all virtues to achieve; nothing dies harder than the desire to think well of self.

~T. S. Eliot

If you desire to drain to the dregs the fullest cup of scorn and hatred that a fellow human being can pour out for you, let a young mother hear you call dear baby 'it.'

~T. S. Eliot

For us, there is only the trying. The rest is not our business.

~T. S. Eliot

You are the music while the music lasts.

~T. S. Eliot

The winter evening settles down With smell of steaks in passageways.

~T. S. Eliot

My name is only an anagram of toilets.

~T. S. Eliot

In the mountains, there you feel free.

~T. S. Eliot

Only by acceptance of the past, can you alter it

~T. S. Eliot

Not less of love, but expanding Of love beyond desire, and so liberation  
From the Future as well as the past.

~T. S. Eliot

I am an Anglo-Catholic in religion, a classicist in literature and a royalist  
in politics.

~T. S. Eliot

The very existence of libraries affords the best evidence that we may  
yet have hope for the future of man

~T. S. Eliot

We shall not cease from exploring, And the end of our exploring Will be  
to arrive where we started And know the place for the first time.

~T. S. Eliot

Where is all the knowledge we lost with information?

~T. S. Eliot

We had the experience, but we missed the meaning.

~T. S. Eliot

I have measured out my life with coffee spoons.

~T. S. Eliot

The circle of our understanding is a very restricted area.

~T. S. Eliot

Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?

~T. S. Eliot

A national culture, if it is to flourish, should be a constellation of cultures, the constitutes of which, benefiting each other, benefit the whole.

~T. S. Eliot

If you aren't in over your head, how do you know how tall you are?

~T. S. Eliot

In a mind charged with an eager purpose and an unfinished vindictiveness, there is no room for new feelings.

~T. S. Eliot

Gin and drugs, dear lady, gin and drugs.

~T. S. Eliot

In order to arrive at what you are not, you must go through the way in which you are not.

~T. S. Eliot

Success is relative. It is what we make of the mess we have made of things.

~T. S. Eliot

The majority of mankind is lazy-minded, incurious, absorbed in vanities, and tepid in emotion, and is therefore incapable of either much doubt or much faith.

~T. S. Eliot

Everyone's alone - or so it seems to me. They make noises, and think they are talking to each other; They make faces, and think they understand each other. And I'm sure they don't. Is that a delusion?

~T. S. Eliot

Love is most nearly itself  
When here and now cease to matter.

~T. S. Eliot

Let us go then, you and I,  
When the evening is spread out against the sky

~T. S. Eliot

Love compels cruelty  
To those who do not understand love.

~T. S. Eliot

Not the intense moment  
Isolated, with no before and after,  
But a lifetime burning in every moment.

~T. S. Eliot

This is the way the world ends,  
not with a bang, but a whimper.

~T. S. Eliot

The last temptation is the greatest treason: to do the right deed for the

wrong reason.

~T. S. Eliot

It is obvious that we can no more explain a passion to a person who has never experienced it than we can explain light to the blind.

~T. S. Eliot

Some editors are failed writers, but so are most writers.

~T. S. Eliot

In the last few years everything I'd done up to sixty or so has seemed very childish.

~T. S. Eliot

At the still point, there the dance is.

~T. S. Eliot

Turn things you've always wanted to do, into things you've done

~T. S. Eliot

In the faint moonlight, the grass is singing

~T. S. Eliot

Humor is also a way of saying something serious.

~T. S. Eliot

The definition of hell is a place where nothing connects with nothing.

~T. S. Eliot

The darkness declares the glory of light.

~T. S. Eliot

Maturing as a poet means maturing as the whole man, experiencing new emotions appropriate to one's age, and with the same intensity as



the emotions of youth.

~T. S. Eliot

It seems just possible that a poem might happen to a very young man:  
but a poem is not poetry -That is a life.

~T. S. Eliot

music heard so deeply That it is not heard at all, but you are the music  
While the music lasts.

~T. S. Eliot

There is no feeling, except the extremes of fear and grief, that does not  
find relief in music.

~T. S. Eliot

For last year's words belong to last year's language And next year's  
words await another voice.

~T. S. Eliot

No poet, no artist of any art, has his complete meaning alone.

~T. S. Eliot

If you start with a bang, you won't end with a whimper.

~T. S. Eliot

In a world of fugitives, the person taking the opposite direction will  
appear to run away.

~T. S. Eliot

To make an end is to make a beginning.

~T. S. Eliot

The greatest proof of Christianity for others is not how far a man can  
logically analyze his reasons for believing, but how far in practice he will

stake his life on his belief.

~T. S. Eliot

An election is coming. Universal peace is declared and the foxes have a sincere interest in prolonging the lives of the poultry.

~T. S. Eliot

Most of the evil in this world is done by people with good intentions.

~T. S. Eliot

Accident is design / And design is accident / In a cloud of unknowing.

~T. S. Eliot

Of lovers whose bodies smell of each other  
Who think the same thoughts without need of speech

~T. S. Eliot

What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from.

~T. S. Eliot

Footfalls echo in the memory, down the passage we did not take,  
towards the door we never opened, into the rose garden.

~T. S. Eliot

Anxiety is the hand maiden of creativity.

~T. S. Eliot

War is not a life: it is a situation, one which may neither be ignored nor accepted.

~T. S. Eliot

I said to my soul, be still, and wait without hope, For hope would be hope for the wrong thing.

~T. S. Eliot

life is long between the desire and the spasm.

~T. S. Eliot

Every moment is a fresh beginning.

~T. S. Eliot

When forced to work within a strict framework, the imagination is taxed to its utmost and will produce its richest ideas. Given total freedom, the work is likely to sprawl.

~T. S. Eliot

Home is where one starts from.

~T. S. Eliot

I had seen birth and death but had thought they were different.

~T. S. Eliot

The naming of cats is a difficult matter. It isn't just one of your holiday games. You may think at first I'm mad as a hatter. When I tell you a cat must have three different names.

~T. S. Eliot

Half of the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don't mean to do harm. But the harm does not interest them.

~T. S. Eliot

So far as we are human, what we do must be either evil or good: so far as we do evil or good, we are human: and it is better, in a paradoxical way, to do evil than to do nothing: at least we exist.

~T. S. Eliot

A toothache, or a violent passion, is not necessarily diminished by our knowledge of its causes, its character, its importance or insignificance.

~T. S. Eliot

Immature poets imitate; mature poets steal; bad poets deface what they take, and good poets make it into something better, or at least something different.

~T. S. Eliot

If you want it you must obtain it by great labor.

~T. S. Eliot

Immature poets imitate; mature poets steal.

~T. S. Eliot

My greatest trouble is getting the curtain up and down.

~T. S. Eliot

Between the idea And the reality  
Between the motion And the act  
Falls  
the Shadow

~T. S. Eliot

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