

# Voltairine de Cleyre

## Quotes

*Mean, Liberty, Men, Believe, Struggle, War, Names, People, Individual, Law,  
Life, Giving, Anarchy, May, Government, Long, Exercise, Pregnancy, Hate,  
Teaching*

There is no peace now, and there will never be peace, so long as one rules over another.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

I never expect men to give us liberty. No, women, we are not worth it until we take it.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

I die, as I have lived, a free spirit, an Anarchist, owing no allegiance to rulers, heavenly or earthly.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

I think it can be shown that the law makes ten criminals where it restrains one.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

There is no society for the prevention of cruelty to women.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

A standing army is a standing menace to liberty.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

Speak, speak, speak, & remember that whenever anyone's liberty to speak is denied, your liberty is denied also, & your place is where the attack is.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

... it is better to study how to live rather than how to die; ... it is better to have a religion of deeds rather than a religion of creeds; ... it is better to work for humanity than for God.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

There is one common struggle against those who have appropriated the earth, the money, and the machines.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

The question of souls is oldâ€”we demand our bodies, now. We are tired of promises, god is deaf, and his church is our worst enemy.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

A right , in the abstract, is a fact ; it is not a thing to be given, established, or conferred; it is. Of the exercise of a right power may deprive me; of the right itself, never.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

As long as the working-people fold hands and pray the gods in Washington to give them work, so long they will not get it.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

Private enterprise manages better all that to which it is equal. Anarchism declares that private enterprise, whether individual or cooperative, is equal to all the undertakings of society.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

No one can hate petitions worse than I, and no one has less faith in them than I. But for my champion I am willing to try any means that invades no other's right, even though I have little hope in it.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

Is it not enough that 'things are cruel and blind'? Must we also be cruel and blind?

~Voltairine de Cleyre

Capitalistic Anarchism ? Oh, yes, if you choose to call it so. Names are indifferent to me; I am not afraid of bugaboos. Let it be so, then, capitalistic Anarchism.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

As to the American tradition of non-meddling, Anarchism asks that it be carried down to the individual himself.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

[The Catholic convent] had been like the Valley of the Shadow of Death, and there are white scars on my soul, where ignorance and superstition burnt me with their hell fire in those stifling days.

~Voltairine de Cleyre

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