

# W. S. Merwin

## Quotes

*Thinking, Rain, People, Way, Believe, Writing, World, Stars, Moving, Attitude, Needs, Art, Knowing, Past, Mistake, Night, Hands, Want, Mean, Missing You*

Separation Your absence has gone through me Like thread through a needle. Everything I do is stitched with its color.

~W. S. Merwin

From what we cannot hold the stars are made.

~W. S. Merwin

come back believer in shade believer in silence and elegance believer  
in ferns believer in patience believer in the rain

~W. S. Merwin

Your absence has gone through me

~W. S. Merwin

On the last day of the world I would want to plant a tree

~W. S. Merwin

We are asleep with compasses in our hands.

~W. S. Merwin

I say to my breath once again, little breath come from in front of me, go  
away behind me, row me quietly now, as far as you can, for I am an  
abyss that I am trying to cross.

~W. S. Merwin

Poetry is a way of looking at the world for the first time.

~W. S. Merwin

The story of each stone leads back to a mountain.

~W. S. Merwin

Now all my teachers are dead except silence.

~W. S. Merwin

I have with me all that I do not know I have lost none of it.

~W. S. Merwin

We are not born to survive. Only to live.

~W. S. Merwin

Laughter was the shape the darkness took around the first appearance of the light.

~W. S. Merwin

I will take with me the emptiness of my hands. What you do not have you find everywhere

~W. S. Merwin

Of course there is nothing the matter with the stars It is my emptiness among them While they drift farther away in the invisible morning

~W. S. Merwin

I also think that life itself is both indifferent to us and the source of all of our joys and everything that we love. And it's necessary to accept the one in order to love the other.

~W. S. Merwin

Modern poetry, for me, began not in English at all but in Spanish, in the poems of Lorca.

~W. S. Merwin

After an age of leaves and feathers someone dead thought of the mountain as money and cut the trees that were here and the wind and the rain at night. It is hard to say it.

~W. S. Merwin

What you remember saves you.

~W. S. Merwin

I have been younger in October than in all the months of spring.

~W. S. Merwin

So this is what I am Pondering his eyes that could not Conceive that I was a creature to run from I who have always believed too much in words

~W. S. Merwin

We are the echo of the future.

~W. S. Merwin

Certain words now in our knowledge we will not use again, and we will never forget them. We need them. Like the back of the picture.

~W. S. Merwin

I needed my mistakes in their order to get me here

~W. S. Merwin

Every year without knowing it I have passed the day When the last fires will wave to me

~W. S. Merwin

I wouldn't be happy about being considered a love poet or an environmental - I don't want any of those tags.

~W. S. Merwin

Send me out into another life lord because this one is growing faint I do not think it goes all the way

~W. S. Merwin

Through all of youth I was looking for you without knowing what I was looking for

~W. S. Merwin

we travel far and fast and as we pass through we forget where we have been

~W. S. Merwin

You grieve Not that heaven does not exist but That it exists without us

~W. S. Merwin

I offer you what I have my Poverty

~W. S. Merwin

We're losing a species every few seconds. We cannot put them back. If we change our mind and say, 'Oops, we made a mistake' - it's too late. This is the world we live with.

~W. S. Merwin

My words are the garment of what I shall never be Like the tucked sleeve of a one-armed boy.

~W. S. Merwin

My cradle was a shoe.

~W. S. Merwin

To succeed [,] consider what is as though it were past, deem yourself inevitable and take credit for it. If you no longer believe, enlarge the temple.

~W. S. Merwin

If there'd been a better-balanced society, where there were other ways of making a decent living, I think it might have been different. That's not the way this setup work.

~W. S. Merwin

Poetry is like making a joke. If you get one word wrong at the end of a joke, you've lost the whole thing.

~W. S. Merwin

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