

# Walter Savage Landor Quotes

*Men, Wise, Heart, Thinking, Greatness, Lying, Life, Fall, Wisdom, Hands, Long,  
Mind, Light, Writing, Death, Littles, Eye, Law, Religion, May*

The spirit of Greece, passing through and ascending above the world, hath so animated universal nature, that the very rocks and woods, the very torrents and wilds burst forth with it.

~Walter Savage Landor

No ashes are lighter than those of incense, and few things burn out sooner.

~Walter Savage Landor

There is nothing on earth divine except humanity.

~Walter Savage Landor

Truth, like the juice of the poppy, in small quantities, calms men; in larger, heats and irritates them, and is attended by fatal consequences in excess.

~Walter Savage Landor

We are no longer happy so soon as we wish to be happier.

~Walter Savage Landor

A man's vanity tells him what is honor, a man's conscience what is justice.

~Walter Savage Landor

My thoughts are my company; I can bring them together, select them, detain them, dismiss them.

~Walter Savage Landor

Friendship is a vase, which, when it is flawed by heat, or violence, or accident, may as well be broken at once; it can never be trusted after.

~Walter Savage Landor

The Siren waits thee, singing song for song.

~Walter Savage Landor

A good cook is the peculiar gift of the gods. He must be a perfect creature from the brain to the palate, from the palate to the finger's end.

~Walter Savage Landor

The flame of anger, bright and brief, sharpens the barb of love.

~Walter Savage Landor

It is easy to look down on others; to look down on ourselves is the difficulty.

~Walter Savage Landor

Great men always pay deference to greater.

~Walter Savage Landor

Heat and animosity, contest and conflict, may sharpen the wits, although they rarely do; they never strengthen the understanding, clear the perspicacity, guide the judgment, or improve the heart.

~Walter Savage Landor

Music is God's gift to man, the only art of Heaven given to earth, the only art of earth we take to Heaven.

~Walter Savage Landor

I strove with none, for none was worth my strife. Nature I loved and, next to Nature, Art: I warm'd both hands before the fire of life; It sinks, and I am ready to depart.

~Walter Savage Landor

We fancy we suffer from ingratitude, while in reality we suffer from self-love.

~Walter Savage Landor

Religion is the eldest sister of philosophy: on whatever subjects they

may differ, it is unbecoming in either to quarrel, and most so about their inheritance.

~Walter Savage Landor

Study is the bane of childhood, the oil of youth, the indulgence of adulthood, and a restorative in old age.

~Walter Savage Landor

Goodness does not more certainly make men happy than happiness makes them good.

~Walter Savage Landor

The habit of pleasing by flattery makes a language soft; the fear of offending by truth makes it circuitous and conventional.

~Walter Savage Landor

It is delightful to kiss the eyelashes of the beloved--is it not? But never so delightful as when fresh tears are on them.

~Walter Savage Landor

Despotism sits nowhere so secure as under the effigy and ensigns of freedom.

~Walter Savage Landor

We cannot be contented because we are happy, and we cannot be happy because we are contented.

~Walter Savage Landor

Men, like nails, lose their usefulness when they lose their direction and begin to bend.

~Walter Savage Landor

What is reading but silent conversation?

~Walter Savage Landor

Cruelty is the highest pleasure to the cruel man; it is his love.

~Walter Savage Landor

The religion of Christ is peace and good-will,--the religion of Christendom is war and ill-will.

~Walter Savage Landor

Nothing is pleasanter to me than exploring in a library.

~Walter Savage Landor

Of all failures, to fail in a witticism is the worst, and the mishap is the more calamitous in a drawn-out and detailed one

~Walter Savage Landor

The wise become as the unwise in the enchanted chambers of Power, whose lamps make every face the same colour.

~Walter Savage Landor

An ingenious mind feels in unmerited praise the bitterest reproof.

~Walter Savage Landor

When a cat flatters ... he is not insincere: you may safely take it for real kindness.

~Walter Savage Landor

Cats like men are flatterers.

~Walter Savage Landor

No good writer was ever long neglected; no great man overlooked by men equally great. Impatience is a proof of inferior strength, and a destroyer of what little there may be.

~Walter Savage Landor

Delay in justice is injustice.

~Walter Savage Landor

In argument, truth always prevails finally; in politics, falsehood always.

~Walter Savage Landor

I strove with none; for none was worth my strife.

~Walter Savage Landor

He who brings ridicule to bear against truth finds in his hand a blade without a hilt.

~Walter Savage Landor

When the mind loses its feeling for elegance, it grows corrupt and groveling, and seeks in the crowd what ought to be found at home.

~Walter Savage Landor

Prose on certain occasions can bear a great deal of poetry; on the other hand, poetry sinks and swoons under a moderate weight of prose.

~Walter Savage Landor

Political men, like goats, usually thrive best among inequalities.

~Walter Savage Landor

The most pernicious of absurdities is that weak, blind, stupid faith is better than the constant practice of every human virtue.

~Walter Savage Landor

As the pearl ripens in the obscurity of its shell, so ripens in the tomb all the fame that is truly precious.

~Walter Savage Landor

Children are what the mothers are.

~Walter Savage Landor

An ingenuous mind feels in unmerited praise the bitterest reproof. If you reject it you are unhappy, if you accept it you are undone.

~Walter Savage Landor

Cruelty, if we consider it as a crime, is the greatest of all; if we consider it as a madness, we are equally justifiable in applying to it the readiest and the surest means of oppression.

~Walter Savage Landor

Great men lose somewhat of their greatness by being near us; ordinary men gain much.

~Walter Savage Landor

A little praise is good for a shy temper; it teaches it to rely on the kindness of others.

~Walter Savage Landor

How sweet and sacred idleness is!

~Walter Savage Landor

Consult duty not events.

~Walter Savage Landor

Even the weakest disputant is made so conceited by what he calls religion, as to think himself wiser than the wisest who thinks differently from him.

~Walter Savage Landor

The tomb is the pedestal of greatness. I make a distinction between God's great and the king's great.

~Walter Savage Landor

O Music! how it grieves me that imprudence, intemperance, gluttony, should open their channels into thy sacred stream.

~Walter Savage Landor

A wise man will always be a Christian, because the perfection of wisdom is to know where lies tranquillity of mind and how to attain it, which Christianity teaches.

~Walter Savage Landor

No truer word, save God's, was ever spoken, Than that the largest heart is soonest broken.

~Walter Savage Landor

Dignity, in private men and in governments, has been little else than a stately and stiff perseverance in oppression; and spirit, as it is called, little else than the foam of hard-mouthed insolence.

~Walter Savage Landor

How delightful it is to see a friend after a length of absence! How delightful to chide him for that length of absence to which we owe such delight.

~Walter Savage Landor

To my ninth decade I have totter'd on, And no soft arm bends now my steps to steady; She, who once led me where she would, is gone, So when he calls me, Death shall find me ready.

~Walter Savage Landor

The eyes of critics, whether in commending or carping, are both on one side, like a turbot's.

~Walter Savage Landor

Something of the severe hath always been appertaining to order and to grace; and the beauty that is not too liberal is sought the most ardently, and loved the longest.

~Walter Savage Landor



Immoderate power, like other intemperance, leaves the progeny weaker and weaker, until nature as in compassion covers it with her mantle and it is seen no more.

~Walter Savage Landor

The writing of the wise are the only riches our posterity cannot squander.

~Walter Savage Landor

There is delight in singing, though none hear beside the singer.

~Walter Savage Landor

The happiest of pillows is not that which love first presses! it is that which death has frowned on and passed over.

~Walter Savage Landor

Every good writer has much idiom; it is the life and spirit of language.

~Walter Savage Landor

Fame, they tell you, is air; but without air there is no life for any; without fame there is none for the best.

~Walter Savage Landor

It is as wise to moderate our belief as our desires.

~Walter Savage Landor

Experience is our only teacher both in war and peace.

~Walter Savage Landor

Wisdom consisteth not in knowing many things, nor even in knowing them thoroughly; but in choosing and in following what conduces the most certainly to our lasting happiness and true glory.

~Walter Savage Landor

Other offences, even the greatest, are the violation of one law: despotism is the violation of all.

~Walter Savage Landor

Was genius ever ungrateful? Mere talents are dry leaves, tossed up and down by gusts of passion, and scattered and swept away; but, Genius lies on the bosom of Memory, and Gratitude at her feet.

~Walter Savage Landor

Everything that looks to the future elevates human nature; for never is life so low or so little as when occupied with the present.

~Walter Savage Landor

Merit has rarely risen of itself, but a pebble or a twig is often quite sufficient for it to spring from to the highest ascent. There is usually some baseness before there is any elevation.

~Walter Savage Landor

The foundation of domestic happiness is faith in the virtue of woman.

~Walter Savage Landor

Every sect is a moral check on its neighbour. Competition is as wholesome in religion as in commerce.

~Walter Savage Landor

We cannot conquer fate and necessity, yet we can yield to them in such a manner as to be greater than if we could.

~Walter Savage Landor

When a woman hath ceased to be quite the same to us, it matters little how different she becomes.

~Walter Savage Landor

Falsehood is for a season.

~Walter Savage Landor

Many laws as certainly make men bad, as bad men make many laws.

~Walter Savage Landor

Absurdities are great or small in proportion to custom or insuetude.

~Walter Savage Landor

You should indeed have longer tarried By the roadside before you married.

~Walter Savage Landor

There is a gravity which is not austere nor captious, which belongs not to melancholy nor dwells in contraction of heart: but arises from tenderness and hangs upon reflection.

~Walter Savage Landor

Teach him to live unto God and unto thee; and he will discover that women, like the plants in woods, derive their softness and tenderness from the shade.

~Walter Savage Landor

Everything that looks to the future elevates human nature.

~Walter Savage Landor

There are proud men of so much delicacy that it almost conceals their pride, and perfectly excuses it.

~Walter Savage Landor

The happy never say, and never hear said, farewell.

~Walter Savage Landor

Solitude is the audience-chamber of God.

~Walter Savage Landor

Greatness, as we daily see it, is unsociable.

~Walter Savage Landor

Little men build up great ones, but the snow colossus soon melts; the good stand under the eye of God, and therefore stand.

~Walter Savage Landor

We fancy that our afflictions are sent us directly from above; sometimes we think it in piety and contrition, but oftener in moroseness and discontent.

~Walter Savage Landor

Politeness is not always a sign of wisdom; but the want of it always leaves room for a suspicion of folly, if folly and imprudence are the same.

~Walter Savage Landor

In honest truth, a name given to a man is no better than a skin given to him; what is not natively his own falls off and comes to nothing.

~Walter Savage Landor

Ambition is but avarice on stilts, and masked. God sometimes sends a famine, sometimes a pestilence, and sometimes a hero, for the chastisement of mankind; none of them surely for our admiration.

~Walter Savage Landor

Wrong is but falsehood put in practice.

~Walter Savage Landor

Great men too often have greater faults than little men can find room for.

~Walter Savage Landor

Men universally are ungrateful towards him who instructs them, unless,

in the hours or in the intervals of instruction, he presents a sweet-cake to their self-love.

~Walter Savage Landor

Fleas know not whether they are upon the body of a giant or upon one of ordinary size.

~Walter Savage Landor

The present, like a note in music, is nothing but as it appertains to what is past and what is to come.

~Walter Savage Landor

Ridicule has followed the vestiges of truth, but never usurped her place.

~Walter Savage Landor

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