

Will Durant Quotes

*Men, Civilization, Philosophy, Liberty, Order, Art, War, Thinking, People, Mind,
History, Past, Inspirational, Education, Government, Christian, Life, Rome, Rich,
Motivational*

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.

~Will Durant

Forget mistakes. Forget failure. Forget everything except what you're going to do now and do it. Today is your lucky day

~Will Durant

To say nothing, especially when speaking, is half the art of diplomacy.

~Will Durant

Knowledge is the eye of desire and can become the pilot of the soul.

~Will Durant

The future never just happened. It was created.

~Will Durant

The trouble with most people is that they think with their hopes or fears or wishes rather than with their minds.

~Will Durant

We are living in the excesses of freedom. Just take a look at 42nd Street and Broadway.

~Will Durant

The political machine triumphs because it is a united minority acting against a divided majority.

~Will Durant

If we have never been amazed by the very fact that we exist, we are squandering the greatest fact of all.

~Will Durant

Man is an emotional animal, occasionally rational; and through his

feelings he can be deceived to his heart's content.

~Will Durant

The only real revolution is in the enlightenment of the mind and the improvement of character, the only real emancipation is individual, and the only real revolutionists are philosophers and saints.

~Will Durant

Sixty years ago I knew everything. Now I know nothing. Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.

~Will Durant

The health of nations is more important than the wealth of nations.

~Will Durant

It may be true that you can't fool all the people all the time, but you can fool enough of them to rule a large country.

~Will Durant

There have been only 268 of the past 3,421 years free of war.

~Will Durant

Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance.

~Will Durant

Civilization exists by geological consent, subject to change without notice.

~Will Durant

Knowledge is power but only wisdom is liberty.

~Will Durant

Those who have suffered much become very bitter or very gentle.

~Will Durant

Tired mothers find that spanking takes less time than reasoning and penetrates sooner to the seat of the memory.

~Will Durant

Science gives us knowledge, but only philosophy can give us wisdom.

~Will Durant

Civilizations come and go; they conquer the earth and crumble into dust; but faith survives every desolation.

~Will Durant

History is always repeating itself, but each time the price goes up.

~Will Durant

Philosophy begins when one learns to doubt -- particularly to doubt one's cherished beliefs, one's dogmas and one's axioms.

~Will Durant

Men decided that it was better to pay taxes than to fight among themselves; better to pay tribute to one magnificent robber than to bribe them all.

~Will Durant

From barbarism to civilization requires a century; from civilization to barbarism needs but a day.

~Will Durant

Civilization begins with order, grows with liberty, and dies with chaos.

~Will Durant

Liberty is a product of order.

~Will Durant

The greatest question of our time is not communism vs. individualism,

not Europe vs. America, not even the East vs. the West; it is whether men can bear to live without God.

~Will Durant

Education is the transmission of civilization.

~Will Durant

In the last analysis civilization is based upon the food supply.

~Will Durant

When liberty destroys order the hunger for order will destroy liberty.

~Will Durant

Drunkenness was in good repute in England till "Bloody Mary" frowned upon it; it remained popular in Germany. The French drank more stably, not being quite so cold.

~Will Durant

Every science begins as philosophy and ends as art; it arises in hypothesis and flows into achievement.

~Will Durant

Nothing is often a good thing to do and always a good thing to say.

~Will Durant

We teach more by what we are than by what we teach.

~Will Durant

Never mind your happiness; do your duty.

~Will Durant

To rulers religion, like almost everything else, is a tool of power.

~Will Durant

by and large the poor have the same impulses as the rich, with only less opportunity or skill to implement them

~Will Durant

The time when you need to do something is when no one else is willing to do it, when people are saying it can't be done.

~Will Durant

Caesar's armies marched on vegetarian foods.

~Will Durant

In the end, nothing is lost. Every event, for good or evil, has effects forever.

~Will Durant

There is no real philosophy until the mind turns around and examines itself.

~Will Durant

Those who know nothing about history are doomed forever to repeat it.

~Will Durant

Science without philosophy, facts without perspective and valuation, cannot save us from havoc and despair. Science gives us knowledge, but only philosophy can give us wisdom.

~Will Durant

War is one of the constants of history, and it has not diminished with civilization or democracy.

~Will Durant

History reports that the men who can manage men manage the men who can manage only things, and the men who can manage money manage all.

~Will Durant

Perhaps it is one secret of their power that, having studied the fluctuations of prices, the [bankers] know that history is inflationary.

~Will Durant

Moral codes adjust themselves to environmental conditions.

~Will Durant

The South creates the civilizations, the North conquers them, ruins them, borrows from them, spreads them: this is one summary of history.

~Will Durant

I have tried to be impartial, though I know that a man's past always colors his views, and that nothing else is so irritating as impartiality.

~Will Durant

If man asks for many laws it is only because he is sure that his neighbor needs them; privately he is an unphilosophical anarchist, and thinks laws in his own case superfluous.

~Will Durant

When liberty exceeds intelligence, it begets chaos, which begets dictatorship.

~Will Durant

To give life a meaning, one must have a purpose larger than self.

~Will Durant

Truth always originates in a minority of one, and every custom begins as a broken precedent.

~Will Durant

So prominent was the Jewish role in the foreign commerce of Europe that those nations that received the Jews gained and the countries that excluded them lost in the volume of international trade.

~Will Durant

The soul of a civilization is its religion, and it dies with its faith.

~Will Durant

The great snare of thought is uncritical acceptance of irrational assumptions.

~Will Durant

Inquiry is fatal to certainty.

~Will Durant

Progress is the domination of chaos by mind and purpose, of matter by form and will. It need not be continuous to be real.

~Will Durant

As knowledge grew, fear decreased; men thought less of worshipping the unknown, and more of overcoming it.

~Will Durant

Truth will not make us rich, but it will make us free.

~Will Durant

Cultivate your garden. Do not depend upon teachers to educate you... follow your own bent, pursue your curiosity bravely, express yourself, make your own harmony.

~Will Durant

Our knowledge is a receding mirage in an expanding desert of ignorance.

~Will Durant

Bankers know that history is inflationary and that money is the last thing a wise man will hoard

~Will Durant

The ego is willing but the machine cannot go on. It's the last thing a man will admit, that his mind ages.

~Will Durant

As long as there is poverty there will be gods.

~Will Durant

If our economy of freedom fails to distribute wealth as ably as it has created it, the road to dictatorship will be open to any man who can persuasively promise security to all.

~Will Durant

Freedom and equality are naturan born enemies.

~Will Durant

When liberty becomes license, dictatorship is near.

~Will Durant

There is no significant example in history, before our time, of a society successfully maintaining moral life without the aid of religion.

~Will Durant

The most interesting thing in the world is another human being who wonders, suffers and raises the questions that have bothered him to the last day of his life, knowing he will never get the answers.

~Will Durant

So the story of man runs in a dreary circle, because he is not yet master of the earth that holds him.

~Will Durant

Who will dare to write a history of human goodness?

~Will Durant

It came to me that reform should begin at home, and since that day I have not had time to remake the world.

~Will Durant

Continue to express your dissent and your needs, but remember to remain civilized, for you will sorely miss civilization if it is sacrificed in the turbulence of change.

~Will Durant

Liberty is a luxury of security; the free individual is a product and a mark of civilization.

~Will Durant

Underneath all civilization, ancient or modern, moved and still moves a sea of magic, superstition, and sorcery. Perhaps they will remain when the works of our reason have passed away.

~Will Durant

In Constantinople, more Christians were slaughtered by Christians in the years 342-343 than by all the persecutions by pagans in the history of Rome.

~Will Durant

Nature smiles at the union of freedom and equality in our utopias. For freedom and equality are sworn and everlasting enemies, and when one prevails the other dies.

~Will Durant

Communism is the opiate of the people.

~Will Durant

No man who is in a hurry is quite civilized.

~Will Durant

In my youth I stressed freedom, and in my old age I stress order. I have made the great discovery that liberty is a product of order.

~Will Durant

How much more suffering is caused by the thought of death than by death itself.

~Will Durant

We Americans are the best informed people on earth as to the events of the last twenty-four hours; we are not the best informed as the events of the last sixty centuries.

~Will Durant

The world wisely prefers happiness to wisdom.

~Will Durant

India will teach us the tolerance and gentleness of mature mind, understanding spirit and a unifying, pacifying love for all human beings.

~Will Durant

Art lies in conceiving and designing, not in the actual execution' - this was left for lesser minds.

~Will Durant

Hunting is now to most of us a game, whose relish seems based upon some mystic remembrance, in the blood, of ancient days when to hunter as well as hunted it was a matter of life and death.

~Will Durant

There is hardly an absurdity of the past that cannot be found flourishing somewhere in the present.

~Will Durant

In philosophy, as in politics, the longest distance between two points is a straight line.

~Will Durant

Tolerance grows only when faith loses certainty; certainty is murderous.

~Will Durant

The past is not dead. Indeed, it is often not even past.

~Will Durant

A statesman cannot afford to be a moralist.

~Will Durant

Civilization is the order and freedom is promoting cultural activity.

~Will Durant

For you will sorely miss civilization if it is sacrificed in the turbulence of change.

~Will Durant

A civilization is born Stoic and dies Epicurean.

~Will Durant

Civilization is the interval between Ice Ages.

~Will Durant

The victors called the revolution a triumph of liberty; but now and then liberty in the slogans of the strong means freedom from restraint in the exploitation of the weak.

~Will Durant

Contentment is rare among men as it is natural among animals

~Will Durant

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