

# William Davenant

## Quotes

*Wise, Ambition, Soul, Dark, Doe, Light, Sorrow, Men, Birth, Fierce, Tolls, Sloth,  
Design, Seems, Army, Moving, Overcoming, Sin, Prayer, Anger*

Anger is blood, poured and perplexed into froth; but malice is the wisdom of our wrath.

~William Davenant

All slander must still be strangled in its birth, or time will soon conspire to make it strong enough to overcome the truth.

~William Davenant

It is the wit and policy of sin to hate those we have abused.

~William Davenant

Calamity is the perfect glass wherein we truly see and know ourselves.

~William Davenant

Actions rare and sudden do commonly proceed from fierce necessity, of else from some oblique design, which is ashamed to show itself in the public road.

~William Davenant

Had laws not been, we never had been blam'd; For not to know we sinn'd is innocence.

~William Davenant

Since knowledge is but sorrow's spy, It is not safe to know.

~William Davenant

Fame, like the river, is narrowest where it is bred, and broadest afar off.

~William Davenant

Honor is the moral conscience of the great.

~William Davenant

Ambition is the mind's immodesty.

~William Davenant

Think not ambition wise, because 't is brave.

~William Davenant

Ambition's monstrous stomach does increase  
By eating, and it fears to starve,  
unless It still may feed, and all it sees devour;  
Ambition is not tir'd with toll nor cloy'd with power.

~William Davenant

How beautiful is sorrow when it is dressed by virgin innocence!  
it makes felicity in others seem deformed.

~William Davenant

All jealousy must be strangled in its birth.

~William Davenant

For in a dearth of comforts, we art taught  
To be contented with the least.

~William Davenant

What one cannot, another can.

~William Davenant

Slow seems their speed whose thoughts before them run.

~William Davenant

Generous souls Are still most subject to credulity.

~William Davenant

How much pleasure they lose (and even the pleasures of heroic poesy  
are not unprofitable) who take away the liberty of a poet, and fether his  
feet in the shackles of a historian.

~William Davenant

Small are the seeds fate does unheeded sow  
Of slight beginnings to important ends.

~William Davenant

O harmless Death! whom still the valiant brave,  
The wise expect, the sorrowful invite,  
And all the good embrace, who know the grave  
A short dark passage to eternal light.

~William Davenant

Be not with honor's gilded baits beguil'd,  
Nor think ambition wise, because 'tis brave;  
For though we like it, as a forward child,  
'Tis so unsound, her cradle is the grave.

~William Davenant

The assembled souls of all that men held wise.

~William Davenant

Faith lights us through the dark to Deity.

~William Davenant

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- Wise Quotes
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