

William Ernest Henley

Quotes

*Life, Men, Summer, Death, Heart, Unconquerable Will, Spring, Night, Artist,
Chance, World, Wind, Wrath, Fear, Remember, Dying, Statistics, Believe,
Foundation, Promise*

beyond this place of wrath and tears looms but the horror of the shade

~William Ernest Henley

It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll; I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.

~William Ernest Henley

Men may scoff, and men may pray, But they pay Every pleasure with a pain.

~William Ernest Henley

Life is worth Living Through every grain of it, From the foundations To the last edge Of the cornerstone, death.

~William Ernest Henley

So many are the deaths we die Before we can be dead indeed.

~William Ernest Henley

Here is the ghost Of a summer that lived for us, Ere is a promise Of summer to be.

~William Ernest Henley

Under the bludgeonings of chance My head is bloody, but unbowed.

~William Ernest Henley

Were I so tall as to reach the pole or grasp the ocean at a span, I must be measured by my soul. The mind is the standard of the man.

~William Ernest Henley

Open your heart and take us in, Love-love and me.

~William Ernest Henley

Night with her train of stars And her great gift of sleep.

~William Ernest Henley

O, it's die we must, but it's live we can, And the marvel of earth and sun
Is all for the joy of woman and man And the longing that makes them
one." (Between the Dusk of a Summer Night, 13-16)

~William Ernest Henley

Life is, I think, a blunder and a shame.

~William Ernest Henley

For it's home, dearie, home--it's home I want to be. Our topsails are
hoisted, and we'll away to sea. O, the oak and the ash and the bonnie
birken tree They're all growing green in the old countrie.

~William Ernest Henley

Who but knows How it goes! Life's a last year's Nightingale, Love's a
last year's rose.

~William Ernest Henley

Life is a smoke that curls- Curls in a flickering skein, That winds and
whisks and whirls, A figment thin and vain, Into the vast inane. One end
for hut and hall.

~William Ernest Henley

In the fell clutch of circumstance, I have not winced nor cried aloud:
Under the bludgeoning of chance my head is bloody, but unbowed.

~William Ernest Henley

This is the merit and distinction of art: to be more real than reality, to be
not nature but nature's essence.

~William Ernest Henley

Pointed criticism, if accurate, often gives the artist an inner sense of
relief. The criticism that damages is that which disparages, dismisses,
ridicules, or condemns.

~William Ernest Henley

I thank whatever gods may be For my unconquerable soul.

~William Ernest Henley

[T]hey stretch you on a table. Then they bid you close your eyelids, And they mask you with a napkin, And the anæsthetic reaches Hot and subtle through your being.

~William Ernest Henley

Madam Life's a piece in bloom Death goes dogging everywhere: she's the tenant of the room, he's the ruffian on the stair.

~William Ernest Henley

So be my passing! My task accomplished and the long day done, My wages taken, and in my heart Some late lark singing, Let me be gathered in the quiet west, The sundown splendid and serene, Death.

~William Ernest Henley

And lo, the Hospital, gray, quiet, old, Where life and death like friendly chafferers meet.

~William Ernest Henley

Now, to read poetry at all is to have an ideal anthology of one's own, and in that possession to be incapable of content with the anthologies of all the world besides.

~William Ernest Henley

Life - life - life! 'Tis the sole great thing This side of death, Heart on heart in the wonder of Spring!

~William Ernest Henley

A late lark twitters from the quiet skies.

~William Ernest Henley

Shakespeare and Rembrandt have in common the faculty of quickening

speculation and compelling the minds of men to combat and discussion.

~William Ernest Henley

Into the winter's gray delight, Into the summer's golden dream, Holy and high and impartial, Death, the mother of Life, Mingles all men for ever.

~William Ernest Henley

Life - life - let there be life!

~William Ernest Henley

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