

Yamamoto Tsunetomo Quotes

*War, Men, Thinking, Heart, Life, Important, Art, Life And Death, Mind, Eye,
Warrior, Mistake, Looks, Two, Matter, Real, Hands, People, Mean, Self*

A warrior is worthless unless he rises above others and stands strong in the midst of a storm.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

To give a person an opinion one must first judge well whether that person is of the disposition to receive it or not.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Human life is truly a short affair. It is better to live doing the things that you like.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Light matters should be dealt with seriously. Serious matters should be dealt with lightly.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

The way of the Samurai is found in death.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Bushido is realised in the presence of death. In the case of having to choose between life and death you should choose death. There is no other reasoning.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

In the eyes of mercy, no one should have hateful thoughts. Feel pity for the man who is even more at fault. The area and size of mercy is limitless.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Go ahead and gamble a lie. A person who will not tell you seven lies within a hundred yards is useless as a man.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

The end is important in all things.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Tether even a roasted chicken.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

One should make his decisions within the space of seven breaths.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

I have found that the Way of the samurai is death. This means that when you are compelled to choose between life and death, you must quickly choose death.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Continue to spur a running horse.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Everyone lets the present moment slip by, then looks for it as though he thought it were somewhere else.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

By bringing shame to a person, how could one expect to make him a better man?

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

By being impatient, matters are damaged and great works cannot be done

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Having only wisdom and talent is the lowest tier of usefulness.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

A samurai will use a toothpick even though he has not eaten. Inside the skin of a dog, outside the hide of a tiger.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

There is nothing we should be quite so grateful for as the last line of the poem that goes, 'When your own heart asks.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

A warrior should not say something fainthearted, even casually. He should set his mind to this beforehand. Even in trifling matters the depths of one's heart can be seen.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

To desire with one's very soul every second of every day to accomplish one's aim.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

It is said that one should not hesitate to correct himself when he has made a mistake. If he corrects himself without the least bit of delay, his mistakes will disappear.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

The Four Oaths: Never be late with respect to the way of the warrior; be useful to the lord; be respectful to your parents; get beyond love and grief: exist for the good of man.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Matters of small concern should be treated seriously.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

It is difficult for a fool's habits to change to selflessness.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

If one thinks only of winning, a sordid victory will be worse than a defeat. For the most part, it becomes a squalid defeat.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Even if one's head were to be suddenly cut off, he should be able to do

one more action with certainty.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

It is better not to become acquainted with men about whom you have formerly had doubts. No matter what you do, they will be people by whom you will be tripped up or taken in.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

When confronted with two alternatives, life and death, one is to choose death without hesitation.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Not to borrow the strength of another, nor to rely on one's own strength; to cut off past and future thoughts, and not to live within the everyday mind... then the Great Way is right before your eyes.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Singlemindedness is all-powerful.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

There is one transcending level, and this is the most excellent of all. This person is aware of the endlessness of entering deeply into a certain Way and never thinks of himself as having finished.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

The deepest love is often hidden.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

There are few people who will make mistakes with fire after having once been burned.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

When delivering something like an important letter or other written materials, grasp it firmly in your hand as you go and do not release it

once, but hand it over directly to the recipient.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

The person who practices an art is an artist, not a samurai, and one should have the intention of being called a samurai.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

If you are slain in battle, you should be resolved to have your corpse facing the enemy.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

A real man does not think of victory or defeat. He plunges recklessly towards an irrational death.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

You cannot tell whether a person is good or bad by his vicissitudes in life. Good and bad fortune are matters of fate.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Purity is something that cannot be attained except by piling effort upon effort.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

It is better to have some unhappiness while one is still young, for if a person does not experience some bitterness, his disposition will not settle down.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Be true to the thought of the moment and avoid distraction. Other than continuing to exert yourself, enter into nothing else, but go to the extent of living single thought by single thought.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

All abilities come from one mind

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

One should be wary of talking on end about such subjects as learning, morality or folklore in front of elders or people of rank. It is disagreeable to listen to.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

The saying 'the arts aid the body' is for samurai of other regions. For samurai of the Nabeshima clan the arts bring ruin to the body.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

There is not a man who does not get senile by the time he reaches sixty. And when one thinks that he will not be senile, he is already so.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

By inconsistency and frivolity we stray from the Way and show ourselves to be beginners. In this we do much harm.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

When someone is giving you his opinion, you should receive it with deep gratitude even though it is worthless. If you don't, he will not tell you the things that he has seen and heard about you again.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

As everything in this world is but a sham, Death is the only sincerity.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

A person who is discreet in speaking will be useful during the good times and will avoid punishment during the bad.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

When one is writing a letter, he should think that the recipient will make it into a hanging scroll.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

As long as people overlook matters, then inferiors can, without any fear, lead an easy and peaceful life.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

The basic meaning of etiquette is to be quick at both the beginning and end and tranquil in the middle.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Covetousness, anger and foolishness are things to sort out well. When bad things happen in the world, if you look at them comparatively, they are not unrelated to these three things.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

An affected laugh shows lack of self-respect in a man and lewdness in a woman. It is carelessness to go about with one's hands inside the slits in the sides of his hakama.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

The heart of a virtuous person has settled down and he does not rush about at things. A person of little merit is not at peace but walks about making trouble and is in conflict with all.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

Looking comparatively at the good things, you will see that they are not excluded from wisdom, humanity and bravery.

~Yamamoto Tsunetomo

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