

# Yoshida Kenko

## Quotes

*Men, Book, Night, Writing, Giving, Wine, Things In Life, Feelings, Past,  
Ambition, Dream, Fascination, Precious Things, Beach, Truth Is, People,  
Undone, Buddhist, Might, Ink*

If man were never to fade away ... but lingered on forever in the world, how things would lose their power to move us. The most precious thing in life is its uncertainty.

~Yoshida Kenko

It is a most wonderful comfort to sit alone beneath a lamp, book spread before you, and commune with someone from the past whom you have never met.

~Yoshida Kenko

On a moonlit night, after a snowfall, or under cherry blossoms, it adds to our pleasure if, while chatting at our ease, we bring forth the wine cups.

~Yoshida Kenko

To sit alone in the lamplight with a book spread out before you, and hold intimate converse with men of unseen generations - such is a pleasure beyond compare.

~Yoshida Kenko

... For such as truly love the world, a thousand years would fade like the dream of one night.

~Yoshida Kenko

Life's most precious gift is uncertainty.

~Yoshida Kenko

Blossoms are scattered by the wind and the wind cares nothing but the blossoms of the heart no wind can touch.

~Yoshida Kenko

In everything, no matter what it may be, uniformity is undesirable. Leaving something incomplete makes it interesting, and gives one the feeling that there is room for growth

~Yoshida Kenko

The truth is at the beginning of anything and its end are alike touching.

~Yoshida Kenko

Ambition never comes to an end.

~Yoshida Kenko

You should never put the new antlers of a deer to your nose and smell them. They have little insects that crawl into the nose and devour the brain.

~Yoshida Kenko

Leave undone whatever you hesitate to do.

~Yoshida Kenko

If you must take care that your opinions do not differ in the least from those of the person with whom you are talking, you might just as well be alone.

~Yoshida Kenko

If life were eternal, all interest and anticipation would vanish. It is uncertainty which lends it fascination.

~Yoshida Kenko

If you imagine that once you have accomplished your ambitions you will have time to turn to the Way, you will discover that your ambitions never come to an end.

~Yoshida Kenko

A certain recluse, I know not who, once said that no bonds attached him to this life, and the only thing he would regret leaving was the sky.

~Yoshida Kenko

One should write not unskillfully in the running hand, be able to sing in a pleasing voice and keep good time to music; and, lastly, a man should not refuse a little wine when it is pressed upon him.

~Yoshida Kenko

The pleasantest of all diversions is to sit alone under the lamp, a book spread out before you, and to make friends with people of a distant past you have never known.

~Yoshida Kenko

There is nothing finer than to be alone with nothing to distract you.

~Yoshida Kenko

Though a man excels in everything, unless he has been a lover his life is lonely, and he may be likened to a jewelled cup which can contain no wine.

~Yoshida Kenko

The most precious thing in life is its uncertainty

~Yoshida Kenko

The true criminal must be defined as a man who commits a crime though he is as decently fed and clothed as others.

~Yoshida Kenko

Even members of the nobility, let alone persons of no consequence, would do well not to have children.

~Yoshida Kenko

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