

Who lies artistically, treads closer to the truth than ever he knows.

- Ningauble of the Seven Eyes
(Fritz Leiber, "Adept's Gambit")

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It is more important that a theory be elegant, than that it agree with experiment.

- P. A. M. Dirac

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Thanksgiving For a National Victory (Robert Burns)

Ye hypocrites! are these your pranks? To murder men and give God thanks?
Desist, for shame! Proceed no further: God won't accept your thanks for
murther.

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First they came for the Communists,
and I didn't speak up,
because I wasn't a Communist.
Then they came for the Jews,
and I didn't speak up,
because I wasn't a Jew.
Then they came for the Catholics,
and I didn't speak up,
because I was a Protestant.
Then they came for me,
and by that time there was no one
left to speak up for me.

by Rev. Martin Niemoller, 1945.

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I have come to the conclusion that one useless man is called a "disgrace",
that two are called a "law firm", and that three or more become a
"Congress".

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So convenient a thing it is to be a reasonable creature, since
it enables one to find or make a reason for everything one has
a mind to do. - Benjamin Franklin

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We tell ourselves
the cries we hear may be those of labor
the pain we feel may yet be that of birth

- Starhawk

--

To A Quick Young Fox:
Why jog exquisite bulk, fond crazy vamp,
Daft buxom jonquil, zephyr's gawky vice?
Guy fed by work, quiz Jove's xanthic lamp --
Zow! Qualms by deja vu gyp fox-kin thrice.
- Lazy Dog

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Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent
revolution inevitable. - John F. Kennedy

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Methinks it behooves me to get more hip ere I be thought antediluvian.

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Disclaimer: Not only do my opinions represent those of Eastern Michigan
University, but also those of Dan Quayle, Richard Nixon, Frank Zappa,
Pee-wee Herman, Bart Simpson, Tipper Gore, Murphy Brown, Maggie Thatcher,
and the Easter Bunny.

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We trained hard, but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form
up into teams, we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that
we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing; and a wonderful method
it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion,
inefficiency, and demoralization. - Petronius Arbiter, 210 BC

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The question is not, can they reason? Nor, can they talk? But, can
they suffer? - Jeremy Bentham, philosopher, 1748-1832.

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When subtlety fails us we must make do with cream pies. - David Brin

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OUR God's the Fun God!
OUR God's the Sun God!
RA! RA! RA!

--

"I've seen things you people wouldn't believe.
Attack ships on fire off shoulder of Orion.
I watched C-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhauser gate.
All those moments will be lost in time, like tears in rain.
Time to die."

ROY - Blade Runner.

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may your magic be well-made and your thumbs number two... - Cynthia Beal

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The first time you study thermodynamics you don't understand it at all, but if you study it again, you may start to understand it. If you then study it even more, you will realize that you actually didn't understand it at all, but by then you're not worried by this anymore.

- attributed to Arnold

Sommerfeld.

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Once you can accept the universe as being something expanding into an infinite nothing which is something, wearing stripes and plaid is easy.

- attributed to Albert Einstein.

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The business of everybody is the business of nobody. - Lord Macaulay

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Power is so apt to be insolent and Liberty to be saucy, that they are very seldom upon good Terms.

- George Saville, Marquis of

Halifax.

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Following is a poem written by Richard Brautigan somewhere between 1957 and 1968.

From the book "The Pill versus the Springhill Mine Disaster,"

All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace

I like to think (and
the sooner the better!)
of a cybernetic meadow
where mammals and computers
live together in mutually
programming harmony
like pure water
touching clear sky.

I like to think
(right now, please!)
of a cybernetic forest
filled with pines and electronics
where deer stroll peacefully
past computers
as if they were flowers
with spinning blossoms.

I like to think
(it has to be!)
of a cybernetic ecology
where we are free of our labors
and joined back to nature,
returned to our mammal
brothers and sisters,
and all watched over
by machines of loving grace.

-- Richard Brautigan

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I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us
with sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forgo their use.

-- Galileo Galilei

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While Europe's eye is fix'd on mighty things,

The fate of empires and the fall of kings;
While quacks of State must each produce his plan,
And even children lisp the Rights of Man;
Amid this mighty fuss just let me mention,
The Rights of Woman merit some attention.

-- Robert Burns, Address on "The Rights of Woman",
November 26, 1792

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Dan Goodman's "Suggested nettiquette". I have permission to quote.

1. Respect the other person's intelligence.
You got that, or do I have to repeat it?
2. Aristotle, St. Augustine, and Bertrand Russell have
pointed out that the appeal to authority is illegitimate.
Three such eminent men obviously knew what they were talking about.
3. Don't insult people, you twerp!
4. Don't use dogmatic appeals to religion.
It's bad karma, and the Archangel Gabriel
is taking down every word you say.

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Cthulhu loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Baked or boiled, nuked or fried,
In the stew or on the side,
Cthulhu loves the little children of the world.

-- Dave Krieger (quoted by permission)

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Democracy is three wolves and a sheep voting on lunch.

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"The ink of the learned is holier than the blood of the
martyr." - Sufi proverb

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"I care not much for a man's religion whose dog or cat are not the

better for it." - Abraham Lincoln

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Dust of Snow

The way a crow
shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart
A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

- uncredited

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This sentence contains three a's, one b, three c's, two d's, thirty five e's, six f's, two g's, seven h's, eleven i's, one j, one k, two l's, one m, twenty two n's, fifteen o's, one p, one q, five r's, twenty six s's, twenty-one t's, one u, seven v's, eight w's, three x's, five y's, and one z.

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THE OLD ASTRONOMER TO HIS PUPIL

Reach me down my Tycho Brahe, I would know him when we meet,
When I share my later science, sitting humbly at his feet;
He may know the law of all things, yet be ignorant of how
We are working to completion, working on from then to now.

Pray remember that I leave you all my theory complete,
Lacking only certain data for your adding, as is meet,
And remember men will scorn it, 'tis original and true,
And the obloquy of newness may fall bitterly on you.

But, my pupil, as my pupil you have learned the worth of scorn,
You have laughed with me at pity, we have joyed to be forlorn,
What for us are all distractions of men's fellowship and smiles;
What for us the Goddess Pleasure with her meretricious smiles!

You may tell that German College that their honor comes too late,

But they must not waste repentance on the grizzly savant's fate.
Though my soul may set in darkness, it will rise in perfect light;
I have loved the stars too fondly to be fearful of the night.

Sarah Williams

(*Best Loved Poems of the American People*, Hazel Felleman, ed. [Garden City Publishing Co., Garden City NY: 1936], pp. 613-614)

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"The best thing for being sad," replied Merlin, beginning to puff and blow, "is to learn something. That's the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then -- to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn."

- T.H. White, "The Once and Future King"

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Run mad as often as you chuse, but do not faint. -- Jane Austen

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If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich. -- John F. Kennedy

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Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build bridges even when there are no rivers. -- Nikita Khrushchev

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Only too well he knew them for a trap. A man sees a few stars, shining at the issue of a pit, and climbs toward them, and then, never can he get down again, but stays up there forever, chewing the stars. Yet such was his lust for light, that he began to climb.

-- Antoine de Saint-Exupery, *Night Flight*

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[Compiler's note: In a posthumous article about John Fitzgerald Kennedy that I read in the 1960s -- it might have been in the magazine *Life* -- the author (whose name I do not remember) reports finding an annotated quote among Kennedy's stuff. The quote before annotation is to the effect that there are four things that last or are important in life, and that these are -- I don't remember for sure, but I believe "love" and "hope" are among them, and laughter surely was.. The annotation, which the author attributes to JFK, was <close paraphrase> "And the greatest of these is laughter."

I tried once to locate this text on the web, but couldn't find it. I have a vague memory of an article title, "Kennedy Without Tears, which may have been the so-named article that appeared in the June 1964 issue of *Esquire* by Thomas Grey Wicker (Tom Wicker).]

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In this world, these four things we have with us always: faith, however naive; hope, however childlike; love, however misdirected; and laughter. And the greatest of these is laughter.

-- Merrill L. M. Skaggs

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There are in the end three things that last: faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love.

-- I Corinthians 13:13

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He is a philosopher. They talk like that in order to confuse their prey.

-- Alan Dean Foster

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Trouble rather the tiger in his lair than the scholar among his books; for to you empires and armies are mighty and enduring, but to him they are toys to be knocked over with a fingertip.

-- Chinese Proverb

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