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Armenian

It is simply in the nature of an Armenian to study, to learn, to question, to speculate, to discover, to invent, to revise, to restore, to preserve, to make, and to give.

— [William Saroyan](#) (1908-1981, Armenian author, after first visit to [Armenia](#) in 1935)

It is the heart of man that I am trying to imply in this work.

— [William Saroyan](#) (1908-1981, Armenian author of [Seventy Thousand Assyrians, 1934](#))

If I have any desire at all, it is to show the brotherhood of man.

— [William Saroyan](#) (1908-1981, Armenian author of [Seventy Thousand Assyrians, 1934](#))

Theodore Badal: *We're washed up as a race, we're through, it's all over, why should I learn to read the language? We have no writers, we have no news - well, there is a little news: once in a while the English encourage the Arabs to massacre us, that is all. It's an old story, we know all about it.* ([Full Story](#))

— [William Saroyan](#) (1908-1981, Armenian author of [Seventy Thousand Assyrians, 1934](#))

Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure.

— [William Saroyan](#) (1908-1981, Armenian author, [My Heart's in the Highlands, 1939](#))

The writer who is a real writer is a rebel who never stops.

— [William Saroyan](#) (1908-1981, Armenian author)

The role of art is to make a world which can be inhabited.

— [William Saroyan](#) (1908-1981, Armenian author)

Unless a man has pity he is not truly a man. If a man has not wept at the worlds pain he is only half a man, and there will always be pain in the world, knowing this does not mean that a man shall despair. A good man will seek to take pain out of things. A foolish man will not even notice it, except in himself, and the poor unfortunate evil man will drive pain deeper into things and spread it about wherever he goes.

— [William Saroyan](#) (1908-1981, Armenian author)

The real sin is to be silent in the face of injustice.

— [Hrant Dink](#) (1954-2007, activist, journalist, editor-in-chief of [Agos](#), and author of [Your Man In This Column](#))

Come, let us first respect each other's pain...
Come, let us first let one another live.

— [Hrant Dink](#) (1954-2007, activist, journalist, editor-in-chief of [Agos](#), and author of [Your Man In This Column](#))

I see myself as frightened, the way a dove might be, but I know that the people in this country would never harm a dove.

— [Hrant Dink](#) (1954-2007, activist, journalist, editor-in-chief of [Agos](#), and author of [Your Man In This Column](#))

Dignity is not negotiable.

— [Vartan Gregorian](#) (1934-2021, academic, historian, philanthropist, and author of [The Road to Home: My Life and Times](#))

Libraries and museums are the DNA of our culture.

— [Vartan Gregorian](#) (1934-2021, academic, historian, philanthropist, and author of [The Road to Home: My Life and Times](#))

In our democratic society, the library stands for hope, for learning, for progress, for literacy, for self-improvement and for civic engagement. The library is a symbol of opportunity, citizenship, equality, freedom of speech and freedom of thought, and hence, is a symbol for democracy itself.

— [Vartan Gregorian](#) (1934-2021, academic, historian, philanthropist, and author of [The Road to Home: My Life and Times](#))

The book is here to stay. What we're doing is symbolic of the peaceful coexistence of the book and the computer.

— [Vartan Gregorian](#) (1934-2021, academic, historian, philanthropist, and author of [The Road to Home: My Life and Times](#))

Soldiers fight Turks with their guns, I fight with my pencil.

— [Massis Araradian](#) (1929-2023, activist, artist, cartoonist, illustrator, typographer, sculpture, author, teacher)

As far as historical Kurdish-Armenian relations are concerned, we Armenians, from our perspective, are aware of the injustices we have suffered at the hands of the Kurdish Beks, as exemplified in the well-known novel, [Khentuh](#) (The Fool), written by Raffi (Hagop Melik Hagopian) in 1881.

— [Charles Garabed Kasbarian](#) (1927-2022, activist, editor, author)

Ararat, is the best movie of all time, and the most generous, thought-provoking film of all time. It is still paying dividends, upsetting me, and generating energy in me to do better. It is a pomegranate, full of seeds and thus ignored by most apple and orange-loving Americans.

— [Van Armenya](#) (Armenian activist, interview 2003)

You can talk about Holocaust denial, but it's really marginal for the most part. What is compelling about the Armenian genocide, is how it has been forgotten.

— [Atom Egoyan](#) (Armenian filmmaker, human rights activist)

A man can only attain knowledge with the help of those who possess it. This must be understood from the very beginning. One must learn from him who knows.

— [George Gurdjieff](#) (1866-1949, Greek-Armenian religious teacher, mystic)

A man will renounce any pleasures you like but he will not give up his suffering.

— [George Gurdjieff](#) (1866-1949, Greek-Armenian religious teacher, mystic)

I am one of the 'leftovers of the sword' as you call it — declared null and void, reduced to one in 1,000. Let's draw lessons from the past and not develop calamities out of it.

— [Garo Paylan](#) (democracy and political activist)

I call it [genocide](#); you can call it whatever you want. Let's name it together and move on.

— [Garo Paylan](#) (democracy and political activist)

Our struggle is for the universal triumph of justice and truth.

— [Vahan Cardashian](#) (1882-1934, political activist, lawyer, and author of [The Ottoman Empire of the Twentieth Century](#))

Freedom is the most important thing for humanity. The Armenian people must struggle for their freedom.

— [Mikayel Nalbandian](#) (1829-1866, activist, poet, political theorist)

Assyrian

Only the tree which bears fruit becomes the target of stones.

— Assyrian proverb

Tell me your friends, and I will tell you who you are.

— Assyrian proverb

A mere friend will agree with you, but a real friend will argue.

— Assyrian proverb

Fear the goat from the front, the horse from the rear and man from all sides.

— Assyrian proverb

Gossip needs no carriage.

— Assyrian proverb

If you are a host to your guest, be a host to his dog also.

— Assyrian proverb

It is not the horse that draws the cart, but the oats.

— Assyrian proverb

Life is unbearable, but death is not so pleasant either.

— Assyrian proverb

The hammer shatters glass but forges steel.

— Assyrian proverb

The tallest blade of grass is the first to be cut by the scythe (magla).

— Assyrian proverb

There is no shame in not knowing, the shame lies in not finding out.

— Assyrian proverb

The word is mightier than the sword.

— Assyrian proverb (680 BC, teachings of [Ahiqar](#), the Assyrian sage)

Writing is the mother of eloquence and the father of artists.

— Mesopotamian intellectual tradition
(from the [library collection](#) of [King Ashurbanipal](#))

I am an Assyrian, and as an Assyrian, I am obligated to be actively interested in the destiny of the Assyrians, once the greatest nation, now almost forgotten. I would be an arch-criminal if I failed to assume this obligation.

— [Dr. David Barsum Perley, J.S.D.](#) - Assyrian lawyer, human rights activist.

Will America unjustly enrich herself, as the British, at the expense of this "[Forgotten Ally](#)"? The Middle East was the home of civilization. It is now the nerve centre of our problem... There is but one solution to this explosive political situation - the realization of the natural aspirations of all the native elements.

— [Dr. David Barsum Perley, J.S.D.](#) - Assyrian lawyer, human rights activist.

I believe in the strength of my people.

— [Freydon Atturaya](#) (1891-1926, physician, poet, political activist, and author of Urmia Manifesto of the United Free Assyria)

A mere flower to the writer in his lifetime is far more rewarding than thousands of wreaths placed on his grave after death.

— [Naoum Faik](#) - Assyrian poet, author.

The sun will not rise for the Assyrian people unless we rise up ourselves.

— [Naoum Faik](#) (1868-1930, activist, journalist, poet - [Naum Faiq and The Assyrian Awakening](#))

Atour b'ghémä ~ Assyria will rise...

— [Ninos Aho](#) - Assyrian poet.

An [Assyrian](#) enclave, accordingly, in northern Iraq in the region of Mosul must be set up to protect the Assyrians.

— [Frederick Aprim](#) (activist, author, historian - [bio](#), [writings](#), [website](#))

I may not have a country with boundaries, but my country is in me. My country is in my soul and in my heart.
I am Assyria.

— [Rosie Malek-Yonan](#) (activist, actress, and author of [The Crimson Field](#) and author, producer and narrator of [An Assyrian Exodus](#))

[Genocide](#) is not a single event. It is a process that has been going on for a very long time.

— [Rosie Malek-Yonan](#) (activist, actress, and author of [The Crimson Field](#) and author, producer and narrator of [An Assyrian Exodus](#))

Denial is a form of continuation of the [genocide](#). It is to be killed twice. Failure to recognize the genocide has led to even more [genocides](#) against Assyrians in their homeland.

— [Sabro Bengaro](#) - Assyrian human rights activist and founder of the Assyrian Genocide Research Center ([Seyfo Center](#)). Publications: [The Assyrian Genocide - Seyfo](#) (PDF), [Assyrian Genocide 1915 - Seyfo](#) (PDF)

Our nation unites. For our survival, we have no choice other than [huyada](#).

— [Dr. Hirmis Aboona](#) - author and historian

If the (British) mandate is lifted without effective guarantees for our protection in the future, our extermination would follow.

— [Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII](#) (September of 1932 at the League of Nations, following the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of June 30, 1930.)

In order to survive as a nation, they must now unite under the Assyrian identity of their ancestors. It is the only identity that can help them to transcend the differences between them, speak with one voice again, catch the attention of the world, and regain their place among the nations.

— [Professor Simo Parpola](#)

Can Great Britain, now that she is responsible for order in the country, afford to neglect so valuable a military asset as this nation has proved itself to be?

— Dr. W. A. Wigram - author of [Our Smallest Ally](#): A Brief Account of the Assyrian Nation during the Great War (1914-1918)

Our Smallest Ally is now homeless, and dependent on our charity at Baqubah, for its lands and villages have been utterly destroyed, and it has the further mortification of seeing that although it threw in its lot with the ultimately victorious side, Kurds, and others of the defeated enemy, are in practical possession of its ruined homesteads.

— Brigadier-General H. H. Austin - introduction of [Our Smallest Ally](#): A Brief Account of the Assyrian Nation during the Great War (1914-1918)

The [Assyrian Dictionary](#) gives us the key into the world's first urban civilization.

— [Gil Stein](#), Director of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago

Greek

Man is by nature a political animal.

— [Aristotle](#) (384-322 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [Politics](#))

At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice, he is the worst.

— [Aristotle](#) (384-322 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [Politics](#))

The law is reason unaffected by desire.

— [Aristotle](#) (384-322 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [Politics](#))

The best political community is formed by citizens of the middle class.

— [Aristotle](#) (384-322 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [Politics](#))

The true friend of the people should see that the people do not become too poor.

— [Aristotle](#) (384-322 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [Politics](#))

Character may almost be called the most effective means of persuasion.

— [Aristotle](#) (384-322 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [Politics](#))

He who is unable to live in society, or who has no need because he is sufficient for himself, must be either a beast or a god.

— [Aristotle](#) (384-322 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [Politics](#))

I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher [Aristotle](#) for living well.

— [Alexander the Great](#) (356-323 BC, king of Macedonia, general, statesman)

There is nothing impossible to him who will try.

— [Alexander the Great](#) (356-323 BC, king of Macedonia, general, statesman)

I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep; I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion.

— [Alexander the Great](#) (356-323 BC, king of Macedonia, general, statesman)

Know thyself.

To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom.

— [Socrates](#) (469-399 BC, Greek philosopher)

Awareness of ignorance is the beginning of wisdom.

— [Socrates](#) (469-399 BC, Greek philosopher)

There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance.

— [Socrates](#) (469-399 BC, Greek philosopher)

Beware the barrenness of a busy life.

— [Socrates](#) (469-399 BC, Greek philosopher)

Be slow to fall into friendship; but when thou art in, continue firm and constant.

— [Socrates](#) (469-399 BC, Greek philosopher)

Employ your time in improving yourself by other men's writings, so that you shall gain easily what others have labored hard for.

— [Socrates](#) (469-399 BC, Greek philosopher)

A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true.

— [Socrates](#) (469-399 BC, Greek philosopher)

All men's souls are immortal, but the souls of the righteous are immortal and divine.

— [Socrates](#) (469-399 BC, Greek philosopher)

A good decision is based on knowledge and not on numbers.

— [Plato](#) (427-347 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [The Republic](#))

A house that has a library in it has a soul.

— [Plato](#) (427-347 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [The Republic](#))

All the gold which is under or upon the earth is not enough to give in exchange for virtue.

— [Plato](#) (427-347 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [The Republic](#))

All things will be produced in superior quantity and quality, and with greater ease, when each man works at a single occupation, in accordance with his natural gifts, and at the right moment, without meddling with anything else.

— [Plato](#) (427-347 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [The Republic](#))

Any man may easily do harm, but not every man can do good to another.

— [Plato](#) (427-347 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [The Republic](#))

Democracy... is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder; and dispensing a sort of equality to equals and unequals alike.

— [Plato](#) (427-347 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [The Republic](#))

The excess of liberty, whether in states or individuals, seems only to pass into excess of slavery.

— [Plato](#) (427-347 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [The Republic](#))

And so tyranny naturally arises out of democracy, and the most aggravated form of tyranny and slavery out of the most extreme form of liberty.

— [Plato](#) (427-347 BC, Greek philosopher and author of [The Republic](#))

It takes a wise man to recognize a wise man.

— [Xenophanes](#) (570-480 BC, Greek philosopher)

I am what libraries and librarians have made me, with little assistance from a professor of Greek and poets.

— [Heraclitus](#) (544-483 BC, Greek philosopher)

Justice will overtake fabricators of lies and false witnesses.

— [Heraclitus](#) (544-483 BC, Greek philosopher)

Man is most nearly himself when he achieves the seriousness of a child at play.

— [Heraclitus](#) (544-483 BC, Greek philosopher)

An imbalance between rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of all republics.

— [Plutarch](#) (46-120 AD, Greek philosopher)

Do not speak of your happiness to one less fortunate than yourself.

— [Plutarch](#) (46-120 AD, Greek philosopher)

I don't need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better.

— [Plutarch](#) (46-120 AD, Greek philosopher)

I would rather excel in the knowledge of what is excellent, than in the extent of my power and possessions.

— [Plutarch](#) (46-120 AD, Greek philosopher)

In words are seen the state of mind and character and disposition of the speaker.

— [Plutarch](#) (46-120 AD, Greek philosopher)

It is indeed a desirable thing to be well-descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors.

— [Plutarch](#) (46-120 AD, Greek philosopher)

It is part of a good man to do great and noble deeds, though he risks everything.

— [Plutarch](#) (46-120 AD, Greek philosopher)

Hope is the only good that is common to all men; those who have nothing else possess hope still.

— [Thales](#) (624-546 BC, Greek philosopher)

The most difficult thing in life is to know yourself.

— [Thales](#) (624-546 BC, Greek philosopher)

Let us hold our discussion together in our own persons, making trial of the truth and of ourselves.

— [Protagoras](#) (490-420 BC, Greek philosopher)

I have never wished to cater to the crowd; for what I know they do not approve, and what they approve I do not know.

— [Epicurus](#) (341-271 BC, Greek philosopher)

It is folly for a man to pray to the gods for that which he has the power to obtain by himself.

— [Epicurus](#) (341-271 BC, Greek philosopher)

It is impossible to live a pleasant life without living wisely and well and justly. And it is impossible to live wisely and well and justly without living a pleasant life.

— [Epicurus](#) (341-271 BC, Greek philosopher)

It is not so much our friends' help that helps us, as the confidence of their help.

— [Epicurus](#) (341-271 BC, Greek philosopher)

Justice... is a kind of compact not to harm or be harmed.

— [Epicurus](#) (341-271 BC, Greek philosopher)

Misfortune seldom intrudes upon the wise man; his greatest and highest interests are directed by reason throughout the course of life.

— [Epicurus](#) (341-271 BC, Greek philosopher)

Nothing is enough for the man to whom enough is too little.

— [Epicurus](#) (341-271 BC, Greek philosopher)

Of all the things which wisdom provides to make us entirely happy, much the greatest is the possession of friendship.

— [Epicurus](#) (341-271 BC, Greek philosopher)

Be careful to leave your sons well instructed rather than rich, for the hopes of the instructed are better than the wealth of the ignorant.

— [Epictetus](#) (55-135 AD, Greek philosopher)

Difficulties are things that show a person what they are.

— [Epictetus](#) (55-135 AD, Greek philosopher)

Freedom is the right to live as we wish.

— [Epictetus](#) (55-135 AD, Greek philosopher)

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.

— [Diogenes](#) (413-321 BC, Greek philosopher)

Wise leaders generally have wise counselors because it takes a wise person themselves to distinguish them.

— [Diogenes](#) (413-321 BC, Greek philosopher)

The art of being a slave is to rule one's master.

— [Diogenes](#) (413-321 BC, Greek philosopher)

All formal dogmatic religions are fallacious and must never be accepted by self-respecting persons as final.

— [Hypatia](#) (350-415 AD, Greek philosopher)

Fables should be taught as fables, myths as myths, and miracles as poetic fantasies. To teach superstitions as truths is a most terrible thing. The child mind accepts and believes them, and only through great pain and perhaps tragedy can he be in after years relieved of them.

— [Hypatia](#) (350-415 AD, Greek philosopher)

In fact men will fight for a superstition quite as quickly as for a living truth - often more so, since a superstition is so intangible you cannot get at it to refute it, but truth is a point of view, and so is changeable.

— [Hypatia](#) (350-415 AD, Greek philosopher)

Life is an unfoldment, and the further we travel the more truth we can comprehend. To understand the things that are at our door is the best preparation for understanding those that lie beyond.

— [Hypatia](#) (350-415 AD, Greek philosopher)

Reserve your right to think, for even to think wrongly is better than not to think at all.

— [Hypatia](#) (350-415 AD, Greek philosopher)

If thou suffer injustice, console thyself; the true unhappiness is in doing it.

— [Democritus](#) (460-370 BC, Greek philosopher)

It is better to destroy one's own errors than those of others.

— [Democritus](#) (460-370 BC, Greek philosopher)

Raising children is an uncertain thing; success is reached only after a life of battle and worry.

— [Democritus](#) (460-370 BC, Greek philosopher)

The most useful piece of learning for the uses of life is to unlearn what is untrue.

— [Antisthenes](#) (446-366 BC, Greek philosopher)

There are only two people who can tell you the truth about yourself - an enemy who has lost his temper and a friend who loves you dearly.

— [Antisthenes](#) (446-366 BC, Greek philosopher)

Everything has a natural explanation. The moon is not a god, but a great rock, and the sun a hot rock.

— [Anaxagoras](#) (500-428 BC, Greek philosopher)

The Assyrians in the army wore on their heads helmets of twisted bronze... They are called by the Greeks Syrians, but the barbarians [non-Greeks, foreigners, or the army of the Persian king Xerxes] called them [Assyrians](#).

— [Herodotus](#) (484-425 BC, Greek historian, geographer, and author of [The Histories](#), Book VII, 63)

The Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks are victims of the same trinity of genocide. Consequently, only united as three fingers we will manage to claim our human rights.

— [Professor Nikos Lygeros](#) - mathematician, artist, poet, human rights activist.

My art is not for the entertainment of the few, but for the struggle of the many.

— [Mikis Theodorakis](#) (1925-2021, composer, songwriter, political activist, and author of [Journal of Resistance](#))

Keep the light in your soul, keep your humanity.

— [Manolis Glezos](#) (1922-2020, politician, journalist, and author of [Αντίσταση ~ Resistance](#))

Friends

Every time we witness an injustice and do not act, we train our character to be passive in its presence and thereby eventually lose all ability to defend ourselves and those we love.

— [Julian Assange](#) (activist, editor, publisher, [author](#), founder of [Wikileaks](#))

You have to start with the truth. The truth is the only way that we can get anywhere. Because any decision-making that

is based upon lies or ignorance can't lead to a good conclusion.

— [Julian Assange](#) (activist, editor, publisher, [author](#), founder of [Wikileaks](#))

We should always look at censorship as an economic signal that reveals the potential power of speech in that jurisdiction.

— [Julian Assange](#) (activist, editor, publisher, [author](#), founder of [Wikileaks](#))

Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed.

— [Mahatma Gandhi](#) (1869-1948, Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist, political ethicist, and author of [The Story of My Experiments with Truth](#))

Be the change you wish to see in the world.

— [Mahatma Gandhi](#) (1869-1948, Indian lawyer, anti-colonial nationalist, political ethicist, and author of [The Story of My Experiments with Truth](#))

Whatever is my right as a man is also the right of another; and it becomes my duty to guarantee as well as to possess.

— [Thomas Paine](#) (1737-1809, English-born American Founding Father, inventor, political philosopher, statesman and author of [Rights of Man](#))

If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind.

— [John Stuart Mill](#) (1806-1873, philosopher, political economist, politician, and author of [On Liberty](#)).

Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing. (1867 inaugural

address at the University of St. Andrews)

— [John Stuart Mill](#) (1806-1873, philosopher, political economist, politician, and author of [On Liberty](#)).

A State without the means of some change is without the means of its conservation.

— [Edmund Burke](#) (1729-1797, statesman, author, philosopher)

Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.

— [François-Marie Arouet \(Voltaire\)](#) (1694-1778, writer, philosopher, satirist, historian, and author of [Voltaire: Political Writings](#))

The ultimate aim of government is not to rule, or restrain by fear, nor to exact obedience, but contrariwise to free every man from fear... In fact, the true aim of government is liberty.

— [Baruch Spinoza](#) (1632-1677, philosopher and author of [The Collected Works of Spinoza](#))

A wise man proportions his belief to the evidence.

— [David Hume](#) (1711-1776, philosopher, historian, economist, essayist, and author of [A Treatise of Human Nature](#))

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

— [Margaret Mead](#) (1901-1978, anthropologist and author of [Coming of Age in Samoa](#))

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

— [Nelson Mandela](#) (1918-2013, anti-apartheid activist, politician, and author of [Long Walk to Freedom](#))

Is not peace, in the last analysis, basically a matter of human rights — the right to live out our lives without fear of devastation — the right to breathe air as nature provided it — the right of future generations to a healthy existence?

— [Jeffrey Sachs](#) (economist, public policy analyst, professor, and author of [The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time](#) - [YouTube](#))

The macronutrients of happiness are enjoyment, satisfaction, and purpose.

— [Arthur C. Brooks](#) (professor, social scientist, columnist and author of [Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier](#))

Self-absorption in all its forms kills empathy, let alone compassion.

— [Daniel Goleman](#) (psychologist, science journalist, and author of [Emotional Intelligence](#))

See people as facts of nature. They come in all varieties, like flowers or rocks. There are fools and saints and sociopaths. You must accept them as they are, without judgment.

— [Robert Greene](#) (author of [The Laws of Human Nature](#))

We study history not to know the future but to widen our horizons, to understand that our present situation is neither natural nor inevitable, and that we consequently have many more possibilities before us than we imagine.

— [Yuval Noah Harari](#) (historian, professor, and author of [Sapiens](#) and [Nexus](#))

In a world deluged by irrelevant information, clarity is power.

— [Yuval Noah Harari](#) (historian, professor, and author of [Sapiens](#) and [Nexus](#))

Humans are in danger of losing their economic value because intelligence is decoupling from consciousness.

— [Yuval Noah Harari](#) (historian, professor, and author of [Sapiens](#) and [Nexus](#))

As man advances in civilization, and small tribes are united into larger communities, the simplest reason would tell each individual that he ought to extend his social instincts and sympathies to all members of the same nation, though personally unknown to him. This point being once reached, there is only an artificial barrier to prevent his sympathies extending to the men of all nations and races.

— [Charles Darwin](#) (1809-1882, naturalist, geologist, biologist, and author of [The Descent of Man](#) and [On the Origin of Species](#))

We have a finite environment — the planet. Anyone who thinks that you can have infinite growth in a finite environment is either a madman or an economist.

— [David Attenborough](#) (English broadcaster, natural historian, naturalist and author of [A Life on Our Planet](#))

We are at a unique stage in our history. Never before have we had such an awareness of what we are doing to the planet, and never before have we had the power to do something about it.

— [David Attenborough](#) (English broadcaster, natural historian, naturalist and author of [A Life on Our Planet](#))

The truth is: the natural world is changing. And we are totally dependent on that world. It provides our food, water and air. It is the most precious thing we have and we need to defend it.

— [David Attenborough](#) (English broadcaster, natural historian, naturalist and author of [A Life on Our Planet](#))

If you wish, as I do, to build a society in which individuals cooperate generously and unselfishly towards a common good, you can expect little help from biological nature. Let us try to teach generosity and altruism, because we are born selfish.

— [Richard Dawkins](#) (evolutionary biologist, zoologist, science communicator, and author of [The Selfish Gene](#) and [The Blind Watchmaker](#))

Religious foundation... We've grown out of it because of secular moral philosophy and rational discussion.

— [Richard Dawkins](#) (evolutionary biologist, zoologist, science communicator, and author of [The Selfish Gene](#) and [The Blind Watchmaker](#))

The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.

— [Richard Dawkins](#) (evolutionary biologist, zoologist, science communicator, and author of [The Selfish Gene](#) and [The Blind Watchmaker](#))

Equality is not the empirical claim that all groups of humans are interchangeable; it is the moral principle that individuals should not be judged or constrained by the average properties of their group.

— [Steven Pinker](#) (cognitive psychologist, psycholinguist, public intellectual, and author of [Enlightenment Now](#))

The strongest argument against totalitarianism may be the recognition of a universal human nature, with innate desires for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

— [Steven Pinker](#) (cognitive psychologist, psycholinguist, public intellectual, and author of [Enlightenment Now](#))

What can be asserted without evidence can also be dismissed without evidence.

— [Christopher Hitchens](#) (1949-2011, journalist, polemicist, and author of [Arguably: Essays](#) and [Letters to a Young Contrarian](#))

Never be a spectator of unfairness or stupidity.

— [Christopher Hitchens](#) (1949-2011, journalist, polemicist, and author of [Arguably: Essays](#) and [Letters to a Young Contrarian](#))

We may differ on many things, but what we respect is free inquiry, openmindedness, and the pursuit of ideas for their own sake.

— [Christopher Hitchens](#) (1949-2011, journalist, polemicist, and author of [Arguably: Essays](#) and [Letters to a Young Contrarian](#))

All human beings are born free and equal.
(Article 1 of the [United Nations Declaration of Human Rights](#) - [PDF Poster](#))

— [Eleanor Roosevelt](#) (1884-1962, diplomat, activist, and author of [The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt](#))

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) (1929-1968, minister, civil rights activist, political philosopher, and author of [Why We Can't Wait](#))

We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.

— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) (1929-1968, minister, civil rights activist, political philosopher, and author of [Why We Can't Wait](#))

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

— [Martin Luther King Jr.](#) (1929-1968, minister, civil rights activist, political philosopher, and author of [Why We Can't Wait](#))

The greatest danger to our future is [apathy](#). Can we overcome apathy? Yes, but only if we have hope. One reason for hope lies in the extraordinary nature of human intellectual accomplishment. ([Full Article: The Power of One](#))

— [Dr. Jane Goodall](#) (1934-2025, primatologist, anthropologist, and author of [In the Shadow of Man](#))

You cannot get through a single day without having [an impact on the world](#) around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

— [Dr. Jane Goodall](#) (1934-2025, primatologist, anthropologist, and author of [In the Shadow of Man](#))

Whether women are better than men I cannot say — but I can say they are certainly no worse.

— [Golda Meir](#) (1898-1978, Israeli teacher, kibbutznik, politician and the fourth Prime Minister of Israel, 1969)

You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist.

— [Indira Gandhi](#) (1917-1984, peace activist, politician, and third Prime Minister of India - [Indira](#))

It is a fact of life on our beleaguered little planet that widespread torture, famine, and governmental criminal responsibility are much more likely to be found in tyrannical than in democratic governments.

— [Carl Sagan](#) (1934-1996, astrophysicist, natural sciences activist, and author of [The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark](#))

Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds. The mediocre mind is incapable of understanding the man who refuses to bow blindly to conventional prejudices and chooses instead to express his opinions courageously and honestly.

— [Albert Einstein](#) (1879-1955, theoretical physicist and author of [Relativity: The Special and the General Theory](#))

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

— [Albert Schweitzer](#) (1875-1965, philosopher, physician, medical missionary in Africa, and author of [Reverence for Life](#))

Humankind is challenged, as it has never been challenged before, to prove its maturity and its mastery — not of nature, but of itself.

— [Rachel Carson](#) (1907-1964, marine biologist, conservationist, and author of [Silent Spring](#) and [Under the Sea-Wind](#))

Think before you speak. Read before you think.

— [Fran Lebowitz](#) (writer, public speaker, cultural critic, actor, and author of [The Fran Lebowitz Reader](#))

Blindness separates us from things; deafness separates us from people.

— [Helen Keller](#) (1880-1968, disability rights advocate, political activist, lecturer, and author of [The Story of My Life](#))

The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.

— [Helen Keller](#) (1880-1968, disability rights advocate, political activist, lecturer, and author of [The Story of My Life](#))

What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.

— [Helen Keller](#) (1880-1968, disability rights advocate, political activist, lecturer, and author of [The Story of My Life](#))

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched — they must be felt with the heart.

— [Helen Keller](#) (1880-1968, disability rights advocate, political activist, lecturer, and author of [The Story of My Life](#))

Truth has a power of its own. Art has a power of its own. That age-old lesson — that everything we do matters — is the meaning of the people's struggle here in the United States and everywhere.

— [Howard Zinn](#) (1922-2010, historian, political scientist, social activist, and author of [A People's History of the United States](#) - [YouTube](#))

Historically, the most terrible things — war, genocide, and slavery — have resulted not from disobedience, but from obedience.

— [Howard Zinn](#) (1922-2010, historian, political scientist, social activist, and author of [A People's History of the United States](#) - [YouTube](#))

To be hopeful in bad times is not just foolishly romantic. It is based on the fact that human history is a history not only of cruelty, but also of compassion, sacrifice, courage, and kindness. What we choose to emphasize in this complex history will determine our lives.

— [Howard Zinn](#) (1922-2010, historian, political scientist, social activist, and author of [A People's History of the United States](#) - [YouTube](#))

We don't have to engage in grand, heroic actions to participate in the process of change. Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.

— [Howard Zinn](#) (1922-2010, historian, political scientist, social activist, and author of [A People's History of the United States](#) - [YouTube](#))

Propaganda is to a democracy what the bludgeon is to a totalitarian state.

— [Noam Chomsky](#) (professor, linguistics, public intellectual, political activism, social criticism, and author of [Requiem for the American Dream](#) - [YouTube](#))

We are in a stage of history for the first time ever where we're facing literal questions of species survival.

— [Noam Chomsky](#) (professor, linguistics, public intellectual, political activism, social criticism, and author of [Requiem for the American Dream](#) - [YouTube](#))

Concentration of wealth yields concentration of political power. And concentration of political power gives rise to legislation that increases and accelerates the cycle.

— [Noam Chomsky](#) (professor, linguistics, public intellectual, political activism, social criticism, and author of [Requiem for the American Dream](#) - [YouTube](#))

In a time of universal deceit — telling the truth is a revolutionary act.

— [George Orwell](#) (1903-1950, English novelist, poet, essayist, journalist, critic, and author of [Homage to Catalonia](#), [Animal Farm](#), and [1984](#) - [YouTube](#))

If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.

— [George Orwell](#) (1903-1950, English novelist, poet, essayist, journalist, critic, and author of [Homage to Catalonia](#), [Animal Farm](#), and [1984](#) - [YouTube](#))

The further a society drifts from truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.

— [George Orwell](#) (1903-1950, English novelist, poet, essayist, journalist, critic, and author of [Homage to Catalonia](#), [Animal Farm](#), and [1984](#) - [YouTube](#))

Political language... is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind.

— [George Orwell](#) (1903-1950, English novelist, poet, essayist, journalist, critic, and author of [Homage to Catalonia](#), [Animal Farm](#), and [1984](#) - [YouTube](#))

He who controls the past controls the future. He who controls the present controls the past... the past was erased, the erasure was forgotten, the lie became the truth.

— [George Orwell](#) (1903-1950, English novelist, poet, essayist, journalist, critic, and author of [Homage to Catalonia](#), [Animal Farm](#), and [1984](#) - [YouTube](#))

The great enemy of clear language is insincerity.

- [George Orwell](#) (1903-1950, English novelist, poet, essayist, journalist, critic, and author of [Politics and the English Language](#), [Homage to Catalonia](#), [Animal Farm](#), and [1984](#) - [YouTube](#))

It becomes ugly and inaccurate because our thoughts are foolish, but the slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts. But if thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought.

- [George Orwell](#) (1903-1950, English novelist, poet, essayist, journalist, critic, and author of [Politics and the English Language](#), [Homage to Catalonia](#), [Animal Farm](#), and [1984](#) - [YouTube](#))

The most violent element in society is ignorance.

- [Emma Goldman](#) (1869-1940, anarchist revolutionary, political activist, and author of [Living My Life](#))

The most unpardonable sin in society is independence of thought.

- [Emma Goldman](#) (1869-1940, anarchist revolutionary, political activist, and author of [Living My Life](#))

We are all different — but we share the same human spirit.

- [Stephen Hawking](#) (1942-2018, theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author of [A Brief History of Time](#))

There should be no boundary to human endeavor. We are all different. However bad life may seem, there is always something you can do, and succeed at. While there's life, there is hope.

- [Stephen Hawking](#) (1942-2018, theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author of [A Brief History of Time](#))

The purpose of a writer of is to keep civilization from destroying itself.

— [Albert Camus](#) (1913-1960, French philosopher, novelist, dramatist, journalist, political activist, and author of [The First Man ~ Le Premier Homme](#))

The most important thing a journalist can do is to expose the truth, no matter how unpopular it may be.

— [Chris Hedges](#) (journalist, activist, and author of [War Is A Force That Gives Us Meaning](#))

History demands our attention. Because we can only guard the future when we value and understand our past.

— [John R. Lewis](#) (1940-2020, U.S. Congressman and civil rights activist)

We have to talk about liberating minds as well as liberating society.

— [Angela Davis](#) (activist, professor, scholar, and author of [Women, Race & Class](#))

Our house is on fire!

— [Greta Thunberg](#) (environmental activist and author of [The Climate Book](#))

With guns you can kill terrorists, with education you can kill terrorism.

— [Malala Yousafzai](#) (female education activist and author of [I am Malala](#))

Propaganda is the discourse of power.

— [Edward Said](#) (1935-2003, literary theorist, public intellectual, and author of [Orientalism](#))

You give but little when you give of your possessions.
It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

— [Kahlil Gibran](#) (1883-1931, poet, visual artist, and author of [The Prophet](#) - [PDF](#))

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