

**No drug, not even alcohol, causes the fundamental ills of society. If we're looking for the source of our troubles, we shouldn't test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed and love of power.**

**-P.J. O'Rourke, writer (1947- )**

**Often the accurate answer to a usage question begins, "It depends." And what it depends on most often is where you are, who you are, who your listeners or readers are, and what your purpose in speaking or writing is.**

**-Kenneth G. Wilson, usage writer (b. 1923)**

**Sin lies only in hurting others unnecessarily. All other "sins" are invented nonsense. -**

**Robert A. Heinlein, science-fiction author (1907-1988)**

**Be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder. Help someone's soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd. -Jalaluddin Rumi, poet and mystic**

**(1207-1273)**

**Persons appear to us according to the light we throw upon them from our own minds. -Laura Ingalls Wilder, author (1867-1957)**

**The great men in literature have usually tried to bring the written word into harmony with the spoken, instead of encouraging an exclusive language to write in. -John Erskine, novelist, poet, and essayist (1879-1951)**

**The real measure of our wealth is how much we'd be worth if we lost all our money. -John Henry Jowett, preacher (1864-1923)**

**Do not be too quick to assume your enemy is a savage just because he is your enemy. Perhaps he is your enemy because he thinks you are a savage. Or perhaps he is afraid of you because he feels that you are afraid of him. And perhaps if he believed you are capable of loving him he would no longer be your enemy. -Thomas Merton, writer (1915-1968)**

**We tend to overestimate the effect of a technology in the short run and underestimate the effect in the long run. -Roy Amara, engineer, futurist (b. 1925)**

**They deem him their worst enemy who tells them the truth. -Plato, philosopher (427-347 BCE)**

**O wad some Power the giftie gie us / To see oursels as ithers see us! (Oh would some power the gift give us, to see ourselves as others see us.)**

**-Robert Burns, poet (1759-1796)**

**Translation is the art of erasing oneself in order to speak in another's voice. -David Cole, professor, author, and correspondent (b. 1958)**

**If the doors of perception were cleansed everything would appear to man as it is, infinite. -William Blake, poet, engraver, and painter (1757-1827)**

**Oh the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all right out, just as they are -- chaff and grain together -- certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping, and with the breath of kindness blow the rest away. -George Eliot (pen name of Mary Ann Evans), novelist (1819-1880)**

**Every decent man is ashamed of the government he lives under. -H.L. Mencken, writer, editor, and critic (1880-1956)**

**The most futile thing in this world is any attempt, perhaps, at exact definition of character. All individuals are a bundle of contradictions -- none more so than the most capable. -Theodore Dreiser, author (1871-1945)**

**Truth has no special time of its own. Its hour is now -- always. -Albert Schweitzer, philosopher, physician, musician, Nobel laureate (1875-1965)**

**Which of us is not forever a stranger and alone? -Thomas Wolfe, novelist (1900-1938)**

**The quality of our thoughts is bordered on all sides by our facility with language. -J. Michael Straczynski, author (b.1954)**

**In every work of genius we recognize our own rejected thoughts: they come back to us with a certain alienated majesty. -Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer and philosopher (1803-1882)**

**It is not giving children more that spoils them; it is giving them more to avoid confrontation. -John Gray, author (b. 1951)**

**The greatest analgesic, soporific, stimulant, tranquilizer, narcotic, and to some extent even antibiotic -- in short, the closest thing to a genuine panacea -- known to medical science is work. -Thomas Szasz, author, professor of psychiatry (b. 1920)**

**The trouble with words is that you never know whose mouths they've been in. -Dennis Potter, dramatist (1935-1994)**

**That is a good book which is opened with expectation, and closed with delight and profit. -Amos Bronson Alcott, teacher and author (1799-1888)**

**Every man's memory is his private literature. -Aldous Huxley, novelist (1894-1963)**

**Perfect order is the forerunner of perfect horror. -Carlos Fuentes (b. 1928)**

**Endless money forms the sinews of war. -Marcus Tullius Cicero, statesman, orator, writer (106-43 BCE)**

**The mind is its own place, and in itself / Can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven. -John Milton (1608-1674) [Paradise Lost]**

**A belief in a supernatural source of evil is not necessary; men alone are quite capable of every wickedness. -Joseph Conrad, novelist (1857-1924)**

**Genius is eternal patience. -Michelangelo Buonarroti, sculptor, painter, architect, and poet (1475-1564)**

**As a well spent day brings happy sleep, so life well used brings happy death. -Leonardo da Vinci, painter, engineer, musician, and scientist (1452-1519)**

**He had the rare quality of not only loving but respecting childhood -- its innocence, its keen sense of justice, its passionate and yet sensitive affections. -Dinah Maria Mulock Craik, novelist and poet (1826-1887)**

**Friendship, like credit, is highest where it is not used. -Elbert Hubbard, author, editor, printer (1856-1915)**

**The most civilized people are as near to barbarism as the most polished steel is to rust. Nations, like metals, have only a superficial brilliancy. -Antoine de Rivarol, epigrammatist (1753-1801)**

**I had a lover's quarrel with the world. -Robert Frost, poet (1874-1963)**

**Love involves a peculiar, unfathomable combination of understanding and misunderstanding. -Diane Arbus, photographer (1923-1971)**

**Human beings are perhaps never more frightening than when they are convinced beyond doubt that they are right. -Laurens van der Post, explorer and writer (1906-1996)**

**That some good can be derived from every event is a better proposition than that everything happens for the best, which it assuredly does not. -James Kern Feibleman, philosopher and psychiatrist (1904-1987)**

**Do something for somebody every day for which you do not get paid. -Albert Schweitzer, philosopher, physician, musician, Nobel laureate (1875-1965)**

**To be able to destroy with good conscience, to be able to behave badly and call your bad behavior "righteous indignation" -- this is the height of psychological luxury, the most delicious of moral treats. -Aldous Huxley, novelist (1894-1963)**

**The ingenuities we practice in order to appear admirable to ourselves would suffice to invent the telephone twice over on a rainy summer morning. -Brendan Gill, writer and preservationist (1914-1997)**

**Words are timeless. You should utter them or write them with a knowledge of their timelessness. -Khalil Gibran, mystic, poet, and artist (1883-1931)**

**If one sins against the laws of proportion and gives something too big to something too small to carry it -- too big sails to too small a ship, too big meals to too small a body, too big powers to too small a soul -- the result is bound to be a complete upset. In an outburst of hubris the overfed body will rush into sickness, while the jack-in-office will rush into the unrighteousness that hubris always breeds. -Plato, philosopher (427-347 BCE)**

**There is no more irritating fellow than the man who tries to settle an argument about communism, or justice, or liberty, by quoting from Webster. -Mortimer J. Adler, philosopher, educator, and author (1902-2001)**

**A real book is not one that we read, but one that reads us. -W.H. Auden, poet (1907-1973)**

**A myth is a religion in which no one any longer believes. -James Kern Feibleman, philosopher and psychiatrist (1904-1987)**

**There are few things more disturbing than to find, in somebody we detest, a moral quality which seems to us demonstrably superior to anything we ourselves possess. It augurs not merely an unfairness on the part of creation, but a lack of artistic judgment. Sainthood is acceptable only in saints. -Pamela Hansford Johnson, poet and novelist (1912-1981)**

**How can we expect another to keep our secret if we have been unable to keep it ourselves. -Francois de La Rochefoucauld, writer (1613-1680)**

**A sect or party is an elegant incognito devised to save a man from the vexation of thinking. -Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer and philosopher (1803-1882)**

**When I read some of the rules for speaking and writing the English language correctly, -- as that a sentence must never end with a participle, -- and perceive how implicitly even the learned obey it, I think -- Any fool can make a rule And every fool will mind it. -Henry David Thoreau, naturalist and author (1817-1862)**

**Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather. -John Ruskin, author, art critic, and social reformer (1819-1900)**

**I've made an odd discovery. Every time I talk to a savant I feel quite sure that happiness is no longer a possibility. Yet when I talk with my gardener, I'm convinced of the opposite. -Bertrand Russell, philosopher, mathematician, and author (1872-1970)**

**A tragic indicator of the values of our civilization is that there's no business like war business. -Douglas Mattern, peace activist (b. 1933)**

**Neither great poverty nor great riches will hear reason. -Henry Fielding, author (1707-1754)**

**In those parts of the world where learning and science have prevailed, miracles have ceased; but in those parts of it as are barbarous and ignorant, miracles are still in vogue. -Ethan Allen, revolutionary (1738-1789)**

**Be regular and orderly in your life so that you may be violent and original in your work. -Gustave Flaubert, novelist (1821-1880)**

**I cannot conceive otherwise than that He, the Infinite Father, expects or requires no worship or praise from us, but that He is even infinitely above it. -Benjamin Franklin, statesman, author, and inventor (1706-1790)**

**An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation, nor does the truth become error because nobody will see it. -Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869-1948)**

**The dust of exploded beliefs may make a fine sunset. -Geoffrey Madan, writer (1895-1947)**

**What the mind doesn't understand, it worships or fears. -Alice Walker, author (b. 1944)**

**Life consists in what a man is thinking of all day. -Ralph Waldo Emerson, writer and philosopher (1803-1882)**

**Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility. -St. Augustine (354-430)**

**If your morals make you dreary, depend on it, they are wrong. -Robert Louis Stevenson, novelist, essayist, and poet (1850-1894)**

**It is not life and wealth and power that enslave men, but the cleaving to life and wealth and power. -Buddha (c. 563-483 BCE)**

**The propagandist's purpose is to make one set of people forget that certain other sets of people are human. -Aldous Huxley, novelist (1894-1963)**

**The living language is like a cow-path: it is the creation of the cows themselves, who, having created it, follow it or depart from it according to their whims or their needs. From daily use, the path undergoes change. A cow is under no obligation to stay. -E.B. White, writer (1899-1985)**

**Our heads are round so that thoughts can change direction. -Francis Picabia, painter and poet (1879-1953)**

**I find it difficult to feel responsible for the suffering of others. That's why I find war so hard to bear. It's the same with animals: I feel the less harm I do, the lighter my heart. I love a light heart. And when I know I'm causing suffering, I feel the heaviness of it. It's a physical pain. So it's self-interest that I don't want to cause harm. -Alice Walker, author (b. 1944)**

**Like cars in amusement parks, our direction is often determined through collisions. -Yahia Lababidi, writer (b. 1973)**

**High is our calling, Friend!--Creative Art / (Whether the instrument of words she use, Or pencil pregnant with ethereal hues,) / Demands the service of a mind and heart. -William Wordsworth, poet (1770-1850)**

**Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented. -Elie Wiesel, writer, Nobel laureate (b. 1928)**

**In the common words we use every day, souls of past races, the thoughts and feelings of individual men stand around us, not dead, but frozen into their attitudes like the couriers in the garden of the Sleeping Beauty.**

**-Owen Barfield, author (1898-1997)**

**The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed -- and hence clamorous to be led to safety -- by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary. -H.L. Mencken, writer, editor, and critic (1880-1956)**

**If a man would register all his opinions upon love, politics, religion, learning, etc., beginning from his youth and so go on to old age, what a bundle of inconsistencies and contradictions would appear at last!**

**-Jonathan Swift, satirist (1667-1745)**

**Evil is like a shadow - it has no real substance of its own, it is simply a lack of light. You cannot cause a shadow to disappear by trying to fight it, stamp on it, by railing against it, or any other form of emotional or physical resistance. In order to cause a shadow to disappear, you must shine light on it. -Shakti Gawain, teacher and author (b. 1948)**

**I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day; I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way. -Edgar Guest, poet (1881-1959)**

**If you wish to be loved, show more of your faults than your virtues.**

**-Edward Bulwer-Lytton, author (1803-1873)**

**No protracted war can fail to endanger the freedom of a democratic country. -Alexis de Tocqueville, statesman and historian (1805-1859)**

**Every man feels instinctively that all the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action. -James Russell Lowell, poet, editor, and diplomat (1819-1891)**

**Eminent posts make great men greater, and little men less. -Jean de la Bruyere, essayist and moralist (1645-1696)**

**Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' Vanity asks the question, 'Is it popular?' But, conscience asks the question, 'Is it right?' And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right. -Martin Luther**

**King, Jr.**

**A child's education should begin at least one hundred years before he is born. -Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., US Supreme Court Justice (1841-1935)**

**Words are loaded pistols. -Jean-Paul Sartre, writer and philosopher (1905-1980)**

**I would rather try to persuade a man to go along, because once I have persuaded him he will stick. If I scare him, he will stay just as long as he is scared, and then he is gone. -Dwight D. Eisenhower, U.S. general and 34th president (1890-1969)**