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# Quotes by Pope, Alexander

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Alexander Pope (May 22, 1688 – May 30, 1744) is considered one of the greatest English poets of the eighteenth century.

Let me tell you I am better acquainted with you for a long absence, as men are with themselves for a long affliction: absence does but hold off a friend, to make one see him the truer.

- Pope, Alexander

Some old men, continually praise the time of their youth. In fact, you would almost think that there were no fools in their days, but unluckily they themselves are left as an example.

- Pope, Alexander

Good God! how often are we to die before we go quite off this stage? In every friend we lose a part of ourselves, and the best part.

- Pope, Alexander

Satan is wiser now than before, and tempts by making rich instead of poor.

- Pope, Alexander

Blessed is the man who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed was the ninth beatitude.

- Pope, Alexander

Education forms the common mind. Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined.

- Pope, Alexander

Who breaks a butterfly on a wheel?

- Pope, Alexander

An excuse is worse than a lie, for an excuse is a lie, guarded.

- Pope, Alexander

Why has not man a microscopic eye? For the plain reason man is not a fly.

- Pope, Alexander

I was not born for courts and great affairs, but I pay my debts, believe and say my prayers.

- Pope, Alexander

What's fame? a fancy'd life in other's breath. A thing beyond us, even before our death.

- Pope, Alexander

The worst of madmen is a saint run mad.

- Pope, Alexander

We think our fathers fools, so wise we grow. Our wiser sons, no doubt will think us so.

- Pope, Alexander

Fools rush in where Angels fear to tread.

- Pope, Alexander

To err is human, to forgive is divine.

- Pope, Alexander

How shall I lose the sin, yet keep the sense, and love the offender, yet detest the offence?

- Pope, Alexander

Many people are capable of doing a wise thing, more a cunning thing, but very few a generous thing.

- Pope, Alexander

Men would be angels, angels would be gods.

- Pope, Alexander

We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas,

alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people.

- Pope, Alexander

At every word a reputation dies.

- Pope, Alexander

And all who told it added something new, and all who heard it, made enlargements too.

- Pope, Alexander

For Forms of Government let fools contest; whatever is best administered is best.

- Pope, Alexander

Happy the man whose wish and care a few paternal acres bound, content to breathe his native air in his own ground.

- Pope, Alexander

Know then this truth, enough for man to know virtue alone is happiness below.

- Pope, Alexander

To be angry is to revenge the faults of others on ourselves.

- Pope, Alexander

Health consists with temperance alone.

- Pope, Alexander

An honest man's the noblest work of God.

- Pope, Alexander

Act well your part; there all honor lies.

- Pope, Alexander

If, presume not to God to scan; The proper study of Mankind is Man. Plac'd on this isthmus of a middle state, a being darkly wise, and rudely great.

- Pope, Alexander

No one should be ashamed to admit they are wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that they are wiser today than they were yesterday.

- Pope, Alexander

Fix'd like a plan on his peculiar spot, to draw nutrition, propagate, and rot.

- Pope, Alexander

Die and endow a college or a cat.

- Pope, Alexander

But thousands die without or this or that, die, and endow a college, or a cat: To some, indeed, Heaven grants the happier fate, Tenrich a bastard, or a son they hate.

- Pope, Alexander

For virtue's self may too much zeal be had; the worst of madmen is a saint run mad.

- Pope, Alexander

You beat your Pate, and fancy Wit will come: Knock as you please, there's no body at home.

- Pope, Alexander

It is with our judgments as with our watches: no two go just alike, yet each believes his own.

- Pope, Alexander

Curse on all laws, but those that love has made.

- Pope, Alexander

A little learning is a dangerous thing. Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring; There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain; And drinking largely sobers us again.

- Pope, Alexander

True disputants are like true sportsman: their whole delight is in the pursuit.

- Pope, Alexander

When much dispute has past, we find our tenets just the same as last.

- Pope, Alexander

Sure of their qualities and demanding praise, more go to ruined fortunes than are raised.

- Pope, Alexander

Histories are more full of examples of the fidelity of dogs than of friends.

- Pope, Alexander

They dream in courtship, but in wedlock wake.

- Pope, Alexander

Remembrance and reflection how allied. What thin partitions divides sense from thought.

- Pope, Alexander

Lulled in the countless chambers of the brain, our thoughts are linked by many a hidden chain; awake but one, and in, what myriads rise!

- Pope, Alexander

Men dream of courtship, but in wedlock wake.

- Pope, Alexander

Teach me to feel another's woe. To hide the fault I see: That the mercy I show to others;  
that mercy also show to me.

- Pope, Alexander

Charm strikes the sight, but merit wins the soul.

- Pope, Alexander

A man should never be ashamed to own that he is wrong, which is but saying in other  
words that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

- Pope, Alexander

Two purposes in human nature rule. Self-love to urge, and reason to restrain.

- Pope, Alexander

All nature is but art unknown to thee.

- Pope, Alexander

One who is too wise an observer of the business of others, like one who is too curious in  
observing the labor of bees, will often be stung for his curiosity.

- Pope, Alexander

An obstinate person does not hold opinions; they hold them.

- Pope, Alexander

Order is Heaven's first law; and this confessed, some are, and must be, greater than the rest, more rich, more wise; but who infers from hence that such are happier, shocks all common sense. Condition, circumstance, is not the thing; bliss is the same in subject or in king.

- Pope, Alexander

The ruling passion, be it what it will, The ruling passion conquers reason still.

- Pope, Alexander

Passions are the gales of life.

- Pope, Alexander

Our passions are like convulsion fits, which, though they make us stronger for a time, leave us the weaker ever after.

- Pope, Alexander

The hidden harmony is better than the obvious.

- Pope, Alexander

Never elated when someone's oppressed, never dejected when another one's blessed.

- Pope, Alexander

Let sinful bachelors their woes deplore; full well they merit all they feel, and more: unaw  
by precepts, human or divine, like birds and beasts, promiscuously they join.

- Pope, Alexander

I find myself... hoping a total end of all the unhappy divisions of mankind by party-spirit,  
which at best is but the madness of many for the gain of a few.

- Pope, Alexander

Fondly we think we honor merit then, When we but praise ourselves in other men.

- Pope, Alexander

Praise undeserved, is satire in disguise.

- Pope, Alexander

All looks yellow to a jaundiced eye.

- Pope, Alexander

At every trifle take offense, that always shows great pride or little sense.

- Pope, Alexander

Pride is still aiming at the best houses: Men would be angels, angels would be gods.

Aspiring to be gods, if angels fell; aspiring to be angels men rebel.

- Pope, Alexander

Not to go back is somewhat to advance, and men must walk, at least, before they dance.

- Pope, Alexander

On life's vast ocean diversely we sail. Reasons the card, but passion the gale.

- Pope, Alexander

Learn to live well, or fairly make your will; you played, and loved, and ate, and drunk your fill: walk sober off; before a sprightlier age comes tittering on, and shoves you from the stage: leave such to trifle with more grace and ease, whom Folly pleases, and whose Follies please.

- Pope, Alexander

One science only will one genius fit; so vast is art, so narrow human wit.

- Pope, Alexander

Know then thyself, presume not God to scan; The proper study of mankind is man.

- Pope, Alexander

Trust not yourself, but your defects to know, make use of every friend and every foe.

- Pope, Alexander

There goes a saying, and 'twas shrewdly said, Old fish at table, but young flesh in bed.

- Pope, Alexander

By foreign hands thy humble grave adorned; By strangers honored, and by strangers mourned.

- Pope, Alexander

Beauties in vain their pretty eyes may roll; charms strike the sight, but merit wins the soul.

- Pope, Alexander

Be not the first by which a new thing is tried, or the last to lay the old aside.

- Pope, Alexander

Lo! thy dread empire, Chaos! is restored; dies before thy uncreating word: thy hand, great Anarch! lets the curtain fall; and universal darkness buries all.

- Pope, Alexander

Honor and shame from no condition rise; Act well your part, there all the honor lies.

- Pope, Alexander

How happy is the blameless vestal's lot? The world forgetting, by the world forgot.

- Pope, Alexander

The hungry judges soon the sentence sign, and wretches hang that jurymen may dine.

- Pope, Alexander

Like Cato, give his little senate laws, and sit attentive to his own applause.

- Pope, Alexander

On wrongs swift vengeance waits.

- Pope, Alexander

Virtuous and vicious everyone must be; few in extremes, but all in degree.

- Pope, Alexander

To endeavor to work upon the vulgar with fine sense is like attempting to hew blocks with a razor.

- Pope, Alexander

But Satan now is wiser than of yore, and tempts by making rich, not making poor.

- Pope, Alexander

True wit is nature to advantage dressed, what oft was thought, but never so well expressed.

- Pope, Alexander

Most women have no characters at all.

- Pope, Alexander

Most authors steal their works, or buy.

- Pope, Alexander

Ten censure wrong, for one that writes amiss.

- Pope, Alexander

Why did I write? What sin to me unknown dipped me in ink, my parents , or my own?

- Pope, Alexander

True ease in writing comes from art, not chance, as those move easiest who have learned to dance. 'Tis not enough no harshness gives offence. The sound must seem an echo to the sense.

- Pope, Alexander

Fools admire, but men of sense approve.

- Pope, Alexander

Behold the child, by nature's kindly law, pleased with a rattle, tickled with a straw.

- Pope, Alexander

I am his Highness dog at Kew; pray tell me, sir, whose dog are you?

- Pope, Alexander

True politeness consists in being easy one's self, and in making every one about one as easy as one can.

- Pope, Alexander

Blest paper-credit! last and best supply! That lends corruption lighter wings to fly!

- Pope, Alexander

Did some more sober critics come abroad? If wrong, I smil'd; if right, I kiss'd the rod.

- Pope, Alexander

A person who is too nice an observer of the business of the crowd, like one who is too curious in observing the labor of bees, will often be stung for his curiosity.

- Pope, Alexander

Scarce any Tale was sooner heard than told; And all who told it, added something new, And all who heard it, made Enlargements too, In evry Ear it spread, on evry Tongue it grew.

- Pope, Alexander

In Words, as Fashions, the same Rule will hold; Alike Fantastick, if too New, or Old; Be not

the first by whom the New are tryd,Nor yet the last to lay the Old aside.

- Pope, Alexander





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