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Quotes about Individuality

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The greatest enemy of individual freedom is the individual himself.

- Alinsky, Saul

We would worry less about what others think of us if we realized how seldom they do.

- Barrett, Ethel

Never follow the crowd.

- Baruch, Bernard M.

The privilege of a lifetime is being who you are.

- Campell, Joseph

More and more, when faced with the world of men, the only reaction is one of individualism. Man alone is an end unto himself. Everything one tries to do for the common good ends in failure.

- Camus, Albert

Pin your faith to no ones sleeves, haven't you two eyes of your own.

- Carlyle, Thomas

No one should part with their individuality and become that of another.

- Channing, William Ellery

Losing faith in your own singularity is the start of wisdom, I suppose; also the first announcement of death.

- Conrad, Peter

Each man must have his I; it is more necessary to him than bread; and if he does not find scope for it within the existing institutions he will be likely to make trouble.

- Cooley, Charles Horton

Individuality is the aim of political liberty. By leaving to the citizen as much freedom of action and of being, as comports with order and the rights of others, the institutions render him truly a freeman. He is left to pursue his means of happiness in his own manner.

- Cooper, James F.

Individuality is either the mark of genius or the reverse. Mediocrity finds safety in standardization.

- Crane, Frederick E.

Follow your own star!

- Dante Alighieri

The trouble with the sacred Individual is that he has no significance, except as he can acquire it from others, from the social whole.

- Devoto, Bernard

Everything without tells the individual that he is nothing; everything within persuades him that he is everything.

- Doudan, X.

The individual, man as a man, man as a brain, if you like, interests me more than what he makes, because I've noticed that most artists only repeat themselves.

- Duchamp, Marcel

Each makes this cosmos and its construction the pivot of his emotional life, in order to find in this way peace and security which he can not find in the narrow whirlpool of personal experience.

- Einstein, Albert

Our expenses are all for conformity.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

A man must consider what a rich realm he abdicates when he becomes a conformist.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly.

- Francis De Sales, St.

Every man must get to Heaven his own way.

- Frederick The Great, (Frederick II)

The best things and best people rise out of their separateness; I'm against a homogenized society because I want the cream to rise.

- Frost, Robert

Be yourself, who else is better qualified?

- Gibling, Frank J.

Each man must grant himself the emotions that he needs and the morality that suits him.

- Gourmont, Remy De

In each individual the spirit is made flesh, in each one the whole of creation suffers, in each one a Savior is crucified.

- Hesse, Hermann

If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?

- Hillel, Rabbi

It is the individual only who is timeless. Societies, cultures, and civilizations --past and present --are often incomprehensible to outsiders, but the individual's hungers, anxieties, dreams, and preoccupations have remained unchanged through the millennia.

- Hoffer, Eric

The great challenge which faces us is to assure that, in our society of big-ness, we do not strangle the voice of creativity, that the rules of the game do not come to overshadow its purpose, that the grand orchestration of society leaves ample room for the man who marches to the music of another drummer.

- Humphrey, Hubert H.

Writers write to influence their readers, their preachers, their auditors, but always, at bottom, to be more themselves.

- Huxley, Aldous

The shoe that fits one person pinches another; there is no recipe for living that suits all cases.

- Jung, Carl

Resistance to the organized mass can be effected only by the man who is as well organized in his individuality as the mass itself.

- Jung, Carl

Comrades! We must abolish the cult of the individual decisively, once and for all.

- Khrushchev, Nikita

The definition of the individual was: a multitude of one million divided by one million.

- Koestler, Arthur

A gesture cannot be regarded as the expression of an individual, as his creation (because no individual is capable of creating a fully original gesture, belonging to nobody else), nor can it even be regarded as that person's instrument; on the contrary, it is gestures that use us as their instruments, as their bearers and incarnations.

- Kundera, Milan

Except in a few well-publicized instances (enough to lend credence to the iconography painted on the walls of the media), the rigorous practice of rugged individualism usually leads to poverty, ostracism and disgrace. The rugged individualist is too often mistaken for the misfit, the maverick, the spoilsport, the sore thumb.

- Lapham, Lewis H.

Be content to be what you are, and prefer nothing to it, and do not fear or wish for your last day.

- Martial, Marcus Valerius

In bourgeois society capital is independent and has individuality, while the living person is dependent and has no individuality.

- Marx, Karl

But society has now fairly got the better of individuality; and the danger which threatens human nature is not the excess, but the deficiency, of personal impulses and preferences.

- Mill, John Stuart

That so few now dare to be eccentric, marks the chief danger of the time.

- Mill, John Stuart

What ever crushes individuality is despotism, no matter what name it is called.

- Mill, John Stuart

What is wanted -- whether this is admitted or not -- is nothing less than a fundamental remolding, indeed weakening and abolition of the individual: one never tires of enumerating and indicating all that is evil and inimical, prodigal, costly, extravagant in the form individual existence has assumed hitherto, one hopes to manage more cheaply, more safely, more equitably, more uniformly if there exist only large bodies and their members.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

Never permit a dichotomy to rule your life, a dichotomy in which you hate what you do so you can have pleasure in your spare time. Look for a situation in which your work will give you as much happiness as your spare time.

- Picasso, Pablo

The nail that sticks up will be hammered down.

- Proverb, Japanese

Your labor only may be sold, your soul must not.

- Ruskin, John

No one can transcend their own individuality.

- Schopenhauer, Arthur

There used to be a real me, but I had it surgically removed.

- Seller, Peter

A happy life is one which is in accordance with its own nature.

- Seneca

Every single one of us can do things that no one else can do -- can love things that no

one else can love. We are like violins. We can be used for doorstops, or we can make music. You know what to do.

- Sher, Barbara

The work of the individual still remains the spark that moves mankind forward.

- Sikorsky, Igor

It is said that if Noah's ark had to be built by a company; they would not have laid the keel yet; and it may be so. What is many men's business is nobody's business. The greatest things are accomplished by individual men.

- Spurgeon, Charles Haddon

Follow the crowd and you will never be followed by a crowd.

- Unknown, Source

Those who talk about individuality the most are the ones who most object to deviation, and in a few years it may be the other way around. Some day everybody will just think what they want to think, and then everybody will probably be thinking alike; that

- Warhol, Andy

My great mistake, the fault for which I can't forgive myself, is that one day I ceased my obstinate pursuit of my own individuality.

- Wilde, Oscar

America is not anything if it consists of each of us. It is something only if it consists of all of us.

- Wilson, Woodrow T.

There is a war against the individual.

- Dye, James



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