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Quotes about Simplicity

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Elegance of language may not be in the power of all of us; but simplicity and straight forwardness are. Write much as you would speak; speak as you think. If with your inferior, speak no coarser than usual; if with your superiors, no finer.

- Alford

Simplicity is nature's first step, and the last of art.

- Bailey, Philip James

The price we pay for the complexity of life is too high. When you think of all the effort you have to put in --telephonic, technological and relational --to alter even the slightest bit of behavior in this strange world we call social life, you are left pining for the straightforwardness of primitive peoples and their physical work.

- Baudrillard, Jean

I have a simple life. I mean, you just give me a drum roll, they announce my name, and I come out and sing. In my job I have a contract that says I'm a singer. So I sing.

- Bennett, Tony

What is conceived well is expressed clearly.

- Destouches, Philippe Nericault

Partial culture runs to the ornate, extreme culture to simplicity.

- Bovee, Christian Nevell

Outward simplicity befits ordinary men, like a garment made to measure for them; but it serves as an adornment to those who have filled their lives with great deeds: they might be compared to some beauty carelessly dressed and thereby all the more attractive.

- Bruyere, Jean De La

To simplify complications is the first essential of success.

- Buckle, George Earle

The business schools reward difficult complex behavior more than simple behavior, but simple behavior is more effective.

- Buffett, Warren

The most complex things are the simplest.

- Celeste, Agni

All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy, hope.

- Churchill, Winston

Out of intense complexities intense simplicities emerge.

- Churchill, Winston

When thought is too weak to be simply expressed, it's clear proof that it should be rejected.

- Clapiers, Luc De

Every contrivance of man, every tool, every instrument, every utensil, every article designed for use, of each and every kind, evolved from a very simple beginnings.

- Collier, Robert

Life is really simple, but men insist on making it complicated.

- Confucius

Simplicity is a pleasant thing in children, or at any age, but it is not necessarily admirable, nor is affectation altogether a thing of evil. To be normal, to be at home in the world, with a prospect of power, usefulness, or success, the person must have that imaginative insight into other minds that underlies tact and savoir-faire, morality and beneficence. This insight involves sophistication, some understanding and sharing of the clandestine impulses of human nature. A simplicity that is merely the lack of this insight indicates a sort of defect.

- Cooley, Charles Horton

A refined simplicity is the characteristic of all high bred deportment, in every country, and

a considerate humanity should be the aim of all beneath it.

- Cooper, James F.

A taste for simplicity cannot endure for long.

- Delacroix, Eugene

Divide each difficulty into as many parts as is feasible and necessary to resolve it.

- Descartes, Rene

I don't understand complicated problems. I only understand simple ones.

- Deupree, Richard

Things should be made as simple as possible, but not any simpler.

- Einstein, Albert

When the solution is simple, God is answering.

- Einstein, Albert

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.

- Einstein, Albert

God always takes the simplest way.

- Einstein, Albert

Most of the fundamental ideas of science are essentially simple, and may, as a rule, be expressed in a language comprehensible to everyone.

- Einstein, Albert

The grand aim of all science is to cover the greatest number of empirical facts by logical deduction from the smallest number of hypotheses or axioms.

- Einstein, Albert

Nothing is more simple than greatness; indeed, to be simple is to be great.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

It is the proof of high culture to say the greatest matters in the simplest way.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

It is the childlike mind that finds the kingdom.

- Fillmore, Charles

Nothing is particularly hard if you divide it into small jobs.

- Ford, Henry

A complex system that works is invariably found to have evolved from a simple system that works.

- Gall, John

The whole is simpler than the sum of its parts.

- Gibbs, Willard

The obvious is that which is never seen until someone expresses it simply.

- Gibran, Kahlil

Nothing is true, but that which is simple.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

There is repetition everywhere, and nothing is found only once in the world.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

Simple ideas lie within the reach only of complex minds.

- Gourmont, Remy De

Behind the complicated details of the world stand the simplicities: God is good, the grown-up man or woman knows the answer to every question, there is such a thing as truth, and justice is as measured and faultless as a clock. Our heroes are simple: they are brave, they tell the truth, they are good swordsmen and they are never in the long run really defeated. That is why no later books satisfy us like those which were read to us in childhood --for those promised a world of great simplicity of which we knew the rules, but

the later books are complicated and contradictory with experience; they are formed out of our own disappointing memories.

- Greene, Graham

My aim is to put down on paper what I see and what I feel in the best and simplest way.

- Hemingway, Ernest

There are two ways of constructing a software design. One way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies. And the other way is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies.

- Hoare, C.A.R.

The ability to simplify means to eliminate the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak.

- Hofmann, Hans

Understanding reduces the greatest to simplicity, and lack of it causes the least to take on the magnitude.

- Holliwell, Raymond

The art of simplicity is a puzzle of complexity.

- Horton, Doug

I hate American simplicity. I glory in the piling up of complications of every sort. If I could pronounce the name James in any different or more elaborate way I should be in favor of doing it.

- James, Henry

Life will not bear refinement. You must do as other people do.

- Johnson, Samuel

Simplicity is the intention, purity in the affection; simplicity turns to God, purity unites with and enjoys him.

- Kempis, Thomas

In our systems work through simplicity, consistency, and repetition.

- Kinder, Jack

To me, the extraordinary aspect of martial arts lies in its simplicity. The easy way is also the right way, and martial arts is nothing at all special; the closer to the true way of martial arts, the less wastage of expression there is.

- Lee, Bruce

The height of cultivation runs to simplicity. Halfway cultivation runs to ornamentation.

- Lee, Bruce

It's not the daily increase but daily decrease. Hack away at the unessential.

- Lee, Bruce

The noble simplicity in the works of nature only too often originates in the noble shortsightedness of him who observes it.

- Lichtenberg, Georg C.

Simplicity in character, in manners, in style; in all things the supreme excellence is simplicity.

- Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth

The wisest keeps something of the vision of a child. Though he may understand a thousand things that a child could not understand, he is always a beginner, close to the original meaning of life.

- Macy, John

Order and simplification are the first steps towards the mastery of a subject.

- Mann, Thomas

I have always observed that to succeed in the world a person must seem simple, yet wise.

- Montesquieu, Charles De

Simplicity of life, even the barest, is not a misery, but the very foundation of refinement; a

sanded floor and whitewashed walls and the green trees, and flowery meads, and living waters outside; or a grimy palace amid the same with a regiment of housemaids always working to smear the dirt together so that it may be unnoticed; which, think you, is the most refined, the most fit for a gentleman of those two dwellings?

- Morris, William

I paint from the top down. From the sky, then the mountains, then the hills, then the houses, then the cattle, and then the people.

- Moses, Grandma

We struggle with the complexities and avoid the simplicities.

- Peale, Norman Vincent

See it big, and keep it simple.

- Peterson, Wilferd A.

Simplicity is the seal of truth.

- Proverb

Never do anything standing that you can do sitting, or anything sitting that you can do lying down.

- Proverb, Chinese

It is far more difficult to be simple than to be complicated; far more difficult to sacrifice skill and easy execution in the proper place, than to expand both indiscriminately.

- Ruskin, John

Simplicity is the peak of civilization.

- Sampter, Jessie

Intellectual comradeship requires that you think your thoughts through to the place where you can make the complex seem simple, the obscure quite clear.

- Seabury, David

The trouble with so many of us is that we underestimate the power of simplicity. We have a tendency it seems to over complicate our lives and forget what's important and what's not. We tend to mistake movement for achievement. We tend to focus on activities instead of results. And as the pace of life continues to race along in the outside world, we forget that we have the power to control our lives regardless of what's going on outside.

- Stuberger, Robert

Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify, simplify! I say, let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand; instead of a million count half a dozen, and keep your accounts on your thumb-nail.

- Thoreau, Henry David

Everything is simpler than you think and yet more complex than you imagine.

- Unknown, Source

The trouble with measurement is its seeming simplicity.

- Unknown, Source

When a thought is too weak to be expressed simply, it should be rejected.

- Vauvenargues, Marquis De

No matter how complicated a problem is, it usually can be reduced to a simple, comprehensible form which is often the best solution.

- Wang, An

Simplicity is making the journey of this life with just baggage enough.

- Warner, Charles Dudley

Seek simplicity but distrust it.

- Whitehead, Alfred North

The art of art, the glory of expression and the sunshine of the light of letters, is simplicity.

- Whitman, Walt

The great things in life are what they seem to be. And for that reason, strange as it may sound to you, often are very difficult to interpret (understand). Great passion are for the

great of souls. Great events can only be seen by people who are on a level with them. We think we can have our visions for nothing. We cannot. Even the finest and most self-sacrificing visions have to be paid for. Strangely enough, that is what makes them fine.

- Wilde, Oscar

I adore simple pleasures. They are the last refuge of the complex.

- Wilde, Oscar

The complex develops out of the simple.

- Wilson, Colin



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