

# Advanced Banter

The Qi Book of Quotations

John Lloyd and John Mitchinson



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A Quite Interesting Book

**ADVANCED BANTER**  
THE QI BOOK OF QUOTATIONS

John Lloyd and John Mitchinson

**ff**  
*faber and faber*

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# PROLOGUE

Stephen Fry

They say that Samuel Taylor Coleridge was the last person to read everything. By the time he died there were now too many books, they suggest, for any one single brain to engage with. 'They', as usual, are wrong. There were already millions of books in Europe by the year 1500, just half a century after the first printed page flew from the first press. To read a million books in a lifetime you would have to read forty a day for seventy years. I couldn't even manage half that amount for half as long with cigarettes before giving up and it takes a lot longer to read a book than to smoke a cigarette, let me tell you.

Philosophers, wits, novelists, cooks, poets, essayists, herbalists, mathematicians, builders, poets and divines had poured out more thoughts in that first fifty years than had been committed to paper or vellum in the previous thousand. And the rate only continued to increase as it approached the twentieth century's dizzyingly insane levels of oversupply. With so much flowing from so many different human brains, who can be arsed to read it? Not I, sir and madam, not I. It's all I can do to peruse the inside of a packet of breakfast cereal without distraction from radio, television and phone. I have no doubt you are in the same case. You would dearly like to suck intellectual and metaphysical juice from the fruity flesh of the world's best thinkers and writers but the treetops are all out of reach and you would be too much of a fag to go and fetch a ladder. If only someone would pick, pulp and squeeze that fruit for you, you have been thinking – not the usual anthologists, but those splendid elves from the Quite Interesting team, the fruits of whose labours are offered with such satisfying and repetitive regularity on the BBC and channels Dave, Mike, Pete, Steve and Neville.

Your wish has been answered in the quite interesting volume even now stuffed up your pullover and you streak for the bookshop's security barrier. There has never been a collection like it. Look in vain for the obvious, the banal and the platitudinous. On every page you will marvel at 'what oft was thought but ne'er so well expressed'.

And you can quote me.

*Biarritz, Dublin and Here*

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# PROVERB

Alan Davies

A small pie is soon eaten.

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# PREAMBLE

John Lloyd and John Mitchinson

Before you settle down, we have a confession to make. We love quotations. Not like, admire or revere, but with a residual fondness for. We love them with a deep, never-to-be-fully-sated passion – the passion of men who spend too long cooped up indoors, burrowing through books and staring at screens. Quotations are our catnip. The more we have, the more we want.

There's an old craftsman's saw: 'If the other fellow can do it better, let him.' That's how we feel about quotations. They are the best bits of the best minds, the records of the funniest, truest, wisest and most memorable things anyone has ever said. A good quotation is a keyhole view of a boundless universe, like one of those windows called 'squints' in medieval cathedrals through which only the altar is visible.

Using quotations isn't a mark of cowardice, inarticulacy or false modesty. It's a demonstration of what sets us humans apart: our ability to learn from one another, to share, to talk and to remember. As you'll discover, there are people who exist only on the pages of quotation books, whose life and work has evaporated completely leaving behind just one or two tiny puddles of wisdom. Indeed, the strange and magical process by which we all seem to find the same things interesting also works for quotations. As Elias Canetti put it: 'The great writers of aphorisms read as if they had all known each other well.'

So, don't be expecting a reference book. It might look like one, but it's really a manifesto. It could have been ten times longer but we have forced ourselves to keep only the ones we couldn't live without, and then – painfully – to put them in some kind of order. Whether it's punch-the-air exactness of thought ('Erotica is using a feather, pornography is using the whole chicken,' Isabel Allende), subversive humour ('Everywhere I go I'm asked if I think the university stifles writers. My opinion is that they don't stifle enough of them,' Flannery O'Connor) or unexpected, disarmingly honest ('I love those decadent wenches who do so trouble my dreams,' Rembrandt), every quote has fought to justify its inclusion here.

As for how you use it, all we'll say is that you can't have a conversation on your own. Banter is not a solitary activity. And quotations are the hard currency of banter. Whether you hoard them like shiny sovereigns in your pocket, or rub them like rabbits' feet in times of need, they are yours to do with what you will.

Time to let you judge for yourself. In the immortal words of Spike Milligan, 'We can't stand around here doing nothing, people will think we are workmen.'

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Quotations will tell the full measure of meaning –  
if you have enough of them.

**JAMES MURRAY** Editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary* 1879–1915

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# A

## **Acting**

Man is a make-believe animal – he is never so truly himself as when he is acting a part.

**WILLIAM HAZLITT**

The question actors most often get asked is how they can bear saying the same things over and over again, night after night, but God knows the answer to that is, don't we all anyway; might as well get paid for it.

**RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN** 'Sherry' (as Byron called him) was at least as famous as an orator as a playwright. The poet would later recall how 'he talked and we listened, without one yawn, from six till one in the morning'.

Acting is not about dressing up. Acting is about stripping bare. The whole essence of learning lines is to forget them so you can make them sound like you thought of them that instant.

**GLENDA JACKSON**

It is not whether you really cry. It's whether the audience thinks you are crying.

**INGRID BERGMAN**

I made some mistakes in drama. I thought the drama was when the actors cried. But drama is when the audience cries.

**FRANK CAPRA**

When I played drunks I had to remain sober because I didn't know how to play them when I was drunk.

**RICHARD BURTON**

If you want to be an actor, my advice is to learn your lines and don't bump into the other actors.

**CARY GRANT**

I only have two acting styles: with and without a horse.

**ROBERT MITCHUM**

The part never calls for nudity, and I've never used that excuse. The box office calls for it.

**HELEN MIRREN**

I don't mind that I'm fat. You still get the same money.

**MARLON BRANDO**

## **Action**

If we did all the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astonish ourselves.

**THOMAS EDISON**

The truth of the matter is, we always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it.

**NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF**

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The great end of life is not knowledge but action.

**T. H. HUXLEY**

Never retreat. Never explain. Get it done and let them howl.

**BENJAMIN JOWETT**

I look for what needs to be done. After all, that's how the universe designs itself.

**R. BUCKMINSTER FULLER**

You must do the thing you think you cannot do.

**ELEANOR ROOSEVELT**

What we think, or what we know, or what we believe is, in the end, of little consequence. The only consequence is what we do.

**JOHN RUSKIN**

My personal philosophy is not to undertake a project unless it is manifestly important and nearly impossible.

**EDWIN LAND** Inventor of the Polaroid camera in 1947.

To get something done, a committee should consist of no more than three people, two of whom are absent.

**ROBERT COPELAND**

Regret for the things we did can be tempered by time; it is regret for the things we did not do that is inconsolable.

**SYDNEY J. HARRIS** Author of the 'Strictly Personal' column for the *Chicago Daily News*. Appeared on the infamous 1971 list of Nixon's enemies (along with Edwin Land, among many others).

Think like a man of action; act like a man of thought.

**HENRI BERGSON**

## **Adventure**

In every man's heart there is anchored a little schooner.

**HENRY MILLER**

The distinguishing mark of true adventures, is that it is often no fun at all while they are actually happening.

**KIM STANLEY ROBINSON**

An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered; an adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered.

**G. K. CHESTERTON**

Adventure is just bad planning.

**ROALD AMUNDSEN**

## **Advertising**

Advertisement is the rich asking for more money.

**G. K. CHESTERTON**

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Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising.

**MARK TWAIN**

There will presently be no room in the world for things; it will be filled up with the advertisements things.

**WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS**

The superior man understands what is right; the inferior man understands what will sell.

**CONFUCIUS** He wrote nothing himself: like Socrates' dialogues, his *Analects* were gathered and retold by his disciples in the centuries following his death in 479 BC.

Introducing 'Lite' – The new way to spell 'Light', but with 20 per cent fewer letters.

**JERRY SEINFELD**

The only reason I made a commercial for American Express was to pay for my American Express bill.

**PETER USTINOV**

Let advertisers spend the same amount of money improving their product that they spend on advertising and they wouldn't have to advertise it.

**WILL ROGERS**

Doing business without advertising is like winking at a girl in the dark. You know what you are doing but nobody else does.

**STEUART HENDERSON BRITT** One of the few ad men who was also a professor of psychology, author of the classic defence of consumer marketing, *The Spenders* (1960).

Advertising has annihilated the power of the most powerful adjectives.

**PAUL VALÉRY**

Advertising is the rattling of a stick inside a swill bucket.

**GEORGE ORWELL**

Historians and archaeologists will discover that the advertisements of our time are the richest and most faithful reflections that any society ever made of its entire range of activities.

**MARSHALL MCLUHAN**

## **Advice**

A word to the wise ain't necessary, it is the stupid ones who need all the advice.

**BILL COSBY**

Quit now, you'll never make it. If you disregard this advice, you'll be halfway there.

**DAVID ZUCKER**

Giving advice to a stupid man is like giving salt to a squirrel.

**KASHMIRI PROVERB**

No one wants advice – only corroboration.

**JOHN STEINBECK**

Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't.

**ERICA JONG**

Some people like my advice so much that they frame it upon the wall instead of using it.

**GORDON R. DICKSON** Canadian-born sci-fi writer who described his books as 'laboratory pieces'. Before he died in 2001, he had written eighty, selling more than ten million copies.

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The only thing to do with good advice is to pass it on. It is never of any use to oneself.  
**OSCAR WILDE**

Never believe in anything until it has been officially denied.  
**OTTO VON BISMARCK**

Never play cards with a man called Doc. Never eat in a place called Mom's. Never sleep with a woman whose troubles are worse than your own.  
**NELSON ALGREN** Quoted in *Newsweek* in July 1956 soon after the publication of the American translation of Simone de Beauvoir's novel *The Mandarins*, which revealed details of their torrid affair.

Never take the advice of someone who has not had your kind of trouble.  
**SYDNEY J. HARRIS**

It is a little embarrassing that, after forty-five years of research and study, the best advice I can give people is to be a little kinder to each other.  
**ALDOUS HUXLEY**

Do not think of your faults, still less of other's faults; look for what is good and strong, and try to imitate it. Your faults will drop off, like dead leaves, when their time comes.  
**JOHN RUSKIN**

Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things.  
**GEORGE CARLIN**

Never look back unless you are planning to go that way.  
**HENRY DAVID THOREAU**

Never read by candlelight anything smaller than the ace of clubs.  
**SIR HENRY HALFORD**

Don't try to solve serious matters in the middle of the night.  
**PHILIP K. DICK**

Always serve too much hot fudge sauce on hot fudge sundaes. It makes people overjoyed, and puts them in your debt.  
**JUDITH OLNEY**

Never put anything on paper, my boy, and never trust a man with a small black moustache.  
**P. G. WODEHOUSE**

## **Afterlife**

Strange is it not? that of the myriads who Before us pass'd the Door of darkness through,  
Not one returns to tell us of the Road,  
Which to discover, we must travel too.

**OMAR KHAYYAM** His *Rubaiyat* (about 1120) is heavily influenced by sentiments of its Victorian translator, Edward FitzGerald. To his shame, as Khayyam himself is also credited with solving quadratic equations and suggesting the Earth revolved on its axis while circling the sun.

We do not know what to do with this short life, yet we yearn for another that will be eternal.  
**ANATOLE FRANCE**

We have no reliable guarantee that the afterlife will be any less exasperating than this one, have we?

**NOËL COWARD**

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If there is a sin against life, it consists perhaps not so much in despairing of life as in hoping for another life and in eluding the implacable grandeur of this life.

**ALBERT CAMUS**

The yearning for an afterlife is the opposite of selfish: it is love and praise for the world that we are privileged, in this complex interval of light, to witness and experience.

**JOHN UPDIKE**

The primary question about life after death is not whether it is a fact, but even if it is, what problem that really solves.

**LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN**

## Age

There is still no cure for the common birthday.

**JOHN GLENN**

Age is something that doesn't matter, unless you are a cheese.

**LUIS BUÑUEL**

When I turned two I was really anxious, because I'd doubled my age in a year. I thought, if this keeps up, by the time I'm 6 I'll be 90.

**STEVEN WRIGHT**

When I grow up I want to be a little boy.

**JOSEPH HELLER**

When I was ten, I read fairy tales in secret. Now that I am 50 I read them openly. When I became a man I put away childish things, including the fear of childishness.

**C. S. LEWIS**

It is sobering to consider that when Mozart was my age he had already been dead for a year.

**TOM LEHRER**

Very few people do anything creative after the age of 35. The reason is that very few people do anything creative before the age of 35.

**JOEL HILDEBRAND** Pioneer chemist and centenarian who discovered that adding helium to oxygen could overcome the problems of the bends in divers.

She said she was approaching 40, and I couldn't help wondering from what direction.

**BOB HOPE**

When I was young, people used to say to me: Wait until you're 50, you'll see. I am 50. I haven't seen anything.

**ERIC SATIE** Dadaist and the father of ambient music, who lived until he was 59. Less well-known compositions include *Three Dried-Up Embryos* (1913) and *Flabby Preludes for a Dog* (1913).

You must not pity me because my sixtieth year finds me still astonished. To be astonished is one of the surest ways of not growing old too quickly.

**COLETTE**

One starts to get young at the age 60 and then it's too late.

**PABLO PICASSO**

The years between 50 and 70 are the hardest. You are always being asked to do things, and yet you are not decrepit enough to turn them down.

**T. S. ELIOT**

When you hit 70 you sleep sounder, you feel more alive than when you were 30. Obviously it is healthier to have women on your mind than on your knees.

**MAURICE CHEVALIER**

At 73 I learned a little about the real structure of animals, plants, birds, fishes and insects. Consequently when I am 80 I'll have made more progress. At 90 I'll have penetrated the mystery of things. At 100 I shall have reached something marvellous, but when I am 110 everything I do, the smallest dot, will be alive.

**HOKUSAI** The great Japanese artist died at 89 but didn't start work on his masterpiece, *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*, until 1820 when he was in his late sixties.

If you can eat a boiled egg in England at 90, they think you deserve a Nobel Prize.

**ALAN BENNETT**

You can live to be 100 if you give up all the things that make you want to live to be 100.

**WOODY ALLEN**

If I'd known I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself.

**EUBIE BLAKE** Ragtime pianist and composer who died in 1983 aged 100, having made his first recording in 1917.

I've never known a person to live to 110 or more, and then die, to be remarkable for anything else.

**JOSH BILLINGS**

Growing old – it's not nice, but it's interesting.

**AUGUST STRINDBERG**

Old age isn't so bad when you consider the alternative.

**MAURICE CHEVALIER**

I don't feel old. I don't feel anything till noon. That's when it's time for my nap.

**BOB HOPE**

Inside every older woman is a young girl wondering what the hell happened.

**CORA HARVEY ARMSTRONG**

I'm at an age when my back goes out more than I do.

**PHYLLIS DILLER**

Old people shouldn't eat health foods. They need all the preservatives they can get.

**ROBERT ORBEN**

I do not ask to be young again; all I want is to go on getting older.

**KONRAD ADENAUER**

## **Aliens**

To consider the Earth the only populated world in infinite space is as absurd as to assert that in an entire field sown with millet only one grain will grow.

**METRODORUS OF CHIOS** He believed, like his teacher Democritus, that everything was made from atoms. He also thought stars were made fresh each morning from the action of the sun on moisture in the air.

Sometimes I think we're alone. Sometimes I think we're not. In either case, the thought is staggering

**R. BUCKMINSTER FULLER**

Where is everybody?

**ENRICO FERMI** The Nobel Prize-winning inventor of the nuclear reactor in 1950 as he formulated what became known as the Fermi Paradox: if the universe is full of potentially inhabited planets, why haven't we heard from any of them?

Sometimes I think the surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that none of us has tried to contact us.

**BILL WATTERSON** Creator of the Calvin and Hobbes comic strip which ran from 1985 to 1995. The characters were named after the sixteenth-century theologian and seventeenth-century philosopher respectively.

If it's true that our species is alone in the universe, then I'd have to say the universe aimed rather low and settled for very little.

**GEORGE CARLIN**

UFOs are better explained in terms of the unknown irrationalities of terrestrial beings rather than by any unknown rationalities of extraterrestrial beings.

**RICHARD FEYNMAN**

## **Ambition**

Like dogs in a wheel, birds in a cage or squirrels in a chain, ambitious men still climb and climb, with great labour, and incessant anxiety, but never reach the top.

**ROBERT BROWNING**

I long to accomplish a great and noble task; but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.

**HELEN KELLER**

All rising to great place is by a winding stair.

**FRANCIS BACON**

At the age of 6 I wanted to be a cook. At 7 I wanted to be Napoleon. And my ambition has been growing steadily ever since.

**SALVADOR DALÍ**

I hope that the ambitious realize they are more likely to succeed with success as opposed to failure.

**GEORGE W. BUSH** From an interview with Associated Press, 18 January 2001.

## **America**

What would this country be, without this great land of ours?

**RONALD REAGAN**

America is a mistake, a giant mistake!

**SIGMUND FREUD**

The trouble with America is that there are far too many wide-open spaces surrounded by teeth.

**CHARLES LUCKMAN** Known as the 'Boy Wonder of American business' when he was appointed president of Pepsodent Toothpaste in 1939 at the age of 30. In 1950 he resigned to become an architect, designing the NASA space centre at Houston, Texas in 1965.

The United States is like the guy at the party who gives cocaine to everybody and still nobody likes him.

him.

**JIM SAMUELS**

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The three great American vices seem to be efficiency, punctuality, and the desire for achievement and success. They are the things that make the Americans so unhappy and so nervous.

**LIN YUTANG** He produced the first workable Chinese typewriter in 1946 and the landmark *Chinese-English Dictionary of Modern Usage* in 1972.

A citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote in a national election.

**BILL VAUGHAN** Folksy columnist in the *Kansas City Star* for thirty-one years.

I have no further use for America. I wouldn't go back there if Jesus Christ was President.

**CHARLIE CHAPLIN**

What a pity, when Christopher Columbus discovered America, that he ever mentioned it.

**MARGOT ASQUITH** The outspoken, free-spirited aristocratic wife of Herbert Asquith, the Liberal Prime Minister of Britain from 1908 to 1916.

Of course, America had often been discovered before, but it had always been hushed up.

**OSCAR WILDE**

America is a large friendly dog in a small room. Every time it wags its tail it knocks over a chair.

**ARNOLD TOYNBEE**

American women expect to find in their husbands a perfection that English women only hope to find in their butlers.

**W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM**

America ... just a nation of two hundred million used car salesmen with all the money we need to buy guns and no qualms about killing anybody else in the world who tries to make us uncomfortable.

**HUNTER S. THOMPSON**

I am America. I am the part you won't recognize, but get used to me. Black, confident, cocky – my name, not yours. My religion, not yours. My goals, my own. Get used to me.

**MUHAMMAD ALI**

There's nothing wrong with this country that we couldn't cure by turning it over to the police for a couple of weeks.

**GEORGE WALLACE** Segregationist Governor of Alabama speaking in 1967. In the late 1970s he became a born-again Christian and renounced his former racism.

Never criticise Americans. They have the best taste that money can buy.

**MILES KINGTON**

## **American Cities**

I have just returned from Boston. It is the only sane thing to do if you find yourself up there.

**FRED ALLEN**

I'd move to Los Angeles if New Zealand and Australia were swallowed up by a tidal wave, if there was a bubonic plague in England and if the continent of Africa disappeared from some Martian attack.

**RUSSELL CROWE**

Miami Beach is where neon goes to die.

**LENNY BRUCE**

On my first day in New York a guy asked me if I knew where Central Park was. When I told him I didn't he said, 'Do you mind if I mug you here?'

**PAUL MERTON**

I once spent a year in Philadelphia. It think it was on a Sunday.

**W. C. FIELDS**

Washington is a city of southern efficiency and northern charm.

**JOHN F. KENNEDY**

## **Anger**

Anger is a wind which blows out the lamp of the mind.

**ROBERT GREEN INGERSOLL**

It is a waste of energy to be angry with a man who behaves badly, just as it is to be angry with a car that won't go.

**BERTRAND RUSSELL**

Anger is the only thing to put off till tomorrow.

**CZECH PROVERB**

It's practically impossible to look at a penguin and feel angry.

**JOE MOORE** Main news anchorman on Hawaii's most popular television station KHON-TV since 1969. Has appeared in *both Hawaii Five-O* and *Magnum P. I.*

Count up the days in which you have not been angry. I used to get angry every day, then every other day, then every three or four days. If you manage not to be angry for as long as thirty days, offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God.

**EPICTETUS**

When angry, count ten before you speak; if very angry, an hundred.

**THOMAS JEFFERSON**

There is another man within me that is angry with me.

**C. S. LEWIS**

Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned.

**BUDDHA**

How much more grievous are the consequences of anger than the causes of it.

**MARCUS AURELIUS**

Speak when you are angry and you will make the best speech you will ever regret.

**AMBROSE BIERCE**

Whatever is begun in anger ends in shame.

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN**

Let us not look back in anger or forward in fear, but around in awareness.

**JAMES THURBER**

## Animals

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I think that I could turn and live with animals, they are so placid and self-contain'd;  
I stand and look at them long and long.

They do not sweat and whine about their condition;

They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins;

They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God;

Not one is dissatisfied – not one is demented by the mania of owning things;

Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that lived thousands of years ago;

Not one is respectable or industrious over the whole earth.

**WALT WHITMAN**

There is no beast without cruelty.

**FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE**

Animals are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time.

**HENRY BESTON**

Pigs are not corrupted by the Higher Imperialism. Tigers have no spiritual pride. Whales never sneeze. Crocodiles are not (despite a pleasing legend) in the least hypocritical. On examining their exterior, it is difficult to understand why anyone ever gave them credit for so vivacious and ingenious a quality. The worst sins of all are the purely human sins.

**G. K. CHESTERTON**

Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to.

**MARK TWAIN**

Man is the only animal that can remain on friendly terms with the victims he intends to eat until he eats them.

**SAMUEL BUTLER**

Man is the only animal whose existence is a problem that he has to solve.

**ERICH FROMM**

Humans are the only animals that have children on purpose with the exception of guppies, who like to eat theirs.

**P. J. O'ROURKE**

What differentiates man from other animals is perhaps feeling rather than reason. I have seen a crab reason more often than laugh or weep.

Perhaps it laughs or reasons within itself – but then perhaps within itself a crab solves equations of the second degree.

**MIGUEL DE UNAMUNO**

I believe that animals have feelings and other states of consciousness but neither I nor anyone else has been able to prove it. We can't even prove that other people are conscious, much less other animals.

**PROFESSOR JOSEPH LEDOUX** Professor of Neuroscience at New York University and member of the science-rock band, The Amygdaloids.

All the ingenious men, and all the scientific men, and all the imaginative men in the world could never invent, if all their wits were boiled into one, anything so curious and so ridiculous as the lobster.

**CHARLES KINGSLEY**

Ants are so much like human beings as to be an embarrassment. They farm fungi, raise aphids and livestock, launch armies into war, use chemical sprays to alarm and confuse enemies, capture slaves and engage in child labour, exchange information ceaselessly. They do everything but watch television.

**LEWIS THOMAS**

How be it that I clean my mouth with salt every day, yet all the people living in the United States and the Netherlands are not as many as the living animals I carry in my mouth?

**ANTONIE VAN LEEUWENHOEK** He kept his new technique for making lenses secret, thus ensuring his subsequent fame as the father of microbiology. His lenses revealed both bacteria and sperm for the first time.

The fox knows many things; the hedgehog, one big thing.

**ERASMUS**

A winkle is just a bogey with a crash helmet on.

**MICK MILLER**

If a swamp alligator could talk, it would sound like Tennessee Williams.

**REX REED**

I suppose nobody has ever been struck a direct blow by a rabbit. At least, not *deliberately*.

**SIR WILLIAM CONNOR** Left-wing journalist who wrote the Cassandra column in the *Daily Mirror* from 1935 until his death in 1967.

It is a ravening beast, feigning itself gentle and tame, but being touched it biteth deep, and poisoneth deadly. It beareth a cruel mind, desiring to hurt anything, neither is there any creature it loveth.

**EDWARD TOPSELL** On the shrew in *A History of Four-Footed Beasts* (1607).

Did you know that squirrels are the Devil's oven mitts?

**MISS PIGGY**

## **Antarctica**

First you fall in love with Antarctica, and then it breaks your heart.

**KIM STANLEY ROBINSON**

The land looks like a fairytale.

**ROALD AMUNDSEN**

Great God! this is an awful place.

**CAPTAIN ROBERT FALCON SCOTT**

In Antarctica you get to know people so well that in comparison you do not seem to know the people in civilisation at all.

**APSLEY CHERRY-GARRARD** The youngest member of Scott's ill-fated 1910–13 expedition to the Pole, he wrote the classic first-hand account, *The Worst Journey in the World* (1922), a title suggested by his friend and neighbour, George Bernard Shaw.

## **Anxiety**

The most anxious man in the prison is the governor.

**GEORGE BERNARD SHAW**

Anxiety is fear of oneself.

**WILHELM STEKEL**

Anxiety is a thin stream of fear trickling through the mind. If encouraged, it cuts a channel into which all other thoughts are drained.

**ARTHUR ROCHE**

Anxiety is the handmaiden of creativity.

**CHUCK JONES** Legendary animator and director, responsible for many of Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck's finest moments.

I have never known a man who died from overwork, but many who died from doubt.

**DR CHARLES MAYO**

I don't have big anxieties. I wish I did. I'd be much more interesting.

**ROY LICHTENSTEIN**

## Apathy

Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all—the apathy of human beings.

**HELEN KELLER**

Do not fear your enemies. The worst they can do is kill you. Do not fear friends. At worst, they may betray you. Fear those who do not care; they neither kill nor betray, but betrayal and murder exist because of their silent consent.

**BRUNO JASIENSKI** Polish Jew and author of the futurist anti-capitalist novel *I Burn Paris* (1929) He moved to Moscow in 1919 and supported the purges against fellow writers, only to fall victim to them himself in 1938.

The world is not dangerous because of those who do harm but because of those who look at it without doing anything.

**ALBERT EINSTEIN**

## Apes

It is curious how there seems to be an instinctive disgust in Man for his nearest ancestors and their relations. If only Darwin could conscientiously have traced man back to the Elephant or the Lion or the Antelope, how much ridicule and prejudice would have been spared to the doctrine of Evolution.

**HENRY HAVELOCK ELLIS** Wrote on sex, despite being a virgin until the age of 60, when he became aroused by watching a woman urinate. He was also a eugenicist, a pioneer of the 'open marriage', and coined the word 'homosexual'.

I would rather be the offspring of two apes than be a man and afraid to face the truth.

**T. H. HUXLEY**

Those who run to the apes to explain our behaviour are chuckle-heads too dumb to know their own origin from a hole-in-the-ground.

**W. H. AUDEN**

It is even harder for the average ape to believe that he has descended from man.

**H. L. MENCKEN**

## Apples

With an apple I will astonish Paris.

**PAUL CÉZANNE**

To me apples are fruit. To Cézanne they were mountains.

**DAVID SMITH** Abstract expressionist famous for his large steel installations.

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An apple is an excellent thing – until you have tried a peach.

**GEORGE DU MAURIER**

Any fool can count the seeds in an apple. Only God can count all the apples in one seed.

**ROBERT H. SCHULLER**

The God of the Christians is a father who is a great deal more concerned about his apples than he about his children.

**DENIS DIDEROT**

## Architecture

A doctor can bury his mistakes but an architect can only advise his client to plant vines.

**FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT**

Don't look at buildings: watch them.

**JOHN RUSKIN**

Buildings are my dolls.

**FREDERICK THE GREAT**

Architecture is frozen music.

**GANOPATI STHAPAT**

Architecture is inhabited sculpture.

**CONSTANTIN BRANCUSI**

All architecture is great architecture after sunset; perhaps architecture is really a nocturnal art, like the art of fireworks.

**G. K. CHESTERTON**

A chair is a very difficult object. A skyscraper is almost easier. That is why Chippendale is famous.

**LUDWIG MIES VAN DER ROHE**

Everywhere in the world, music enhances a hall with one exception: Carnegie Hall enhances the music.

**ISAAC STERN**

A building has integrity just like a man. And just as seldom.

**AYN RAND** Controversial Russian-born US philosopher and novelist, whose books continue to sell in their hundreds of thousands and whose philosophical creed of Objectivism has influenced people as diverse as Alan Greenspan, Hugh Hefner and Jimmy Wales, the founder of Wikipedia.

To you, to me, Stonehenge and Chartres Cathedral are works by the same Old Man under different names: we know what He did, what, even He thought He thought, but we don't see why.

**W. H. AUDEN**

The Parthenon is really only a farmyard over which someone put a roof; colonnades and sculptures were added because there were people in Athens who happened to be working and wanted to express themselves.

**PABLO PICASSO**

Ruins are the most persistent form of architecture.

**JOSEPH BRODSKY**

It looks like a typewriter full of oyster shells; like a broken Pyrex casserole dish in a brown cardboard box.

CLIVE JAMES

In my experience, if you have to keep the lavatory door shut by extending your leg, it's modern architecture.

NANCY BANKS-SMITH

I declare this thing open, whatever it is.

PRINCE PHILIP On opening the new east wing of Vancouver City Hall in 1970.

## Arguments

Argument is the worst sort of conversation.

JONATHAN SWIFT

Discussion is an exchange of knowledge; argument an exchange of ignorance.

ROBERT QUILLEN He wrote droll pieces about his home town of Fountain Inn, South Carolina, that were syndicated all over America in the early decades of the twentieth century.

The aim of argument, or of discussion, should not be victory, but progress.

JOSEPH JOUBERT

In most instances, all an argument proves is that two people are present.

TONY PETITO Listed everywhere against this one quote, with no other details provided, he might be an Arts Administrator in New Jersey, the founding Artistic Director of Singapore Repertory Theatre or a singer in an *a cappella* group on Long Island.

No matter what side of an argument you're on, you always find some people on your side that you wish were on the other side.

JASCHA HEIFETZ

## Art

In art there is only one thing that counts: the bit that cannot be explained.

GEORGES BRAQUE

The purpose of art is to lay bare the questions which have been hidden by the answers.

JAMES BALDWIN

I shut my eyes in order to see.

PAUL GAUGUIN

I invent nothing. I rediscover.

AUGUSTE RODIN

A work of art is useless. So is a flower.

OSCAR WILDE

I am following Nature without being able to grasp her – I perhaps owe having become a painter to flowers.

CLAUDE MONET

The position of the artist is humble. He is essentially a channel.

PIET MONDRIAN

Art happens – no hovel is safe from it, no prince may depend upon it, the vastest intelligence cannot bring it about.

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**JAMES MCNEILL WHISTLER**

A painter who has the feel of breasts and buttocks is saved.

**PIERRE-AUGUSTE RENOIR**

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.

**PABLO PICASSO**

Modern art is what happens when painters stop looking at girls and persuade themselves they have a better idea.

**JOHN CIARDI** Famous for his word histories on US National Public Radio's *Morning Edition*.

The aim of art is not to represent the outward appearance of things, but their inward significance.

**ARISTOTLE**

Art disturbs, science reassures.

**GEORGES BRAQUE**

Art is the only way to run away without leaving home.

**TWYLA THARP**

Art is a collaboration between God and the artist, and the less the artist does the better.

**ANDRÉ GIDE**

The naked truth about me is to the naked truth about Salvador Dalí as an old ukelele in an attic is to the piano in a tree, and I mean a piano with breasts.

**JAMES THURBER**

Art is not a mirror with which to reflect the world, but a hammer with which to shape it.

**VLADIMIR MAYAKOVSKY**

Impressionism is the newspaper of the soul.

**HENRI MATISSE**

There's not a different set of rules for the artists than for other people. Artists are shit compared to other people. Art is the coward's way out, I think. If you put what you put into art into other people, you'll have a much fuller, more brilliant life.

**DAMIEN HIRST**

Art is whatever you can get away with.

**JOHN CAGE**

If that's art, I'm a Hottentot.

**HARRY S. TRUMAN**

## **Artichokes**

One of the earth's monstrosities.

**PLINY THE ELDER**

Life is like eating artichokes; you have got to go through so much to get so little.

**THOMAS ALOYSIUS DORGAN** Better known as the cartoonist 'TAD' whose strip in the *New York Journal* from 1905 to 1919 helped popularise a host of slang expressions including '23 skiddoo', 'hard-boiled', 'dumb-bell', 'drug-store cowboy' and 'yes, we have no bananas'.

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