

MAKES SENSE TO ME

A compendium of quotes and words of wisdom
compiled and prepared by

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A Christmas gift for my children,
Abby, Sam, and Jason

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Epictetus

(55-135)

Epictetus was a Greek Stoic philosopher. He was born into slavery at Hierapolis, Phrygia in western Turkey and lived in Rome until his banishment, when he went to Nicopolis in northwestern Greece, where he spent the rest of his life.

To Epictetus, all external events are beyond our control; he argues that we should accept whatever happens calmly and dispassionately. However, individuals are responsible for their own actions, which they can examine and control through rigorous self-discipline.

“The wise person knows it is fruitless to project hopes and fears on the future. This only leads to forming melodramatic representations in your mind and wasting time.

At the same time, one shouldn't passively acquiesce to the future and what it holds. Simply doing nothing does not avoid risk, but heightens it. There is a place for prudent planning and for making provision for situations to come. Proper preparation for the future consists of forming good personal habits. This is done by actively pursuing the good in all particulars of your daily life and by regularly examining your motives to make sure they are free of the shackles of fear, greed, and laziness. If you do this, you won't be buffeted about by outside events. Train your intentions rather than fooling yourself into thinking you can manipulate outside events.”

Abraham Joshua Heschel

(1907-1972)

Abraham Heschel was a Polish-American rabbi and one of the leading Jewish theologians and Jewish philosophers of the 20th century.

Heschel believed that the teachings of the Hebrew prophets were a clarion call for social action in the United States and inspired by this belief, he worked for African Americans' civil rights and spoke out against the Vietnam War.

“There is a realm of time where the goal is not to have but to be, not to own but to give, not to control but to share, not to subdue but to be in accord. Life goes wrong when the control of space, the acquisition of things of space, becomes our sole concern. The meaning of the Sabbath is to celebrate time rather than space. Six days a week we live under the tyranny of space; on the Sabbath we try to become attuned to the holiness in time.”

Aristotle

(384-322BCE)

Little is known about Aristotle's life. He was born northern Greece during the Classical period. His father, died when Aristotle was a child, and he was brought up by a guardian. At eighteen he joined Plato's Academy in Athens and remained there until the age of thirty seven. Shortly after Plato died, Aristotle left Athens and, at the request of Philip II of Macedon, tutored his son Alexander the Great beginning in 343 BC.

Aristotle is credited with the earliest study of formal logic and his conception of it was the dominant form of Western logic until 19th-century advances in mathematical logic. Kant stated in the Critique of Pure Reason that with Aristotle, logic reached its completion.

“Moral virtue is a mean that lies between two vices, one of excess and the other of deficiency, and ... it aims at hitting the mean both in feelings and actions. So it is hard to be good, for surely it is hard in each instance to find the mean, just as it is hard to find the center of a circle. It is easy to get angry or to spend money - anyone can do that. But to act the right way toward the right person, in due proportion, at the right time, for the right reason, and in the right manner - that is not easy, and not everyone can do it.”

Theodore Roosevelt

(1858-1919)

Teddy was the 26th president of the United States, serving from 1901 to 1909. A sickly child with debilitating asthma, Roosevelt overcame health problems through a strenuous lifestyle. He helped form and lead the Rough Riders, a unit that fought the Spanish Army in Cuba to great publicity.

As President he was leader of the progressive movement, he championed his “Square Deal” domestic policies, which called for fairness for all citizens, breaking bad trusts, regulating railroads, and pure food and drugs. Roosevelt prioritized conservation and established national parks, forests, and monuments to preserve U.S. natural resources. In foreign policy, he focused on Central America, beginning construction of the Panama Canal.

“It is not the critics who count, nor the people who point out how the strong have stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better.

The credit belongs to those who are actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strive valiantly...who know great enthusiasm and great devotion, and spend themselves in worthy causes; who, at best, know the triumph of high achievement; and who, at worst, if they fail, at least fail while daring greatly, so that their place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.”

Lynne Twist

(b. 1945)

From working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta to the refugee camps in Ethiopia and the threatened rain forests of the Amazon, Lynne's on-the-ground work has brought her a deep understanding of the social tapestry of the world and the historical landscape of the times we are living in. Her 40+ years of global work are testament to her commitment to alleviating poverty and hunger, and supporting social justice and environmental sustainability.

“We each have the choice in any setting to step back and let go of the mind-set of scarcity. Once we let go of scarcity, we discover the surprising truth of sufficiency. By sufficiency, I don't mean a quantity of anything. Sufficiency isn't two steps up from poverty or one step short of abundance. It isn't a measure of barely enough or more than enough. Sufficiency isn't an amount at all. It is an experience, a context we generate, a declaration, a knowing that there is enough, and that we are enough. In our relationship with money, it is using money in a way that expresses our integrity; using it in a way that expresses value rather than determines value. Sufficiency is not a message about simplicity or about cutting back and lowering expectations. Sufficiency doesn't mean we shouldn't strive or aspire. Sufficiency is an act of generating, distinguishing, making known to ourselves the power and presence of our existing resources, and our inner resources. Sufficiency is a context we bring forth from within that reminds us that if we look around us and within ourselves, we will find what we need.”

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

(1926-2004)

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross was a Swiss-American psychiatrist, a pioneer in near-death studies, and author of the internationally best-selling book, *“On Death and Dying”* (1969), where she first discussed her theory of the five stages of grief, also known as the “Kubler-Ross model”.

In 1970, Kubler-Ross delivered the Ingersoll Lecture at Harvard University, focusing on her book, *On Death and Dying*. By July 1982, Kubler-Ross had taught 125,000 students in death and dying courses in colleges, seminaries, medical schools, hospitals, and social-work institutions. In 1999, the New York Public Library named *“On Death and Dying”* one of its *“Books of the Century,”* and Time magazine recognized her as one of the “100 Most Important Thinkers” of the 20th century.

“There is no need to be afraid of death. It is not the end of the physical body that should worry us. Rather, our concern must be to live while we’re alive - to release our inner selves from the spiritual death that comes with living behind a facade designed to conform to external definitions of who and what we are. Every individual human being born on this earth has the capacity to become a unique and special person unlike any who has ever existed before or will ever exist again... When you live as if you’ll live forever, it becomes too easy to postpone the things you know that you must do. You live your life in preparation for tomorrow or in remembrance of yesterday, and meanwhile, each day is lost. In contrast, when you fully understand that each day you awaken could be the last you have, you take the time that day to grow, to become more of who you really are, to reach out to other human beings.”

Margaret Wheatley

(b. 1944)

Meg Wheatley is an American writer, teacher, speaker, and management consultant who works to create organizations and communities worthy of human habitation. She draws from many disciplines: organizational behavior, chaos theory, living systems science, ancient spiritual traditions, history, sociology, and anthropology.

Meg Wheatley gave the world a new way of thinking about organizations with her revolutionary application of the natural sciences to business management. Through her interdisciplinary curiosity, Meg Wheatley provides new insights into the nature of how people interact and inspires us to build better organizations and better societies across the globe. She was elected to the Leonardo da Vinci Society for the Study of Thinking in 2005.

“What if we were to be together and listen to each other’s comments with a willingness to expose rather than to confirm our own beliefs and opinions? What if we were to willingly listen to one another with the awareness that we each see the world in unique ways? And with the expectation that I could learn something new if I listen for the differences rather than the similarities? We have this opportunity many times in a day, everyday. What might we see, what might we learn, what might we create together, if we become this kind of listener, one who enjoys the differences and welcomes in disturbance? I know we would be delightfully startled by how much difference there is. And then we would be wonderfully comforted by how much closer we became, because every time we listen well, we move towards each other. From our new thoughts and our new companions, we would all become wiser.”

Alain de Botton

(b. 1969)

Alain de Botton is a Swiss-born British author and public speaker. His books discuss various contemporary subjects and themes, emphasizing philosophy's relevance to everyday life. He published *Essays in Love* (1993), which went on to sell two million copies.

De Botton has written in a variety of formats to mixed response. Positive reviews of his books attest that he has made literature, philosophy and art more accessible to a wider audience. Negative reviews allege that de Botton tends to state the obvious and have characterized some of his books as pompous and lacking focus.

“Sublime places repeat in grand terms a lesson that ordinary life typically introduces viciously: that the universe is mightier than we are, that we are frail and temporary and have no alternative but to accept limitations on our will; that we must bow to necessities greater than ourselves. This is the lesson written into the stones of the desert and the ice fields of the poles. So grandly is it written there that we may come away from such places not crushed but inspired by what lies beyond us, privileged to be subject to such majestic necessities. The sense of awe may even shade into a desire to worship.”

Marianne Williamson

(b. 1952)

Marianne Williamson is an American author, speaker, and political activist. She began her professional career as spiritual leader of the Church of Today, a Unity Church in Warren, Michigan. She was launched into prominence by Oprah Winfrey, being a frequent guest on her daytime talk show and becoming known as her “spiritual advisor”.

In 1979, Williamson moved to Houston, where she ran a metaphysical bookstore coffee shop, sang Gershwin standards in a nightclub, got married and divorced “almost immediately”. In 1983, Williamson had a “flash” to close the coffee shop and move to LA. She got an apartment in Hollywood, where her roommate was 17- year-old Lora Dern. Dern has stated that Williamson “held prayer groups in our living room.”

“Our worst fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us...we were born to make manifest the glory of God within us. It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone, and as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our courage automatically liberates others.”

Leonardo Da Vinci

(1452-1519)

An Italian polymath of the High Renaissance who was active as a painter, draughtsman, engineer, scientist, theorist, sculptor, and architect. While his fame initially rested on his achievements as a painter, he has also become known for his notebooks, in which he made drawings and notes on a variety of subjects, including anatomy, astronomy, botany, cartography, and paleontology.

Leonardo is identified as one of the greatest painters in the history of Western art and is often credited as the founder of the High Renaissance. Despite having many lost works and fewer than 25 attributed major works - including numerous unfinished works - he created some of the most influential paintings in the Western canon.

“Every now and then go away, have a little relaxation, for when you come back to your work your judgment will be surer. Go some distance away because then the work appears smaller and more of it can be taken in at a glance and a lack of harmony and proportion is more readily seen.”

John Ruskin

(1819-1900)

Like DaVinci, Ruskin was also a polymath—an Englishman who was a writer, lecturer, art historian, art critic, draughtsman and philanthropist of the Victorian era. He wrote on subjects as varied as art, architecture, political economy, education, museology, geology, botany, ornithology, literature, history, and myth. In all of his writing, he emphasized the connections between nature, art and society.

Ruskin was hugely influential in the latter half of the 19th century. His reputation has steadily improved since the 1960s with the publication of numerous academic studies of his work. Today, his ideas and concerns are widely recognized as having anticipated interest in environmentalism, sustainability, ethical consumerism, and craft.

“This is the true nature of home - it is the place of peace: the shelter, not only from all injury, but from all terror, doubt, and division. In so far as it is not this, it is not home; so far as the anxieties of the outer life penetrate into it, it ceases to be a home. It is then only a part of the outer world which you have roofed over and lighted fire in. But so far as it is a sacred place, a vestal temple, a temple of the hearth.. it is home.”

Krista Lukas

(b. 1971)

Lukas was born and raised in the Lake Tahoe area. She earned a BA in literature from the University of California, San Diego and completed her Teacher Education Program at Sierra Nevada College. After teaching school in Northern Nevada for 14 years, she resigned in order to earn her MFA in Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside. She lives in the Carson Valley, Nevada.

Krista is the author of a poetry collection, *Fans of My Unconscious* (Black Rock Press 2013), a finalist for the 2009 May Swenson Award and the 2011 Pearl Poetry Prize. In her review in Rattle, Juneko J. Robinson wrote, “Lukas’s poems, clear-eyed, brutally honest, and heartbreaking as they are, are equally eloquent and playful.”

“The day I die will be a certain day, a square on a calendar page to be flipped up and pinned at the end of the month. It may be August or November; school will be out or in; somebody will have to catch a plane. There will be messages, bills to pay, things left undone. It will be a day like today, or tomorrow—a date I might note with reminder, an appointment, or nothing at all.”

John Burroughs

(1837-1921)

John Burroughs was an American naturalist and nature essayist, active in the conservation movement in the United States. The first of his essay collections was *“Wake- Robin”* in 1871.

Burroughs accompanied several notables of the time in his later years, including Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and Thomas Edison. According to Ford, “John Burroughs, Edison, and I with Harvey S. Firestone made several road trips together. We went in motor caravans and slept under canvas. Once, we gypsied through the Adirondacks and again through the Alleghenies.

“What is the best thing for a stream? It is to keep moving. If it stops, it stagnates. So the best thing for a person is that which keeps the currents going-the physical, the moral, and the intellectual currents.

Hence the secret of happiness is-something to do; some congenial work. .. Few persons realize how much of their happiness is dependent upon their work, upon the fact that they are kept busy and not left to feed upon themselves. Happiness comes most to persons who seek it least, and think least about it.

It is not an object to be sought; it is a state to be induced. It must follow and not lead. It must overtake you, and not you overtake it. How important is health to happiness, yet the best promoter of health is something to do.”

Elbert Hubbard

(1856-1915)

Elbert Green Hubbard was an American writer, publisher, artist, and philosopher. Raised in Hudson, Illinois, Hubbard is known best as the founder of the Raycroft artisan community in East Aurora, New York, an influential exponent of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Among Hubbard's many publications were the fourteen-volume work *"Little Journeys to the Homes of the Great"*.

He and his second wife, Alice Moore Hubbard, died aboard the RMS Lusitania when it was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine SM U-20 off the coast of Ireland on May 7, 1915.

"Genius is only the power of making continuous efforts. The line between failure and success is so fine that we scarcely know when we pass it: so fine that we are often on the line and do not know it. How many people have thrown up their hands at a time when a little more effort, a little more patience, would have achieved success. As the tide goes clear out, so it comes clear in. In business, sometimes, prospects may seem darkest when really they are on the turn. A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious success. There is no failure except in no longer trying. There is no defeat except from within, no really insurmountable barrier save our own inherent weakness of purpose."

Friedrich Nietzsche

(1844-1900)

Nietzsche was a German classical scholar, philosopher, and critic of culture, who became one of the most influential of all modern thinkers. He began his career as a classical philologist before turning to philosophy. He became the youngest person to hold the Chair of Classical Philology at the University of Basel in Switzerland in 1869, at the age of 24.

Prominent elements of his philosophy include his radical critique of truth in favor of perspectivism; a genealogical critique of religion and Christian morality, the aesthetic affirmation of life in response to both the “death of God” and the profound crisis of nihilism. His body of work touched a wide range of topics, including art, philology, history, music, religion, tragedy, culture, and science.

“No one can build you the bridge on which you, and only you, must cross the river of life. There may be countless trails and bridges and demigods who would gladly carry you across; but only at the price of pawning and forgoing yourself. There is one path in the world that none can walk but you. Where does it lead? Don’t ask, walk!”

Susan Sontag

(1933-2004)

Susan Lee Sontag was an American writer, critic, and public intellectual. She mostly wrote essays, but also published novels. Sontag was active in writing and speaking about, or traveling to, areas of conflict, including during the Vietnam War and the Siege of Sarajevo. She wrote extensively about literature, photography and media, culture, AIDS and illness, war, human rights, and left-wing politics. She has been called “one of the most influential critics of her generation”.

In her book *“On Photography”* Sontag writes that the convenience of modern photography has created an overabundance of visual material, and “just about everything has been photographed”. This has altered our expectations of what we have the right to view, want to view, or should view.

“To be a moral human being is to pay, be obliged to pay, certain kinds of attention. When we make moral judgments, we are not just saying that this is better than that. Even more fundamentally, we are saying that this is more important than that. It is to order the overwhelming spread and simultaneity of everything, at the price of ignoring or turning our backs on most of what is happening in the world. The nature of moral judgments depends on our capacity for paying attention - a capacity that, inevitably, has its limits but whose limits can be stretched.”

Erich Fromm

(1900-1980)

Erich (not Ethan!) Fromm was a social psychologist, psychoanalyst, sociologist, humanistic philosopher, and democratic socialist. He fled the Nazi regime in 1934 and eventually settled in the United States, residing in New York City where he taught at Columbia University.

“That we want to live, that we like to live, are facts that require no explanation. But if we ask how we want to live - what we seek from life, what makes life meaningful for us - then indeed we deal with questions and they are more or less identical to which people will give many different answers. Some will say they want love, others will choose power, others security, others sensuous pleasure and comfort, and others fame; but most would probably agree in the statement that what they want is happiness. This is also what most philosophers and theologians have declared to be the aim of human striving. However, if happiness covers such different, and mostly mutually exclusive, contents as the ones just mentioned, it becomes an abstraction and thus rather useless. What matters is to examine what the term ‘happiness’ means.”

Joseph Enzweiler

(1950-2011)

Enzweiler was born in Cincinnati and grew up in Madeira, Ohio. He graduated from Xavier University in 1973 with a Bachelor's of Science in Physics and received his Master's of Science in Physics from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1981. He settled in Fairbanks, building his own cabin and supporting himself through part-time work as a stonemason and carpenter to devote his time to writing.

“Because we wanted much that year
and had little. Because the winter phone
for days stayed silent that would call
our father back to work, and he
kept silent too with our mother,
fearfully proud before us.

Because I was young that morning
in gray light untouched on the rug
and our gifts were so few, propped
along the furniture, for a second
my heart fell, then saw how large
they made the spaces between them
to take the place of less. Because
the curtained sun rose brightly
on our discarded paper and the things
themselves, these forty years,
have grown too small to see, the emptiness
measured out remains the gift,
fills the whole room now, that whole year
out across the snowy lawn. Because
a drop of shame burned quietly
in the province of love. Because
we had little that year
and were given much.”

Dorothea Brande

(1893-1948)

She attended the University of Chicago, the Lewis Institute in Chicago (later merged with Armour Institute of Technology to become Illinois Institute of Technology), and the University of Michigan where she earned her Phi Beta Kappa.

Her book *Becoming a Writer*, published in 1934, is still in print and offers advice for beginning and sustaining any writing enterprise. It has been widely praised by many writers. She also wrote *Wake Up and Live*, published in 1936, which sold more than a million copies.

“All that is necessary to break the spell of inertia and frustration is this: Act as if it were impossible to fail. That is the talisman, the formula, the command of right-about-face which turns us from failure towards success.”

Bessie Anderson Stanley

(1879-1952)

Bessie Anderson Stanley was an American writer, the author of the poem “*Success*” (“What is success?” or “What Constitutes Success?”), which is often incorrectly attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson or Robert Louis Stevenson.

She was born in Newton, Iowa, and married Arthur Jehu Stanley in 1900, living thereafter in Lincoln, Kansas. Her poem was written in 1904 for a contest held in Brown Book Magazine, by George Livingston Richards Company of Boston, Massachusetts. Mrs. Stanley submitted the words in the form of an essay, rather than as a poem. The competition was to answer the question “What is success?” in 100 words or less. Mrs. Stanley won the first prize of \$250.

“To laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.”

Howard Thurman

(1900-1981)

Howard Washington Thurman was an American author, philosopher, theologian, Christian mystic, educator, and civil rights leader. As a prominent religious figure, he played a leading role in many social justice movements and organizations of the twentieth century. Thurman's theology of radical nonviolence influenced and shaped a generation of civil rights activists, and he was a key mentor to leaders within the civil rights movement, including Martin Luther King Jr.

“Don't ask yourself what the world needs, ask yourself what makes you come alive, and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

(1807-1882)

Longfellow was an American poet and educator. His original works include the poem "*Paul Revere's Ride*"

Longfellow was born in Portland, Maine. He graduated from Bowdoin College and became a professor there and, later, at Harvard College after studying in Europe. He became the most popular American poet of his day and had success overseas. He has been criticized for imitating European styles and writing poetry that was too sentimental.

"The day is cold, and dark, and dreary
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
The vine still clings to the mouldering wall,
But at every gust the dead leaves fall,
And the day is dark and dreary.

My life is cold, and dark, and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
My thoughts still cling to the mouldering Past,
But the hopes of youth fall thick in the blast,
And the days are dark and dreary.

Be still, sad heart! and cease repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still shining;
Thy fate is the common fate of all,
Into each life some rain must fall,
Some days must be dark and dreary."

Robert Mabry Doss

(1927-2016)

The Reverend Dr. Robert M. Doss was a devoted parish minister, talented singer and artist, and one of the many who marched in Selma with Dr. King in 1965. He died on February 12, 2016, aged 88.

Mr. Doss was ordained to the ministry in 1959 by the Unitarian Church of Rockville, MD, and served there four years until a call to the First Unitarian Society of Wilmington, DE, in 1963, where his pastorate lasted for nearly 31 years.

“When giving thanks comes hard for you,
And things are grim,
And hope runs thin,
Recall:
Despair’s a door to pass on through,
and not a home for living in.
When thanksgiving fills your cup,
And those you love are all about,
Look at your blessings, count them up,
and give back something to the world
without.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

(1929-1968)

Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Baptist minister, activist, and political philosopher who was one of the most prominent leaders in the civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. King advanced civil rights for people of color in the United States through the use of nonviolent resistance and nonviolent civil disobedience against Jim Crow laws and other forms of legalized discrimination.

A black church leader, King participated in and led marches for the right to vote, desegregation, labor rights, and other civil rights. He oversaw the 1955 Montgomery bus boycott and later became the first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

“One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change. Every society has its protectors of status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions. Today, our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change.”

Raymond Carver

(1938-1988)

Raymond Cleve Carver Jr. was an American short story writer and poet. He published his first collection of stories, *Will You Please Be Quiet, Please?* in 1976. His breakout collection, *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* (1981), received immediate acclaim and established Carver as an important figure in the literary world.

“And did you get whatyou wanted from this life,
even so?

I did.

And what did you want?

To call myself beloved,
to feel myself beloved on the earth.”

Charles Taylor

(b. 1931)

Charles Margrave Taylor is a Canadian philosopher from Montreal, Quebec, and professor emeritus at McGill University best known for his contributions to political philosophy, the philosophy of social science, the history of philosophy, and intellectual history.

“Individualism names what many people consider to be the finest achievement of modern civilization. We live in a world where people have a right to choose for themselves their own pattern of life, to decide in conscience what convictions to espouse, to determine the shape of their lives in a whole host of ways that their ancestors couldn’t control... The dark side of individualism is a centering on the self, which both flattens and narrows our lives, makes them poorer in meaning, and less concerned with others or society.”

Bill Bryson

(b. 1951)

Bill Bryson is an American-British journalist and author who has written a number of nonfiction books on topics including travel, the English language, and science. Born in the United States, he has been a resident of Britain for most of his adult life.

In 1995, while in the United Kingdom, Bryson authored *“Notes from a Small Island”*, an exploration of Britain. In 2003, he authored *“A Short History of Nearly Everything”*. In October 2020, he announced that he had retired from writing books. In 2022, he recorded an audio book for Audible, *“The Secret History of Christmas”*. He has sold over 16 million books worldwide.

“To be here now, alive in the twenty-first century and smart enough to know it, you had to be ... extremely make that miraculously - fortunate in your personal ancestry. Consider the fact that for 3.8 billion years, a period of time older than the Earth’s mountains and rivers and oceans, every one of your forbears on both sides has been attractive enough to find a mate, healthy enough to reproduce, and sufficiently blessed by fate and circumstances to do so. Not one of your pertinent ancestors was squashed, devoured, drowned, starved, stranded, stuck fast, untimely wounded, or otherwise deflected from its life’s quest of delivering a tiny charge of genetic material to the right partner at the right moment in order to perpetuate the only possible sequence of hereditary combinations that could result - eventually, astoundingly, and all too briefly - in you.”

Werner Herzog

(b. 1942)

Werner Herzog is a German filmmaker, actor, opera director, and author.

In 1961, when Herzog was 19, he started work on his first film "*Herakles*". He has since produced, written, and directed over 60 films and documentaries such as "*Aguirre, the Wrath of God*" (1972), "*The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser*" (1974), "*Nosferatu the Vampyre*" (1979). He has also published over 12 books of prose and directed many operas.

American film critic Roger Ebert said that Herzog "has never created a single film that is compromised, shameful, made for pragmatic reasons, or uninteresting. Even his failures are spectacular".

"Whether something lasts or not has nothing to do with whether it's made of stone or steel or wood or fabric. A house built all in wood can be a monument that lasts for hundreds of years because it seduces people to live in it, to use it and maintain it. Eternity depends on whether people are willing to take care of something. In Greece, ordinary white houses are repainted every year. Today we are often told to use materials and structures that are free of maintenance. But no building can be neglected entirely. We need constantly to renew our relationships - to the houses we live in, to our friends, to our own bodies
- all the time, every day."

Ann Brashares

(b. 1967)

Brashares mainly writes for young adults.

Besides the Sisterhood series and its two companion books, *"3 Willows"* and *"Sisterhood Everlasting"*, she has contributed two 80- page biographies to the nonfiction book series *"Techies - Linus Torvalds, Software Rebel"*, 2001; *"Steve Jobs Thinks Different"*, 2001.

"Maybe you think you'll be entitled to more happiness later by forgoing all of it now, but it doesn't work that way. Happiness takes as much practice as unhappiness does. It's by living that you live more.

By waiting you wait more. Every waiting day makes your life a little less. Every lonely day makes you a little smaller. Every day you put off your life makes you less capable of living it."

G.K. Chesterton

(1874-1936)

Chesterton has been referred to as the “prince of paradox”. Of his writing style, Time observed: “Whenever possible, Chesterton made his points with popular sayings, proverbs, allegories-first carefully turning them inside out.” His writings were an influence on Jorge Luis Borges, who compared his work with that of Edgar Allan Poe.

“People seem to be capable of great virtues but not of small virtues, capable of defying their torturers but not of keeping their tempers.”

Thomas H. Huxley

(1825-1895)

Thomas Henry Huxley was an English biologist and anthropologist who specialized in comparative anatomy. He has become known as “Darwin’s Bulldog” for his advocacy of Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution.

“Perhaps the most valuable result of all education is the ability to make yourself do the thing you have to do, when it ought to be done, whether you like it or not. It is the first lesson that ought to be learned.”

Annie Dillard

(b. 1945)

Annie Dillard is an American author, best known for her narrative prose in both fiction and nonfiction. She has published works of poetry, essays, prose, and literary criticism, as well as two novels and one memoir. Her 1974 book *"Pilgrim at Tinker Creek"* won the 1975 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction. From 1980, Dillard taught for 21 years in the English department of Wesleyan University, in Middletown, Connecticut. Dillard's works have been compared to those by Virginia Woolf, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Emily Dickinson, William Blake, and John Donne.

"There is no one but us. There is no one to send, not a clean hand or a pure heart on the face of the earth or in the earth - only us ... unfit, not yet ready, having each of us chosen wrongly, made a false start, yielded to impulse and the tangled comfort of pleasures, and grown exhausted, unable to seek the thread, weak, and uninvolved. But there is no one but us. There has never been."

Dennis Covington

1948 -2024

Born in Birmingham Alabama, Dennis was an American author whose work included two novels and four nonfiction books. His subject matter includes spirituality, the environment, and the South. Covington's book "*Salvation on Sand Mountain*" was a 1995 National Book Award finalist and his articles have been published in The New York Times, Vogue, and Redbook.

"There are moments when you stand on the brink of a new experience and understand that you have no choice about it. Either you walk into the experience or you turn away from it, but you know that no matter what you choose, you will have altered your life in a permanent way. Either way, there will be consequences."

Helen Keller

1880 -1960

Helen Keller lost her sight and her hearing after a bout of illness when she was 19 months old. She then communicated primarily using home signs until the age of seven, when she met her first teacher and life-long companion Anne Sullivan. Sullivan taught Keller language, including reading and writing. After an education at both specialist and mainstream schools, Keller attended Radcliffe College of Harvard University and became the first deaf-blind person in the United States to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Keller was also a prolific author, writing 14 books and hundreds of speeches and essays on topics ranging from animals to Mahatma Gandhi. Keller campaigned for those with disabilities and for women's suffrage, labor rights, and world peace.

“Although the world is full of suffering, it is full also of the overcoming of it. My optimism, then, does not rest on the absence of evil, but on a glad belief in the preponderance of good and a willing effort always to cooperate with the good, that it may prevail.”

Mary Oliver

1935-2019

Mary Jane Oliver was an American poet who won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. She found inspiration for her work in nature and had a lifelong habit of solitary walks in the wild. Her poetry is characterized by wonderment at the natural environment, vivid imagery, and unadorned language. In 2007, she was declared the best-selling poet in the United States.

“One day you finally knew
what you had to do, and began,
though the voices around you
kept shouting their bad advice —
though the whole house
began to tremble
and you felt the old tug
at your ankles.
“Mend my life!”
each voice cried.
But you didn’t stop.
You knew what you had to do,
though the wind pried
with its stiff fingers
at the very foundations,
though their melancholy
was terrible.
It was already late

enough, and a wild night,
and the road full of fallen
branches and stones.
But little by little,
as you left their voices behind,
the stars began to burn
through the sheets of clouds,
and there was a new voice
which you slowly
recognized as your own,
that kept you company
as you strode deeper and deeper
into the world,
determined to do
the only thing you could do —
determined to save
the only life you could save.”

Mark Twain

1835-1910

Samuel Langhorne Clemens, known by the pen name Mark Twain, was an American writer, humorist, and essayist. He was praised as the “greatest humorist the United States has produced,”

Twain was born shortly after an appearance of Halley’s Comet, and predicted that his death would accompany it as well, dying a day after the comet was at its closest to Earth.

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.”

Alfred North Whitehead

1861-1947

Alfred North Whitehead was an English mathematician and philosopher. He created the philosophical school known as process philosophy, which has been applied in a wide variety of disciplines, including ecology, theology, education, physics, biology, economics, and psychology. In his early career Whitehead wrote primarily on mathematics, logic, and physics. He wrote the three-volume *“Principia Mathematica”* (1910–1913), with his former student Bertrand Russell. *Principia Mathematica* is considered one of the twentieth century’s most important works in mathematical logic.

Beginning in the late 1910s and early 1920s, Whitehead gradually turned his attention from mathematics to philosophy of science, and finally to metaphysics.

“Religion is the vision of something which stands beyond, behind, and within the passing flux of immediate things; something which is real, and yet waiting to be realized; something which is a remote possibility, and yet the greatest of present facts; something that gives meaning to all that passes, and yet eludes apprehension; something whose possession is the final good, and yet is beyond all reach; something which is the ultimate ideal, and the hopeless quest.”

Albert Schweitzer

1875-1965

Schweitzer was a German and French polymath from Alsace. He was a theologian, organist, musicologist, writer, humanitarian, philosopher, and physician. As a Lutheran minister, Schweitzer challenged both the secular view of the historical Jesus as depicted by the historical-critical method current at this time, as well as the traditional Christian view.

He received the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize for his philosophy of “*Reverence for Life*”, becoming the eighth Frenchman to be awarded that prize.

“To educate yourself for the feeling of gratitude means to take nothing for granted, but to always seek out and value the kindness that stands behind the action. Nothing that is done for you is a matter of course. Everything originates in a will for the good, which is directed at you. Train yourself never to put off the word or action for the expression of gratitude.”

Susan Glaspell

1876 -1948

Susan Keating Glaspell was an American playwright, novelist, journalist and actress. With her husband George Cram Cook, she founded the Provincetown Players, the first modern American theater company.

First known for her short stories (fifty were published), Glaspell also wrote nine novels, fifteen plays, and a biography. Often set in her native Midwest, these semi- autobiographical tales explored contemporary social issues, such as gender, ethics, and dissent, while featuring deep, sympathetic characters who make principled stands. Her 1930 play *"Alison's House"* earned her the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

"What we seek we do not find - that would be too trim and tidy for so reckless and opulent a thing as life. It is something else we find."

Grace Lichtenstein

(b. mid-20th century)

Grace is an author, book critic and former New York Times reporter. In recent years she has written online and in print about sports, music, recreation and travel. She also writes book reviews for many publications.

As a ghostwriter, she assisted renowned psychiatrist Ari Kiev on five books about the psychology of risk. In addition, she worked with personal finance expert Douglas Andrew on his bestseller Last Chance Millionaire, published in 2007.

Her freelance journalism has appeared in the Los Angeles Times and Washington Post.

“Your opponent, in the end, is never really the player on the other side of the net, or the swimmer in the next lane, or the team on the other side of the field, or even the bar you must high-jump. Your opponent is yourself, your negative internal voices, your level of determination.”

Richard Rohr

(b. 1943)

Richard Rohr is an American Franciscan priest and writer on spirituality based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was ordained to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church in 1970, founded the New Jerusalem Community in Cincinnati in 1971, and the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque in 1987. In 2011, PBS called him “one of the most popular spirituality authors and speakers in the world”.

“If you have forgiven yourself for being imperfect and falling, you can now do it for just about everybody else. If you have not done it for yourself, I am afraid you will likely pass on your sadness, absurdity, judgment, and futility to others.”

Thich Nhat Hanh

1926-2022

Thich Nhat Hanh was a Vietnamese Thien Buddhist monk, peace activist, prolific author, poet and teacher, who founded the Plum Village Tradition, historically recognized as the main inspiration for engaged Buddhism. Known as the “father of mindfulness”, Nhat Hanh was a major influence on Western practices of Buddhism.

He was exiled from South Vietnam in 1966 after expressing opposition to the war and refusing to take sides. In 1967, Martin Luther King Jr. nominated him for a Nobel Peace Prize. After a 39-year exile, Nhat Hanh was permitted to visit Vietnam in 2005. In 2018, he returned to Vietnam to his “root temple” near Hue, where he lived until his death in 2022, at the age of 95.

“If you are ruminating about the past, or worrying about the future, you will completely miss the experience. The past is finished. Learn from it and let it go. The future is not even here yet. Plan for it, but do not waste your time worrying about it. Worrying is worthless. When you stop ruminating about what has already happened, when you stop worrying about what might never happen, then you will be in the present moment.”

Rubem Alves

1933 -2014

Rubem Azevedo Alves was a Brazilian theologian, philosopher, educator, writer and psychoanalyst. He promoted his own early concept of “liberation theology” described with these words: “The origin of my liberation theology is an erotic exuberance for life. We need to struggle to restore its erotic exuberance, to share this with the whole world.

“What is hope? It is a presentiment that imagination is more real and reality less real than it looks. It is a hunch that the overwhelming brutality of facts that oppress and repress is not the last word. It is a suspicion that reality is more complex than realism wants us to believe and that the frontiers of the possible are not determined by the limits of the actual...Let us plant dates even though those who plant them will never eat them. We must live by the love of what we will never see. This is the secret discipline. It is a refusal to let the creative act be dissolved... and a stubborn commitment to the future of our grandchildren.”

Maimonides

1135-1204

Maimonides was a rabbi and philosopher who became one of the most prolific and influential Torah scholars of the Middle Ages. In his time, he was also a preeminent astronomer and physician. Born in Spain, he later lived in Morocco and Egypt and worked as a rabbi, physician and philosopher.

“We have been given free will. Any person can become as righteous as Moses or as wicked as Jeroboam. We ourselves decide whether to make ourselves learned or ignorant, compassionate or cruel, generous or miserly. No one forces us, no one decides for us, no one drags us along one path or the other; we ourselves, by our own volition, choose our own way.”

May Sarton

1912-1995

May Sarton was the pen name of Eleanore Marie Sarton, a Belgian-American novelist, poet, and memoirist. Although her best work is strongly personalized with erotic female imagery, she resisted the label of 'lesbian writer', preferring to convey the universality of human love.

In 1915 her family emigrated to Boston. She graduated from Cambridge Latin and then attended Vassar until she decided to pursue her writing on her own. In 1945 he met Judy Matlack, who became her partner for the next thirteen years. May died in Nelson N.H in 1995.

“Whether success or failure: the truth of a life really has little to do with its quality. The quality of life is in proportion, always, to the capacity for delight. The capacity for delight is the gift of paying attention.”

Hazel Henderson

1933-2022

Jean Hazel Henderson was a British American futurist and environmental activist. As an autodidact in her twenties, having only a British high-school formal education, in the U.S. she gradually advanced, by virtue of groundbreaking citizen activism, into the roles of university lecturer and chair-holder, as well as that of advisor to corporations and government agencies. She authored several books including *"Building a Win-Win World"* and *"Beyond Globalization"*.

"If we can recognize that change and uncertainty are basic principles, we can greet the future and the transformation we are undergoing with the understanding that we do not know enough to be pessimistic."

Frederick Buechner

1926 - 2022

Carl Frederick Buechner was an American author, Presbyterian minister, preacher, and theologian. The author of thirty-nine published books, his career spanned more than six decades. Buechner was named “without question one of the truly great writers of the 20th century”.

“Humanity is like an enormous spider web, so that if you touch it anywhere, you set the whole thing trembling... As we move around this world and as we act with kindness, perhaps, or with indifference, or with hostility, toward the people we meet, we too are setting the great spider web a-tremble. The life that I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place and time my touch will be felt. Our lives are linked together. No one is an island.”

Scott Russell Sanders

(b. 1945)

Scott Russell Sanders is an American novelist and essayist. Sanders has won acclaim for his skill as a personal essayist. A contributing editor for Orion magazine, he has won the John Burroughs Natural History Essay Award, the Indiana Authors Award, and the Mark Twain Award, among other honors. A frequent public lecturer, Sanders also conducts writing workshops across the United States, including recent ones in Alaska, Vermont, Massachusetts, Oregon, and New Mexico.

“Since Copernicus, we have known better than to see the earth as the center of the universe. Since Einstein, we have learned that there is no center; or alternatively, that any point is as good as any other for observing the world. I take this to be roughly what medieval theologians meant when they defined God as a circle whose circumference is nowhere and whose center is everywhere... There are no privileged locations. If you stay put, your place may become a holy center, not because it gives you special access to the divine, but because in your stillness you hear what might be heard anywhere. All there is to see can be seen from anywhere in the universe, if you know how to look; and the influence of the entire universe converges on every spot.”

Dinah Maria Mulock Craik

1826 -1887

Dinah was an English novelist and poet. She is best remembered for her novel, *"John Halifax, Gentleman"*, which presents the mid-Victorian ideals of English middle-class life.

"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 then with the breath of kindness blow the rest away."

John O'Donohue

1956 -2008

John O'Donohue was an Irish poet, author, priest, and philosopher. He was a native Irish speaker, and as an author is best known for popularizing Celtic spirituality.

“No day is ever the same, and no day stands still; each one moves through a different territory, awakening new beginnings. A day moves forward in moments, and once a moment has flickered into life, it vanishes and is replaced by the next. It is fascinating that this is where we live, within an emerging lacework that continuously unravels. Often a fleeting moment can hold a whole sequence of the future in distilled form: that unprepared second when you looked in a parent's eye and saw death already beginning to loom. Or the second you noticed a softening in someone's voice and you knew that a friendship was beginning. Or catching your partner's gaze upon you and knowing the love that surrounded you. Each day is seeded with recognitions.”

John Burroughs

1837-1921

John Burroughs was an American naturalist and nature essayist, active in the conservation movement in the United States. In the words of his biographer Edward Rinehan, Burroughs' special identity was less that of a scientific naturalist than that of "a literary naturalist with a duty to record his own unique perceptions of the natural world." The result was a body of work whose resonance with the tone of its cultural moment explains both its popularity at that time, and its relative obscurity since.

"In the ordinary course of nature, the great beneficent changes come slowly and silently. The noisy changes, for the most part, mean violence and disruption. The roar of storms and tornadoes, the explosions of volcanoes, the crash of the thunder are the result of a sudden break in the equipoise of the elements; from a condition of comparative repose and silence they become fearfully swift and audible. The still small voice is the voice of life and growth and perpetuity. In the stillness of a bright summer day what work is being accomplished, what processes are being consummated!"

Susan Griffin

(b. 1943)

Susan Griffin is a radical feminist philosopher, essayist and playwright particularly known for her innovative, hybrid-form ecofeminist works.

“The moment I have defined another being as my enemy, I lose part of myself, the complexity and subtlety of my vision. I begin to exist in a closed system. When anything goes wrong, I blame my enemy. If I wake troubled, my enemy had led me to this feeling. If I cannot sleep, it is because of my enemy. Slowly all the power in my life begins to be located outside. And my whole being is defined in relation to this outside force, which becomes daily more monstrous, more evil, more laden with all the qualities in myself I no longer wish to own. The quality of my thought then is diminished. My imagination grows small. My self seems meager. For my enemy has stolen all of these.”

Jack Gilbert

1925-2012

Jack Gilbert was an American poet. who was born and raised in Pittsburgh PA Gilbert was acquainted with Jack Spicer and Allen Ginsberg, both prominent figureheads of the Beat Movement, but Gilbert is not considered a Beat Poet; he described himself as a “serious romantic.” Over his five-decade-long career, he published five full collections of poetry.

“If we deny our happiness, resist our satisfaction, we lessen the importance of their deprivation. We must risk delight... We must have the stubbornness to accept our gladness in the ruthless furnace of this world. To make injustice the only measure of our attention is to praise the Devil.

If the locomotive of the Lord runs us down, we should give thanks that the end had magnitude. We must admit there will be music despite everything.”

Seneca the Younger

4BCE - 65CE

Seneca, was a Stoic philosopher of Ancient Rome, a statesman, dramatist, and in one work, satirist, from the post-Augustan age of Latin literature. As a writer, Seneca is known for his philosophical works, and for his plays, which are all tragedies. His prose works include 12 essays and 124 letters dealing with moral issues.

“Some there are that torment themselves afresh with the memory of what is past; others, again, afflict themselves with the apprehension of evils to come; and very ridiculously both - for the one does not now concern us, and the other not yet... One should count each day a separate life.”

Lawrence G. Lovasik

1913 -1986

Lawrence Lovasik, was a Catholic priest and member of the missionary Society of the Divine Word. Lovasik wrote more than 30 books and 75 pamphlets. In 1962 he published his work *“The Hidden Power of Kindness”*.

“Try to make at least one person happy every day.
If you cannot do a kind deed, speak a kind word.
If you cannot speak a kind word, think a kind
thought.”

Paulo Coelho

(b. 1947)

Paulo Coelho was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and attended a Jesuit school. At age 17, Coelho's parents committed him to a mental institution from which he escaped three times before being released at the age of 20. Coelho later remarked that "It wasn't that they wanted to hurt me, but they didn't know what to do ... They did not do that to destroy me, they did that to save me."

On his parents' wishes, Coelho enrolled in law school and abandoned his dream of becoming a writer. One year later, he dropped out and lived life as a hippie, traveling through South America, North Africa, Mexico, and Europe and started using drugs. in the 1960s. In 1986 Coelho walked the 500- plus mile Road of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain. On the path, he had a spiritual awakening, which he described autobiographically in "*The Pilgrimage*".

"The sculptor Michelangelo was once asked how it was that he could create such beautiful works. 'It's very simple', he answered. 'When I look at a block of marble, I see the sculpture inside it. All I have to do is remove what doesn't belong'. The master says: 'There is a work of art each of us was destined to create'. That is the central point of our life, and - no matter how we try to deceive ourselves - we know how important it is to our happiness. Usually, that work of art is covered by years of fears, guilt and indecision. But, if we decide to remove those things that do not belong, if we have no doubt as to our capability, we are capable of going forward with the mission that is our destiny. That is the only way to live with honor."

Eleanor Roosevelt

1884 -1962

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was an American political figure, diplomat, and activist. She was the first lady of the United States from 1933 to 1945, during her husband Franklin D. Roosevelt's four terms as president, making her the longest-serving first lady of the United States. Through her travels, public engagement, and advocacy, she largely redefined the role of first lady. Roosevelt then served as a United States Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly from 1945 to 1952, and took a leading role in designing the text and gaining international support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

“I doubt that anyone does not really believe in God. People may think they don't have any belief, but you will usually find that there is a belief in something beyond themselves. In any case, I would not judge people's character by their belief or unbelief. I would judge their character by their deeds; and no matter what they said about their beliefs, their behavior would soon show whether they were people of good character or bad.”

Paula Gunn Allen

1939-2008

Paula Gunn Allen was an American poet, literary critic, activist, professor, and novelist. Of mixed-race European- American, Arab-American, and Native American descent, she identified with her mother's people, the Laguna Pueblo. Gunn Allen wrote numerous essays, stories and poetry with Native American and feminist themes, and two biographies of Native American women.

“Tribal people say the words are sacred. We don't mean that you are supposed to kneel down and worship them. We mean that you should in your being recognize that when you speak, your utterance has consequences inwardly and outwardly and that you are accountable for those consequences. You can't just say anything that comes to your head and then get distressed if another person acts on it. Now that other person may have misunderstood you, which means that they have a responsibility to find out exactly what you mean before they act, but the principle is still there. Without linguistic honor there can be no community, there can be no ethic, there can be no love, there can be no creative vision, there can be no peace, and there can be no relationship.”

Linda Pastan

(b. 1932 - 2023)

Linda Pastan was an American poet of Jewish background. From 1991 to 1995 she was Poet Laureate of Maryland. She was known for writing short poems that address topics like family life, domesticity, motherhood, the female experience, aging, death, loss and the fear of loss, as well as the fragility of life and relationships.

“A flurry of leaves at the window
like those calendar pages
flying in old movies
to indicate time passing,
and it is passing,
though where it’s going
nobody seems to know.
Something is always lost
and something found -
an earring or the key
to a certain door,
to some second self.
I watch as energy and matter
bow and switch places,
as last year’s leaves appear
and disappear again.”

Paul Tillich

1886 -1965

Paul Johannes Tillich was a German-American Christian existentialist philosopher, religious socialist, and Lutheran theologian who was one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth century. Tillich taught at German universities before immigrating to the United States in 1933, where he taught at Union Theological Seminary, Harvard University, and the University of Chicago.

“Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness. It strikes us when we walk through the dark valley of a meaningless and empty life. It strikes us when we feel our separation is deeper than usual, because we have violated another life, a life which we love, or from which we were estranged. It strikes us when our disgust for our own being, our indifference, our weakness, our hostility, and our lack of direction and composure has become intolerable to us. It strikes us when, year after year, the longed-for perfection of life does not appear, when the old compulsions reign within us as they have for decades, when despair destroys all joy and courage. Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying: “You are accepted. You are accepted by that which is greater than you, and the name of which you do not know “ If that happens to us, we experience grace. After such an experience, we may not be better than before, and we may not believe more than before. But everything is transformed.

Hans Selye

1907-1982

Hans Selye was a pioneering Hungarian-Canadian endocrinologist who conducted important scientific work on the hypothetical non-specific response of an organism to stressors. Although he did not recognize all of the many aspects of glucocorticoids, Selye was aware of their role in the stress response.

“The fairest thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of science. Those who know it not, and can no longer wonder and no longer feel amazement, are as good as dead. We all had this priceless talent when we were young. But as time goes by, many of us lose it. True scientists never lose the faculty of amazement. It is the essence of their being.”