

**MY FAVOURITE QUOTATIONS IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER AND  
COLLECTED OVER 28 YEARS...**

**L × A × T × I × N ...**

*Dominus Vobiscum* - God be with you.

*Sit Vis Vobiscum* - May the Force be with you.

*Veni Vidi Duci* - I came, I saw, I calculated

*Consummatum est* - it is completed, Christ's last words on the cross, John 19:30.

*lacta alea est* - The die is cast (at the crossing of the Rubicon) Julius Caesar 102?-44BC

*Experimentum crucis* - a decisive test showing which of several hypotheses is correct.

*Ex ungue leonem* - by the claw (you may know) the lion. (Latin)

*Quantum est quod desit* - Roughly: "To the brink but no further" - poem by Thomas Moore  
1779-1852

*Ab ovo usque ad mala* (from the egg to the apples i.e. from the beginning to the end).

*Noli me tangere* (touch me not)

**L × I × G × H × T & D × A × R × K × N × E × S × S ...**

A little light serves me well. (I.N)

Nature and Nature's laws lay hid in night:  
God said "let Newton be!" and all was light.  
(Epitaph intended for I.N composed by Alexander Pope)

The darkest hour is before the dawn. (17th Cent)

Always face towards the Sun and the shadows will fall behind you.

And as the Sun breaks through the darkest cloud(s) (The Taming of the Shrew)

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If there were no darkness we would not appreciate the light (Star Trek, TV 14/4/97).

Like a sunflower bends to the light... (W H Auden)

Do you need prove of God?  
Does one light a torch to see the sun?

Without darkness we would not appreciate the light.

When it's dark enough you can see the stars.

### S × T × A × R × S

We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars. (Oscar Wilde, 1854-1900)

It is the stars, the stars above us, govern our conditions (WS - King Lear)

... you're like a shooting star among stars.... (Jack, The Film, 1996)

The stars are not wanted now: put out every one,  
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun,  
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the wood;  
For nothing now can ever come to any good. (W H Auden)

Doubt thou the stars are fire;  
Doubt that the sun does move;  
Doubt truth to be a liar;  
But never doubt I love. (WS - Hamlet)

### T × I × M × E . . .

Procrastination is the thief of time (Edward Young 1683-1765).

Constant dripping wears away the stone. (Greek)

Like as the waves make towards the pebble shore,

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So do our minutes hasten to their end (Sonnets 60, WS).

If you can look into the seeds of time and say which grain will grow and which will not (WS  
- Macbeth).

I have a rendezvous with Death,  
At some disputed barricade - Alan Seeger 1888-1916

From the cradle to the grave...

Hope you grow old with care and care for nothing when you grow old. (A film!)

The winds must come from somewhere when they blow,  
There must be reasons why the leaves decay;  
Time will say nothing but I told you so. (If I could tell you by W H Auden 1907-73)

L × O × V × E . . .

Good night, good night! parting is such sweet sorrow...

But love is blind and lovers cannot see the pretty follies that themselves commit (Measure  
for Measure)

That I shall say good night till it be morrow (Romeo & Juliet)

The lowest trees have tops, the ant her gall,  
The fly her spleen, the little spark his heat:  
The slender hairs cast shadows, though but small.  
And bees have stings, although they be not great;  
Seas have their source, and so have shallow springs:  
And love is love, in beggars and in kings.

(Poem "Love is Love" by Sir Edward Dyer 1543-1607)

Men have died from time to time, and worms have eaten them, but not for love (Hamlet).

I love you (in Latin) (Ego) Amo Te (*ego, for emphasis*)

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I × S × A × A × C   N × E × W × T × O × N ...

If I have seen further it's by standing on the shoulders of giants (I.N. but originally John of Salisbury c.1115-93).

Nearer the gods no mortal may approach. - Edmond Halley on Newton's Principia.

*Ex ungue leonem* - by the claw (you may know) the lion. (Latin)

made it abstruse ... to avoid being baited by little smatterers in Mathematics (I.N).

Nature and Nature's laws lay hid in night:

God said "let Newton be!" and all was light.

(Epitaph intended for I.N. composed by Alexander Pope)

If he had lived, we may have known something (on Roger Cotes early death)

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need to draw a line across the sand.

... like two scorpions in a bottle.

The litmus test ...

... he's had a charisma bypass.

In great attempts it's sometimes even glorious to fail.

Her only vice was that she didn't like woodwork. (JDB, 1978)

Reverse backwards! (Keven 1973)

You're my dad my best friend (Keven's last words, 1975)

... you're trying to reinvent the wheel.

... like trying to swim up Niagara falls.

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... ridiculous as asking a turkey to vote for Christmas.

... inexperience doesn't mean incapable.

... rather like a loose cannon.

... fall on his own sword.

... as welcome as a turd in a swimming pool (circa 1970s)

Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely, Lord Acton (1834-1902)  
British Historian.

Why didst thou promise such a beauteous day,  
And make me travel forth without my cloak,  
To let base clouds o'ertake me in my way,  
Hiding thy brav'ry in their rotten smoke? (WS Sonnet 34)

No more be grieved at that which thou hast done,  
Roses have thorns and silver fountains mud,  
Clouds and eclipses stain both more and sun,  
And loathsome canker lives in sweetest bud. (WS Sonnets 35)

... walking on eggshells.

I am moved to pity, when I think of the brevity of human life, seeing that all this host of men  
not one will be alive in a hundred years' time. – Xerxes (*pronounced certees*) (d. 465BC) King  
of Persia. *On surveying his army*

molon labe – come & get 'em yourself (Leonides at the battle of Thermopylae 480BC)

Go tell the Spartans, passerby, that here, obedient to their laws, we lie (Unknown but may  
be Herodotus 484 BC)

... about as useful as a chocolate fireguard.

Measure twice cut once (c Teddy Ashwood, 1977)

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Is it a poisoned chalice?

... this could be more difficult to prove than Fermat's last theorem. - JDB

... it's not rocket science.

... I'm not the propeller (used in the sense of driving something)

... flame thrower approach.

... even the strongest tree must bend with the wind.

For ever and a day (WS - As you like it)

There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so (WS - Hamlet)

We know what we are, but know not what we may be (WS - Hamlet)

Some rise by sin, and others by virtue fall (WS - Measure for Measure)

O, it is excellent to have a giant's strength; but it's tyrannous to use it like a giant. (WS - Measure for Measure)

There's small choice in rotten apples (WS - The Tempest)

We cannot all be masters (WS - Othello)

... forced to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune... (Hamlet)

When sorrows come, they come not single spies but in battalions (Hamlet, King Claudius to Gertude)

There are a number of strands and some are intertwined ...

... we are at opposite ends of (say) the contractual spectrum.

... it's rather embryonic at the moment.

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... soon reaching the critical mass ...

If you were a conker  
And I was a string  
We'd win every battle  
We'd beat every thing (If you were a carrot - poem)

Ships fear fire more than water

It's going belly up.  
It's going pear shaped.  
It's going tits up.

If we can get to within an amoeba's toenail...

You cannot turn an omelette back into eggs.

You cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs.

These hands have hurt, these lips betrayed (poem by W H Auden).

...that finds the fenced-in pastures very green (poem by W H Auden).

You're like a bag of sugar.

... against the ropes...

Like the sword of Damocles [pronounced Dam-a-clees] ... hanging over me - an imminent danger, or constant threat.

### ETERNITY:

He who binds himself a joy  
Does the winged life destroy;  
But he who kisses the joy as it flies  
Lives in eternity's sun rise.

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### SEA OF LOVE:

You were a great Cunarder, I  
Was only a fishing smack.  
Once you passed across my bows  
And of course you did not look back.

It was only a single moment yet  
I watch the sea and sigh,  
Because my heart can never forget  
The day you passed me by. (W H Auden ?1932)

I want there to be an evolution between us not a revolution.

We need to build bridges not dig ditches.

### HINTERHOF by James Fenton

Stay near to me and I'll stay near to you -  
As near as you are dear to me will do,  
Near as the rainbow to the rain,  
The west wind to the windowpane,  
As fire to the hearth, as dawn to dew.

Stay true to me and I'll stay true to you -  
As true as you are new to me will do,  
New as the rainbow in the spray,  
Utterly new in every way,  
New in the way that what you say is true.

Stay near to me, as true to you as heart could pray.  
Heart never hoped that one might be  
Half of the things you are to me -  
The dawn, the fire, the rainbow and the day.

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### **GRAVITAS (Walt Whitman's Leaves of Grass)**

"I am he that aches with amorous love;  
Does the earth gravitate?  
Does not all matter, aching, attract all matter?  
So the Body of me, to all I meet, or know.

### **UNKNOWN AUTHOR**

Smiling is infectious  
You catch it like the flu  
When someone smiled at me today  
I started smiling too.

I walked around the corner  
And someone saw my grin,  
When he smiled, I realised,  
I'd passed it on to him.

I though about the smile  
And realised its worth;  
A single smile like mine  
Could travel round the earth.

If you feel a smile begin  
Don't leave it undetected  
Lets start an epidemic quick  
And get the world infected!

### **UNKNOWN AUTHOR**

I've searched in my mind  
The other day for solutions  
To our problems, the quarrels,  
And the fights. How can two people  
In love hurt each other so?  
We tore each other & each had claws so deep.

You don't now how bad it is, that's how bad it is (TV programme 1998)

The answer to that question is spherical and in the plural (Carter 1922).

Does the caterpillar fear changing into a butterfly?

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To die will be an awfully big adventure (1904 Peter Pan, author James M Barrie went down with Titanic in 1912).

Those have most power to hurt us that we love (Francis Beallmont 1584-1616)

He's always backing into the limelight

**W H Auden** (As I walked out one evening)

I'll love you till the Ocean

Is folded and hung up to dry

And the seven stars go squawking

Like geese about the sky

Problems are like eggs, no matter how big they are they can always be cracked (words in a get well card sent to Dad, 1998).

One of God's stepping stones (TV film 1997)

The number of the beast is six hundred and three score and six – REVELATIONS 13:18,  
BIBLE

The signs of love  
Should be as clear  
As when you look  
Into a mirror

And, as an image,  
Come to you  
Because you're  
Merely being you.

If you want anything done ask a busy man because a lazy man can't find the time (Dad c 1970).

I feel stretched like butter spread too thinly on bread (Film – Lord of the Rings 2002).

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**(Joseph Carey Merrick, 1862-1890):**

Tis true my form is something odd,  
But blaming me is blaming God;  
Could I create myself anew  
I would not fail in pleasing you.

Was I so tall, could reach the pole  
Or grasp the ocean with a span,  
I would be measured by the soul,  
The minds the standard of the man.

Bright but brittle (on R Hooke)

It's easy to be the general after the battle

I can resist every thing but temptation (Oscar Wilde)

I'd like to block her passage (me circa 1976)

Mum,  
Loved you yesterday  
Love you still  
Always have & always will.

It's all sunshine and apple pie (Radio 4, spring of 2002)

All smoke and mirrors

Do you know where I can buy some super glue cos I want us to stick together. (James to Di 29/09/02).

It takes a lifetime to know oneself (Bruce Lee, circa 1972)

I never saw a wild thing  
sorry for itself.  
A small bird will drop frozen dead from a bough  
without ever having felt sorry for itself.

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There are 10 sorts of people, those that understand binary and those that don't (Jeremy Paxman c. 2002)

There's enough red ink to drown a cat (radio 4, December 3003)

Let's focus on the steak not the peas (film TV c 2002)

Go (shortest sentence)

If the Sun & Moon can share the same sky, then surely we can sort things out (me c. 1997)

For every lock there's a key (me circa 2002)

First the sword, then the shield; the tank brought the anti-tank and the ICBM brought the anti-ICBM (TV 2004)

Like pairs of opposite bishops (B Spassky, circa 1960)

Dancing on a pin head (Radio 4, March 2004)

I'm not backward in coming forward (Martin Bell, Radio 4, 15/04/04)

Put some jam on his trousers and invite them down for tea (Chris Norton, 29/04/04)

Never judge a man by the quality of his excuses (Tim Llewellyn c 1998)

Love is like an anchor that holds a man down (TV spoof film, airplane 2004)

The more no's the nearer you get to a yes (TV 2004).

Worlds may change (and) galaxies disintegrate, but a woman is always a woman (James T Kirt, Star Trek, c 1970).

Don't say anything unless you can improve on the silence (Film: The Tomorrow Man, 1996)

We're all different, that's the one thing we have in common (TV add, c 2004)

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If Cotes had lived, we might have known something (Isaac Newton, 1642-1727)

Watch out for the chicken bone in the rice (Radio 4, Jan 2005)

I'm quite a well balanced person – I have a chip on both shoulders (Brilliant Mind, film, c 1993)

When you take a step back you can see more (TV programme 20/3/06. "The seven year of surgeon")

God gives men a brain and a penis and only enough blood to run one at the same time (Robin Williams, date unknown)

XCIV (Shakespeare's 94<sup>th</sup> Sonnet in Latin)

Laedere qui potis est nec volt, fecisse recusans  
Quae genitum imprimis ad facienda putes;  
Corda movens aliis, friget dum marmoris instar  
Ipse cupidinibus succubuisse piger;  
Dona deum in sese merito trahit ille, suaequelndolis ingenitas ille tuetur opes.  
Ille sui est voltus dominus, sua possidet ora;  
In multis alii servit id omne decus.  
Flosculus aestati est aestivo gratus odore,  
Floreat ac pereat cum tamen ipse sibi;  
Siquid at incessit tetrae robiginis illum,  
Gramine ab agresti vincitur eius honos.  
Optima corrumpas in pessima; sique putrescunt  
Lilia, non loliis est ita foedus odor.

If your head tells you one thing and your heart tells you another, before you do anything, you should first decide whether you have a better head or a better heart."

"To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe."

May the best of your past be the worst of your future (Film: The Long Kiss Goodbye, 1996)

We can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done. (Alan Turing, from his paper on the Turing test ) b 23/06/1912, d 1954

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Lefty lightly, rightly tightly (mnemonic to remember direction to turn a screw to loosen or tighten)

Stands the Church clock at ten to three?  
And is there honey still for tea? (Robert Brooke, 1912)

Fall short like an under powered bullet (Radio 4, September 2006)

About as tasteless as being force fed broccoli (Radio 4, December 2006)