

## Dostoevsky

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### open window theatre – "beauty will save the world." – fyodor dostoevsky

### 112 thought-provoking quotes by fyodor dostoevsky for the bibliophiles

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- fyodor dostoevsky quotes

a collection of quotes and thoughts by fyodor dostoevsky on lies, love, respect, truth, self-deception, suffering, hell, god, grief, happiness, inspiration and story.

112 thought-provoking quotes by fyodor dostoevsky for the bibliophiles famous as: best known for his novella notes from the 'underground' born on: november 11, 1821 died on: february 9, 1881 born in: moscow, russia founder / co founder: dostoyevsky publishing company, epoch died at age: 59 fyodor dostoevsky was an eminent russian essayist, short story writer, novelist, philosopher and journalist. his literary works cover human psychology in the unsettled social, spiritual and political atmospheres of the 19th-century russia. his works also engaged a wide ambit of religious and realistic philosophical themes. he started his writing career at 20 and published his first novel at the age of 25 which was titled 'poor folk'. 'the brothers karamazov', 'the idiot', 'crime and punishment' and 'demons' are a few of his most acclaimed works. his works, thoughts, writings, books, novels, essays and stories are widely read both within and beyond his native russia. he has been an inspiration to a number of later russian writers and philosophers. we bring to you some of the most popular quotes and sayings by the legendary writer of all times fyodor dostoevsky. listed in: writers media personalities

the secret of man's being is not only to live but to have something to live for.

fyodor dostoevsky

i gave up caring about anything, and all the problems disappeared.

ifyodor dostoevsky

to go wrong in one's own way is better then to go right in someone else's.

fyodor dostoevsky

people really do like seeing their best friends humiliated; a large part of the friendship is based on humiliation; and that is an old truth, well known to all intelligent people.

friends likefyodor dostoevsky

only through suffering can we find ourselves.

fyodor dostoevsky

intelligence alone is not nearly enough when it comes to acting wisely.

alonefyodor dostoevsky

there is immeasurably more left inside than what comes out in words.

fyodor dostoevsky

nothing is more seductive for a man than his freedom of conscience, but nothing is a greater cause of suffering.

fyodor dostoevsky

nature doesn't ask your permission; it doesn't care about your wishes, or whether you like its laws or not. you're obliged to accept it as it is, and consequently all its results as well.

you nature likefyodor dostoevsky

besides, nowadays, almost all capable people are terribly afraid of being ridiculous, and are miserable because of it.

fyodor dostoevsky

let us not forget that the reasons for human actions are usually incalculably more complex and diverse than we tend to explain them later, and are seldom clearly manifest.

fyodor dostoevsky

the more i detest men individually the more ardent becomes my love for humanity.

love ifyodor dostoevsky

my soul bleeds and the blood steadily, silently, disturbingly slowly, swallows me whole.

me soulfyodor dostoevsky

man is a creature that can get accustomed to anything, and i think that is the best definition of him.

think ifyodor dostoevsky

but men love abstract reasoning and neat systematization so much that they think nothing of distorting the truth, closing their eyes and ears to contrary evidence to preserve their logical constructions.

love thinkfyodor dostoevsky

wealth is the number of things one can do without.

fyodor dostoevsky

to be in love is not the same as loving. you can be in love with a woman and still hate her.

you life lovefyodor dostoevsky

if god does not exist, then everything is permissible.

godfyodor dostoevsky

what would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything? taking a new step, uttering a new word, is what people fear most.

life fearfyodor dostoevsky

what man wants is simply independent choice, whatever that independence may cost and wherever it may lead.

fyodor dostoevsky

since man cannot live without miracles, he will provide himself with miracles of his own making. he will believe in witchcraft and sorcery, even though he may otherwise be a heretic, an atheist, and a rebel.

will believefyodor dostoevsky

the degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.

characterfyodor dostoevsky

the more incompetent one feels, the more eager he is to fight.

fyodor dostoevsky

my friend, the truth is always implausible, did you know that? to make the truth more plausible, it's absolutely necessary to mix a bit of falsehood with it. people have always done so.

youfyodor dostoevsky

to love is to suffer and there can be no love otherwise.

lovefyodor dostoevsky

i believe the best definition of man is the ungrateful biped.

believe ifyodor dostoevsky

reality is infinitely diverse, compared with even the subtlest conclusions of abstract thought, and does not allow of clear-cut and sweeping distinctions. reality resists classification.

fyodor dostoevsky

i am strongly convinced that not only too much consciousness but even any consciousness at all is a sickness.

ifyodor dostoevsky

there is nothing higher and stronger and more wholesome and useful for life in later years than some good memory, especially a memory connected with childhood, with home.

life homefyodor dostoevsky

believe to the end, even if all men went astray and you were left the only one faithful; bring your offering even then and praise god in your loneliness.

you god believefyodor dostoevsky

the more you succeed in loving, the more you'll be convinced at the existence of god and the immortality of your soul.

you love god soulfyodor dostoevsky

i've always considered myself smarter than everyone around me, and sometimes, believe me, i've been ashamed of it. at the least, all my life i've looked away and never could look people straight in the eye.

life me never believefyodor dostoevsky

if you can put the question, 'am i or am i not responsible for my acts?' then you are responsible.

you ifyodor dostoevsky

every blade of grass, every insect, ant, and golden bee, all so amazingly know their path, though they have not intelligence, they bear witness to the mystery of god and continually accomplish it themselves.

god naturefyodor dostoevsky

from a hundred rabbits you can't make a horse.

youfyodor dostoevsky

lamentations comfort only by lacerating the heart still more. such grief does not desire consolation. it feeds on the sense of its hopelessness. lamentations spring only from the constant craving to re-open the wound.

heartfyodor dostoevsky

the man who is happy is fulfilling the purpose of existence

fyodor dostoevsky

to love another person is to see them as god intended them to be.

love godfyodor dostoevsky

man has it all in his hands, and it all slips through his fingers from sheer cowardice.

fyodor dostoevsky

was it all put into words, or did both understand that they had the same thing at heart and in their minds, so that there was no need to speak of it aloud, and better not to speak of it?

heart needfyodor dostoevsky

they tease me now, telling me it was only a dream. but does it matter whether it was a dream or reality, if the dream made known to me the truth?

mefyodor dostoevsky

if you love all things, you will also attain the divine mystery that is in all things. for then your ability to perceive the truth will grow every day, and your mind will open itself to an all-embracing love

you love willfyodor dostoevsky

paradise is hidden in each one of use, it is concealed within me too, right now, and if i wish, it will come for me in reality, tomorrow even, and for the rest of my life.

life me will ifyodor dostoevsky

i want to suffer and be purified by suffering!

ifyodor dostoevsky

the most offensive is not their lying—one can always forgive lying—lying is a delightful thing, for it leads to truth—what is offensive is that they lie and worship their own lying...

fyodor dostoevsky

god has such gladness every time he sees from heaven that a sinner is praying to him with all his heart, as a mother has when she sees the first smile on her baby's face.

god time heartfyodor dostoevsky

men like to to count their troubles; few calculate their happiness.

like happinessfyodor dostoevsky

i think the devil doesn't exist, but man has created him, he has created him in his own image and likeness.

think ifyodor dostoevsky

the world will be saved by beauty.

willfyodor dostoevsky

a hundred suspicions don't make a proof.

fyodor dostoevsky

dreams seem to be spurred on not by reason but by desire, not by the head but by the heart, and yet what complicated tricks my reason has played sometimes in dreams.

heart dreamsfyodor dostoevsky

a man who lies to himself, and believes his own lies, becomes unable to recognize truth, either in himself or in anyone else, and he ends up losing respect for himself and for others.

believfyodor dostoevsky

may you be for ever blessed for that moment of bliss and happiness which you gave to another lonely and grateful heart. isn't such a moment sufficient for the whole of one's life?

you life heart happinessfyodor dostoevsky

perhaps i really regard myself as an intelligent man only because throughout my entire life i've never been able to start or finish anything.

life never ifyodor dostoevsky

man has such a predilection for systems and abstract deductions that he is ready to distort the truth intentionally he is ready to deny the evidence of his senses only to justify his logic.

fyodor dostoevsky

i can see the sun, but even if i cannot see the sun, i know that it exists. and to know that the sun is there - that is living.

living ifyodor dostoevsky

the russian soul is a dark place.

soulfyodor dostoevsky

a society should be judged not by how it treats its outstanding citizens but by how it treats its criminals.

fyodor dostoevsky

man is sometimes extraordinarily, passionately, in love with suffering...

lovefyodor dostoevsky

lack of originality, everywhere, all over the world, from time immemorial, has always been considered the foremost quality and the recommendation of the active, efficient and practical man.

timefyodor dostoevsky

i believe there is no one deeper, lovelier, more sympathetic and more perfect than jesus...

believe ifyodor dostoevsky

she looked much younger than her age, indeed, which is almost always the case with women who retain serenity of spirit, sensitiveness and pure sincere warmth of heart to old age.

women heartfyodor dostoevsky

one must love life before loving its meaning ... yes, and when the love of life disappears, no meaning can console us.

life lovefyodor dostoevsky

if one wanted to crush and destroy a man entirely, to mete out to him the most terrible punishment, all one would have to do would be to make him do work that was completely and utterly devoid of usefulness and meaning.

fyodor dostoevsky

the death of a child is the greatest reason to doubt the existence of god.

death god childrenfyodor dostoevsky

they were renewed by love; the heart of each held infinite sources of life for the heart of the other.

life heartfyodor dostoevsky

at first, art imitates life. then life will imitate art.then life will find its very existence from the arts.

life will artfyodor dostoevsky

what is hell? i maintain that it is the suffering of being unable to love.

life love ifyodor dostoevsky

destroy my desires, eradicate my ideals, show me something better, and i will follow you.

you me will ifyodor dostoevsky

the formula 'two and two make five' is not without its attractions.

fyodor dostoevsky

a novel is a work of poetry. in order to write it, one must have tranquility of spirit and of impression.

fyodor dostoevsky

men do not accept their prophets and slay them, but they love their martyrs and worship those whom they have tortured to death.

death lovefyodor dostoevsky

if you were to destroy the belief in immortality in mankind, not only love but every living force on which the continuation of all life in the world depended, would dry up at once.

you life love living belieffyodor dostoevsky

man, so long as he remains free, has no more constant and agonizing anxiety than find as quickly as possible someone to worship.

fyodor dostoevsky

if there is no god, everything is permitted.

godfyodor dostoevsky

it is not possible to eat me without insisting that i sing praises of my devourer?

me ifyodor dostoevsky

to live without hope is to cease to live.

hopefyodor dostoevsky

realists do not fear the results of their study.

fearfyodor dostoevsky

there is no subject so old that something new cannot be said about it.

fyodor dostoevsky

one can know a man from his laugh, and if you like a man's laugh before you know anything of him, you may confidently say that he is a good man.

you likefyodor dostoevsky

to love someone means to see him as god intended him.

love godfyodor dostoevsky

power is given only to those who dare to lower themselves and pick it up. only one thing matters, one thing; to be able to dare!

powerfyodor dostoevsky

happiness does not lie in happiness, but in the achievement of it.

happinessfyodor dostoevsky

deprived of meaningful work, men and women lose their reason for existence; they go stark, raving mad.

womenfyodor dostoevsky

there are things which a man is afraid to tell even to himself, and every decent man has a number of such things stored away in his mind.

fearfyodor dostoevsky

the soul is healed by being with children.

love children soulfyodor dostoevsky

a real gentleman, even if he loses everything he owns, must show no emotion. money must be so far beneath a gentleman that it is hardly worth troubling about.

moneyfyodor dostoevsky

man only likes to count his troubles, but he does not count his joys.

fyodor dostoevsky

man is fond of counting his troubles, but he does not count his joys. if he counted them up as he ought to, he would see that every lot has enough happiness provided for it.

happinessfyodor dostoevsky

sarcasm: the last refuge of modest and chaste-souled people when the privacy of their soul is coarsely and intrusively invaded.

soulfyodor dostoevsky

it seems, in fact, as though the second half of a man's life is made up of nothing, but the habits he has accumulated during the first half.

lifefyodor dostoevsky

the greatest happiness is to know the source of unhappiness.

happinessfyodor dostoevsky

the cleverest of all, in my opinion, is the man who calls himself a fool at least once a month.

fyodor dostoevsky

we sometimes encounter people, even perfect strangers, who begin to interest us at first sight, somehow suddenly, all at once, before a word has been spoken.

fyodor dostoevsky

love all god's creation, both the whole and every grain of sand. love every leaf, every ray of light. love the animals, love the plants, love each separate thing. if thou love each thing thou wilt perceive the mystery of god in all; and when once thou perceive this, thou wilt thenceforward grow every day to a fuller understanding of it: until thou come at last to love the whole world with a love that will then be all-embracing and universal.

love god willfyodor dostoevsky

reason and knowledge have always played a secondary, subordinate, auxiliary role in the life of peoples, and this will always be the case. a people is shaped and driven forward by an entirely different kind of force, one which commands and coerces them and the origin of which is obscure and inexplicable despite the reality of its presence.

life willfyodor dostoevsky

beauty is mysterious as well as terrible. god and devil are fighting there, and the battlefield is the heart of man.

god heartfyodor dostoevsky

in such situations, of course, people don't nurse their anger silently, they moan aloud; but these are not frank, straightforward moans, there is a kind of cunning malice in them, and that's the whole point. those very moans express the sufferer's delectation; if he did not enjoy his moans, he wouldn't be moaning.

fyodor dostoevsky

beggars, especially noble beggars, should never show themselves in the street; they should ask for alms through the newspapers. it's still possible to love one's neighbor abstractly, and even occasionally from a distance, but hardly ever up close.

love neverfyodor dostoevsky

... active love is a harsh and fearful thing compared with the love in dreams. love in dreams thirsts for immediate action, quickly performed, and with everyone watching. indeed, it will go as far as the giving even of one's life, provided it does not take long but is soon over, as on stage, and everyone is looking on and praising. whereas active love is labor and persistence, and for some people, perhaps, a whole science.

life love will dreamsfyodor dostoevsky

i don't need money, or, better, it's not money that i need; it's not even power; i need only what is obtained by power and simply cannot be obtained without power: the solitary and calm awareness of strength! that is the fullest definition of freedom, which the world so struggles over!

money power need ifyodor dostoevsky

there is no sin , and there can be no sin on all the earth , which the lord will not forgive to the truly repentant! man cannot commit a sin so great as to exhaust the infinite love of god . can there be a sin which exceed the love of god?

love god willfyodor dostoevsky

by interpreting freedom as the propagation and immediate gratification of needs, people distort their own nature, for they engender in themselves a multitude of pointless and foolish desires, habits, and incongruous stratagems. their lives are motivated only by mutual envy, sensuality, and ostentation.

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may 18, 2022

speaking truth

"nothing in this world is harder than speaking the truth, nothing easier than flattery."

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on lying

"a man who lies to himself, and believes his own lies becomes unable to recognize truth, either in himself or in anyone else..."

image source: istock

know the worst

"it is better to be unhappy and know the worst, than to be happy in a fool's paradise."

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own mistakes

"to go wrong in one's own way is better than to go right in someone else's."

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acting intelligently

"it takes something more than intelligence to act intelligently."

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in prison

"the best way to keep a prisoner from escaping is to make sure he never knows he's in prison."

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pain & suffering

"pain and suffering are always inevitable for a large intelligence and a deep heart."

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deep grief

"the darker the night, the brighter the stars, the deeper the grief, the closer is god!"

image source: istock

without happiness

"and if there's love, you can do without happiness too. even with sorrow, life is sweet."

image source: istock

human existence

"the mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for."

image source: istock

thanks for reading!

next: robot hives to help keep the bees buzzing

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theatreunchain me review – dostoevsky inspires secret mission on the streets of brighton

brighton festival

dreamthinkspeak’s timely new production on inequality and abuse of political power offers its audience a choice: complicity or compliance?

‘a leap into the unknown’ ... marie-helene boyd in unchain me. photograph: rosie powell

‘a leap into the unknown’ ... marie-helene boyd in unchain me. photograph: rosie powell

akbar@arifa\_akbarwed 11 may 2022 19.01

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we are instructed to meet at a secret brighton location for this site-specific show by the company dreamthinkspeak. for some of us that invites the usual anxieties: when will we be told of our meeting place? (four hours beforehand when the e-ticket arrives, in my case.) what is the show about? why are we asked to register on a website called ark-22?

the whys and what-fors are not immediately answered when we receive an induction into the night’s events, which are inspired by dostoevsky’s novel the possessed and are created and directed by tristan sharps. we will be travelling in small groups called “cells”, and will receive instructions via little laptops that we wear around our necks.

my fellow cell members are brightonites who have taken part in dreamthinkspeak shows before and tell me it is, in their experience, a “leap into the unknown”. they are right, though there seems to be more guidance than usual because our laptops on this night are glitchy. we do receive some messages from a character called cyrus (azaan symes) who we follow around town. we are told of a family tragedy that led to cyrus’s initiation into an underground social justice movement called ark-22 (aha!). it is, he says, an activist group aiming to overturn parliamentary democracy, which he brands elite and self-interested, and to install “direct democracy” instead.

cyrus’s arguments around social inequality are idealistic but compelling, and we find ourselves following him through the city to a meeting house, a pub and into brighton’s historical centre including the museum and pavilion. we encounter other activists from ark-22, collect parcels and witness a hostage situation.

snitch or stay silent ... abigail lythgoe, tatenda madamombe and marie-helene boyd in unchain me. photograph: lucas august

sometimes it seems as if we are just traipsing, though the route shows poverty and homelessness in the city as well as brighton’s heritage and wealth, which we are reminded was built on slavery. along the way we hear other personal and intensely told stories from activists and these moments are full of drama – more dramatic than the action itself. we also hear the persuasive words of a police officer (antonia draper) who informs us of ark-22’s violence.

we must decide whether to be snitches or to side with the actions of ark-22 in our silence. the experience demands complicity or compliance. in our group we discuss not only direct democracy and the ethics of violent activism but also our jobs and – ironically – house prices in brighton.

there is a final, riveting debate between the leader of ark-22 and a rich government (rachel heaton). my sympathies for ark-22 waver when the value of the people’s vote is discussed and the shadow of the european referendum hovers, unspoken. how easily can direct democracy be manipulated or corrupted?

but the show’s greater theme of systemic inequality and political abuses of power could not be more relevant now amid poverty in britain and the aftermath of partygate. if the action feels weak at times, the issues are potent and linger in the mind. and as much as it is a voyage into the unknown, it returns us to the ills of our society, and those at its margins.

- unchain me continues until 12 june.

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