

Diversity Quotes

John (Lord) Dalberg-Acton (English historian and theologian, 1834-1902)

The most certain test by which we judge whether a country is really free is the amount of security enjoyed by minorities.

Liberty is not the power of doing what we like, but the right of being able to do what we ought.

By liberty I mean the assurance that every man shall be protected in doing what he believes to be his duty against the influences of authority and majorities, custom and opinion

Jane Addams (U.S. social worker, 1860-1935)

Nothing could be worse than the fear that one had given up too soon, and left one unexpended effort that might have saved the world.

The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.

The child becomes largely what it is taught; hence we must watch what we teach it, and how we live before it.

Action is indeed the sole medium of expression for ethics.

Private beneficence is totally inadequate to deal with the vast numbers of the city's disinherited.

The common stock of intellectual enjoyment should not be difficult of access because of the economic position of him who would approach it.

Old-fashioned ways which no longer apply to changed conditions are a snare in which the feet of women have always become readily entangled.

In the unceasing ebb and flow of justice and oppression we must all dig channels as best we may, that at the propitious moment somewhat of the swelling tide may be conducted to the barren places of life.

Aesop (Greek fabulist, c. 620-560 B.C.)

It is easy to be brave from a safe distance

Muhammad Ali (U.S. boxer, 1942-)

I try to learn as much as I can because I know nothing compared to what I need to know.

Prejudice comes from being in the dark; sunlight disinfects it.

Tolerance and understanding won't 'trickle down' in our society any more than wealth does.

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.

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

Gordon Allport (U.S. psychology professor, 1897-1967)

People who are aware of, and ashamed of, their prejudices are well on the road to eliminating them.

Marian Anderson (U.S. contralto, 1897-1993)

No matter how big a nation is, it is no stronger than its weakest people, and as long as you keep a person down, some part of you has to be down there to hold him down, so it means you cannot soar as you might otherwise.

Maya Angelou (U.S. writer and actor, 1928-)

We really are 15 countries, and it's remarkable that each of us thinks we represent the real America. The Midwesterner in Kansas, the black American in Durham - both are certain they are the real American.

We are all creative, but by the time we are three or four years old, someone has knocked the creativity out of us. Some people shut up the kids who start to tell stories. Kids dance in their cribs, but someone will insist they sit still. By the time the creative people are ten or twelve, they want to be like everyone else.

The plague of racism is insidious, entering into our minds as smoothly and quietly and invisibly as floating airborne microbes enter into our bodies to find lifelong purchase in our bloodstreams.

The need for change bulldozed a road down the center of my mind.

If I could give you one thought, it would be to lift someone up. Lift a stranger up--lift her up. I would ask you, mother and father, brother and sister, lovers, mother and daughter, father and son, lift someone. The very idea of lifting someone up will lift you, as well.

There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you.

The white American man makes the white American woman maybe not superfluous but just a little kind of decoration. Not really important to turning around the wheels of the state. Well the black American woman has never been able to feel that way. No black American man at any time in our history in the United States has been able to feel that he didn't need that black woman right against him, shoulder to shoulder--in that cotton field, on the auction block, in the ghetto, wherever

Joan Baez (U.S. singer and activist, 1941-)

You don't get to choose how you're going to die. Or when. You can only decide how you're going to live. Now.

Hosea Ballou (U.S. Universalist clergyman, 1771-1852)

Hatred is self-punishment.

Those who commit injustice bear the greatest burden

Julian Bond (U.S. assemblyman, writer, and teacher, 1940-)

Violence is children going to school for 12 years and receiving 6 years' worth of education

Phyllis Bottome (British-born U.S. writer, 1884-1963)

That a Jew is despised or persecuted is bad for him, of course--but far worse for the Christian who does it--for although persecuted he can remain a good Jew--whereas no Christian who persecutes can possibly remain--if he ever was one--a good Christian.

Jimmy Carter (U.S. President, 1924-)

We become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams.

The test of a government is not how popular it is with the powerful and privileged few but how honestly and fairly it deals with the many who must depend on it.

No poor, rural, weak, or black person should ever again have to bear the additional burden of being deprived of the opportunity for an education, a job, or simple justice.

Within the stable economy it's necessary to eliminate all forms of sexual discrimination, and to provide women for the first time in our history with economic opportunities equal to those of men.

George Washington Carver (U.S. agricultural chemist, c. 1860-1943)

How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.

Marie Curie (Polish-born French chemist, 1867-1934)

You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to whom we think we can be most useful.