

Pearl S. Buck Quotes

"To achieve simplicity was the ultimate of sophistication. The fully matured mind reaches simplicity as its final development."

The Hidden Flower page 19-20 (paperback)

"Fear is the beginning of all weakness."

The Hidden Flower

"The fight for equality begins in your own soul, and then it must spread as wide as the world."

Howard University Commencement speech, June 5, 1942

Pearl Buck and Education *An Anthology of Her Writings*, page 62

"Our treasure is in our children, for in them is our future. And what a future!"

The Joy of Children, page 197

"I loved both my parents, but at different times and in different ways."

My Several Worlds 1954, page 99

"When man (humanity) ceased to want to know, he regressed to savagery. He returned to beast. There was no alternative, the stars or the jungle..."

Command the Morning page 16

"There is alchemy in sorrow; it can be transmuted into wisdom, which, if it does not bring joy, can yet bring happiness."

"I feel no need for any other faith than my faith in human beings. Like Confucius of old, I am so absorbed in the wonder of earth and the life upon it that I cannot think of heaven and angels."

"A child's color has nothing to do with the love which parent's give him."

"For the making of a home is a profound educational experience. Thus I grew to know my community as I could never have known it had we not been building together."

"Growth itself contains the germ of happiness."

"Once the 'what' is decided, the 'how' always follows. We must not make the 'how' and excuse for not facing and accepting the 'what'."

"All things are possible until they are proved impossible – and even the impossible may only be so, as of now."

“If our American way of life fails the child, it fails us all.”

“To eat bread without hope is still slowly to starve to death.”

“The test of a civilization is in the way that it cares for its helpless members.”

“The truth is always exciting. Speak it, then. Life is dull without it.”

“The true wisdom of life consists of seeing the extraordinary in the common.”

“A good marriage is one which allows for change and growth in the individuals and in the way they express their love.”

“When good people in any country cease their vigilance and struggle, then evil men prevail.”

“None who have always been free can understand the terrible fascinating power of the hope of freedom to those who are not free.”

“Hunger makes a thief of any man.”

“Growth itself contains the germ of happiness.”

“I am comforted by life's stability, by earth's unchangeableness. What has seemed new and frightening assumes its place in the unfolding of knowledge. It is good to know our universe. What is new is only new to us.”

“When men destroy their old gods they will find new ones to take their place.”

“It may be that religion is dead, and if it is, we had better know it and set ourselves to try to discover other sources of moral strength before it is too late.”

“I love people. I love my family, my children ... but inside myself is a place where I live all alone and that's where you renew your springs that never dry up.”

“The person who tries to live alone will not succeed as a human being. His heart withers if it does not answer another heart. His mind shrinks away if he hears only the echoes of his own thoughts and finds no other inspiration.”

“You cannot make yourself feel something you do not feel, but you can make yourself do right in spite of your feelings.”

“Every great mistake has a halfway moment, a split second when it can be recalled and perhaps remedied.”

“Self-expression must pass into communication for its fulfillment.”

“Praise out of season, or tactlessly bestowed, can freeze the heart as much as blame.”

“The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible - and achieve it, generation after generation.”

“Our society must make it right and possible for old people not to fear the young or be deserted by them, for the test of a civilization is the way that it cares for its helpless members.”

“You can judge your age by the amount of pain you feel when you come in contact with a new idea.”

“Perhaps one has to be very old before one learns to be amused rather than shocked.”

“We should so provide for old age that it may have no urgent wants of this world to absorb it from meditation on the next.”

“We send missionaries to China so the Chinese can get to heaven, but we won't let them into our country.”

“The secret of joy in work is contained in one word -- excellence. To know how to do something is to enjoy it.”

“I don't wait for moods. You accomplish nothing if you do that. Your mind must know it has got to get down to work.”

“The future of America depends on immigration— it must, or we who are here will grow stagnant with too little life of our own.”

"On Discovering America" (1937 *Survey Graphic* magazine)

“I am made of American materials. My brothers and sisters were fed upon Chinese foods but I am American. I was conceived in my own land and there I was born. Does this matter? Somehow to me it does.”

My Mother's House

(on Green Hills Farm)...*my roots took a deep plunge down into the earth beneath my feet. This was where I could live.*

My Several Worlds 1954, page 319

Pearl S. Buck Audio

In 1938 when Pearl S. Buck accepted the Nobel Prize for Literature for her body of work, she addressed "*the most enormous and glittering company I had ever seen*" with her lecture *The Chinese Novel*, later published by John Day Company presided over by her husband Richard J. Walsh. Below is an excerpt of that lecture. To see photos of the event and to hear Ms. Buck deliver this speech in her own words visit:

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1938/buck-lecture.html

<http://www.nobelprize.org/mediaplayer/index.php?id=635>

Voice of America; Ms. Buck's voice on this recent broadcast from 2010:

<http://learningenglish.voanews.com/content/pearl-s-buck-1892-1973-writer-was-most-famous-for-the-good-earth-107530678/116507.html>

This I Believe; Roll Away the Stone

<http://thisibelieve.org/essay/16412/>

Mike Wallace Interview with Pearl S. Buck

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/288844-1>

Merv Griffin Interview with Pearl S. Buck, 1966

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIMED93CAkE>