

A COLLECTION OF
UNEXPECTEDLY
INSPIRING



Death Quotes

- It is not length of life, but depth of life. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson
- A man with outward courage dares to die; a man with inner courage dares to live. ~Lao Tzu
- I feel monotony and death to be almost the same. ~Charlotte Brontë
- As a well spent day brings happy sleep, so life well used brings happy death. ~Leonardo da Vinci
- What would life be worth if there were no death? Who would enjoy the sun if it never rained? Who would yearn for the day if there were no night? ~Glenn Ringtved
- Do not fear death so much but rather the inadequate life. ~Bertolt Brecht
- Death is not the greatest loss in life. The greatest loss is what dies inside us while we live. ~Norman Cousins
- The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated. ~Mark Twain
- Try as much as possible to be wholly alive, with all your might, and when you laugh, laugh like hell and when you get angry, get good and angry. Try to be alive. You will be dead soon enough. ~William Saroyan
- It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live. ~Marcus Aurelius
- I want to be all used up when I die. ~George Bernard Shaw
- It's only when we truly know and understand that we have a limited time on earth – and that we have no way of knowing when our time is up – that we will begin to live each day to the fullest, as if it was the only one we had. ~Elisabeth Kubler-Ross
- Life has more meaning in the face of death. ~Robert Greene
- The idea is to die young as late as possible. ~Ashley Montagu
- It is nothing to die. It is frightful not to live. ~Victor Hugo
- The day which we fear as our last is but the birthday of eternity. ~Seneca



- Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever. ~Mahatma Gandhi
- Death is not the biggest fear we have; our biggest fear is taking the risk to be alive – the risk to be alive and express what we really are. ~Miguel Angel Ruiz
- When it's time to die, let us not discover that we have never lived. ~Henry David Thoreau
- Birth and death are the most singular events we experience – and the contemplation of death, as of birth, should be a thing of beauty, not ignobility. ~Jacob K. Javits
- I carry death in my left pocket. Sometimes I take it out and talk to it: "Hello, baby, how you doing? When you coming for me? I'll be ready". ~Charles Bukowski
- This aspect of reality, this weird scary aspect of life, can just wreck everything if you don't figure out at some point that it is what makes life so profound, meaningful, rich, complex, wild. ~Anne Lamott
- I do not fear death. I had been dead for billions and billions of years before I was born, and had not suffered the slightest inconvenience from it. ~Mark Twain
- Take nothing for granted. Keep in mind that it can come at anytime. Even today. ~Maxime Lagacé
- It seems to me that if you or I must choose between two courses of thought or action, we should remember our dying and try so to live that our death brings no pleasure to the world. ~John Steinbeck
- Death is the true inspiring genius, or the muse of philosophy... Indeed without death men would scarcely philosophize. ~Arthur Schopenhauer
- I would rather die a meaningful death than to live a meaningless life. ~Corazon Aquino



- You want to live – but do you know how to live? You are scared of dying – and, tell me, is the kind of life you lead really any different from being dead? ~Seneca
- Losing your life is not the worst thing that can happen. The worst thing is to lose your reason for living. ~Jo Nesbø
- Because life is fragile and death inevitable, we must make the most of each day. ~Thomas S. Monson
- Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you. ~Shannon L. Alder
- Every man's life ends the same way. It is only the details of how he lived and how he died that distinguish one man from another. ~Ernest Hemingway
- Dying is a very dull, dreary affair. And my advice to you is to have nothing whatever to do with it. ~W. Somerset Maugham
- Death is our friend precisely because it brings us into absolute and passionate presence with all that is here, that is natural, that is love. ~Rainer Maria Rilke
- He is terribly afraid of dying because he hasn't yet lived. ~Franz Kafka
- Not only are selves conditional but they die. Each day, we wake slightly altered, and the person we were yesterday is dead. So why, one could say, be afraid of death, when death comes all the time? ~John Updike
- Many of us crucify ourselves between two thieves – regret for the past and fear of the future. ~Fulton Oursler
- Every third thought should be my grave. ~Shakespeare
- Every man dies, but not every man truly lives. ~William Wallace
- Let us endeavor to live so that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry ~Mark Twain
- Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity. They seem to be more afraid of life than death. ~James F. Byrnes



- I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. ~Henry David Thoreau
- I discovered to my joy, that it is life, not death, that has no limits. ~Gabriel García Márquez
- Death may be the greatest of all human blessings. ~Socrates
- Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. ~Steve Jobs
- If we kept in mind that we will soon inevitably die, our lives would be completely different. ~Tolstoy
- You needn't die happy when your time comes, but you must die satisfied, for you have lived your life from the beginning to the end. ~Stephen King
- Think of yourself as dead. You have lived your life. Now, take what's left and live it properly. What doesn't transmit light creates its own darkness. ~Marcus Aurelius
- Man is the only animal who has to be encouraged to live. ~Nietzsche
- The average man does not know what to do with his life, yet wants another one which will last forever. ~Anatole France
- Vitality shows in not only the ability to persist but the ability to start over. ~F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Be in love with your life. Every minute of it. ~Jack Kerouac
- The human heart beats approximately 4,000 times per hour and each pulse, each throb, each palpitation is a trophy engraved with the words "you are still alive." You are still alive. Act like it. ~Rudy Francisco
- Death twitches my ear; 'Live,' he says... 'I'm coming.' ~Virgil
- You act like mortals in all that you fear, and like immortals in all that you desire. ~Seneca
- We don't beat the Grim Reaper by living longer, we beat the Reaper by living well and living fully, for the Reaper will come for all of us. The question is what do we do between the time we are born and the time he shows up. ~Randy Pausch
- You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment. Fools stand on their island of opportunities and look toward another land. There is no other land; there is no other life but this. ~Henry David Thoreau
- Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Almost everything— all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure— these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart. ~Steve Jobs



JODI WELLMAN can be found over at *Four Thousand Mondays*, talking all about how the Grim Reaper can inspire us to live lives that are wider and deeper. It's kind of her life purpose.