

CHARACTER

Dignity, Ethics, Honor, Integrity and Reputation

1. ESSENCE

- 291 Character is destiny.
Heraclitus (B.C. 535-475)
- 292 Dignity does not consist in possessing honors,
but in deserving them.
Aristotle (B.C. 384-322)
- 293 Character is simply habit long continued.
Plutarch (46-120 A.D.)
- 294 Reputation is what men and women think of us;
character is what God and angels know of us.
Paine (1737-1809)
- 295 Character, in great and little things, means carrying
through what you feel able to do.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 296 Character is a perfectly educated will.
Novalis (1772-1801)
- 297 Character is that which can do without success.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 298 Character - a reserved force which acts directly by
presence, and without means.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 299 Character is not cut in marble; it is not something solid
and unalterable. It is something living and changing...
George Eliot (1819-1880)

2. OPPOSITES

- 300 Honour is the inner garment of the Soul; the first thing put
on by it with the flesh, and the last it layeth down at its
separation from it.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 301 A man should endeavor to be as pliant as a reed,
yet as hard as cedar-wood.
The Talmud (B.C. 500?-400? A.D.)

- 302 To enjoy the things we ought, and to hate the things we ought, has the greatest bearing on excellence of character.
Aristotle (B.C. 384-322)
- 303 An excellent man, like precious metal,
Is in every way invariable;
A villain, like the beams of a balance,
Is always varying, upwards and downwards.
Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)
- 304 He that has light within his own clear breast
May sit in the centre, and enjoy bright day:
But he that hides a dark soul and foul thoughts
Benighted walks under the mid-day sun;
Himself his own dungeon.
Milton (1608-1674)
- 305 Talent is nurtured in solitude; character is formed in the
stormy billows of the world.
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 306 Strong characters are brought out by change of situation,
and gentle ones by permanence.
Richter (1763-1825)
- 307 A mans' character is the reality of himself;
his reputation, the opinion others have formed about him;
character resides in him, reputation in other people;
that is the substance, this is the shadow.
Beecher (1813-1878)
- 308 All men are alike in their lower natures;
it is in their higher characters that they differ.
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 309 It is better to deserve honors and not have them
than to have them and not deserve them.
Mark Twain (1835-1910)
- 310 Man consists of two parts: essence and personality.
Essence in man is what is his own. Personality in man
is what is "not his own." "Not his own" means what has
come from outside, what he has learned, or reflects, all
traces of exterior impressions left in the memory and in the
sensations, all words and movements that have been learned,
all feelings created by imitation.
Gurdjieff (1873-1949)

- 311 Good character is like a rubber ball -
 Thrown down hard - it bounces right back.
 Good reputation is like a crystal ball -
 Thrown for gain - shattered and cracked.
 A. L. Linall, Jr. (born 1947)
- 312 Practice no vice because it's trivial...
 Neglect no virtue because it's so.
 Chinese Proverb
- 3. INSIGHT**
- 313 As the shadow waiteth on the substance,
 even so true honour attendeth upon goodness.
 Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 314 Many individuals have, like uncut diamonds,
 shining qualities beneath a rough exterior.
 Juvenal (40-125 A.D.)
- 315 Not to be cheered by praise,
 Not to be grieved by blame,
 But to know thoroughly ones own virtues or powers
 Are the characteristics of an excellent man.
 Saskya Pandita (1182-1251)
- 316 Every one is the son of his own works.
 Cervantes (1547-1616)
- 317 Life every man holds dear; but the dear man holds honor
 far more precious dear than life.
 Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 318 True dignity is never gained by place,
 and never lost when honors are withdrawn.
 Philip Massinger (1583-1640)
- 319 The discipline of desire is the background of character.
 John Locke (1632-1704)
- 320 Honor is like an island, rugged and without shores;
 we can never re-enter it once we are on the outside.
 Nicholas Boileau (1636-1711)
- 321 It is in men as in soils where sometimes there is a vein
 of gold which the owner knows not of.
 Swift (1667-1745)
- 322 Be your character what it will, it will be known;
 and nobody will take it upon your word.
 Chesterfield (1694-1773)

- 323 The integrity of men is to be measured by their conduct,
not by their professions.
Junius (1740-1818)
- 324 Action, looks, words, steps, form the alphabet by which you
may spell character.
Lavater (1741-1801)
- 325 A man never shows his own character so plainly as by his
manner of portraying another's.
Richter (1763-1825)
- 326 Our own heart, and not other men's opinion, form our true
honor.
Samuel Coleridge (1772-1834)
- 327 It is with trifles, and when he is off guard, that a man
best reveals his character.
Schopenhauer (1788-1860)
- 328 The measure of a man's real character is what he would do
if he knew he would never be found out.
Macaulay (1800-1859)
- 329 Characters do not change. - Opinions alter, but characters
are only developed.
Disraeli (1804-1881)
- 330 Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow.
The shadow is what we think of it;
the tree is the real thing.
Lincoln (1809-1865)
- 331 Reputation is only a...candle, of wavering and uncertain
flame, and easily blown out, but it is the light by which
the world looks for and finds merit.
James Lowell (1819-1891)
- 332 Your character will be what you yourself choose to make it.
Lubbock (1834-1913)
- 333 Character is the result of two things:
Mental attitude and the way we spend our time.
Elbert Hubbard (1859-1915)
- 334 If you create an act, you create a habit.
If you create a habit, you create a character.
If you create a character, you create a destiny.
Andre Maurois (1885-1967)

335 Good character is not formed in a week or a month. It is created little by little, day by day. Protracted and patient effort is needed to develop good character.
Sivananda (born 1887)

336 Integrity has no need of rules.
Albert Camus (1913-1960)

4. POSITIVE

337 As a plain garment best adorneth a beautiful woman, so a decent behaviour is the best ornament of inner wisdom.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)

338 The best man in his dwelling loves the earth.
In his heart, he loves what is profound.
In his associations, he loves humanity.
In his words, he loves faithfulness.
In government, he loves order.
In handling affairs, he loves competence.
In his activities, he loves timeliness.
It is because he does not compete that he is without reproach.
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

339 To be fond of learning is near to wisdom;
to practice with vigor is near to benevolence;
and to be conscious of shame is near to fortitude.
He who knows these three things
knows how to cultivate his own character.
Confucius (B.C. 551-479)

340 What is honorable is also safest.
Livy (B.C. 59-17 A.D.)

341 The highest of characters, in my estimation,
is as ready to pardon the moral errors of mankind,
as if he were every day guilty of some himself;
and at the same time as cautious of committing a fault
as if he never forgave one.
Pliny the Younger (62-113 A.D.)

342 The purest treasure mortal time afford
Is spotless reputation; that away,
Men are but gilded loam or painted clay.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)

343 In all the affairs of this world, so much reputation is,
in reality, so much power.
John Tillotson (1630-1694)

- 344 Character is higher than intellect. A great soul will be strong to live as well as think.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 345 Property may be destroyed and money may lose its purchasing power; but, character, health, knowledge and good judgement will always be in demand under all conditions.
Roger Babson (1875-1967)
- 346 Clear conscience never fears midnight knocking.
Chinese Proverb
- ### 5. NEGATIVE
- 347 To disregard what the world thinks of us is not only arrogant but utterly shameless.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 348 No one ever lost his honor, except he who had it not.
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)
- 349 How difficult it is to save the bark of reputation from the rocks of ignorance.
Francesco Petrarck (1304-1374)
- 350 The qualities we have do not make us so ridiculous as those which we affect to have.
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 351 Honor is but an empty bubble.
Dryden (1631-1700)
- 352 Those who quit their proper character to assume what does not belong to them, are for the greater part ignorant of both the character they leave and of the character they assume.
Burke (1729-1797)
- 353 No change of circumstances can repair a defect of character.
Emerson (1803-1882)
- 354 Honor is simply the morality of superior men.
H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)
- 355 A man without ethics is a wild beast loosed upon this world.
Manly P. Hall (born 1901)

6. ADVICE

- 356 Be thou incapable of change in that which is right, and men will rely upon thee. Establish unto thyself principles of action; and see that thou ever act according to them. First know that thy principles are just, and then be thou inflexible in the path of them.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 357 Be upright in thy whole life; be content in all its changes; so shalt thou make thy profit out of all occurrences; so shall everything that happeneth unto thee be the source of praise.
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 358 The superior man acquaints himself with many sayings of antiquity and many deeds of the past, in order to strengthen his character thereby.
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 359 The stages of the Noble Path are: Right View, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Behavior, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration.
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 360 Do not appease thy fellow in his hour of anger; do not comfort him while the dead is still laid out before him; do not question him in the hour of his vow; and do not strive to see him in his hour of misfortune.
The Talmud (B.C. 500?-400? A.D.)
- 361 The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear.
Socrates (B.C. 469-399)
- 362 Let not a man do what his sense of right bids him not to do, nor desire what it forbids him to desire. This is sufficient. The skillful artist will not alter his measures for the sake of a stupid workman.
Mencius (B.C. 371-288)
- 363 In honorable dealing you should consider what you intended, not what you said or thought.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 364 Let honor be to us as strong an obligation as necessity is to others.
Pliny the Elder (23-79 A.D.)

- 365 Everyone ought to bear patiently the results of his own conduct.
Phaedrus (fl. 25 A.D.)
- 366 When about to commit a base deed, respect thyself,
though there is no witness.
Ausonius (310-395 A.D.)
- 367 When a chivalrous man makes an oath, he is faithful to it,
and when he attains power, he spares his enemy.
'Ali (600-661 A. D.)
- 368 Honour and shame from no condition rise;
Act well your part, there all the honour lies.
Pope (1688-1744)
- 369 Say not you know another entirely till you have divided an inheritance with him.
Lavater (1741-1801)
- 370 Human improvement is from within outward.
Froude (1818-1894)
- 371 By constant self-discipline and self-control you can develop greatness of character.
Grenville Kleiser (1868-1953)
- 372 Adhere To - Faith, Unity, Sacrifice.
Avoid - Back-biting, Falsehood and Crookedness.
Admire - Frankness, Honesty and Large-heartedness.
Control - Tongue, Temper and Tossing of the mind.
Cultivate - Cosmic Love, Forgiveness and Patience.
Hate - Lust, Anger and Pride.
Sivananda (born 1887)
- 373 Faced with crisis, the man of character falls back on himself. He imposes his own stamp of action, takes responsibility for it, makes it his own.
Charles De Gaulle (1890-1970)
- 374 If you stand straight
Do not fear a crooked shadow.
Chinese Proverb

7. POTPOURRI

- 375 As fire when thrown into water is cooled down and put out,
so also a false accusation when brought against a man of the purest and holiest character, boils over and is at once dissipated, and vanishes.
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)

- 376 They attack the one man with their hate and their shower of weapons. But he is like some rock which stretches into the vast sea and which, exposed to the fury of the winds and beaten against by the waves, endures all the violence and threats of heaven and sea, himself standing unmoved.
Vergil (B.C. 70-19)
- 377 In all thy humours, whether grave or mellow,
Thou art such a touchy, testy, pleasant fellow;
Hast so much wit, and mirth, and spleen about thee,
That there's no living with thee, or without thee.
Martial (43-104 A.D.)
- 378 O reputation! dearer far than life,
Thou precious balsam, lovely, sweet of smell,
Whose cordial drops once spilt by some rash hand,
Not all the owner's care, nor the repenting toil
Of the rude spiller, ever can collect
To its first purity and native sweetness.
Walter Raleigh (1552-1618)
- 379 O, he sits high in all the people's hearts;
And that which would appear offence in us,
His countenance, like richest alchemy,
Will change to virtue and to worthiness.
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 380 Of Manners gentle, of Affections mild;
In Wit a man; Simplicity, a child.
Pope (1688-1744)
- 381 Zealous, yet modest; innocent, though free;
Patient of toil; serene amidst alarms;
Inflexible in faith; invincible in arms.
James Beattie (1735-1803)
- 382 I have but one system of ethics for men and for nations -
to be grateful, to be faithful to all engagements and under
all circumstances, to be open and generous, promoting in the
long run even the interests of both.
Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)
- 383 The reason firm, the temperate will.
Endurance, foresight, strength and skill.
Wordsworth (1770-1850)
- 384 The louder he talked of his honor
the faster we counted our spoons.
Emerson (1803-1882)