

# DOUBT

## *Despair, Pessimism and Suspicion*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 1035 Doubt is the father of invention.  
Galileo (1564-1642)
- 1036 Doubt is the vestibule through which all must pass before  
they can enter into the temple of wisdom.  
Colton (1780-1832)
- 1037 Despair is the conclusion of fools.  
Disraeli (1804-1881)
- 1038 Who never doubted, never half believed.  
Where doubt is, there truth is - it is her shadow.  
Bailey (1816-1902)
- 1039 Doubt is the opposite of belief.  
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 1040 Life is doubt, and faith without doubt is nothing but death.  
Miguel de Unamuno (1864-1936)
- 1041 Doubt is the key to knowledge.  
Persian Proverb

### 2. OPPOSITES

- 1042 True wisdom is less presuming than folly.  
The wise man doubteth often, and changeth his mind;  
the fool is obstinate, and doubteth not;  
he knoweth all things but his own ignorance.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 1043 It is as hard for the good to suspect evil  
as it is for the bad to suspect good.  
Cicero (B.C. 106-43)
- 1044 In contemplation, if a man begins with certainties  
he shall end in doubts;  
but if he be content to begin with doubts,  
he shall end in certainties.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 1045 Despair is the damp of hell,  
as joy is the serenity of heaven.  
John Donne (1572-1632)

- 1046 Industry pays debts, despair increases them. 2 of 6  
Franklin (1706-1790)
- 1047 The natural cause of the human mind is certainly from  
credulity to skepticism.  
Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826)
- 1048 Can that which is the greatest virtue in philosophy, doubt,  
be in religion what the priests term it, the greatest of  
sins?  
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 1049 Great doubts  
deep wisdom...  
Small doubts  
little wisdom.  
Chinese Proverb

### 3. INSIGHT

- 1050 Suspicion amongst thoughts are like bats amongst birds,  
they never fly by twilight.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 1051 He that knows nothing doubts nothing.  
Herbert (1593-1632)
- 1052 Suspicion follows close on mistrust.  
Gotthold Lessing (1729-1781)
- 1053 We know accurately only when we know little,  
with knowledge doubt increases.  
Goethe (1749-1832)
- 1054 Skepticism means not intellectual doubt alone,  
but moral doubt.  
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 1055 Doubt comes in at the window  
when inquiry is denied at the door.  
Benjamin Jowett (1817-1893)
- 1056 There is no rule more invariable than that we are paid  
for our suspicions by finding what we suspect.  
Thoreau (1817-1862)

### 4. POSITIVE

- 1057 There is one safeguard known generally to the wise,  
which is an advantage and security to all, but especially  
to democracies as against despots - suspicion.  
Demosthenes (B.C. 384-322)

- 1058 Modest doubt is called the beacon of the wise.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 1059 If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary  
that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as  
possible, all things.  
Rene Descartes (1596-1650)
- 1060 Doubt is an incentive to truth,  
and patient inquiry leadeth the way.  
Hosea Ballou (1771-1852)
- 1061 There lives more faith in honest doubt,  
Believe me, than in half the creeds.  
Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)
- 1062 To have doubted one's own first principles is the mark of a  
civilized man.  
Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894)
- 1063 Doubt, indulged and cherished, is in danger of becoming  
denial; but if honest, and bent on thorough investigation,  
it may soon lead to full establishment of the truth.  
Tryon Edwards (1809-1894)
- 1064 Doubt, the essential preliminary of all improvement and  
discovery, must accompany the stages of man's onward  
progress. The faculty of doubting and questioning, without  
which those of comparison and judgment would be useless, is  
itself a divine prerogative of the reason.  
Albert Pike (1809-1891)
- 1065 An honest man can never surrender an honest doubt.  
Walter Malone (1866-1915)
- 1066 Men become civilized, not in proportion to their willingness  
to believe, but in proportion to their readiness to doubt.  
H. L. Mencken (1880-1956)

## 5. NEGATIVE

- 1067 There is nothing more dreadful than the habit of doubt.  
Doubt separates people. It is a poison that disintegrates  
friendships and breaks up pleasant relations. It is a  
thorn that irritates and hurts; it is a sword that kills.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 1068 Neither in this world nor elsewhere is there any happiness  
in store for him who always doubts.  
Bhagavad Gita (c. B.C. 400)

- 1069 There is no greater folly in the world than for a man to  
despair.  
Cervantes (1547-1616) 4 of 6
- 1070 Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft  
might win by fearing to attempt.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)
- 1071 To doubt is worse than to have lost; And to despair  
is but to antedate those miseries that must fall on us.  
Philip Massinger (1583-1640)
- 1072 Always to think the worst, I have ever found to be the  
mark of a mean spirit and a base soul.  
Bolingbroke (1678-1751)
- 1073 Suspicion is no less an enemy to virtue than to happiness.  
Johnson (1709-1784)
- 1074 Despair is a mental state which exaggerates not only our  
misery but also our weakness.  
Vauvenargues(1715-1747)
- 1075 Suspicion is a heavy armor,  
and with its own weight impedes more than protects.  
Byron (1788-1824)
- 1076 The fearful Unbelief is unbelief in yourself.  
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 1077 A person who doubts himself is like a man who would enlist  
in the ranks of his enemies and bear arms against himself.  
He makes his failure certain by himself being the first  
person to be convinced of it.  
Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870)
- 1078 There is no sadder sight than a young pessimist.  
Mark Twain (1835-1910)
- 1079 Pessimism is the one ism which kills the soul.  
John Buchan (1875-1940)

## 6. ADVICE

- 1080 When you doubt, abstain.  
Zoroaster (B.C. 628?-551?)
- 1081 Never despair, but if you do, work on in despair.  
Terence (B.C. 185-159)

- 1082 There is nothing makes a man suspect much, more than to know little, and therefore men should remedy suspicion by procuring to know more, and not keep their suspicions in smother.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 1083 A certain amount of distrust is wholesome, but not so much of others as of ourselves; neither vanity nor conceit can exist in the same atmosphere with it.  
Suzanne Necker (1739-1794)
- 1084 Doubt, of whatever kind, can be ended by Action alone.  
Carlyle (1795-1881)
- 1085 Doubt whom you will, but never yourself.  
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 1086 The important thing is not to stop questioning.  
Einstein (1879-1955)

## 7. POTPOURRI

- 1087 Suspicions that the mind, of itself, gathers, are but buzzes; but suspicions that are artificially nourished and put into men's heads by the tales and whisperings of others, have stings.  
Bacon (1561-1626)
- 1088 Suspicion may be no fault, but showing it may be a great one  
Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)
- 1089 I'll trust him no further than I can fling him.  
John Ray (1627-1705)
- 1090 There was a castle called Doubting Castle, the owner whereof was Giant Despair.  
John Bunyan (1628-1688)
- 1091 If the Sun and Moon should doubt  
They'd immediately Go out.  
William Blake (1757-1828)
- 1092 There is no despair so absolute as that which comes with the first moments of our first great sorrow, when we have not yet known what it is to have suffered and be healed, to have despaired and have recovered hope.  
George Eliot (1819-1880)

- 1093 A pessimist is a man who thinks everybody as nasty as himself, and hates them for it.  
G. B. Shaw (1856-1950)
- 1094 Pessimist: One who, when he has the choice of two evils, chooses both.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)