TIME

Duration, Eternity, Past, Present and Future

1. ESSENCE

5069 Our time is a very shadow that passeth away.
   Wisdom of Solomon (c. B.C. 200)

5070 Time is a sort of river of passing events, and strong
is its current; no sooner is a thing brought to sight
than it is swept by and another takes its place, and
this too will be swept away.
   Marcus Aurelius (121-180 A.D.)

5071 Time has only a relative existence.
   Carlyle (1795-1881)

5072 Time is only an illusion produced by the succession of our
states of consciousness as we travel through eternal
duration, and it does not exist where no consciousness
exists in which the illusion can be produced; but "lies
asleep."
   H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)

2. OPPOSITES

5073 Time destroys the speculations of man,
but it confirms the judgment of nature.
   Cicero (B.C. 106-43)

5074 Time will bring to light whatever is hidden; it will cover
up and conceal what is now shining in splendor.
   Horace (B.C. 65-8)

5075 A man that is young in years may be old in hours,
if he has lost no time.
   Bacon (1561-1626)

5076 What a day may bring, a day may take away.
   Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)

5077 Nothing is there to come, and nothing past,
But an eternal Now does always last.
   Abraham Cowley (1618-1667)

5078 The past and future are veiled; but the past wears the
widow's veil, the future the virgin's.
   Richter (1763-1825)
5079 Time is the most undefinable yet paradoxical of things; the past is gone, the future is not come, and the present becomes the past, even while we attempt to define it, and, like the flash of the lightning, at once exists and expires.

Colton (1780-1832)

5080 Time, the cradle of hope, but the grave of ambition, is the stern corrector of fools, but the salutary counsellor of the wise, bringing all they dread to the one, and all they desire to the other....He that has made it his friend will have little to fear from his enemies, but he that has made it his enemy will have little to hope from his friends.

Colton (1780-1832)

5081 The future influences the present just as much as the past.

Nietzsche (1844-1900)

5082 We do not know what to do with this short life, yet we want another which will be eternal.

Anatole France (1844-1924)

5083 The present contains nothing more than the past, and what is found in the effect is already in the cause.

Henri Louis Bergson (1859-1941)

5084 The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.

Winston Churchill (1874-1965)

5085 When you sit with a nice girl for two hours, you think it's only a minute. But when you sit on a hot stove for a minute, you think it's two hours. That's relativity.

Einstein (1879-1955)

3. INSIGHT

5086 This instant is thine; the next is in the womb of futurity, and thou knowest not what it may bring forth; maturity of the unborn is in the keeping of the Law. Each future state is that thou has created in the present.

Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)

5087 A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

Psalms 90:4 (B.C. 1000?-300?)

5088 There is a bridge between Time and Eternity; and this bridge is the Spirit of man. Neither day nor night cross that bridge, nor old age, nor death nor sorrow.

Upanishads (c. B.C. 800)
5089 The velocity with which time flies is infinite, as is most apparent to those who look back.

Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

5090 In comparison with heaven and earth, man is like a mayfly. But compared to the great Way, heaven and earth, too, are like a bubble and a shadow. Only the primal spirit and the true nature overcome time and space.

Lu Yen (fl. 800 A.D.)

5091 Whether time is long or short, and whether space is broad or narrow, depend upon the mind. Those whose minds are at leisure can feel one day as a millennium, and those whose thoughts are expansive can perceive a small house to be as spacious as the universe.

Hung Tzu-ch'eng (1593-1665)

5092 The only true time which a man can properly call his own, is that which he has all to himself; the rest, though in some sense he may be said to live it, is other people's time, not his.

Charles Lamb (1775-1834)

5093 Time, whose tooth gnaws away everything else, is powerless against truth.

Thomas Huxley (1825-1895)

5094 The present is only a mathematical line which divides that part of eternal duration which we call the future, from that which we call the past.

H. P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)

5095 Eternity is the infinite existence of every moment of time. If we conceive time as a line, then this line will be crossed at every point by the lines of eternity. Every point of the line of time will be a line in eternity. The line of time will be a plane of eternity. Eternity has one dimension more than time.

Gurdjieff (1873-1949)

5096 Time has no divisions to mark its passing. There is never a thunderstorm to announce the beginning of a new month or year.

Thomas Mann (1875-1955)

5097 The wheels of time are mysterious. Time is a concept of mind. Without mind, there is no concept of time. Annihilate the mind. You will go beyond time. You will enter the realm of Timeless. You will live in the Eternal.

Sivananda (born 1887)
The future comes one day at a time.  
Dean Acheson (1893-1971)

In the city, time becomes visible.  
Lewis Mumford (born 1895)

4. POSITIVE

Time is the wisest counsellor.  
Pericles (B.C. 495-429)

Time discovers truth.  
Seneca (B.C. 3-65 A.D.)

Time is the sovereign physician of our passions.  
Montaigne (1533-1592)

Time is the greatest of innovators.  
Bacon (1561-1626)

One always has time enough, if one will apply it well.  
Goethe (1749-1832)

The beautifier of the dead,  
Adorner of the ruin, comforter  
And the only healer when the heart hath bled.  
Byron (1788-1824)

Here is a day now before me;  
a day is a fortune and an estate;  
who loses a day loses life.  
Emerson (1803-1882)

5. NEGATIVE

Neither will the wave which has passed be called back;  
nor can the hour which has gone by return.  
Ovid (B.C. 43-18 A.D.)

Swift speedy time, feathered with flying hours,  
Dissolves the beauty of the fairest brow.  
Samuel Daniel (1562?-1619)

What a folly to dread the thought of throwing away  
life at once, and yet have no regard of throwing it away  
by parcels and piecemeal.  
John Howe (1630-1705)

We take no note of time but from its loss.  
Young (1683-1765)
Tobacco, coffee, alcohol, hashish, prussic acid, strychnine, are weak dilutions: the surest poison is time.

Emerson (1803-1882)

In time there is no present,
In eternity no future,
In eternity no past.

Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892)

If you lose an hour in the morning, you have to hunt for it the rest of the day.

Chinese Proverb

6. ADVICE

Do not dwell in the past. Do not dream of the future. Concentrate the mind on the present moment.

Buddha (B.C. 568-488)

Leave the past behind;
leave the future behind;
leave the present behind.
Thou are then ready to go to the other shore.
Never more shalt thou return to a life that ends in death.

The Dhammapada (c. B.C. 300)

Make use of time, let not advantage slip;
Beauty within itself should not be wasted:
Fair flowers that are not gather'd in their prime
Rot and consume themselves in little time.

Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Enjoy the present smiling hour.
And put it out of Fortune's power.

Dryden (1631-1700)

If you want the present to be different from the past, study the past.

Spinoza (1632-1677)

Know the true value of time; snatch, seize, and enjoy every moment of it. No idleness, no laziness, no procrastination: never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day.

Chesterfield (1694-1773)

Dost thou love life? then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.

Franklin (1706-1790)
TIME

Devote each day to the object then in time and every evening will find something done.

Goethe (1749-1832)

Since time is not a person we can overtake when he is past, let us honor him with mirth and cheerfulness of heart while he is passing.

Goethe (1749-1832)

Much may be done in those little shreds and patches of time, which every day produces, and which most men throw away, but which nevertheless will make at the end of it no small deduction from the life of a man.

Colton (1780-1832)

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. No man has learned anything rightly, until he knows that every day is Doomsday.

Emerson (1803-1882)

Make good of every minute that is at thy disposal. Time is a rat that slowly cuts the thread of life. It may break at any moment. Believe not that you will be living to enjoy the objects of life. Death may lay his icy hands on this body and may shatter it at any time.

Sivananda (born 1887)

7. POTPOURRI

Where Mind and each believing mind are not divided, And undivided are each believing mind and Mind, This is where words fail; For it is not for the past, present, and future.

Seng-T'San (540?-606 A.D.)

Ah, fill the Cup: - what boots it to repeat How Time is slipping underneath our Feet: Unborn To-morrow, and dead Yesterday, Why fret about them if To-day be sweet!

Omar Khayyam (fl. 1100)

From the beginning of Time, through eternities, I was among His hidden treasures. From Nothing He called me forth, but at the End of Time I shall be recalled by the King.

Nahmanides (c. 1300)

All my possessions for a moment of time.

Elizabeth I (1533-1603)
I wasted time, and now doth time waste me.

Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Like as the waves make towards the pebbled shore,
So do our minutes hasten to their end.

Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Time is the king of men;
he is both their parent,
and he is their grave,
and gives them what he will,
not what they crave.

Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Enjoy the present hour,
Be thankful for the past,
And neither fear nor wish
Th' approaches of the last.

Abraham Cowley (1618-1667)

Ever eating, never cloying,
All-devouring, all-destroying,
Never finding full repast,
Till I eat the world at last.

Swift (1667-1745)

Tomorrow is a satire on today,
And shows its weakness.

Young (1683-1765)

Time is a continual over-dropping of moments,
which fall down one upon the other and evaporate.

Richter (1763-1825)

Lost, yesterday, somewhere between sunrise and sunset,
two golden hours, each set with sixty diamond minutes.
No reward is offered, for they are gone forever!

Lydia Sigourney (1791-1865)

Thou shoreless flood, which in thy ebb and flow
claspest the limits of mortality.

Shelley (1792-1822)

So here hath been dawning another blue day:
Think, wilt thou let it slip useless away?
Out of eternity this new day is born;
Into eternity at night 'twill return.

Carlyle (1795-1881)
5140  Time is but the stream I go a fishing in.  

Thoreau (1817-1862)

5141  Enjoy the spring of love and youth,  
To some good angel leave the rest;  
For time will teach thee soon the truth,  
There are no birds in last year's nest.  

Longfellow (1807-1882)

5142  That is the land of lost content,  
I see it shining plain,  
The happy highways where I went  
And cannot come again.  

A. E. Housman (1859-1936)

5143  You wake up in the morning, and lo! your purse is magically  
filled with twenty-four hours of the magic tissue of the  
universe of your life. No one can take it from you. No one  
receives either more or less than you receive. Waste your  
inefinitely precious commodity as much as you will, and the  
supply will never be withheld from you. Moreover, you  
cannot draw on the future. Impossible to get into debt.  
You can only waste the passing moment. You cannot waste  
tomorrow. It is kept for you.  

Arnold Bennett (1867-1931)

5144  Time is breath - try to understand this.  

Gurdjieff (1873-1949)

5145  The Future is something which everyone reaches at the rate  
of sixty minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is.  

C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)

5146  Hours are Time's shafts,  
and one comes winged with death.  

Scottish Clock Motto