



DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION QUOTES

*brought to you by the
Diversity and Inclusion Committee*

The IADC “recognizes the strength and benefits of inclusion and diversity in the practice of law.”

To highlight and further the IADC commitment to diversity and inclusion and to help actively increase and foster “the involvement and participation of diverse attorneys in the organization through membership strategies and professional programming,” the Board approved the Diversity and Inclusion Committee’s Quote Initiative to display quotes that are available in the public domain and that help promote thinking and discussion about the benefits of diversity and inclusion. Since 2015, the banner on the IADC website has displayed a quote each month under the title Embracing Diversity and Inclusion!

The following pages share with you the quotes in their order of posting and also share a few of the upcoming postings as well. We hope they encourage you to continue to think about and discuss the benefits of diversity and inclusion, and how diversity and inclusion and the pursuit and enhancement of the Rule of Law connect us, both professionally and personally, through the IADC and beyond. We also hope that the quotes help move you to take meaningful and tangible actions as diversity and inclusion is a core tenet and central to our organization.

A special thanks to every IADC member who supported the Diversity and Inclusion Committee’s Quote Initiative. Of course, this Quote Book and the Quote Initiative would not be possible without the fantastic work of the IADC Staff!

— IADC Diversity and Inclusion Committee

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“There are only five notes in the musical scale, but their variations are so many that they cannot all be heard. There are only five basic colors, but their variations are so many that they cannot all be seen. There are only five basic flavors, but their variations are so many that they cannot all be tasted.”

— Sun Tzu (4th Century B.C.E.)¹

“There were never in the world two opinions alike, any more than two hairs or two grains. Their most universal quality is diversity.”

— Michel Eyquem de Montaigne (1533–1592)²

“It is never too late to give up our prejudices.”

— Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862)³

“It were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse-races.”

— Mark Twain (1835–1910)⁴

““The geniuses of all ages and of all lands speak different languages, but the same flame burns in them all. Oh, if you only knew what unearthly happiness my soul feels now from being able to understand them!””

— Anton Chekov (1860–1904)⁵

“Everything in Nature contains all the powers of Nature. Everything is made of one hidden stuff.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)⁶

“All the variety, all the charm, all the beauty of life is made up of light and shadow.”

— Leo Tolstoy (1828–1910)⁷

“I am of ... every hue and caste am I, of every rank and religion,
A farmer, mechanic, artist, gentleman, sailor, quaker,
Prisoner, fancy-man, rowdy, lawyer, physician, priest.”
— Walt Whitman (1819–1892)⁸

“[I]t is opposites that help each other.”
— Heraclitus (born c. 540 bc – died c. 480)⁹

“[S]weetest tones from different harmonies arise.”
— Heraclitus (born c. 540 bc – died c. 480)¹⁰

“At bottom every man knows well enough that he is a unique being, only once on this earth; and by no extraordinary chance will such a marvelously picturesque piece of diversity in unity as he is, ever be put together a second time.”
— Friedrich Nietzsche (1844–1900)¹¹

“Ubuntu,”
— African word and concept meaning “I am because you are”^{12, 13, 14}

“I can see myself in all things and all people around me.”
— Sanskrit Phrase¹⁵

“Could a greater miracle take place than for us to look through each other’s eyes for an instant?”
— Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862)¹⁶

“Difference of opinion is helpful in religion.”
— Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826)¹⁷

“A lot of different flowers make a bouquet.”

— Muslim origin¹⁸

“United we stand, divided we fall.”

— Aesop (620–560 B.C.)¹⁹

“In all people I see myself, none more and not one a
barley-corn less, And the good or bad I say of myself I say
of them.”

— Walt Whitman (1819–1892)²⁰

“In the matter of religion,
people eagerly fasten their eyes
on the difference between their own creed and yours;
whilst the charm of the study is in finding the agreements
and identities in all the religions of humanity.”

— Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)²¹

“I am the poet of the woman the same as the man,
And I say it is as great to be a woman as to be a man,
And I say there is nothing greater than the mother of men.”

— Walt Whitman (1819–1892)²²

“The wise man belongs to all countries, for the home of a
great soul is the whole world.”

— Democritus (460–370 BC)²³

“We are all full of weakness and errors; let us mutually
pardon each other our follies.”

— Voltaire (1694–1778)²⁴

“Mitakuye Oyasin”

— Lakota meaning “We are all related.”^{25, 26}

“Wide differences of opinion in matters of religious, political, and social belief must exist if conscience and intellect alike are not to be stunted, if there is to be room for healthy growth.”

— Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919)²⁷

“[T]he only way in which a human being can make some approach to knowing the whole of a subject, is by hearing what can be said about it by persons of every variety of opinion, and studying all modes in which it can be looked at by every character of mind. No wise man ever acquired his wisdom in any mode but this; nor is it in the nature of human intellect to become wise in any other manner.”

— John Stuart Mill (1806–1873)²⁸

“Live and let live.”

— Scottish Proverb²⁹

“All your strength is in your union, All your danger is in discord;”

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)³⁰

“Understanding is the heartwood of well-spoken words.”

— The Buddha³¹

“Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than the one where they sprang up.”

— Oliver Wendell Holmes (1841–1935)³²

“It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.”
— Irish Proverb^{33, 34}

“[T]he responsibility of tolerance lies with those who have the wider vision.”
— George Elliot (1819–1880)³⁵

“[T]he good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain, is floating in mid-air, until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.”
— Jane Addams (1860–1935)³⁶

“I think ... if so many men, so many minds, certainly so many hearts, so many kinds of love.”
— Leo Tolstoy (1828–1910)³⁷

“In faith and hope the world will disagree, but all mankind’s concern is charity.”
— Alexander Pope (1688–1744)³⁸

“Most people think that faith means believing something; oftener it means trying something, giving it a chance to prove itself.”
— Henry Ford (1863–1947)³⁹

“Everyone is kneaded out of the same dough but not baked in the same oven.”
— Yiddish Proverb⁴⁰

“Variety is the spice of life.”
— Idiom⁴¹

“Loyalty to petrified opinions never yet broke a chain or freed a human soul in this world — and never will.”

— Mark Twain (1835–1910)^{42, 43}

“But I ask no favors for my sex. I surrender not our claim to equality. All I ask of our brethren is, that they will take their feet from off our necks, and permit us to stand upright ...”

— Sarah Grimké (1792–1873)^{44, 45}

“You are not judged by the height you have risen but from the depths you have climbed.”

— Frederick Douglass (1818–1895)⁴⁶

“Of all the follies the elder generation falls victim to this is the most foolish, namely, the constant criticism of the younger element who will not be and cannot be like ourselves because we and they are different tribes produced of different elements in the great spirit of Time.”

— Henry Ford (1863–1947)⁴⁷

“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main.... Any man’s death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind. Any therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.”

— John Donne (1572–1631)⁴⁸

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