

# HENRIK IBSEN

## QUOTES



(Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

**Compiled By**

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I don't imagine you will dispute the fact that at present the stupid people are in an absolutely overwhelming majority all the world over. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Don't use that exotic word 'ideals'. We have a good enough native word: 'lies'. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

The idol of Authority must be shattered in this town. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

You see, the point is that the strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

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The strongest men are the most alone. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

What's a man's first duty? The answer's brief: To be himself. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Public opinion is an extremely mutable thing (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

I am in revolt against the age-old lie that the majority is always right. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

The majority is never right. Never, I tell you! That's one of these lies in society that no free and intelligent man can help rebelling against. Who are the people that make up the biggest proportion of the population -- the intelligent ones or the fools? (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

It takes fifty years for the majority to be right. The majority is never right until it does right. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

The minority is always right. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906) (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Was the majority right when they stood by while Jesus was crucified? Was the majority right when they refused to believe that the earth moved around the sun and let Galileo be driven to his knees like a dog? (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

What sort of truths are they that the majority usually supports? They are truths that are of such advanced age that they are beginning to break up. And if a truth is as old as that, it is also in a fair way to become a lie, gentlemen. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Oh, yes--you can shout me down, I know! But you cannot answer me. The majority has might on its side--unfortunately; but right it has not. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

It is inexcusable for scientists to torture animals; let them make their experiments on journalists and politicians (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Home life ceases to be free and beautiful as soon as it is founded on borrowing and debt. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906) (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

One should never put on one's best trousers to go out to battle for freedom and truth. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906) (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Take the saving lie from the average man and you take his happiness away, too. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906) (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Rob the average man of his life-illusion, and you rob him of his happiness at the same stroke. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

The great secret of power is never to will to do more than you can accomplish. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Castles in the air - they are so easy to take refuge in. And so easy to build, too. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Poetry is to hold judgment on your soul. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

A thousand words leave not the same deep impression as does a single deed. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

To live is to war with trolls. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

I believe that before all else I am a reasonable human being, just as you are--or, at all events, that I must try and become one. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

You see, there are some people that one loves, and others that perhaps one would rather be with. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

What is the difference in being alone with another and being alone by one's self? (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

It is the very mark of the spirit of rebellion to crave for happiness in this life (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

A thousand words will not leave so deep an impression as one deed. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

You should never wear your best trousers when you go out to fight for freedom and truth. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Money may be the husk of many things but not the kernel. It brings you food, but not appetite; medicine, but not health; acquaintance, but not friends; servants, but not loyalty; days of joy, but not peace or happiness. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

When you've sold yourself once for the sake of others, you don't do it second time. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

It's a release to know that in spite of everything a premeditated act of courage is still possible. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

The most dangerous enemy of the truth and freedom amongst us is the compact majority (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

It's not only what we have inherited from our father and mother that walks in us. It's all sorts of dead ideas, and lifeless old beliefs, and so forth. They have no vitality, but they cling to us all the same, and we can't get rid of them. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

One of the qualities of liberty is that, as long as it is being striven after, it goes on expanding. Therefore, the man who stands in the midst of the struggle and says, 'I have it,' merely shows by doing so that he has just lost it. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Oh yes, right--right. What is the use of having right on your side if you have not got might? (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

There is so much falsehood both at home and at school. At home one must not speak, and at school we have to stand and tell lies to the children. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Happiness is worth a daring deed; we are both free if we but will it, and then the game is won. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Ghosts! [...] I almost think we are all of us ghosts. It is not only what we have inherited from our father and mother that 'walks' in us. It is all sorts of dead ideas, and lifeless old beliefs, and so forth. They have no vitality, but they cling to us all the same, and we cannot shake them off. Whenever I take up a newspaper, I seem to see ghosts gliding between the lines. There must be ghosts all the country over, as thick as the sands of the sea. And then we are, one and all, so pitifully afraid of the light. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

A normally constituted truth lives, let us say, as a rule seventeen or eighteen, or at most twenty years--seldom longer. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

A party is like a sausage machine, it grinds up all sorts of heads together into the same baloney ... (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Dr. Stockmann: Yes, I can afford it now. Katherine tells me I earn almost as much as we spend. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Dr. Stockmann. I have already told you that what I want to speak about is the great discovery I have made lately--the discovery that all the sources of our moral life are poisoned and that the whole fabric of our civic community is founded on the pestiferous soil of falsehood. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Everything I touch seems destined to turn into something mean and farcical. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

You should never wear your best trousers when you go out to fight for freedom and truth, Author (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Cage an eagle and it will bite at the wires, be they of iron or of gold. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

Oh, that was a terrible time for me, I can tell you. I kept the blinds drawn down over both my windows. When I peeped out, I saw the sun shining as if nothing had happened. I could not understand it. I saw people going along the street, laughing and talking about indifferent things. I could not understand it. It seemed to me that the whole of existence must be at a standstill -- as if under an eclipse. (Henrik Ibsen; 1828-1906)

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