



Reflections

Hermann Hesse

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A Selection of Hesse's reflections from his books and letters including the topics of Love, Death, Happiness, Politics & more.

Reflections Details

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Mary says

A small book with magnificent quotes from the works of Hermann Hesse. A book that I find rather significant and intellectually rewarding.

Skaist? says

Naujoji biblija

Lachlan says

An awesome insight into Hesse's life, thoughts, philosophy (etc).

Carlos says

This collection of Hesse's views on subjects spanning from the most mundane to the most profound allows the complex personality of this great author to become just a bit more accessible to the millions of minds he touched with his work. Through a series of marvelous insights, the reader can peek into the mind of the man who has given so much to the world literature.

Ashley says

“Say yes to yourself, to what makes you different, to your feelings, your destiny! There is no other way. Where it leads I don't know, only that it leads to life, to reality, to burning necessity.”

I happened to read this line yesterday about 10 minutes after I finished my last class of the semester and told my instructor that I have no idea what my school plans are now, but that I know I can't continue on in the program I'm currently in. Over the last few months this has become increasingly clear, but that doesn't mean the destination has become any clearer. I just keep following little bread crumbs- putting one foot in front of the other not having any idea where it will lead, but always stumbling upon something that shows me I'm heading in the right direction.

So needless to say, as I was sitting in the hallway of my school reading this line I got some pretty major chills. There is no other way. Where it leads, I don't know...only that it leads to LIFE. It continues on to say that if I choose to betray that path and assimilate into the "normal" I would not succeed for long and would end up being miserable. Yea...I get that. Following this unknown path as opposed to my previous "practical" and "obvious" path isn't going to be easy, but in a way it's easier than the alternative. A "difficult" life where I'm totally without any true "security" is going to be so much easier to deal with than a life that's perfectly mapped out, but I'm completely miserable every day.

All of that being said- I always feel so inspired/understood/challenged/encouraged when I finish a Hesse book. This was a wonderful collection of thoughts that touches on just about every topic you can imagine.

The only low point for me was the Art section...that just seemed painfully redundant and boring, and it seemed to drag on quite a bit longer than other sections- but the rest of the book was so wonderful that I'll still give it 5 stars.

Nick says

Hermann Hesse's Reflections is full of insight into how to be a well rounded, free thinking individual. For me, it has the essential truths of life. I love his quotes on the arts and the responsibilities of the individual for themselves and for society. Honestly I've gone through this book several times underlining my favorite passages. The translations are interesting, I've found places from his actual books and reflections and there are a few that are completely different. Especially the one in Damien.

"Preoccupation with irrational, strange, uncanny forms in nature gives us a feeling that a kinship exists between our innermost being and the will that created such forms. Soon we are tempted to regard them as our own moods, our own creations; we see the boundaries between ourselves and nature waver and melt away and can no longer tell whether the images on our retina spring from outward or from inner impressions. An experience of this kind is the simplest means of discovering how creative we are, how deeply our soul participates in the perpetual creation of the world. The same indivisible divinity is indeed at work in us and in nature, and if the outside world were to perish, one of us would be capable of rebuilding it, for mountain and stream, leaf and tree, root and flower, everything that has ever been formed in nature lies within us, springs from the soul whose essence is eternity. This essence is beyond our knowledge; but, primarily as the power to love and to create, it reveals itself to our feeling."

When I realized that was originally from Damien I had a hard time remembering when that could have taken place. here is the quote from the translation in Damien.

"The observation of such configurations. The surrender to Nature's irrational strangely confused formations produces in us a feeling of inner harmony with the force responsible for these phenomena. We soon fall prey to the temptation of thinking of them as being our own moods, our own creations, and see the boundaries separating us from Nature begin to quiver and dissolve. We become acquainted with the state of mind in which we are unable to decide whether the images on our retina are the result of impressions coming from without or from within. Nowhere as in this exercise can we discover so easily and simply to what extent we are creative, to what extent our soul partakes of the constant creation of the world. For it is the same indivisible divinity that is active through us and in Nature, and the outside world were to be destroyed, a single one of us would be capable of rebuilding it: mountain and stream, tree and leaf, root and flower, yes, every natural form is latent within us, originates in the soul whose essence is eternity, whose essence we cannot know but which most often intimates itself to us as the power to love and create." p. 91

I think I enjoy both versions of this passage, it's just interesting how much different they are with each translation.

Eitherway, if you like reading wisdom, find this collection of insights into the world.

Helena says

Pensament esparsos. De distintes obres. Però que segueixen un fil comú (i a estones aparentment contradictori).

Em quede sobretot en la defensa de la vida íntima i la construcció de la pròpia personalitat durant la joventut. I amb la capacitat durant la maduresa d'amar i sacrificar la personalitat bastida.

Mirko says

Gave up. Some other time.

Carolina Cs says

Great thoughts, but the way they are presented is, in my opinion, not very good. Maybe would be better to have them in their context, and instead of a list of aphorisms we could have an analysis or explanation of Hesse's mindset in his historical time.

Mehwish Mughal says

Our inner compass is deflected by every book we read; every outside mind shows us from how many other points of view the world can be considered. Then the oscillation gradually dies down, and the needle returns to its old orientations, inherent in the nature of each one of us. This is what happened to me when I stopped reading for a time. One can read so much; a book lover living in seclusion devours books and opinions as a man of the world devours people - one is sometimes amazed at how much one can stand. But then a time comes when one has to throw it all down and walk in the woods for a while, to consult with the weather, the flowers, the mists, and the winds, and find once more within oneself the changing standpoint from which one sees the world whole again.

Emma says

Tekst i njegov kontekst su neodvojivi.

Marcelo Tempes says

Esse livro me caiu em mãos por acaso entre alguns livros velhos de minha mãe. Conheci Hess pela cauda, O Jogo das Contas de Vidro, e essa me agradou enormemente. O sincretismo e a mistura de credos não me incomodou nenhum pouco nas obras que pus mãos em seguida, O Lobo da Estepe me foi muito agradável, Damien também - apesar dos personagens não me seduzirem. Siddharta também apeteceu-me grandemente. Seu livro de contos Pequeno Mundo é, com sinceridade, uma pérola.

Agora, esse apanhado foi menos que o esperado, para mim. Os pensamentos me parecem deverás temporais, a teosofia acentuado parece diluir-se tão exageradamente que termina em lugar nenhum, me vi distraído por quase toda a leitura. Possivelmente esse juízo seja algo de minha ignorância, talvez precise fazer como dita o título "Guardar e Ler".

"Tenho sempre, ainda hoje, uma crença e a ela não renuncio nem para mim nem para os outros - é a crença de que não acontece conosco nada de feliz ou infeliz, a que não possamos atribuir algum valor ou sentido."

Tim Thelen says

56/191

I've become a huge Hesse fan, but this collection of quotes - many taken out of context and with poor translation is a serious disappointment.
