

THE
NEW CAVALIER
READING SOCIETY
PRESENTS...



·ONLY·THE·WISE·
·PERSON·IS·FREE·

RESOLVE·TO·DECIDE·LE·TRAVAIL·EST·
LA·LOI·VNREMITTED·APPLICATION·
PVT·IT·TO·THE·TOVCH·TO·WIN·OR·
·LOSE·IT·ALL·ACTVALLY·IN·THE·ARENA·
FACE·MARRED·BY·THE·DVST·&·SWEAT·
&·BLOOD·STRIVE·VALIANTLY·ERR·&
·COME·SHORT·AGAIN·AND·AGAIN·
KNOW·THE·GREAT·ENTHVSIASMS
·THE·GREAT·DEVOTIONS·AND·SPEND
·YOVRSELF·IN·A·WORTHY·CAVSE·
KNOW·IN·THE·END·THE·TRIVMPH·OF
·HIGH·ACHIEVEMENT·&·AT·LEAST·FAIL
·WHILE·DARING·GREATLY·ATTEMPT·
THE·END·&·NEVER·STAND·IN·DOVBT·
HAVE·DOVBT·AFTER·A·DECISION·
MORE·PEOPLE·WORSHIP·THE·RISING·
THAN·THE·SETTING·SVN·PREFER·A·
CHANCE·TO·A·CERTAINTY·THE·ONLY·
CONSEQUENCE·IS·WHAT·WE·DO·
NVLLA·DIES·SINE·LINEA·COME·&·DIE
·ITLL·BE·GREAT·FVN·THE·HEROIC·
IS·THE·ENEMY·OF·HAPPINESS·NO·
IMPVLSE·BVT·WHAT·WAS·BEATING·
IN·THEIR·OWN·ROYAL·HEARTS·THE·
WILL·TO·POWER·WHICH·IS·THE·WILL·
TO·LIFE·MEN·OF·INSTINCT·TO·KNOW·
&·TO·ACT·ARE·ONE·AND·THE·SAME
·MY·ACTIONS·SHALL·SPEAK·TO·THE·
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·THE·MORTAL·WHO·ACTS?·WELL·
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HEARD·THERE·IS·NO·HAPPINESS·
FOR·THOSE·WHO·DO·NOT·FOLLOW



First say to yourself what you would be,
then do what you have to do.

EPICETETUS

Break through at least this pretence of
existence; determine what you will be, and
what you would win. You will not decide
wrongly if you will resolve to decide at all.

RVSKIN

Only a few prefer liberty. The majority seek nothing more than fair masters.

SALLUST

A period of law and order as long as the one our generation had behind it brought a real craving for the extraordinary.

JÜNGER

Powerlessness makes people feel that nothing is worth doing and comfort makes the painfulness of this feeling just bearable.

RUSSELL

It is better to die than to live badly.

EPICETETUS

Where there is, then, no good for which to strive, no strife can grow up there from faction: for none sure will claim in Hell precedence; none whose portion is so small of present pain that with ambitious mind will covet more.

MILTON

To-day all diversions have been laicised. This has happened partly as a result of the positivistic tendencies of the New Stupidity; partly owing to the fact that all entertainments are in the hands of joint-stock companies, whose interest it is that people shall amuse themselves, not only on mythologically significant occasions, but every day and all the time. The result is that 'our laughter and our tears mean but themselves,' and meaning but themselves, mean curiously little.

HUXLEY

Excellence dwells among rocks hardly accessible and a man must almost wear his heart out before he can reach her. Whoever talks of excellence as common and abundant is on the way to lose all right standard of excellence. And when the right standard of excellence is lost, it is not likely that much which is excellent will be produced.

ARNOLD

The rulers of the world have always been stupid, but they have not in the past been so powerful as they are now. It is therefore more important than it used to be to find some way of securing that they shall be intelligent.

RUSSELL

There is no more agreeable position than that of dissident from a stable society. Theirs are all the solid advantages of other people's creation and preservation, and all the fun of detecting hypocrisies and inconsistencies.

WAUGH

NIETZSCHE

On the Use and Abuse of History

We must seriously despise instruction without vitality, knowledge which enervates activity, and history as an expensive surplus of knowledge and a luxury. We wish to use history only insofar as it serves living. We must determine this degree of history and, through that, the borderline at which the past must be forgotten if it is not to become the grave-digger of the present.

Men should above all learn to live and should employ history only in the service of the life he has learned to live.

Five dangers from approaching historical knowledge for its own sake:

- (1) It undercuts joy in the present, since it makes the present appear as just another episode.
- (2) It inhibits creative activity by convincing those made aware of the vast sweep of historical currents that their present actions are too feeble to change the past they've inherited.
- (3) It encourages the sense that the inner person is disconnected from the outer world by assaulting the psyche with more information than it can absorb and assimilate.
- (4) It encourages a jaded relativism toward reality and present experience, motivated by a sense that because things keep changing present states of affair don't matter.
- (5) It inspires irony and cynicism about the contemporary individual role in the world; a person comes to feel increasingly like an afterthought in the scheme of things, imbued by a sense of belatedness.

SOLUTIONS

Unhistorical – forget how overwhelming the deluge of historical information is and “enclose oneself within a bounded horizon.”

Suprahistorical – divert the gaze from what is developing back to what gives existence an eternal and unchanging character, to art and religion.

ORTEGA Y GASSET
REVOLT OF THE MASSES

Contrary to what is usually thought, it is the man of excellence, and not the common man who lives in essential servitude. Life has no savour for him unless he makes it consist in service to something transcendental. Hence he does not look upon the necessity of serving as an oppression. When, by chance, such necessity is lacking, he grows restless and invents some new standard, more difficult, more exigent, with which to coerce himself. This is life lived as a discipline—the noble life. Nobility is defined by the demands it makes on us—by obligations, not by rights.

THE DEHUMANISATION OF ART

Were art to redeem man, it could do so only by saving him from the seriousness of life and restoring him to an unexpected boyishness. The symbol of art is seen again in the magic flute of the Great God Pan which makes the young goats frisk at the edge of the grove.

All modern art begins to appear comprehensible and in a way great when it is interpreted as an attempt to instil youthfulness into an ancient world.

For how can you win in a great cause by small effort? It were senseless even to wish it.

EURIPIDES

Without joy, eternal beauty cannot really take root within us. Great pain and great ecstasy, that is the best education for human beings. But the cobbler's life, in which day after day one sits on one's chair and does what one can do in one's sleep, that leads the spirit to a grave before its time.

HÖLDERLIN

Men do not care how nobly they live, but only how long.
SENECA

Only those are fit to live who do not fear to die and none are fit to die who have shrunk from the joy of life and the duty of life.

ROOSEVELT

But the two or three centuries before Juvenal's lifetime *had* radically transformed Roman civilisation and mores; a vast and sudden influx of wealth *had* corrupted former standards of behaviour and promoted reckless ambition; the Republic *had* been replaced by a despotism, however benevolent and enlightened. Juvenal, as they say, had a case.

It is tedious for the young to be constantly reminded what much finer fellows their fathers were and what a much more enjoyable time we had. But there you are; we are and we did.

WAUGH

There are, if only rarely, men who would rather perish than work without any pleasure in their work. They do not fear boredom as much as work without pleasure; they actually require a lot of boredom if their work is to succeed. For thinkers and all sensitive spirits, boredom is that disagreeable 'windless calm' of the soul that precedes a happy voyage and cheerful winds.

NIETZSCHE

Taking refuge in domestic successes is merely a form of quitting.

HEMINGWAY

LA SETTA D'I CATTIVI

“Teacher, what are these sounds I hear?
What people are these so overcome by pain?”
And he to me: “This wretched state of being
Is the fate of those sad souls who lived a life
But lived it with no blame and no praise.
They intermingle with that wicked choir of angels
neither rebellious nor faithful to their God,
who undecided stood but for themselves.
Heaven, to keep its beauty, cast them out,
And the depth of Hell does not receive them,
Lest on their account the evil angels gloat”.

And I: “Master, what is grievous to them,
That they lament so bitterly?”
He replied: ‘I can tell you in a few words.
They have no hope of truly dying,
And their blind life is so abject
That they are envious of every other fate.
The world does not permit report of them.
Mercy and justice hold them in contempt
Let us not speak of them—look and pass by.”

And I, all eyes, saw a whirling banner
That ran so fast it seemed as though
It never could find rest.
Behind it came so long a file of people
That I could not believe
Death had undone so many.
After I recognised a few of these,
I saw and knew the shade of him
Who, through cowardice, made the great refusal.
At once with certainty I understood
This was that worthless crew,
Hateful alike to God and to his foes.

‘Maestro, che è quel ch’i’ odo?
e che gent’ è che par nel duol sì vinta?’.
Ed elli a me: ‘Questo misero modo
tegnon l’anime triste di coloro
che visser senza ‘nfamia e senza lodo.
Mischiata sono a quel cattivo coro
de li angeli che non furon ribelli
né fur fedeli a Dio, ma per sé fuoro.
Caccianli i ciel per non esser men belli,
né lo profondo inferno li riceve,
ch’alcuna gloria i rei avrebber d’elli’.
E io: ‘Maestro, che è tanto greve
a lor che lamentar li fa sì forte?’.
Rispuose: ‘Dicerolti molto breve.
Questi non hanno speranza di morte,
e la lor cieca vita è tanto bassa,
che ‘nvidiosi son d’ogne altra sorte.
Fama di loro il mondo esser non lassa;
misericordia e giustizia li sdegna:
non ragioniam di lor, ma guarda e passa».

E dietro le venìa sì lunga tratta
di gente, ch’i’ non avrei creduto
che morte tanta n’avesse disfatta.
Poscia ch’io v’ebbi alcun riconosciuto,
vidi e conobbi l’ombra di colui
che fece per viltade il gran rifiuto.
Incontanente intesi e certo fui
che questa era la setta d’i cattivi,
a Dio spiacenti e a’ nemici sui.

Genius is the ability to put into effect what is in your mind. There's no other definition of it.

FITZGERALD

We might get a totalitarian democracy: a state of affairs in which we shall have regimentation and conformity without respect for the needs of the individual; the Puritanism of a hygienic morality in the interest of efficiency, uniformity of opinion through propaganda, and art only encouraged when it flatters the official doctrines of the time.

ELIOT

Real faith is not that which says 'we must win for our cause is just', but that which says, 'our cause is just therefore we can disregard defeat'.

SORLEY

To live as one likes is plebeian; the noble man aspires to order and law.

GOETHE

Our infancy is but a dream, our youth but a madness, our manhood a combat, our age but sickness, our life misery, our death horror.

SOUTHWELL

He either fears his fate too much, or his deserts are small who dares not put it to the touch, to win or lose it all.

MONTROSE

TROILUS & CRESSIDA

In the reproof of chance lies the true proof of men.

Take but degree away, untune that string, and, hark, what discord follows! each thing meets in mere oppugnancy: the bounded waters should lift their bosoms higher than the shores and make a sop of all this solid globe: strength should be lord of imbecility, and the rude son should strike his father dead: force should be right; or rather, right and wrong, between whose endless jar justice resides, should lose their names, and so should justice too. Then every thing includes itself in power, power into will, will into appetite; and appetite, an universal wolf, so doubly seconded with will and power, must make perforce an universal prey, and last eat up himself.

Those wounds heal ill that men do give themselves.
Valour's show and valour's worth divide in storms of fortune.

After I'm dead I'd rather have people ask why I have no monument than why I have one.

CATO THE ELDER

The sparse furniture of her mind—the objects which barked the intruder's shins—had been acquired at the local High School and University; she presented herself to the world dressed and scented in obedience to the advertisements; brain and body were scarcely distinguishable from the standard product, but the spirit—ah, the spirit was something apart.

WAUGH

We turned our backs on civilization. Had we known, we might have lingered with Palinurus; had we known that all that seeming-solid, patiently built, gorgeously ornamented structure of Western life was to melt overnight like an ice-castle, leaving only a puddle of mud; had we known man was even then leaving his post.

WAUGH

According to the reasoning of tyrants, those who had been esteemed worthy of the throne deserve death, and those who deliberate have already rebelled.

The last three hundred years had been consumed in apparent prosperity and internal decline. The nation of soldiers, magistrates, and legislators, who composed the thirty-five tribes of the Roman people, was dissolved into the common mass of mankind, and confounded with the millions of servile provincials, who had received the name without adopting the spirit, of Romans.

GIBBON

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error or short-coming; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who, at worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly; so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat.

ROOSEVELT

The iniquity of oblivion blindly scattereth her poppy, and deals with the memory of men without distinction to merit of perpetuity. Who can but pity the founder of the Pyramids? Herostrates lives that burnt the Temple of Diana, he is almost lost that built it. Who knows whether the best of men be known, or whether there be not more remarkable persons forgot, than any that stand remembered in the known account of time?

BROWNE

CORIOLANUS

You dissentious rogues, that rubbing the poor itch of your opinion make yourselves scabs.

Who deserves greatness deserves your hate; and your affections are a sick man's appetite, who desires most that which would increase his evil. He that depends upon your favours swims with fins of lead and hews down oak with rushes. Hang ye! Trust ye? With every minute you do change a mind and call him noble that was now your hate, him vile that was your garland.

Manhood is called foolery when it stands against a falling fabric.

Peace is a very apoplexy, lethargy; mulled, deaf, sleepy, insensible; a getter of more bastard children than wars a destroyer of men.

He wants nothing of a god but eternity and a heaven to throne in.

To be rough, unswayable, and free.

The purpose of the aristocrat is most emphatically not to work for money. In their view, effort is unrelated to money.

SITWELL

As the young virgin to make her fairest garlands gathers not altogether one kind of flower, so are you to gather this honey of eloquence, a gift of heaven, out of many fields. Making it your own by diligence in collection, ease in expression and skill in digestion.

PEACHAM

To be stupid, and selfish, and to have good health are the three requirements for happiness; though if stupidity is lacking, the others are useless.

FLAUBERT

Pompey told the ageing Sulla: More people worship the rising than the setting sun.

If you're going to tell people the truth, you'd better make them laugh: otherwise they'll kill you.

SHAW

We mustn't forget how quickly the visions of genius become the canned goods of intellectuals.

BELLOW

G: We live in a liberal democratic society and democrats make sexual harassment laws. These laws tell us what we can and can't say in the workplace and what we can and can't *do* in the workplace.

K: Isn't that fascism?

G: No, because we don't call it fascism.

SOUTH PARK

Brutus. Our cause is ripe.
The enemy increaseth every day;
We, at the height, are ready to decline.
There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.
On such a full sea are we now afloat,
And we must take the current when it serves,
Or lose our ventures.

Sympathy with death is not a phrase of virtue and progress. Is it not rather the formula and basic definition of all romanticism?

MANN

Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody else expects of you. Never excuse yourself. Never pity yourself. Be a hard master to yourself and be lenient to everybody else.

BEECHER

Richard Wagner once declared that civilisation disappears before music like mist before the sun.

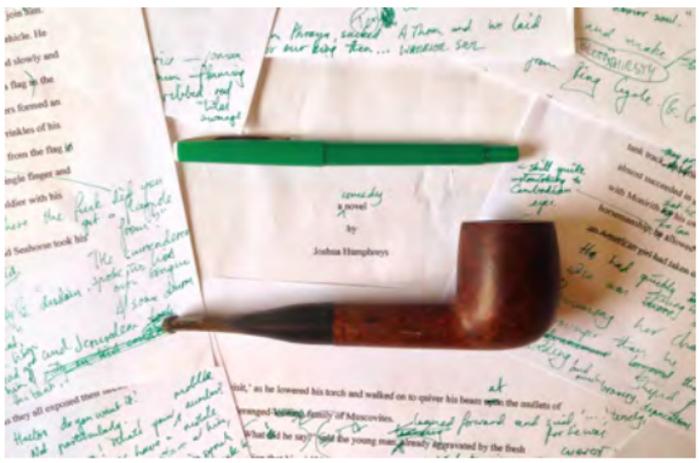
MANN

He was a grown-up with one foot in the boys' club of his city youth, a street snob who would not allow the loss of his nostalgia. He was an intellectual competitor, always spoiling for a political argument or a philosophical argument, or any exchange over any issue, changing sides for the fun of the fray.

said of PADDY CHAYEFESKY

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THE ACCURSED QUESTIONS
— PROKLATYE VOPROSY —
— DIE VERDAMMTEN FRAGEN —

Those central and moral questions of which every honest man, in particular every writer, must sooner or later become aware, and then, be faced with the choice of either entering the struggle or turning his back upon his fellow men, conscious of his responsibility for what he's doing.

Now wits gain praise by copying other wits,
As one hog lives on what another shits.

POPE

A novelist has no business with types. They are the property of economists and politicians and advertisers and the other professional bores of our period.

WAUGH

The self-conquest of the writer who is not a man of action is style.

YEATS

The world has never seen a poet or a novelist who had more good ideas than he could get upon paper in three hours' work a day.

MENCKEN

Vice is at its peak. Set sail, O writer of satire, spread your canvas wide.

JUVENAL

A style is not good unless it is an intimate and almost involuntary expression of the personality of the writer, and then only if the writer's personality is worth expressing.

RUSSELL

I remind myself that I must take some work as the whole end of life and not think as others do of becoming well off and living pleasantly.

Whatever the great poets had affirmed in their finest moments was the nearest we could come to an authoritative religion.

YEATS

True ease in writing comes from art, not chance,
As those move easiest who have learned to dance.

POPE

Remember that the man who writes for fools always finds a large public.

SCHOPENHAUER

In going where you have to go, and doing what you have to do, and seeing what you have to see, you dull and blunt the instrument you write with. But I would rather have it bent and dulled and know I had to put it on the grindstone again and hammer it into shape and put a whetstone to it, and know that I had something to write about, than to have it bright and shining and nothing to say, or smooth and well oiled in the closet, but unused.

HEMINGWAY

As for the well known Amory, he would write immortal literature if he were sure enough about anything to risk telling any one else about it. There is no more dangerous risk to posterity than a few cleverly turned platitudes.

FITZGERALD

The enemies of intellectual liberty always try to present their case as a plea for discipline versus individualism. The issue, truth-versus-untruth, is as far as possible kept in the background. Although the point of emphasis may vary, the writer who refuses to sell his opinions is always branded as a mere egoist. He is accused, that is, of either wanting to shut himself up in an ivory tower, or of making an exhibitionist display of his own personality, or of resisting the inevitable current of history in an attempt to cling to unjustified privilege.

ORWELL

Young people discover their poets because they wish to discover them.

ZWEIG

Free me from living for vanity and let me enjoy in my brief life the infinitude of poetry.

BARRÈS

Of all Priesthoods, Aristocracies, Governing Classes at present extant in the world, there is no class comparable for importance to that Priesthood of the Writers of Books.

CARLYLE

Things may not be immediately discernible in what a man writes, and in this sometimes he is fortunate; but eventually they are quite clear and by these and the degree of alchemy that he possesses he will endure or be forgotten. Writing, at its best, is a lonely life. Organizations for writers palliate the writer's loneliness but I doubt if they improve his writing. He grows in public stature as he sheds his loneliness and often his work deteriorates. For he does his work alone and if he is a good enough writer he must face eternity, or the lack of it, each day. For a true writer each book should be a new beginning where he tries again for something that is beyond attainment. He should always try for something that has never been done or that others have tried and failed. Then sometimes, with great luck, he will succeed. How simple the writing of literature would be if it were only necessary to write in another way what has been well written. It is because we have had such great writers in the past that a writer is driven far out past where he can go, out to where no one can help him. I have spoken too long for a writer. A writer should write what he has to say and not speak it. Again I thank you.

HEMINGWAY

For a genuine man it is no evil to be poor. There ought to be literary Men poor, to show whether they are genuine or not.

CARLYLE

I was driven into writing because I found it was the only way a lazy and ill-educated man could make a decent living.

WAUGH

Tuesday 29 July 1921

I know I have something in me but I am desperately afraid it may never come to anything... I am sure that if I have genius, it will survive; if not it isn't worth living anyway. *Nox est perpetua una dormienda*. The night which falls is one never-ending sleep.

Hampstead, Monday 21 Feb 1927

Today the 21st I have been trying to do something about getting a job and am tired and discouraged. It is all an infernal nuisance. I wrote to Edmund and Charles to say goodbye to them. It seems to me the time has arrived to set about being a man of letters.

The two basic stories of all-time are Cinderella and Jack the Giant Killer — the charm of women and the courage of men. The nineteenth century glorified the merchant's cowardly son. Now a reaction.

FITZGERALD

There is a great deal to be said for the Arts. For one thing they offer the only career in which commercial failure is not necessarily discreditable. Shabbiness of appearance and irregularity of life are not only forgiven to the artist but expected. Art offers scope for profound and prolonged laziness and in the event of success gives rewards quite out of proportion to industry.

WAUGH

Why does he write anything? Because he does not have enough character not to write.

KRAUS

Satire is a sort of glass wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own, which is the chief reason so few are offended by it.

I do not wish to entertain, but to irritate and insult people.

SWIFT

I would emphasise once again the importance and the virtue of disloyalty. If only writers could maintain that one virtue, unspotted from the world. Honours, state patronage, success, the praise of their fellows all tend to sap their disloyalty. Loyalty confines us to accepted opinions: loyalty forbids us to comprehend sympathetically our dissident fellows; but disloyalty encourages us to roam experimentally through any human mind: it gives to the novelist the extra dimension of sympathy.

GREENE

All fine prose is based on the verbs carrying the sentences.

FITZGERALD

An author in his book must be like God in the universe, present everywhere and visible nowhere.

FLAUBERT

The style of a writer is almost always the faithful representative of his mind; therefore, if any man wish to write a clear style, let him begin by making his thoughts clear; and if any would write in a noble style, let him first possess a noble soul.

GOETHE

HENRY JAMES

We work in the dark — we do what we can — we give what we have. Our doubt is our passion and our passion is our task. The rest is the madness of art.

The only success worth one's powder was success in the line of one's idiosyncrasy. Consistency was in itself distinction, and what was talent but the art of being completely whatever it was that one happened to be?

I hold any writer sufficiently justified who is himself in love with his theme.

The poet is of no party. Otherwise, he would be a mere mortal.

BAUDELAIRE

A work is never completed except by some accident such as weariness, satisfaction, the need to deliver, or death: for, in relation to who or what is making it, it can only be one stage in a series of inner transformations.

VALÉRY

Every writer who refuses to believe in a God, the author of the universe and the judge of men, whose soul he has made immortal, in the first place excludes infinity from his works.

CHATEAUBRIAND

The chief end I propose to myself in all my labours is to vex the world, rather than divert it; and if I could compass that design without hurting my own person or fortune I would be the most indefatigable writer you have ever seen, without reading.

SWIFT