

C.S. Lewis Painting – Final Quotes

(In the order they were placed on the canvas)

The load or weight, or burden of my neighbor's glory should be laid on my back, a load so heavy that only humility can carry it, and the backs of the proud will be broken. It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you say it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations.

from *The Weight of Glory*, "The Weight of Glory" (1942) p45 -119 words

I am a product of long corridors, empty sunlit rooms, upstairs indoor silences, attics explored in solitude, distant noises of gurgling cisterns and pipes, and the noise of wind under the tiles. Also, of endless books... There were books in the study, books in the drawing room, books in the cloakroom, books (two deep) in the great bookcase on the landing, books in a bedroom, books piled high as my shoulder in the cistern attic, books of all kinds reflecting my parents' interest, books readable and unreadable, books suitable for a child and books most emphatically not. Nothing was forbidden me. In the seemingly endless rainy afternoons I took volume after volume from the shelves. I always had the same certainty of finding a book that was new to me as a man who walks into a field has of finding a new blade of grass.

--Surprised by Joy, "The First Years", page 8. -147 words.

I was by now too experienced in literary criticism to regard the Gospels as myths. They had not the mythical taste. And yet the very matter which they set down in their artless, historical fashion ... was precisely the matter of the great myths. If ever a myth had become fact, had been incarnated, it would be just like this. And nothing else in all literature was like this. Myths were like it in one way. Histories were like it in another. But nothing was simply like it. And no person was like the Person it depicted; as real, as recognizable, through all that depth of time, as Plato's Socrates or Boswell's Johnson ... yet also numinous, lit by a light from beyond the world, a god. But if a god - we are no longer polytheists - then not a god, but God. *Here and here only in all time the myth must have become fact; the Word, flesh; God, Man. This is not "a religion," nor "a philosophy." It is the summing up and actuality of them all.*

- C. S. Lewis, in *Surprised by Joy* -181 words

"What will all that chatter and heresy count (will you even be able to remember it?) when the anaesthetic fog which we call 'nature' or 'the real world' fades away and the presence in which you have always stood becomes palpable, immediate, and unavoidable."

--Mere Christianity - 44 words

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“Tree Line” outside Window: (Note that the gray words shown in the tree line are mostly unreadable)

"We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with Him. He walks incognito... *The real labour is to remember, to attend. In fact, to come awake. Still more, to remain awake.*"

--Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer – **38 words**

"The Christian story is precisely the story of one grand miracle, the Christian assertion being that *what is beyond all space and time, what is uncreated, eternal came into nature, into human nature, descended into His own universe, and rose again, bring nature up with Him, It is precisely one great miracle.* If you take that away there is nothing specifically Christian left."--God in the Dock, The Grand Miracle - **63 words**

"It was when I was happiest that I longed most...The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing...to find the place where all the beauty came from." --Till We Have Faces – **29 words**

"If we take the imagery of Scripture seriously, if we believe that God will one day give us the Morning Star and cause us to put on the splendour of the sun, then we may surmise that both the ancient myths and the modern poetry, so false as history, may be very near the truth as prophecy...We cannot mingle with the splendours we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumour that it will not always be so."--The Weight of Glory – **84 words**

I believe in Christianity as I believe the sun has risen, not only because I see it but because, by it, I see everything else.

- C.S. Lewis in Weight of Glory, "Is Theology Poetry?" – **25 words**

"To please God...to be a real ingredient in the divine happiness...to be loved by God, not merely pitied, but delighted in as an artist delights in his work or a father in a son--it seems impossible, a weight or burden of glory which our thoughts can hardly sustain. But so it is." --The Weight of Glory – **53 words**

"All that we call human history--money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery--[is] the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy."

--Mere Christianity – **33 words**

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Please note: words in gray below are the context of the quote but were not used.

"I can promise you none of these things. No sphere of usefulness: you are not needed there at all. No scope for your talents: only forgiveness for having perverted them. No atmosphere of inquiry ... *for I will bring you not to the land of questions but of answers, and you shall see the face of God*"

--The Great Divorce – 22 words

There are no ordinary people. You have never met a mere mortal.

The Weight of Glory, "The Weight of Glory" (1942) p46 12 words

Talk to me about the truth of religion and I'll listen gladly. Talk to me about the duty of religion and I'll listen submissively. But don't come talking to me about the consolations of religion or I shall suspect that you don't understand. - *A Grief Observed* 1961 43 words

Arnold gave me at once (and the best of Arnold gives me still) a sense, not of passionless vision, but of *a passionate, silent gazing at things a long way off.*

--Surprised by Joy, "Mountbraken and Campbell", page 51 -10 words

"God will look to every soul like its first love because He is its first love." --*The Problem of Pain* - 16 words

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." -- C.S. Lewis (*Mere Christianity*) – 27 words

When I lay these questions before God, I get no answer. But a rather special sort of 'no answer.' It is not the locked door. It is more like a silent, certainly not uncompassionate gaze. As though he shook his head not in refusal but in waiving the question. Like, 'Peace, child; you do not understand.'"

--*A Grief Observed* – 56 words

"But the great thing to remember is that, though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, it is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him."

--*Mere Christianity* – 57 words

Total: 1059 words used