“The fear of death is the most unjustified of all fears, for here’s no risk of accident for someone who’s dead.”

-Albert Einstein
“At some stage of evolution man must have discovered that he can kill not only animals and fellow-men but also himself. Life has never since been the same to him.”

- Erwin Stengel
“Death is so awful to contemplate that it can make us love life and value it with such passion that it may be the ultimate cause of all joy and all art.”

- Paul Theroux
“While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.”

- Leonardo da Vinci
“Every religion, every scientific investigation, every philosophy proceeds from it.”

- Oswald Spengler
“Death is not the greatest of evils; it is worse to want to die, and not be able to.”

- Sophocles
“The irony of man’s condition is that the deepest need is to be free of the anxiety of death and annihilation; but it is life itself which awakens it, and so we must shrink from being fully alive.”

- Ernest Becker
“To die must be an awfully big adventure.”

- J. M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*
When death comes like the hungry bear in autumn;
when death comes and takes all the bright coins from his purse
to buy me, and snaps the purse shut;
when death comes like the measles-pox;
I want to step through the door full of curiosity, wondering:
what is it going to be like, that cottage of darkness?

- Mary Oliver
“Of all mindfulness meditations, that on death is supreme.”

- Gautama Buddha
“Death? Why this fuss about death? Use your imagination; try to visualize a world without death! ... Death is the essential condition of life, not an evil.”

– Charlotte Perkins Gilman
“Let life be as beautiful as summer flowers
And death as beautiful as autumn leaves.”

- Rabindranath Tagore
“It’s funny the way most people love the dead. Once you’re dead, you’re made for life.”

- Jimi Hendrix
“The human race is the only one that knows it must die, and it knows this only through its experience. A child brought up alone and transported to a desert island would have no more idea of death than a cat or a plant.”

- Voltaire
“It is in a fairly recent phase of that evolutionary course that the realization of death as the inevitable finale of every life has overtaken mankind....As a naked fact, that realization is unacceptable. Nothing, perhaps, is more comprehensible than that people....would rather reject than accept the idea of death as an inevitable close of their brief earthly careers.”

- Susanne Langer
“Life and death are one thread, the same line viewed from different sides.”

- Lao Tzu
“Every religion, every scientific investigation, every philosophy proceeds from it.”

- Oswald Spengler

“Depend upon it, sir, when a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully.”

- Samuel Johnson
“One Fate attends us; and one common Grave...
For still we think an absent blessing best,
Which cloys, and is no blessing when possest;
A new arising wish expells it from the Breast.
The Feav’rish thirst of Life increases still;
We call for more and more, and never have our fill...”

- John Dryden
“Dying is a very dull, dreary affair. And my advice to you is to have nothing whatever to do with it.”

- William Somerset Maugham
“No one knows whether death, which people fear to be the greatest evil, may not be the greatest good.”

— Plato
“Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that's troublesome.”

- Isaac Asimov
“There is no death
Only a change of worlds.”

- Chief Seattle
“Men fear Death, as children fear to go in the dark; and as that natural fear in children is increased with tales, so is the other.”

- Francis Bacon
“Death is terrifying because it is so ordinary. It happens all the time.”

- Susan Cheever
“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”
- Mahatma Gandhi
“How can I rest, how can I be at peace? Despair is in my heart. What my brother is now, that shall I be when I am dead. Because I am afraid of death I will go as best I can to find Utnapishtim whom they call the Faraway, for he has entered the assembly of the gods.”

(Sandars, 97)

- Epic of Gilgamesh
“Death does not concern us, because as long as we exist, death is not here. And when it does come, we no longer exist.”

- Epicurus
“The idea is to die young as late as possible.”
– Ashley Montagu
“Millions long for immortality who do not know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon.”

- Susan Ertz
“When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice.”

- Cherokee
“One can survive everything nowadays, except death, and live down everything, except a good reputation.”

– Oscar Wilde
“Death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life’s change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new.”

-Steve Jobs
“Death was Nature’s way of telling you to slow down.”

- Terry Pratchett
The yaksha asked: “What is the greatest surprise?” Yudhisthira replied: “People die every day, making us aware that men are mortal. Yet we live, work, play, plan, etc., as if assuming we are immortal. What is more surprising than that?”

—The Mahabharata
“Death is certain, replacing both the siren-song of Paradise and the dread of Hell. Life on this earth, with all its mystery and beauty and pain, is then to be lived far more intensely: we stumble and get up, we are sad, confident, insecure, feel loneliness and joy and love. There is nothing more; but I want nothing more.”

– Christopher Hitchens
“There is but one truly serious philosophical problem and that is suicide.”

-Albert Camus
“If my doctor told me I had only six minutes to live, I wouldn’t brood. I’d type a little faster.”

-Isaac Asimov
“The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time.”

-Mark Twain
“All who have died are equal.”

- Comanche
“Happy the hare at morning, for she cannot read The Hunter’s waking thoughts.

Lucky the leaf
Unable to predict the fall. ...”

- W.H. Auden
“The meaning of life is that it stops.”
- Franz Kafka
“People do not die for us immediately, but remain bathed in a sort of aura of life which bears no relation to true immortality but through which they continue to occupy our thoughts in the same way as when they were alive. It is as though they were traveling abroad.”

- Marcel Proust
“I’m not afraid to die. I just don’t want to be there when it happens.”

- Woody Allen
“For those who live neither with religious consolations about death nor with a sense of death (or of anything else) as natural, death is the obscene mystery, the ultimate affront, the thing that cannot be controlled. It can only be denied.”

- Susan Sontag
“The human animal is a beast that dies and if he’s got money, he buys and buys and buys and buys and I think the reason he buys everything he can buy is that in the back of his mind he has the crazy hope that one of his purchases will be life ever-lasting.”

- Tennessee Williams
“After your death you will be what you were before your birth.”

- Arthur Schopenhauer
“The idea of death, the fear of it, haunts the human animal like nothing else; it is the mainspring of human activity – activity designed largely to avoid the fatality of death, to overcome it by denying in some way that it is the final destiny of man.”

- Ernest Becker
“No one ever lacks a good reason for suicide.”

- Cesare Pavese