

A Small Note

This collection of quotes and proverbs is the result of many years of reading, learning, and reflection from various sources. It was compiled not merely for the Civil Services Examination, but also for the enrichment of my own life.

These quotes have played, and continue to play, a significant role in shaping my thoughts, values, and behaviour. Many of them have kept me motivated and positive even during difficult and unexpected phases of life. They have also inspired me to work towards the welfare of the people and the betterment of society.

I sincerely hope that this collection will help aspirants not only in their Civil Services preparation but also in bringing meaningful change to their lives.

Thank you.

– **Rajinikanth**



Rajinikanth Ramareddipeta
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ESSAY & ETHICS QUOTES

Compiled from Handwritten Notes | UPSC CSE | GS Paper IV + Essay

ETHICS

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."

— Albert Einstein

"In law a man is guilty if he violates the rights of others; in ethics he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so."

— Immanuel Kant

"Live your life as though your every act were to become a universal law."

— Immanuel Kant

"Act so as to treat others as ends and not merely as means."

— Immanuel Kant

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."

— Mark Twain

"Nothing is to be preferred before justice."

— Socrates

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."

— Socrates

"Righteousness is the foundation stone of peace and good governance."

— Confucius

"An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind."

— Gandhi

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed."

— Gandhi

"In matters of conscience, the law of the majority has no place."

— M. K. Gandhi

"Non-violence is the weapon of the strong."

— Gandhi

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."

— Leo Tolstoy

"Wrong doesn't cease to be wrong because the majority share in it."

— Leo Tolstoy

"The fewer our wants, the nearer we resemble the gods."

— Socrates

"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

— Mark Twain

"The triumph of persuasion over force is the sign of civilized society."

— Marcus Aurelius

"Our life is what our thoughts make it."

— Marcus Aurelius

"Our minds act like an enemy if we do not control it."

— Bhagavad Gita

"Ethics is the politics of heaven. Politics is the ethics of hell."

— Jakub Bozdýar

"Ethics changes with technology."

— Larry Niven

"He who smiles rather than rages is always the stronger."

— Japanese Proverb

ETHICS & INTEGRITY

"Integrity is doing the right thing even when nobody is watching."

— C. S. Lewis

"Accountability is to say what you do and do what you say."

— Pearl Zhu

"It is very easy to be happy, but it is very difficult to be simple."

— Tagore

"Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."

— Abraham Lincoln

"The safety of the people shall be the highest law."

— Marcus Cicero

"Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching."

— C. S. Lewis

"Act so as to treat others as ends and not merely as means."

— Kant

EDUCATION

"Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself."

— John Dewey

"The greatest aim of education is not knowledge but action."

— Herbert Spencer

"Education is the most powerful weapon which we can use to change the world."

— Nelson Mandela

"Education is teaching our children to desire the right things."

— Plato

"Knowledge leads to right conduct and happiness, while ignorance breeds evil."

— Socrates

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

— Aristotle

"Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil."

— C. S. Lewis

"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society."

— Theodore Roosevelt

"The highest result of education is tolerance."

— Helen Keller

"An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest."

— Benjamin Franklin

"Education is the best friend. An educated person is respected everywhere."

— Chanakya

"Imagination is more important than knowledge."

— Einstein

"I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think."

— Socrates

"It is the mark of an educated mind to entertain a thought without accepting it."

— Aristotle

"The man who doesn't read has no advantage over the man who cannot read."

— Mark Twain

"There is no school equal to a decent home and no teacher equal to a virtuous parent."

— M. K. Gandhi

"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think."

— Margaret Mead

"If your plan is for one year, plant rice. If for 10 years, plant a tree. If for 100 years, educate children."

— Confucius

"The beginning is the most important part of the work."

— Plato

WOMEN & GENDER

"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."

— B. R. Ambedkar

"You educate a man, you educate a man. You educate a woman, you educate a whole generation."

— Brigham Young

"The fastest way to change the world is to mobilize the women of the world."

— Charles Malik

"Freedom cannot be achieved unless women have been emancipated from all forms of discrimination."

— Nelson Mandela

"Feminism isn't about making women stronger. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength."

— G. D. Anderson

"I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to death your right to say it."

— Voltaire

"Give to every human being every right that you claim for yourself."

— Robert Green

POVERTY

"Poverty is the worst form of violence."

— Gandhi

"Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime."

— Aristotle

"It is health that is the real wealth and not the pieces of gold and silver."

— M. K. Gandhi

ENVIRONMENT

"The supreme reality of our time is the vulnerability of our planet."

— John F. Kennedy

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need but not every man's greed."

— Gandhi

"Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

GLOBALIZATION

"Arguing against globalization is like arguing against the laws of gravity."

— Kofi Annan

"The world must learn to work together, or finally it will not work at all."

— Eisenhower

GOVERNANCE & RIGHTS

"Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws."

— Plato

"A government is at best when it governs the least."

— Anon

"The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened."

— John F. Kennedy

"It is not enough to win a war, it is important to organise the peace."

— Aristotle

"Healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have."

— Winston Churchill

"The best way to get a bad law repealed is to enforce it strictly."

— Abraham Lincoln

"A vote is like a rifle; its usefulness depends upon the character of the user."

— Theodore Roosevelt

"The safety of the people shall be the highest law."

— Marcus Cicero

CONFUCIUS

"Study the past and you would define the future."

— Confucius

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

— Confucius

"If your plan is for one year, plant rice. For 10 years, plant a tree. For 100 years, educate children."

— Confucius

"It doesn't matter how slowly you go, as long as you don't stop."

— Confucius

"Respect yourself, and others will respect you."

— Confucius

"He who will not economize will have to agonize."

— Confucius

"Righteousness is the foundation stone of peace and good governance."

— Confucius

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

— Confucius

"The man who asks a question is a fool for a minute; the man who doesn't ask is a fool for life."

— Confucius

MAHATMA GANDHI

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

— M. K. Gandhi

"A man is but a product of his thoughts; what he thinks, he becomes."

— M. K. Gandhi

"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

— M. K. Gandhi

"I understand democracy as something that gives the weak the same power as the strong."

— M. K. Gandhi

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an attribute of the strong."

— M. K. Gandhi

"The future depends on what you do today."

— M. K. Gandhi

"Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes."

— M. K. Gandhi

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

— M. K. Gandhi

"I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet."

— M. K. Gandhi

GENERAL / PHILOSOPHICAL

"It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters."

— Epictetus

"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man."

— Heraclitus

"The unexamined life is not worth living."

— Socrates

"Two things awe me most: the starry sky above me and the moral law within me."

— Immanuel Kant

"Your heart knows the way, run in that direction."

— Rumi

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

— Nelson Mandela

"A revolution is a struggle between the future and the past."

— Fidel Castro

"If you want to shine like a sun, first learn to burn like one."

— A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

"You will never do anything in this world without courage. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honour."

— Aristotle

"Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something."

— Plato

"I am a citizen, not of Athens or Greece, but of the world."

— Socrates

"Try not to become a man of success. Rather become a man of value."

— Einstein

"People don't lack strength, they lack will."

— Victor Hugo

"The good you do today will often be forgotten. Do good anyway."

— Mother Teresa

"What is not good for the beehive, cannot be good for the bees."

— Marcus Aurelius

"When you are inspired by some great purpose, all your thoughts break their bonds."

— Patanjali

"The beginning is the most important part of the work."

— Plato

"Success tends to create pride and blindness in the hearts of men, while suffering teaches them to be patient and strong."

— Xenophon

"Be like the bamboo — the higher you grow, the deeper you bow."

— Chinese Proverb

"Know how to listen and you will profit even from those who talk badly."

— Plutarch

"Instead of cursing the darkness, light a candle."

— Benjamin Franklin

"I like the religion which teaches liberty, equality and fraternity."

— B. R. Ambedkar

ETHICAL PROVERBS

"What goes around, comes around."

— Proverb

"You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

— Proverb

"As you sow, so you reap."

— Proverb

"Don't blow your own trumpet."

— Proverb

"Beauty is only skin deep."

— Proverb

"An empty vessel makes more noise."

— Proverb

"Cowards die many times before their death."

— Proverb

"Two wrongs don't make a right."

— Proverb

"Don't bite the hand that feeds you."

— Proverb

"Actions speak louder than words."

— Proverb

"Don't put all your eggs in one basket."

— Proverb

"A bad workman always blames his tools."

— Proverb

"Adversity and loss make a man wise."

— Proverb

"Where one door shuts, another opens."

— Proverb