

# Inspirations

Use what talent you possess:  
the woods would be very silent  
if no birds sang except those that sang best.

**Henry Van Dyke**  
American Educator

---

**One hundred percent of the shots you don't take  
don't go in.**

**Wayne Gretzky**  
Canadian Ice Hockey Player

---

**Your work is to discover your world  
and then with all your heart give yourself to it.**

**The Buddha**  
The "Enlightened One"

---

**"Seldom does an individual exceed  
his own expectations."**

**Unknown**

---

"If you hear a voice within you say 'you cannot paint,' then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced."

**Vincent Van Gogh**  
Dutch Post-Impressionist Painter

---

**"If you have built castles in the air,  
your work need not be lost;  
that is where they should be.  
Now put the foundations under them."**

**Henry David Thoreau**  
American Author, Naturalist

---

"Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions."

**Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.**

---

**"Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds."**

**Albert Einstein**  
American Physicist

---

Your vision will become clear only when you look into your heart. Who looks outside, dreams.  
Who looks inside, awakens.

**Carl Jung**  
Swiss Psychologist

---

"It takes as much stress to be a success as it does to be a failure."

**Emilio James Trujillo**  
Haight Street Armchair Philosopher

---

**"The best way to predict your future is to create it."**

**Unknown**

---

"Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great."

**Mark Twain**  
American Author

---

**"Whether you think you can  
or think you can't --  
you are right."**

**Henry Ford**  
Founder, Ford Motor Company

---

"In any moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing."

**Theodore Roosevelt**  
26th President of the United States

---

**Your talent is God's gift to you.  
What you do with it is your gift back to God.**

**Unknown**

---

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing in the world is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent..."

**Calvin Coolidge**  
30th President of the United States

---

"When you plant lettuce, if it does not grow well, you don't blame the lettuce. You look for reasons it is not doing well. It may need fertilizer, or more water, or less sun. You never blame the lettuce. Yet if we have problems with our friends or family, we blame the other person. But if we know how to take care of them, they will grow well, like the lettuce. Blaming has no positive effect at all, nor does trying to persuade using reason and argument. That is my experience. No blame, no reasoning, no argument, just understanding. If you understand, and you show that you understand, you can love, and the situation will change."

**Thich Nhat Hanh**

Vietnamese Zen Master and Spiritual Leader

---

You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand."

**Woodrow Wilson**

28th President of the United States

---

Guard well your spare moments. They are like uncut diamonds. Discard them and their value will never be known. Improve them and they will become the brightest gems in a useful life.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

American Poet

---

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

American Poet

---

"Dreams are renewable. No matter what our age or condition, there are still untapped possibilities within us and new beauty waiting to be born."

**Dale E. Turner**

---

**"A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile  
the moment a single man contemplates it,  
bearing within him the image of a cathedral."**

**Antoine De Saint-Exupery**

French Author, Aviator

---

Some men see things as they are and ask why.  
Others dream things that never were and ask why not.

**George Bernard Shaw**

Irish Playwright and Critic