

V Quotations

"The lower you can keep the costs — of every step of the process, including pipelines and road building — the more money you're going to make."

Bobby Vagt, quoted by Eliza Griswold

Vaidhyathan, Said:

"You can't argue with the armed."

from Antisocial Media: How Facebook Disconnects Us and Undermines Democracy

Mostly Facebook makes it hard to think...Facebook does [harm] to our ability to think collectively. When we are informed of a challenge or threat, Facebook invites us to express ourselves in the most succinct and shallow ways...Our inability to think through our problems collectively threatens our lives collectively...

it's now too easy to exploit fears to assume power...

We process infinite data but display no wisdom...

One of Arendt's favorite English phrases was 'stop and think' because she believed one had to stop all movement to think clearly...

market and political forces have turned products of the Enlightenment against enlightenment...

we spend only fleeting moments shaking our heads, and then move on .. for something to counter that brief discomfort - something to mask our complicity...

Facebook is too big to tame...

Some fairy tales are too good to stop believing, even after you grow up...

...iPhone [, smart phones,] are leashes that talk to us... They have tethered us to flows of data and the companies that own that data...

Between Google and Facebook we have witnessed a global concentration of wealth and power not seen since the British and Dutch East India Companies ruled vast territories, millions of people, and the most valuable trade routes. Remarkably, and unlike the East India Companies, Google and Facebook have achieved this feat nonviolently and with only tangential state support...

quotes Postman: 'Technopoly is a state of culture. It is also a state of mind. It consists of the deification of technology, which means that the culture seeks its authorization in technology, finds its satisfactions in technology, and takes its orders from technology...Technopoly eliminates alternatives to itself...It does not make them illegal. It does not make them immoral. It does not even make them unpopular. It makes them invisible and therefore relevant.'

Learning becomes a matter of searching, copying, and pasting rather than immersing, considering, and deliberating...

there is too much on...

We are left with too much that is shady, manipulative, or hyperbolic. Facebook rewards hyperbole. Hyperbole rewards Facebook...

Now it's about the operating system of our lives...

The United States should breakup Facebook...

There is a fine line between declaring that one won't 'be evil' and believing that one can do no wrong. Only the threat and force of stern state regulation can push companies to straighten up. That's both how it is and how it should be...

It's getting dark - quickly.

"Trolling is expression that crushes expression. It undermines the ability of groups of people to think collectively and productively about serious issues.

end **SIVA VAIDHYANATHAN**

"Let them kill us all, if that is the death sentence for reporting this hell. No to silence."

Javier Valdez, Mexican reporter, assassinated 5-2017

"We enter the future backwards."

"The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up."

"Never before has mankind combined so much power with so much confusion, so many fears and so many playthings, so much knowledge and so much uncertainty. Disquiet and futility share out our days."

Paul Valery, French poet

van Bavel, Jay J:

The Power of Us book, 2021

Vance, JD:

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis

Vance, J. D.

my home is a hub of misery.

we're a pessimistic bunch.

working-class whites are the most pessimistic group in America.

the fact that hillbillies like me are more down about the future than many other groups—some of whom are clearly more destitute than we are—suggests that something else is going on.

this story of economic insecurity is, at best, incomplete.

a culture that increasingly encourages social decay instead of counteracting it.

Too many young men immune to hard work.

a lack of agency here—

a willingness to blame everyone but yourself.

My primary aim is to tell a true story about what that problem feels like when you were born with it hanging around your neck.

this story is, to the best of my recollection, a fully accurate portrait of the world I've witnessed.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan argued, "The central conservative truth is that it is culture, not politics, that determines the success of a society."

end Hillbilly Elegy

end Vance

"We use technology this way all the time, to create a layer of insulation. We send an e-mail so we don't have to call someone on the phone. Or we call someone so we don't have to go over to their house."

Andy van Dam, Brown U

VandeHei, Jim:

"America is screwed if we don't restore fast a common connection, a common truth and a common reality," Axios profile in NYT

"What used to be called liberal is now called radical, what used to be called reactionary is now called moderate, and what used to be called insane is now called solid conservatism."

Katrina vanden Heuvel

"...our pace of life, our actual lifestyle, is the main cause of illness and emotional distress. ... When a person consciously continues an activity that he knows is doing him harm, wouldn't that be called an addiction? Perhaps a neurotic condition? If so with an individual, what about a nation?"

Wm Van Dusen

Vangelis (Evangelos Odysseas Papathanassiou):

obot Chariots of Fire, Cosmos. Sagan

"Music goes through me. It's not by me."

Mythodea NASA

Van Iperen, Roxane:

"Just saying no to the legal order is the first step. To say 'I'm not obeying, I will not comply'. ... At that exact moment of being destroyed as a people, you are actually multiplying the uniqueness of your own culture, the language, the traditions. Culture is what binds a people, even if you're not religious. It is about creating new symbols to make sense of what's happening."

"...in this side of death we see with one hemisphere only?"

"Normality is a paved road: It's comfortable to walk, but no flowers grow on it."

Vincent Van Gogh

Van Hollen, Chris:

"...our very atmosphere is a de facto Superfund site."

"I'm a strong advocate of freedom of the press as long as they have something to say."

Sandy Vanocur

"...I always wanted to make people see deeply. I don't want to show things, but to give people the desire to see."

Agnes Varda

"For centuries, countries such as the US and the UK have plundered natural resources from around the world and polluted them back out.

Less developed nations have been doubly dispossessed: first, of their resource wealth, and second, of their right to a sustainable life – and in the case of many small island developing states, of their very right to exist. An International Green New Deal would redistribute resources to rehabilitate overexploited regions, protect against rising sea levels, and guarantee a decent standard of living to all climate refugees.

... "Advanced" capitalist countries today are literally falling apart. In the US, net public investment has fallen below half of one per cent of GDP. Across the eurozone, net public investment has remained below zero for nearly a decade. It is little wonder that political monsters are rising again: just as in the 1930s, the grapes of wrath are ripening and "growing heavy for the vintage"

Yanis Varoufakis

"Experience ... is not the inventory of our pains, but rather the learned sympathy toward the pain of others."

Juan Gabriel Vasquez:

The outcome of any serious research can only be to make two questions grow where only one grew before.

conspicuous consumption

Thorstein Veblen

"And what's so small to you

Is so large to me

If it's the last thing I do

I'll make you see."

Suzanne Vega quoted by Lisa Randall

Veil:

"This support ... rests on the principles that you affirm and, against all odds, without ever raising your voice, manage to convince everyone of. We can say this without airs: In the heart of political life, you offer a moral and republican image."

Jean d'Ormesson on Simone Veil in NYT obit

"...the Indiana Amish [are] among the least allergenic populations ever described in the developed world. Farms with the greatest array of microbes, including fungi, appear to be the most protective against asthma."

Moises Velasquez-Manoff, an *epidemic of absence* bk

"CBD may provide a kind of full-body massage at the molecular level."

Velasquez-Manoff

Veltman, Martinus:

"What makes me like a theory? The answer is trivial. It has to work."

"The future is an idea we have to conjure in our minds, not something that we perceive with our senses."

Bina Ventakatarman

Ventner, Craig:

"...the public gets its science education from Woody Allen and Arnold Schwarzenegger movies."

"We found 50,000 new species in just one barrel of seawater and found most of the biology in the surface of our oceans is driven by sunlight to be photoreceptors."

"There is no point in trying to cure cancer if we don't do something about the destruction of the environment... Sailing around the world, it is hard to go a mile in the ocean without interacting with trash."

"...our health depends on these environmental factors we know virtually nothing about."

"The great obstacle is the miserable state of scientific education, particularly in the US."

"If the science is not understood, then we will get the kind of bad decisions for our species we've seen at the national level in the US." in *New Perspectives Quart.* Fall 05

"...stopping taking carbon out of the ground and burning it into the atmosphere is the long term thing that has to be done ... The least efficient thing we do is feed cows grass, corn, water to produce steaks. It's not sustainable. ...technology can replace meat from animals ... 'motherless meat' because vegans have a rule that if it has a mother, they won't eat it." 2013

end Ventner, Craig

"...water will one day be employed as fuel, that hydrogen and oxygen which constitute it, used singly or together, will furnish an inexhaustible source of heat and light..."

Jules Verne, *The Mysterious Island*, 1874

"The truth comes naturally but lying takes effort and a sharp, flexible mind."

Bruno Verschere

Vidal:

"The great unmentionable evil at the center of our culture is monotheism. From a barbaric Bronze Age text known as the Old Testament, three anti-human religions have evolved – Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. These are sky-god religions. They are, literally, patriarchal – God is the Omnipotent Father – hence the loathing of women for 2,000 years in those countries afflicted by the sky-god and his earthly male delegates."

"As societies grow decadent, the language grows decadent, too. Words are used to disguise... action. Words are used to confuse, so that at election time people will solemnly vote against their own interests."

"...60,000 men, women, and children...the acceptable statistical minimum for genocide."

"...the American memory has a span of about three days."

Gore Vidal *Imperial America*, 2004

"Each of us is born into a prison."

Gore Vidal (Terkel interview)

"Gore [Vidal] is a man without an unconscious." Italo calvino on Vidal

"It's not enough to succeed. Others must fail."

There is not one human problem that could not be solved if people would simply do as I advise."

"Never offend an enemy in a small way."

"He's always to the right, and almost always in the wrong."

Gore Vidal on William Buckley

end Vidal, Gore

"... the greatest toxin of all is ignorance."

Dokusho Villalba

"...it is important to acknowledge the toll that being the witness, being he person who tells these stories, the toll it takes on artists of color and these communities...

magical realism: a literary technique that was used to bring justice to the page when there was impunity in real life and in our environment."

Karla Cornejo Villavicencio in nyt

"...despair is just another form of denial."

Katharine Viner, editor The Guardian

"Politics is where rationality and irrationality meet. As well as passion."

Cedric Villani

"[Villani] comes from a world which is regulated by truth, or trying to approach truth. Truth is more polemical in social sciences, but in mathematics it's not polemical. He has moved into another world which is regulated by other principles." , " said Clément Mouhot, at the University of Cambridge.

Virchow, Rudolf:

"Medicine is social science and politics nothing but medicine on a grand scale,"

Virguez, Edgar:

"They tried to bury us; they didn't know we were seeds."

in Duke U Library exhibition on Latin community.

"...the war machine...the watching machine...the fusion is complete, the confusion perfect: nothing now distinguishes the functions of the weapon and the eye..."

'The world disappears in war, and war as a phenomenon disappears from the eyes of the world.'

Paul Virilio

Visevic, Danijel, VC:

"I love the concept of carbon shadow. The carbon footprint concept was coined by the oil and gas industry so that we are all aware of our footprints. But a person working for an oil company can bike to work everyday and have a nice carbon footprint, but a big carbon shadow."

"...the tension between the Lone Ranger individualist who occupies center stage in American myth and the communal interdependence that defines democracy...

a combination of self-absorption and distrust of their government made Americans vulnerable to the appeal of authoritarianism...."

Paul Vitello in ny times obituary for Philip E Slater

"A further reason for my hatred of National Socialism and other ideologies is quite a primitive one. I have an aversion to killing people for the fun of it. What the fun is, I did not quite understand at the time, but in the intervening years the ample exploration of revolutionary consciousness has cast some light on this matter. The fun consists in gaining a pseudo-identity through asserting

one's power, optimally by killing somebody - a pseudo-identity that serves as a substitute for the human self that has been lost."

Eric Voegelin, quoted by Murawiec, p. 256 pdf

"The central issue is we're developing into a plutocracy. We've got an enormous number of enormously rich people that have convinced themselves that they're rich because they're smart and constructive. And they don't like government, and they don't like to pay taxes."

Paul Volcker

"Addiction is a brain disease that weakens self-control, incites intense cravings beyond physical dependence and occurs only in a small percentage of people."

Nora D. Volkow via Terrence McCoy

"...Federal law counts for nothing in Utah. Nor the Constitution. And certainly not the treaty with the Goshutes."

Tim Vollmann of Albuquerque

Voltaire:

"Men argue, Nature acts."

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."

"Doubt is not a very pleasant status,
But certainty is a ridiculous one."

"The comfort of the rich rests upon an abundance of the poor."

"Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."

Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is an absurd one."

"If it's too silly to be said, it can always be sung."

"Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is an absurd one."

"How infinitesimal is the importance of anything I do, but how infinitely important it is that I should do it."

"How infinitesimal is the importance of anything I do, but how infinitely important it is that I should do it."

"Physicians prescribe therapies about which they know little,
for diseases about which they know less,
to patients about which they know nothing."

"Everything must end; meanwhile we must amuse ourselves."

"It is dangerous to be right in matters on which the established authorities are wrong."

Voltaire, cited in Tihkal

end Voltaire

Basic research is when I'm doing what I don't know I'm doing.

Wernher von Braun

"... the Greeks ...understood that the peril of kings was hubris, and that hubris was an invitation to the avenging goddess called Nemesis."

"Not sure what to believe? Bingo... mistrust is the desired symptom of a powerful virus — a confidence- sapping worm of mutual suspicion — that Russia has planted in the operating system of American democracy."

"Putin and Xi are rousing the West to a new lucidity."

The only thing more dangerous than a nut with nukes is a nut with nukes who idolizes Joseph Stalin.

David von Drehle

"The 1986 Chernobyl accident will ultimately kill about 10,000 people, mostly from cancer. Coal plants are much deadlier: the fine-particulate air pollution they produce kills about 10,000 people each year in the United States alone."

Frank N von Hippel

Alexander von Humboldt

"The most dangerous worldview is the worldview of those who have not viewed the world."

von Neumann, John:

daughter: 'My father's first love in life was thinking.'

Vonnegut:

"A humanist creed: to behave as decently, as fairly and as honorably as we can without any expectation of rewards or punishments in an afterlife."

"A sane person to an insane society must appear insane."

"...help is not on the way."

"Dear Future Generations: Please accept our apologies. We were roaring drunk on petroleum."

"God shouldn't be put in charge of everything until we get to know Him a little better" -- **Kurt**

Vonnegut, The Nation, 11/28/81

Kurt Vonnegut's famous pieces of writing advice was this:

"Start as close to the end as possible."

"It is spiritually pooping to care desperately about student work that probably isn't worth caring about."

"We are what we pretend to be, so we must be careful about what we pretend to be. From novel *Mother Night*.

end Vonnegut

"...higher status was associated with lower levels of stress and better health...men with less political influence had higher levels of the stress hormone cortisol...status offers a greater sense of control...acts as a form of social insurance."

Christopher von Rueden, NYT 12-14-2014

"I no longer have a family. The ruling regime is guilty. Every bureaucrat dreams of stealing like Putin. Every state functionary treats people like garbage."

IGOR VOSTRIKOV

Vroman, Geri:

"I am grateful to have a job where I get to use my soul."

Geri told me, of her father, "One of my dad's favourite lines from (of course) a New Yorker cartoon, showing Mrs. DaVinci with sceptical crossed arms, looking at her husband hunched over his littered work-desk: 'Leo, aren't you spreading yourself a little thin?'"

Leo Vroman:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pd1fe5OXiIM>

All we can create and cry is interface.

It forms and folds to mate and die and by its grace

Life's clutch can hold a cloudy sky 'till water laps its coast.

That is, perhaps, why what we touch is uppermost.

Whenever I become so lost into the beauty of smaller and smaller things that no one will tunnel behind me, I must stop and turn myself around, and come back to the world. The day I come home unable to explain to a child what I did, that day is lost, and that child has receded from me.

...there is nothing wrong with changing...I believe that holding on to one fragment of theory, one style in art, or one religion for five minutes more than mood or mind requires, is a sick step toward death.

...wherever the well trained scientist aims, he must dive into detail to crash with his brain impaled on his pinpoint specialty.

How cruelly deaf and blind we are
To Nature's precious library
Where age-old books still write themselves
And erect their own shelves.
So many we have burnt unread.
The deed is done, the dodo dead.

"...without accidents no discoveries are made.
Preferring my own thoughts to those of others, I wondered ..."

"As our collective knowledge grows, the single human mind will prove itself less and less able to grasp and predict the integrated event, but more and more able to admire and love the complexity of all living things. This in itself is the one and only prediction which will prove to be correct."
in Ultimate Ignorance editorial, JBMR 1985

"What makes memories interesting is that they are wrong."

from his unpublished memoir *Touched by Blood*:
"Whenever I think my memory is beginning to fail me I remember how poor it was to begin with."

from 7-1987 Biomaterials Gordon Conf. talk - transcribed from audio file:

"Protein molecules are like words. They build up of a choice of 20 letters you could say, amino acids, and they are strung out like very long words. Not only that, but they like to be absorbed, to go on surfaces which means that they are like words that want to be written. The trouble is that once they are written their meaning changes depending on the context that they are written in... I see what you call the human body or any living thing as a group of words that actually, inside the cover, it says 'do not open me', but of course you don't see that note until you open it and then it's too late ... the words don't remain on the pages, they connect the pages, and if you open the book anywhere you rip it apart - Sometimes right through the words."
illustrated in Vroman sketch captioned 'Book of Life'.

Describing his sketch of the three Vromans: "Myself as a scientist: The worst thing I can say about myself is still pretty nice. I seem to be destroying something there and what I am destroying is the work of my other two personalities. Myself as an artist with a third eye somewhere because I look differently at things. I'm painting away. And this is supposed to be the poet who always has a twisted head. I want you to notice the laurel wreath on top. But this is the relationship with me with me and me. There's some poetry in there too that fortunately you can't read. The message of the whole thing is that we should all work together..."

Final lines in *Touched by Blood*:

Understanding an entire human is impossible. I do not even understand my own motivation in writing this. Like most people, I would not want to leave this world without leaving something helpful behind. But if this manuscript would catch fire right now, and perish with me, and worse, perish with you and with this world, in the final instant I will be more satisfied by having told you, the reader in my mind, about this. Probably pure arrogance.

Vroman *Touched by Blood* final poem:

To what hell's heights do I aspire
from fetal fat to fickle fame?
With the entire world on fire
who needs another flickering flame?

What can I warm with: these blind pages
if all my love will leave you cold?
A treasure map passed by the ages
too old and crumbling to unfold,
a fluke from first to final thrashes,
ending in to no end begun
but briefly from alive to ashes
rushing from raw too overdone
steaks and stews and hams and hashes
fanned by a few and feeding none.

Yes old, I'm leaning toward earth
where twigs and termites will remind me
of eternity behind me
giving meaning to my birth.

Here is the night of fairy tales
the dark world that my skin embraces
of hidden and heroic places
inside where our vision fails
but where I feel minutely burning
white cells talking in my blood,
their bodies swept off in its flood.

knights who died for nymphs and elves.
Wait, your world is overturning
since your proteins are learning
to talk at us about themselves,

us, their gods who blindly fought
and still who fail to understand
one single cell in foe or friend.
Cells, help us grow above our thought,
show us your love...

from Tekenaar:

Comics-
"I make each object swell or shrink...
to fit the frame wherein I think...

My old world burn to give the flame
that lights the words I just became...
that will be ashes, all the same.

End of Vroman