

List of Yubo’s Favorite Quotes

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1 Emerson

1.1 *The American Scholar*

- *“In this distribution of functions, the scholar is the delegated intellect. In the right state he is Man Thinking. In the degenerate state, he tends to become a mere thinker, or still worse, a parrot”*

Emerson proposes that Man prospers because he divides labor, so one’s role as a scholar is to be the thinking component of this aggregate Man, rather than just a parrot. Thus, we should think on behalf of humanity and not merely learn what others have thought.

- *“Colleges can only highly serve when they aim not to drill, but to create; when they gather from far every ray of various genius to their hospitable halls, and by the concentrated fires set the hearts of their youth on flame.”*

The context of the speech is some talk Emerson is giving members of some society at Harvard, so he is arguing for the role of higher education institutes. In line with his previous claim, he wishes colleges not to teach classics as revered classics but as concentrated musings of a colleague, to kindle the curiosity rather than calling it truth incarnate.

- *“Action is with the scholar subordinate, but it is essential. Without it thought can never ripen into truth. [...] Only so much do I know, as I have lived.”*

“Life is our dictionary. Colleges and books only copy the language which the field and the work-yard made.”

Part of a larger part where Emerson argues that scholars should not be recluses, and their being seen as such is because they have misunderstood a fundamental component of being a scholar, namely actually experiencing things. Life is our dictionary, we can only understand and express that which we have experienced.

- *“[Man Thinking] is one who raises himself from private considerations and breaths and lives on public and illustrious thoughts. He is the world’s eye. He is the world’s heart.”*

Part of the conclusion to Emerson’s talk where he argues that scholars give up much recognition and pleasures to pursue their work. It comes off a bit as self-pity to me, and I do not buy the argument. Scholars should study not because they want to be martyrs or the greater man but because they love their work and no else.

1.2 *Nature*

- *“He who knows what sweets and virtues are in the ground, the waters, the plants, the heavens, and how to come at these enchantments, is the rich and royal man”*

I am not reading *Nature* super carefully since it's one huge rant on nature being amazing, but the above sentence is a rather poetic way of capturing the spirit of the paper.