**Equality**

**Frederick Douglass, born a slave in 1818, escaped from bondage in a Baltimore shipyard on September 3, 1838. Disguised in seamen’s clothes and carrying the borrowed papers of a free sailor, Douglass jumped, ticketless, onto a northbound train. Speaking “like an old salt,” he convinced the conductor that the papers were his. A day later he was in New York City, where he married Anna Murray, his free fiancée. Douglass, who recounted slavery’s horrors in a best-selling autobiography in 1845, founded several newspapers and was a vocal advocate for equal rights for all people. He died in 1895 at age 77. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**Ancient community spirit: It has long been assumed that early human civilization was a dog-eat-dog world -- a Darwinian struggle of warring factions competing for scarce resources. But a new study suggests that in at least one part of the world, the opposite may have been true. For more than a decade, archeologists have been studying the Lothagam North Pillar Site -- an ancient cemetery near Lake Turkana in Kenya. Using carbon dating, they established that this monument was in use for several centuries between 4,000 and 5,000 years ago. To their surprise, they found no signs of a social hierarchy among the 580 individuals buried there. Men, women, and children were all interred alongside one another; almost all were buried with some kind of ornament, indicating "everyone in the society was valued," said Katherine Grillo, the co-director of the excavations. This seemingly leaderless community -- likely made up of itinerant herders -- apparently communicated extensively and worked to build massive cemeteries that served to reinforce their shared ideals and culture. As a result of their social cohesion, the herders thrived at a time of major change in the region's climate, when rising temperatures and drought depleted food sources. "This record from 5,000 years ago is a testament that (conflict) is not the only way to respond," Grillo tells The Washington Post. "It's possible for people to come together and have a more unified social approach to these problems." *(The Week magazine, September 7, 2018)***

**Equal rights, fair play, justice, are all like the air: We all have it, or none of us has it. *(Maya Angelou)***

**In Canada, Alberta’s Banff National Park enforces equality of animal rights. And people are animals, even as are moose and beaver. There’s no superior breed. So, for example, it is against the law for a man to assault a rabbit – or a rabbit to assault a man. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**It is easy to proclaim all souls equal in the sight of God; it is hard to make men equal on earth in the sight of men. *(James Baldwin)***

**All men are born equal but the tough job is to outgrow it. *(Don Leary, McNaught Syndicate)***

**Since 1965, America has invested trillions in education with a primary goal of equalizing test scores among the races and genders. Measured by U.S. test scores, it has been a waste – an immense transfer of wealth from private citizens to an education industry that has grown bloated while failing us again and again. Perhaps it is time to abandon he goal of educational equality as utopian – i.e. unattainable – and to focus, as we do in sports and art, on excellence. Teach all kids to the limit of their ability, while recognizing that all are not equal in their ability to read, write, learn, compute or debate, any more than they are equally able to play in a band or excel on a ball field. For an indeterminate future, Mexican kids are not going to match Asian kids in math. The beginning of wisdom is to recognize this world as it is, not as what we would wish it to be. *(Pat Buchanan)***

**The very circumstance which makes each of us so completely unique also makes us so absolutely the same! At a level far beyond our surface personalities lives the Christ, and this divine Presence is exactly the same in everyone. Its workings in each person's life are unique in that person, without doubt, but its presence is identical throughout all humanity. No matter how each wave looks, it will always be ocean. (Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest , p. 84)**

**I am fond of pigs. Dogs look up to us. Cats look down on us. Pigs treat us as equals. (Winston Churchill)**

**The defect of equality is that we only desire it with our superiors. (Henry Becque)**

**The powerful effects of men upon women are equalized only by those of women upon men. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Complete equality means universal irresponsibility. *(T. S. Eliot)***

**To live anywhere in the world today and be against equality because of race or color is like living in Alaska and being against snow. *(William Faulkner, in Essays, Speeches and Public Letters)***

**When my brother started selling 100-pound bags of potatoes at his service station, his new venture angered some of the local grocers. One supermarket owner drove into the gas station and asked, “When did you start selling groceries?” “The same day you started selling anti-freeze,” my brother replied. *(Jerry McGlothen, in Reader’s Digest)***

**General Motors' latest marketing gambit has lifted the ailing automaker's market share from 25.8 percent to over 30 percent. The program gives all car buyers the discounted prices that GM employees receive. *(USA Today, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 1, 2005)***

**Gloria: “You need to get your priorities straight, Lance.” Lance: “I don’t have priorities, Gloria. I let things slide on an equal basis.” *(J. C. Duffy, in The Fusco Brothers comic strip)***

**Women will have achieved true equality when men share with them the responsibility of bringing up the next generation*. (Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court Justice)***

**The hospitals alone remind us of the equality of man. *(W. H. Auden)***

**A court in West Germany has ruled that a law allowing housecleaning days for single women – enforced in five states – also applies to single men. In 1977 Ferdinand Muck, a Cologne hospital worker, applied for a housecleaning day but was burned down. He sued. Muck will now get a day off from work with full pay each month to clean his apartment. *(UPI)***

**Everything is equal in the snow: all trees, all lawns, all streets, all rooftops, all cars. Everything is white, white, white, as far as you can see. Covered by snow, the well-kept and neglected lawns look the same. The snow hides the shiny newness of a just-bought car as effectively as it does the rust and dents of a ten-year-old one. Everything looks clean and fresh and unmarred by time or use. Snow, like the silent death it counterfeits, is a great leveler. *(Adrienne Ivey, in Rainbows, Roses and Butterflies)***

**In Brazil, several Indians who had been refused an audience with then-President Eenesto Geisel because they were not wearing ties told the press they would “insist that any government official visiting an Indian village must wear a feathered headdress and body paint.” *(Reuters)***

**The interrogation of everything should be on the table. If it’s shut down on one side or the other, it serves no one. *(Claudia Rankine, poet)***

The Koran refers to man being equal to woman. The word "man" appears as many times as the word "woman." *(Charlotte Lowe, in Useless History Fact-O-Pedia, p. 147)*

**The dog looks at the two water hydrants in front of him and says: “It’s like a father with his children. I love you both equally!” *(J. C. Duffy, in Go Fish comic strip)***

**Before the Civil War, America had few institutions like Antioch College. Founded in Yellow Springs, Ohio, in 1850, Antioch was coed and unaffiliated with any religious sect; it was also the first college in the nation to hire a woman to serve on its faculty as an equal with her male colleagues. It was unquestionably progressive, and would not have been that way without its first president, Horace Mann. Mann, the politician and education reformer frrom Massachusetts, sought to mold a certain kind of student: conscientious, zealous, inquisitive. For years, Mann had opposed slavery; he hoped his students would as well. He charged those he taught at Antioch to dedicate themselves to eradicating injustice with sedulous care. “Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity,” Mann told the graduating class of 1859.” (Adam Harris, in The Atlantic magazine)**

**It is a strange fact that freedom and equality, the two basic ideas of democracy, are to some extent contradictory*. (Thomas Mann)***

**Once the game is over, the king and the pawn go back into the same box. *(Italian proverb)***

**In Britain, where women are entitled to 39 weeks of paid leave after giving birth, 74 percent of women in a recent survey said that female workers without children should also be entitled to “maternity” leave. *(Forbes.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, November 6, 2009)***

**Real equality doesn’t mean everybody getting the same, but each of us getting what we need. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Good week for: Heterosexual rights, after Tom Freeman and Katherine Doyle, a straight British couple, demanded that they be granted a civil partnership – a legal union available only to same-sex couples. “The rites of husband and wife don’t appeal to us,” said Doyle. “We feel like civil partners, and we want the government to recognize that.” *(The Week magazine, November 26, 2010)***

**Postscript: Irritated by the 1971 Canadian census form defining the husband as Head of the Household, I wrote in the space marked Householder Comments: "In this family my husband and I definitely share the household equally, and I wish to register my complaint at your archaic wording." Several days later, when I checked over the form before mailing it, I found to my chagrin that my husband had penned the following after my note: "Statements made by the employees do not necessarily reflect the position of management," and signed it "Head of the Household." *(Myrna L. Diederichsen, in Reader's Digest)***

**All other things being equal, I tend to prefer good to bad. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**It is a shining day in any educated man's growth when he comes to see and to know and to feel and freely to admit that it is just as important to the world that the ragamuffin child of his worthless neighbor should be trained as it is his own should be. Until a man sees this, he cannot become a worthy democrat nor get a patriotic conception of education, for no man has known the deep meaning of democracy or felt either its obligations or its lift until he has seen this truth clearly. *(Walter Hines Page, in the American School Board Journal)***

**Equality is for underachievers. Am I right, ladies? *(Bonnie McFarlane, comedian)***

**The drive for women’s equality may go back further than thought if the evidence from one paleo-Indian tribe is any indication. According to a report in Science Digest, a study of the bones from people living near the California coast determined that before the year 1100, the men ate mostly seafood, while the women mainly ate plants. After 1100, researchers report, the dietary differences disappear. *(Compiled by John P. McLaughlin, in Rocky Mountain News, October 22, 1989)***

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