**Forgetting**

**A young woman gave birth to her first child and because her husband was on military duty, she spent a couple of weeks after the birth at the home of her parents. One day she mentioned to her mother that she was surprised the baby’s hair was reddish when both she and her husband were blonde. “Well Mary,” said the grandmother, “you must remember, your daddy’s hair is red.” “But Mamma,” said Mary, “that doesn’t make any difference, because I’m adopted.” With a little smile, Mamma said the loveliest words that her daughter Mary had ever heard: “I always forget.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Don’t be afraid to forget -- God keeps a complete record of everything. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Alan Alda: Actor and his wife, Arlene, joke that the secret to their 58-year marriage is forgetfulness. *(AARP: The Magazine / Real Possibilities, 2015)***

**What’s “childhood amnesia”? Psychology jargon for that natural forgetfulness about what happened when you were a toddler. Few people remember much except fragments of their lives until around age 7. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. *(Maya Angelou)***

**Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, reminded once of a cruelty done her, replied serenely, “I distinctly remember forgetting that!” *(Clarence W. Hall, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Every man should keep a fair-sized cemetery in which to bury the faults of his friends. (H. W. Beecher)**

**My Favorite Saying: “May you never forget what is worth remembering or remember what is best to forget.” *(Rose Kniser, in Reminisce magazine)***

**Thick-billed nutcracker birds, native to Scandinavia, hide scores of nuts to eat during the winter. Although a bird remembers where it buried the nuts, it sometimes misses a few. These grow into trees, helping the forest to spread. *(The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 135)***

**The great arrogance of the present is to forget the intelligence of the past. *(Ken Burns, filmmaker)***

**Forgetting things can make you smarter: A scientific paper in Neuron argued that forgetting outdated memories lets the brain clear out details that don't matter so people can adapt to newer information and make more intelligent decisions. *(Time magazine, July 10-17, 2017)***

**There is a difference between not thinking of someone and forgetting him. *(Werner Kraus, in Madame, Germany)***

**If a man had been guilty of despicable actions, especially toward me, I would try to forget him. I would write his name down on a piece of scrap paper, drop it into the lowest drawer of my desk, and say to myself, “That finishes the incident.” The drawer became a sort of private wastebasket for discarded personalities. Besides, it seemed to be effective and helped me avoid harboring useless black feelings. *(Dwight D. Eisenhower)***

**We are all looking for something of extraordinary importance whose nature we have forgotten. *(Eugene Ionesco, playwright)***

**Falling out of love is chiefly a matter of forgetting how charming someone is. *(Iris Murdoch)***

**No man ever saved anybody, or served any great cause, or left any enduring impression who was not willing to forget indignities, bear no grudges. The world saviors have all, in one way or another, loved their enemies and done them good. *(Harry Emerson Fosdick, famous Protestant preacher)***

**Forgetfulness is a form of freedom. *(Kahlil Gibran, American poet and artist)***

**After her 90th birthday, my friend Marie found that shopping for Christmas gifts had become too difficult, so she decided to send checks to everyone instead. On each card she wrote, "Buy your own present," and she mailed them early. Marie enjoyed the usual flurry of family festivities. Only after Christmas did she get around to clearing off her cluttered desk. Under a stack of papers, she was horrified to find the gift checks which she had forgotten to enclose. *(Alice H. Cork, in Reader's Digest)***

**Even if happiness forgets you a little bit, never completely forget about it. *(Jacques Prevert)***

**A retentive memory may be a good thing, but the ability to forget is the true token of greatness. *(Elbert Hubbard)***

**To err is human, to forgive is divine -- but to forget it altogether is humane. *(Gloria Pitzer's Secret Recipe Report)***

**There are times when forgetting can be just as important as remembering – and even more difficult. *(Harry & Joan Mier, in Happiness Begins Before Breakfast)***

**An injury is much sooner forgotten than an insult. *(Lord Chesterfield)***

**Mick Jagger turned down a L3.5 million advance offer on his memoirs from a publisher because, he said, he “couldn’t remember” enough significant details from his own life. *(Noel Botham, in The Ultimate Book of Useless Information, p. 120)***

**The Chinese spent years copying the American Boeing 707 jet but forgot just one thing: the center of gravity. Now their expensive copy, the Y-10, can’t fly. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 153)***

**There was one thing said of King Henry VI of England. It said that he never forgot anything but injuries. Of Cranmer it was said: “If you want to get a favor from him, do him a wrong.” And Emerson said of Lincoln: “His heart was so great as the world, but there was no room in it for a memory of a wrong.” Never, ever forget the joys, the kindnesses, the love, the friendship in your life. But always forget the wrong done to you, the bad times, the unkindness and the injuries. *(Christopher Ian Chenoweth)***

**To ease another's heartache is to forget one's own. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**What we learn with pleasure we never forget. *(Alfred Mercier)***

**Perhaps you are harboring a sense of guilt for something done or left undone in the past. Your past is retained only by your thought. It is not the incident but the memory of it that causes the effects of it today. The moment it is dropped from your consciousness, it is gone from the only place it ever existed. (Eric Butterworth, in Celebrate Yourself)**

**It is the nature of the mind to forget – and the nature of man to worry about his forgetfulness. *(Gordon H. Bower, psychologist)***

**You may forget with whom you laughed, but you will never forget with whom you wept. *(Arab proverb)***

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**The advantage of a bad memory is that one enjoys several times the same good things for the first time. *(Friedrich Nietzsche)***

**The most fundamental form of human stupidity is forgetting what we were trying to do in the first place. *(Friedrich Nietzsche)***

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**Forgetting is not all bad. It is a way your brain clears out the clutter to maintain an efficiently functioning memory. (Psychologist Alan S. Brown, in Rocky Mountain News))**

**Life is much more positive, more productive, and far happier on a past-is-forgotten basis. Memory courses are good and helpful, but most of us have more need of learning to forget. We should not try to get fulfillment from past successes nor be bound by past failures. Consider people such as Lincoln, Churchill and Edison. They respected their minds too much to clutter them with thoughts of failure or bitterness. They had good “forgetteries.” (Eric Butterworth, in Celebrate Yourself)**

**I had somehow neglected to pay the bill from the local hardware store. When a second bill arrived, I fully expected a polite warning. Instead, there fell out of the envelope a packet of seeds -- forget-me-nots. The bill was promptly paid. (Donald J. Carlson, in Reader's Digest)**

**POPSICLES: Eleven-year-old Frank Epperson accidentally left a mixture of powdered soda mix and water on his back porch one winter night in 1905. The next morning, he found the stuff frozen, with the stirring stick standing straight up in the jar. He pulled it out, and had the first “Epperson icicle” – or “Epsicle.” He later renamed it “Popsicle,” since he’d made it with soda pop. It was patented in 1923, 18 years later. (Uncle John’s Best Bathroom Reader, p. 28)**

**The long-term accommodation that protects marriage and other such relationships is forgetfulness. (Alice Walker)**

**A pup can’t remember anything for more than 30 seconds. Vets say this explains why you have to get to the little rascal promptly after it strikes, if you want to housebreak it properly. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 172)***

**It was Publilius Syrus out of the age of classics who said: “The remedy for wrongs is to forget them.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Elephants and grandchildren never forget. *(Andy Rooney, Tribune Media Services)***

**A mystery guest on What's My Line? was a Kentucky colonel who sold fried chicken. The old gent charmed the audience and the panel, but everyone forgot him until his first franchise came out. Meet Colonel Sanders. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 24)***

**Fanaticism consists in redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim. *(George Santayana)***

**In the wintertime squirrels lose about half of their nuts because they forget where they stored them. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 52)***

**Keep your eyes open to your mercies. The man who forgets to be thankful has fallen asleep in life. *(Robert Louis Stevenson)***

**To pass time at stoplights, you can call to mind what things you think were essential in the stock of an Old West general store. Am told most people when so challenged forget two of the more basic: whiskey and Bibles. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A good storyteller is a person who has a good memory and hopes other people haven’t. *(Irvin S. Cobb, humorist)***

**Successful people forget. They know the past is irrevocable. They’re running a race. They can’t afford to look behind. Their eye is on the finish line. Magnanimous people forget. They’re too big to let little things disturb them. They forget easily. If anyone does them wrong, they consider the source and keep cool. It’s only the small people who cherish revenge. Be a good forgetter. Business dictates it, and success demands it. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel. *(Carl W. Buechner)***

**We forget all too soon the things we thought we could never forget. *(Joan Didion)***

**The best way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes. *(Bedside Bits)***

**Why do I keep forgetting what I want to remember, and remembering what I want to forget? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**The man who says his wife can't take a joke forgets that she took him. *(Oscar Wilde)***

**Woodrow Wilson used to tell about a group of college professors who were considering the misconduct of a certain student. One of the professors urged severe punishment. “After all,” he said, “God has given us eyes.” “Yes,” replied another professor, “but he has also given us eyelids.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I've never understood why people consider youth a time of freedom and joy. It's probably because they've forgotten their own. *(Margaret Atwood)***

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