**Freedom - Ponderings**

**Freedom is a powerful animal that fights the barriers, and sometimes makes people wish for higher fences. *(Lance Morrow, in Time magazine)***

**Schiller holds that freedom is not doing as we like, but becoming what we should. *(Eric Butterworth, in Discover the Power Within You, p. 19)***

**The beginning of freedom is the ignorance of common opinion. *(Joan Baumeister)***

**To belong nowhere is a blessing and a curse, like any kind of freedom. *(Leah Stewart, novelist)***

**Freedom is the birthright of all that lives. There is none who cannot claim that birthright. We know a labyrinth of self-imposing restrictions, or live in chains of self-wrought chaos, yet if we will do so we can free ourselves from these bonds. Freedom cannot be kept, nor won again once lost, without a discipline of soul, and many languish in slavery who will not embrace the effort of right discipline. When each has made the effort and disciplined his own spirit to a state of true freedom, then all other slaveries -- spiritual or material -- will vanish from our world. *(Janice Davis Given, in Illuminations)***

**Freedom always carries a burden of proof, always throws us back on ourselves. *(Shelby Steele, in The Content of Our Character)***

**The problem of pain, of war and the horror of war, of poverty and disease is always confronting us. But a God who allows no pain, no grief, also allows no choice. There is little unfairness in a colony of ants, but also there is little freedom. *(Madeleine L'Engle, in Leadership)***

**When we lose the right to be different, we lose the privilege to be free.  
*(Evans Hughes, U.S. Supreme Court Justice)***

**When I discover who I am, I'll be free. *(Ralph Ellison)***

**No matter what a person believes in, we must hear it. That’s the essence of freedom. *(Alexander Meiklejohn, First Amendment scholar)***

**If we want to enjoy freedom, we must be prepared to extend it to everyone, whether they are rich or poor, whether they agree with us or not, no matter what their race or the color of their skin. *(Wendell Wilkie)***

**At times most of us quarrel with our fate: If only I were more intelligent, more successful, more assertive. If only my parents had been more loving. But this is a loss of time, a loss of energy, a loss of happiness. It is senseless, because fate is not subject to negotiation, change or compromise. Its “givenness” is total. But that is only half the story. For the total “givenness” of our fate is matched by the total freedom we have to react to our fate. It is as if we were dealt a hand of cards. Once we have them, we are free to play them as we choose.. *(G. Peter Fleck, in Come As You Are)***

**Freedom is fragile and must be protected. To sacrifice it, even as a temporary measure, is to betray it. *(Germaine Greer, writer)***

**The function of freedom is to free somebody else. *(Toni Morrison)***

**How can I get away, when it takes all my strength just to be where I am? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**The surest guard against tyranny and arbitrary power, Ben Franklin came to believe, was free expression, the free flow of ideas and a free press. No tyrannical society can long exist, he felt, when it cannot control the flow of information and ideas. *(Walter Isaacson, in Time)***

**Hero worship is strongest where there is least regard for human freedom. *(Herbert Spencer, British philosopher)***

**Regardless of how people treat you, determine your response by the criterion of inner freedom. How they behave is their business; how you respond is your own. *(J. Donald Walters)***

**Irreverence is the lifeblood of freedom. *(Simon Schama, historian)***

**Freedom has limits: for example: murder is not permitted, even in the privacy of one's own home. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**No man is free -- who is not master of himself. *(Epictetus)***

**Free is not the same as free and easy. *(Larry Eisenberg, in Bulletin Boarders – C.S.S.)***

# Freedom is nowhere to be found when the people are overtaxed and over-regulated. *(Douglas Wilder)*

**I am in the process of making application for a pardon, knowing in my mind that spiritually I am free. *(Jeannie, prisoner)***

**In the wake of World War II, an attitude permeated Washington that the government is always right. This came out of the war experience, when to think otherwise was almost treason. Presidents, the civilian bureaucracy and the military knew best because they had better information. That is the most important change we've experienced in our history. Today there is nothing on which government has as much expertise as the private sector. The people don't have to take the government's word for everything. They make their own judgments. That is not distrust. It is the predicate for freedom. *(Horace W. Busby)***

**Freedom of the press is limited to those who own one. *(A. J. Liebling)***

**I am always free, even when I am in prison! My thoughts, my dreams, my aspirations cannot be physically destroyed. The truth is always the truth. Christ lost physically as a man, but we now see that he won. Without faith in God, I wouldn’t have held up. I can’t imagine living without faith, and I think the majority of Poles feel the same way. *(Lech Walesa)***

**Young people often yearn for freedom and independence as a good in itself, unfettered by obligations and duty. This drive is a part of the process of growing up, of cutting the apron strings and preparing for adult life. The parents fail in their duty to their children if they let this tendency go unchecked and do not insist that children exercise their freedom in the context of responsibilities to parents and family, to friends and those in authority. For the adult world that a child so ardently desires to attain is also a world in which freedom is greatly modified by circumstances, by concrete obligations and limitations. Only in this real world of daily life, not in some ideal order, does human freedom exist. *(Walter Ciszek, S.J., in He Leadeth Me)***

**Freedom never yet was given to nations as a gift, but only as a reward, bravely earned by one's own exertions. *(Lajos Kossuth)***

**Freedom is the right to be wrong, not the right to do wrong. *(John G. Diefenbaker)***

**When you have robbed a man of everything, he's no longer in your power. He is free again. *(Alexander Solzhenitsyn)***

**You dream of escape; but do not run away in order to be free. If you fly from yourself, your prison will run with you. *(Gustave Thibon, French philosopher)***

**Most of us are proud of our freedom to say what we please. What we wish we had is the courage to say it. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Why are societies with the most freedom never the safest ones? *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**Nobody becomes a free and responsible citizen overnight or through osmosis. Democratic freedom takes practice. *(Charles C. Haynes, First Amendment Center, 2002)***

**The only truly free person is the one who cares about nothing. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**When you truly grow up what you will be is free. *(Emmanuel)***

**There are two freedoms: the false where a man is free to do what he likes; the true where a man is free to do what he ought. *(Charles Kingsley)***

**Repetition makes us feel secure and variation makes us feel free. *(Robert Hass, poet)***

**The freedom of any society varies proportionately with the volume of its laughter. *((Zero Mostel)***

**Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation are people who want crops without plowing the ground; they want rain without thunder and lightning; they want the ocean without the roar of its many waters. *(Frederick Douglass)***

**Freedom is doing what you like. Happiness is liking what you do. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I’m not sure on which side of the prison walls the worst people are to be found. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**When I'm free, I wish I were busy -- and when I'm busy, I wish I were free. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**You must learn one thing: The world was made to be free in. Give up all the other worlds except the one to which you belong. *(David Whyte)***

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