**Ideas**

**No intelligent idea can gain general acceptance unless some stupidity is mixed in with it. (*Fernando Pessoa, poet)***

**There is a time to admire the grace and persuasive power of an influential idea, and there is a time to fear its hold over us. The time to worry is when the idea is so widely shared that we no longer even notice it, when it is so deeply rooted that it feels to us like plain common sense. At the point when objections are not answered anymore because they are no longer even raised, we are not in control: we do not have the idea; it has us. *(Alfie Kohn, in Punished by Rewards)***

**The universe is merely a fleeting idea in God’s mind – a pretty uncomfortable thought, particularly if you’ve just made a down payment on a house. *(Woody Allen, in Getting Even)***

**The future of the nation was at stake. Would the grand American experiment last? Or would this union of states -- this federal republic -- end up in history books as an idealistic scheme that failed? If so, then the skeptics would be right: ideas like equality, self-government, and justice for all don’t work long in the real world. We were trying something that was outside the chain of history. Born of an idea, not of ancient peoples and established procedures, it had taken hubris, and a bit of luck, to establish the American nation. There was nothing inevitable about our continued existence. All we had was the power of an idea. *(Joy Hakim, in Freedom: A History of Us, p. 125)***

**No idea is so antiquated that it was not once modern. No idea is so modern that it will not someday be antiquated. *(Ellen Glasgow, American author)***

**All words are pegs to hang ideas on. *(Henry Ward Beecher)***

**A good question is never answered. It is not a bolt to be tightened into place but a seed to be planted and to bear more seed toward the hope of greening the landscape of idea. *(John Ciardi, on the birth of ideas)***

**HOW TO BURY A GOOD IDEA:**

**1. It will never work.**

**2. We’ve never done it that way before.**

**3. We’re doing fine without it.**

**4. We can’t afford it.**

**5. We’re not ready for it.**

**6. It’s not our responsibility.**

**When you find yourself using one of these phrases, or something similar, it’s time to stop and think. Do I really mean it or am I merely looking for a convenient excuse to throw cold water on it? *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Ideas are very much like children -- your own are wonderful. *(Approved Crossword Puzzles)***

**If you want someone to consider an idea, it should be short. If you want someone to understand your suggestion, you must choose just the right words and just enough words. You have to think clearly before you can write clearly. That was the message a Broadway producer gave to a young man who wanted to explain an idea he had for a play. The producer, Josh Logan, handed the budding author his business card. “Put your idea on the back of my card and give me a call. I’ll be glad to discuss it with you.” “But Mr. Logan,” the fellow said, “my idea will take a lot more space than that.” “Then,” the producer replied, “you don’t have a clear idea.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Nothing is more dangerous than an idea when it is the only one we have. (*Emile Chartier)***

**A new idea is delicate. It can be killed by a sneer or a yawn; it can be stabbed to death by a quip, and worried to death by a frown on the right man’s brow. *(Charlie Brower)***

**The difference between a yes and a no is an idea. *(Wallace Duke)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\****

**Your ideas don't have to be big to be creative. The Frisbee didn't change the world, but it gave people loads of fun and made a mint. The adhesive bandage, safety pin, paper cup and soda can pop-top were “small” ideas. Still, they were prime examples of imagination, curiosity, common sense and hard work -- all blended to fill a need, solve a problem and make life a bit better. (Lester David, in Reader's Digest)**

**Don't trust a brilliant idea unless it survives the hangover. (Jimmy Breslin)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Ideas are somewhat like babies. They are born small, immature and shapeless. They are promise rather than fulfillment. *(Peter Drucker, late management guru)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**The value of an idea lies in the using of it. *(Thomas Edison)***

**The ideas I use are mostly the ideas of other people who don’t develop them themselves. (Thomas Edison)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**If you have a penny and I have a penny and we exchange pennies, you still have one cent and I still have one cent. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange ideas, you now have two ideas and I now have two ideas. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Man's fear of ideas is probably the greatest dike holding back human knowledge and happiness. *(Morris Leopold Ernst)***

**I can't understand why people are frightened of new ideas. I'm frightened of the old ones. (*John Cage, composer)***

**An idea is a feat of association. *(Robert Frost)***

**A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: Ideas are funny little things . . . they won’t work unless you do. *(Reminisce magazine)***

**I don’t get ideas; ideas get me. *(Roberston Davies)***

**If I give you my idea and you give me yours, then we each have two ideas, and together we have four. *(Gerard I. Nierenberg, in Reader’s Digest)***

**God help the army that must fight for an idea rather than an objective. *(Mark Helprin, author)***

**I had a monumental idea this morning, but I didn’t like it. *(Samuel Goldwyn)***

**Enjoying life is a good idea -- but it shouldn’t be the only idea in your head. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**Every great idea there is, already exists in the world. They’re just waiting for the people who can recognize them! *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**Many great ideas have been lost because the people who had them couldn’t stand being laughed at. *(Quoted in Grit)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\****

**One of the greatest pains of human nature is the pain of a new idea. *(Walter Bagehot, British journalist)***

**If a man had as many ideas during the day as he does when he has insomnia, he’d make a fortune. *(Griff Niblack, in Indianapolis News)***

**Exhilaration is that feeling you get just after a great idea hits you, and just before you realize what’s wrong with it. *(Rex Harrison, actor)***

**Charles H. Townes, who won a Nobel Prize for his work in laser technology, opened a talk with a disclaimer: “It’s like the beaver told the rabbit as they stared up at the immense wall of Hoover Dam. ‘No, I didn’t actually build it myself. But it was based on an idea of mine.’” *(Neil Morgan, in San Diego Tribune)***

**Ideology is just a pejorative word for principles in which you happen not to believe. *(The columnist ‘Lexington,’ in The Economist)***

**An idea is only as good as its execution. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on. Ideas have endurance without death. *(John F. Kennedy)***

**Little seed ideas sown in consciousness and nurtured can change the world. Myrtle Fillmore sowed the idea that she was a child of God and could not inherit sickness. This idea grew and she was healed.  Later, just as the birds of the air were indirectly blessed by the tiny mustard seed, Myrtle’s personal healing blessed many other people through the development of the Unity movement. *(Christine M. T. Dustin, in U. S. R. S. newsletter)***

**One can live in the shadow of an idea without grasping it. *(Elizabeth Bowen)***

**When I speak to groups, I offer this lesson: If I give you a dollar and you give me a dollar, we each have a dollar. But if I give you an idea and you give me an idea, we both have two ideas. *(Harvey Mackay, in Outswimming the Sharks)***

**An idea isn’t responsible for the people who believe in it. *(Don Marquis)***

**Ideas are the stuff of politics. Ideas are the great moving forces of history. *(Tony Dolan. former Presidential speechwriter)***

**Great ideas need landing gear as well as wings. (*C. D. Jackson)***

**No idea is so antiquated that it was not once modern. No idea is so modern that it will not someday be antiquated. *(Ellen Glasgow, novelist)***

**Ideas are not always responsible for the people who have them. *(Katharine Whitehorn, journalist)***

**Man draws all his ideas from this omnipresent storehouse. The ideas of God, heaven, hell, devils, angels, and all things have their clue in mind. But their form in the consciousness depends entirely upon the plane from which man draws his mental images. *(Charles Fillmore, in Atom-Smashing Power of Mind, p. 97)***

**I don't have inspiration. I only have ideas. Ideas and deadlines. *(Stan Lee, comic book writer)***

**At first it is difficult to recognize an idea as original. Nearly any notion, whether old, banal, spurious, novel or brilliant, may pop up with a flutter of excitement. How is one to distinguish? Notice, after three days, whether it still quivers. (Kenneth A. Fisher, in The Guru Therapist’s Notebook)**

**The way to come up with a good idea is to think up a lot of ideas and toss out the bad ones. The Sherlock who made this pronouncement was none other than Nobel laureate Linus Pauling. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A cold in the head causes less suffering than an idea. *(The Journal of Jules Renard)***

**Good ideas are not adopted automatically. They must be driven into practice with courageous impatience. *(Adm. Hyman G. Rickover)***

**Once a new idea springs into existence, it cannot be un-thought. There is a sense of immortality in a new idea. *(Edward de Bono, in New Think: The Use of Lateral Thinking in the Generation of New Ideas)***

**Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen. *(John Steinbeck)***

**Time was invented by Almighty God in order to give ideas a chance. *(Nicholas Murray Butler)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**The person with a new idea is a crank until the idea succeeds. *(Mark Twain)***

**All ideas are secondhand, consciously and unconsciously drawn from a million outside sources. *(Mark Twain)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

**It is useless to send armies against ideas. *(George Brandes)***

**If you’re waiting to have a good idea before you have any ideas, you won’t have many ideas. *(David Allen, management consultant and executive coach, in Getting Things Done: The Art of Stress-Free Productivity)***

**Ideas are like wandering sons. They show up when you least expect them. *(Bern Williams)***

**In a war of ideas, it is the people who get killed. *(Anonymous)***

**The more journalism I read and do, the more convinced I am not merely that ideas have consequences, but that only ideas have large and lasting consequences – behind every war there lurks an idea – and that books are still the primary carriers of ideas, including books of poetry and fiction. News gathers, like news makers, might be made agreeably humble by the definition of literature as news that stays news. *(George F. Will, in Washington Post)***

**Ideas won't keep; something must be done about them. *(Alfred North Whitehead, English philosopher-mathematician)***

**If an idea’s worth having once, it’s worth having twice. *(Tom Stoppard, playwright)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***