**Ignorance**

**We don't value our ignorance enough. Ignorance is really good to have if it's combined with curiosity, and scientists are professional curiosity machines. We should all imitate that as much as possible, Now it's clear that our lives depend on it. *(Alan Alda , in AARP The Magazine / Real Possibilities)***

**Nothing is so astonishing in education as the amount of ignorance it accumulates in the form of inert facts. *(Henry Adams, historian)***

**Any frontal attack on ignorance is bound to fail because the masses are always ready to defend their most precious possession – their ignorance. *(Hendrik Willem van Loon)***

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**Who first said, “Ignorance is bliss?” The English poet Thomas Gray said something like that. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Ignorance is not bliss – it is oblivion. *(Philip Wylie)***

**If ignorance is bliss, why aren't there more happy people in the world? *(Stephen Fry, comedian)***

**Samuel Bliss was a preacher ridiculed as an oddball in Colonial America. A now anonymous author wrote an allegory about him. It inspired the phrase: "Ignorance Is Bliss." *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**Ignorance is bold, and knowledge reserved. *(Thucydides)***

**I had an amusing experience when I first came to America. Passing an attractive looking restaurant, I went inside, and selecting a table, sat down and waited. Strangely, as it seemed to me then, nothing happened. I sat there and continued to wait – indefinitely as it seemed. I could not understand the reason for this neglect. All around me, people were enjoying their food, and only I was left out in the cold. After a while the truth of the situation slowly dawned on me – it was a cafeteria. (This system had not yet made its appearance in England in those days.) *(Emmet Fox)***

**I do not believe in the collective wisdom of individual ignorance. *(Thomas Carlyle, Scottish essayist)***

**To be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child. *(Cicero)***

**Curiosity is a willing, a proud, an eager confession of ignorance. *(S. Leonard Rubinstein, in Writing: A Habit of Mind)***

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**The magic of first love is our ignorance that it can ever end. *(Benjamin Disraeli)***

**He was distinguished for ignorance; for he had only one idea and that was wrong. *(Benjamin Disraeli, British politician and author)***

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**Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance. (Will Durant, writer)**

**You can't fight ignorance with reason -- ignorance won't listen -- and even if it listened, it wouldn't understand. (*Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**I have never met a man so ignorant that I couldn't learn something from him. *(Galileo Galilei, Italian astronomer, engineer, physicist, philosopher, and mathematician)***

**Nothing is worse than active ignorance. *(Johann Wolfgang von Goethe)***

**Ignorance, not malice, is often the greatest threat to animals. *(Jack Hanna, zookeeper who currently serves as director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium)***

**Our ignorance of history causes us to slander our own times. *(Gustave Flaubert)***

**The recipe for perpetual ignorance is: Be satisfied with your opinions and content with your knowledge. *(Elbert Hubbard)***

**The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn. *(Alvin Toffler)***

**The body of a jellyfish is called its "bell." And did I mention a jellyfish has no brains? *(L. M. Boyd)***

**A person must have a certain amount of intelligent ignorance to get anywhere. *(Charles Kettering, inventor)***

**This lack of basic knowledge may reflect the fact that some of today’s teachers graduated from a college or university without ever having studied American literature or history – 72% of the nation’s colleges do not require such study. *(Gary L. Bauer, in Reader’s Digest, 1987)***

**Don't get me started on the prevalence of ignorance among people with access to instant information. *(Harper Lee)***

**Ignorance doesn't kill you, but it makes you sweat a lot. *(Haitian proverb)***

**I prefer the company of peasants because they have not been educated sufficiently to reason incorrectly. *(Michel de Montaigne)***

**Where did the word nice come from? It derives from the Latin nescius, or "ignorant," which comes from nescire, or "not to know." In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the phrase a nice person connoted foolishness rather than agreeableness. Over the years, however, nice has gained its more favorable, if bland, connotation. *(Barbara Berliner, in The Book of Answers, p. 48)***

**The little I know, I owe to my ignorance. *(Sacha Guitry)***

**Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects. *(Will Rogers)***

**There are people in show business who became major stars simply because they didn’t have sense enough to quit when they should have. *(Bertrand Russell)***

**I think there’s a difference between ditzy and dumb. Dumb is just not knowing. Ditzy is having the courage to ask! *(Jessica Simpson, musician and actress)***

**When tea was first introduced in the American colonies, many housewives, in their ignorance, served the tea leaves with sugar or syrup after throwing away the water in which they had been boiled. *(Noel Botham, in The Amazing Book of Useless Information, p. 167)***

**This man must be very ignorant, for he answers every question he is asked. *(Voltaire)***

**Ignorance is a voluntary misfortune. *(Nicholas Ling, publisher)***

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