

# Brandon's Original Quotations

Life might be a blueberry pancake, but creativity  
is the syrup that makes it delicious.

Theory without practice grows timid.  
Practice without theory grows reckless.

Birth and death are bookends. Everything in  
between are books on a shelf. And ideally  
each one is titled "Dreams Fulfilled."

Wit is the invisible knife that carves humor  
from language.

Oh great chef! You have given me the most  
difficult of entrees to prepare, handed me too  
few of the needed ingredients, and left without  
giving me the secret recipe to follow.

The S.U.C.C.E.S.S. acronym:

Super effort.  
Unusual drive.  
Copy what works.  
Change what doesn't.  
Exercise now and cut out excess.  
Save a little more, spend a little less.  
Start all over again the very next day.

The building of a strong life is like the building  
of a house. Intellect best draws the blueprint  
but only passion can dig the foundation.

The sea of creativity is without shores.

To know "not what to do" is a "knot" one  
must undo.

Jealousy is like the sound of a dripping faucet;  
it can drive us crazy.

Regrets are like water caught in a sponge.  
Eventually we must wring them out.

Objectivity requires two eyes: one to see,  
one to roam free.

Successmatics:  
Cannot  
– Not  
= Can

Life is like having a garden. You know things  
will always grow, but it can be hard to decide  
what to plant.

Intelligence without compassion is like  
learnedness without tolerance: both are feeble.

We are subjective creatures. And our subjective  
way of seeing the world both protects us and  
blinds us.

## Brandon's Original Quotations (2 of 4)

To the scientist, reason is everything; to the hunter, instinct is the thing; to a child—sight, sound, smell, taste, touch—these compare to anything.

Life's lessons are like books on a shelf—storing them is one thing, remembering to use them is another.

Chemistry starts a relationship, but only the bonds of shared interests can carry it.

Ambition signals how far we might go; character keeps track of how much it might cost.

Youth is that time of our life when we have nothing to lose. Maturity comes when we know we must trade something of value in order to gain something of value. Wisdom marks the point when we realize that it is impossible to judge whether what was gained is greater than what was lost.

The mind is a mansion with many rooms. Some rooms are kept open and decorated in bright floral. Some rooms remain locked and no one knows what lurks inside. Who can be trusted to serve as the faithful custodian of their own skeleton key—a key that opens all the doors of this great mansion!

Problems born in the darkness of confusion rarely live in the naked-light of reflection.

Words are my oil wells.

Knowledge without application is a quiet pond sitting idly in a mountain valley. Application without knowledge is rainwater tumbling blindly down a mountainside.

Sports is a continuation of war by other means.

Note: The above words are a play on the quote by Carl von Clausewitz: "War is a continuation of politics by other means."

Expecting your writing not to change when undergoing the editing process is like expecting an island not to change when being created through a series of volcanic eruptions.

A seed is good, a tree is better  
A tree is good, a forest is better  
A forest is good, a seed is better

Beyond skill and temperament, life comes down to two things: time and energy. With sufficient time and vital energy, anything is possible.

Spiritual awakening is like watching the sun rise. Out of nowhere comes a bright presence that changes the way we perceive the world. Spiritual enlightenment is like experiencing the sun set. Now we see the full array of colors, and even when the sun dips below the horizon, we are still touched by the afterglow.

## Brandon's Original Quotations (3 of 4)

Books are like presents. You have to open them up to find out what's inside.

In the geometry of marriage, it's not two half circles that come together to form a complete circle. It is two full circles that come together to partially overlap, sharing elements of both circles.

Writing should be culled, but that's not the most important aspect of writing: It's the second most important aspect of writing. The most important writing task is to make sure that ideas are sufficiently supported. Details are what make writing believable and memorable.

Do not ask who a poet is. A poet is a lover of the echo. Let the words of a poem echo within you. Then the seeds of a poet are inside you.

The real tragedy of war is all that is lost from those who might have been.

Preservation is salvation, lest we go insane.

Learning without passion is a cold  
deep lake with no feeling,  
Learning without structure is a fragile  
stream with no shape,  
Learning without purpose is a shallow  
pond with no depth,  
Only with passion, structure, and purpose  
can learning be compared to a powerful river  
moving with force and direction.

It's funny how much we think we value brevity. Your friend returns from a trip and you ask "How was your trip?" They reply "Fine." Then you ask "Did you enjoy the food?" and they reply "Sure did." Finally you ask "What did you think of the ancient ruins?" They reply "Seen one, seen them all." You're left wondering is it just you or perhaps they shouldn't have gone traveling in the first place.

For the aspiring yet struggling artist, monetary needs are like proletarian weeds that stifle bourgeoisie aspirations and beg to be plucked!

There are periods between day and night that we call dusk and dawn. At least once in a lifetime, we have an opportunity to fall asleep in the afternoon and awake, not knowing whether we have napped, and now find dusk, or slept long, and now find dawn. The transition between day and night is a metaphor for truth—a truth that is often caught between the light of day and the darkness of night, in the middle ground of extremes.

Love is a strange science: part chemistry, part biology, add theology, and don't forget astrology.

An airline pilot never leaves the runway without having a destination and flight pattern. When our purpose in writing is to explain or inform, we should conclude first then concentrate on supporting details. Don't play "I've got a secret."

Life is the ultimate game: it moves like chess, it bets like cards, it second-guesses like charades, and it rebounds like Whac-a-mole.

## Brandon's Original Quotations (4 of 4)

Human culture is as different as terrain—be it a grassy field, desert sand, or rocky slope. Human nature is like the root of a tree that moves through soil or penetrates any rock. Human nature and human foible make us more alike than culture makes us different.

Education and ignorance are strange bedfellows: education always sets the alarm but ignorance keeps rolling over.

Our dreams and aspirations define who we are. They can never be objective. Dreams and aspirations are, by their very nature, subjective and uniquely our own and require our subjectivity to protect them. Our tendency to look at life subjectively is our defining characteristic.

Although we seek to be rational beings, we must embrace and celebrate our subjectivity and our innate and nurtured abilities to see the world differently. But being subjective does not mean being intolerant. Tolerant and passionate; constructive, appreciative, and accountable; seeking and sharing—this is how we must live our lives.

Bars are mouse traps where alcohol is used in place of cheese. Lucky are those patrons who are able to keep taking the alcohol without getting caught in the trap.

Meditation:  
Still your body  
Calm your breath  
Silence your mind  
Surrender your soul

During our lifetime, we live in a house and in a home. A house is always found outside ourselves. A home is only found within ourselves.

We are like sponges and life experience is like water. The more water we absorb along the way, the more experience we'll have to guide us. And hopefully there's not too much evaporation in between.

To know and really do,  
touches the highest pedigree.  
To know and still not do,  
tastes of less than first degree.  
To know what not to do,  
smells of credence I agree.  
But to know not what to do,  
sounds an awful lot like me.

Life is more than a marathon of endurance.  
It is a sprint, a walk, a sit, a jog, a stroll,  
a climb, and a jump.

Before going to sleep at night ask yourself, "What would I give to be able to wake up the next day with the chance to live my perfect day?" The next morning, simply wake up. Your wish is fulfilled.

Life is a play of three acts. The first act is trying to fit in. The second act is trying to stand out. The third act is not caring whether we fit in or stand out. And in the final scene of this final act, we're left trying to figure out whether we're fit enough to stand or content just to sit down.