Strengthen your character with Ancient Greek Quotes

Overview: This article contains over 35 quotes of ancient Greek noted thinkers (e.g., Aristotle, Plato, Socrates, etc.) to support you in strengthening your character in the attributes of moral excellence, education, courage**,** friendship, kindness, self-control, living with less, inner tranquility, etc.

Quotes by Ancient Greek Noted Thinkers

1. Aristotle

'**Moral excellence** comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts.'.
'You will never do anything in this world without **courage**. It is the greatest quality of the mind next to honor.'.
'The roots of **education** are bitter, but the fruit sweet.'.
'It is during our **darkest moments** that we must force to see the light.'.
'The ideal man bears the accidents of life with **dignity and grace**, making the best of circumstances.'.

2. Democritus

'The person who loves **money** to the extreme cannot be just.'.
'**Happiness** to men is not the result of having money, nor strong bodies, but reason and intelligence.'.
'Happiness resides not in possessions, and not in gold, happiness dwells in the soul.'
'The brave man is not only he who overcomes the enemy, but he who is stronger than pleasures.'

3. Epicurus

'The largest of the goods that wisdom creates for a happy life is friendship.'.
'Friendship is the only capable condition for maintaining peace in life'.

‘Every friendship is a virtue by itself. Its beginning, however, is based on good actions.’.
‘A blessed and indestructible being has no trouble himself and brings no trouble upon any other being; so he is free from anger and partiality, for all such things imply weakness.’.
‘It is impossible to live a pleasant life without living wisely and well and justly (agreeing 'neither to harm nor be harmed'), and it is impossible to live wisely and well and justly without living a pleasant life.’.

4. Plato

‘**Be kind**, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle’.’
‘I never did anything worth doing by accident, nor did any of my inventions come by accident; they came by **work**.’.
‘We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; he real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the **light**.’.
‘Every heart sings a song incomplete, until another heart whispers back. Those who wish to sing always find a song. At the touch of a **lover**, everyone becomes a poet.’.
‘The **most important** of all goods is health, the second is beauty of the soul and the third is to be able to become rich without doing anything bad.’.

5. Pythagoras

‘The oldest, shortest words - 'yes' and 'no' - are those which require the most thought. ‘
‘You should enjoy when they check you rather than when they flatter you.’.
‘Learn to be silent. Let your quiet mind listen and absorb.’
‘Ask yourself daily the following three questions:
Question 1: ‘Wherein have I done amiss?’
Question 2: ‘What have I done?’
Question 3: ‘What have I omitted that I ought to have done?’
And, depending on the replies (i.e., you have done good and acted responsibly), either reprimand and improve yourself or rejoice.’.

6. Seven Sages
‘Control yourself.’.

‘Restrain your anger’.
‘Hold your tongue’.
‘Think first and then act.’.
‘Do not act violently.’.
‘Do not dominate with arrogance’.
‘When they are unjust to you, be willing to reconcile, when they insult you, do not seek revenge.’.

7. Socrates

‘The only true wisdom is in knowing you **know nothing**.’.
‘Beware the barrenness of a **busy life.**’.
‘It is not living that matters, but living **rightly**.’.
‘The **unexamined life** is not worth living.’.
‘No man has the right to be an amateur in the matter of **physical training**. It is shame for a man to grow old without seeing the beauty and strength of his body is capable of.’.
‘We cannot **live better** than in seeking to become better.’.
‘The secret of happiness, you see, is not found in seeking more, but in developing the capacity to **enjoy less**.’.
‘Employ your time in improving yourself by **other men’s writings**, so that you shall gain easily what others have labored hard for.’.

8. Epictetus

It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters.
Progress is not achieved by luck or accident, but by working on yourself daily.
Any person capable of angering you becomes your master.
Happiness and freedom begin with a clear understanding of one principle: Some things are within our control, and some things are not. It is only after you have faced up to this fundamental rule and learned to distinguish between what you can and can't control that inner tranquility and outer effectiveness become possible.