

Quotes on Ships and the Sea



Mankind's Wisdom on Seafaring from
Christopher Columbus to
Captain Jack Sparrow

Quotes on Ships and the Sea

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For Sailors and Seafarers



*Following the light of the sun,
we left the Old World.*

Christopher Columbus



Who is staring at the sea is already sailing a little.

Paul Carvel

*If you want to build a ship, don't drum up the men
to gather wood, divide the work, and give orders.*

*Instead, teach them to yearn for the
vast and endless sea.*

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

*There is nothing more enticing, disenchanting,
and enslaving than the life at sea.*

Joseph Conrad

*There is little man has made that approaches
anything in nature, but a sailing ship does.*

*There is not much man has made that calls
all the best in him, but a sailing ship does.*

Allan Villiers

*This was the first time that I had seen a sail at sea.
I thought then, and have always since, that no sight
exceeds it in interest, and few in beauty.*

Richard Henry Dana



*Ships are the nearest things to dreams
that hands have ever made.*

Robert N. Rose

*You can't change the wind,
you can, however, adjust your sails.*

Unknown

*The goal is not to sail the boat,
but rather to help the boat sail herself.*

John Rousmaniere

It's out there that you are really yourself.

Vito Dumas

*It is not the ship so much as the skillful sailor
that assures the prosperous voyage.*

George William Curtis

Hoist your sail when the wind is fair.

Proverb



We have ploughed the vast ocean in a fragile bark.

Ovid

*The cure for anything is saltwater —
sweat, tears, or the sea.*

Isak Dinesen

*Spirits rise as the sails fill...
Gone is the sea's glassy surface,
and with it the terrible glare.
Close the hatches and ports!
We're sailing again!*

Jim Moore

*The cabin of a small yacht is truly
a wonderful thing; not only will it shelter
you from a tempest, but from the other
troubles in life, it is a safe retreat.*

L. Francist Herreshoff

*I find the great thing in this world is not so much
where we stand, as in what direction we are moving
- we must sail sometimes with the wind
and sometimes against it - but we must sail,
and not drift, nor lie at anchor.*

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.



*They come! Ships call!
The hooves of night, the horses of the sea
come on below their manes of darkness.
And forever the river runs.
Deep as the tides of time and memory,
deep as the tides of sleep, the river runs.*

Thomas Wolfe

*A ship in the harbor is safe,
but that's not what ships are built for.*

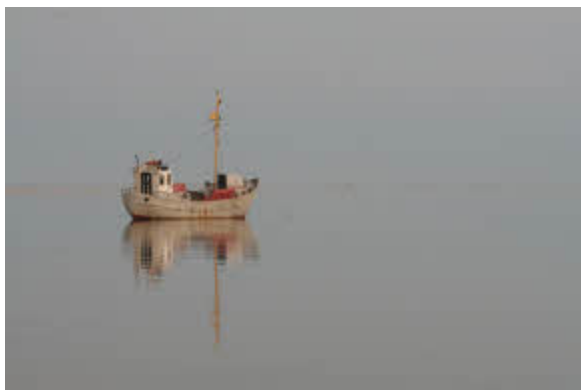
William Shedd

*...their chief beauty and grandeur —
slow, stately motion, the whirling of the snow
about their summits and the fearful groaning
cracking of their parts...this is the iceberg,
— while the small and distant islands, floating
on the smooth sea, in the light of a clear day, look
like little floating isles of sapphire.*

Richard Henry Dana

*She sent him a warm and gentle wind,
and Lord Odysseus was happy
as he set his sails to catch the breeze.
He sat beside the steering oar
and used his skill to steer the raft.*

Homer



*There is nothing like lying flat on your back on the deck,
alone except for the helmsman aft at the wheel,
silence except for the lapping of the sea
against the side of the ship.
At that time you can be equal to Ulysses
and brother to him.*

Errol Flynn

*To desire nothing beyond what you have is surely
happiness. Aboard a boat, it is frequently possible to
achieve just that. That is why sailing is a way of
life, one of the finest of lives.
Carleton Mitchell*

*In what rapt ether sails the world,
of which the weariest will never weary?*

Herman Melville

*Wouldst thou,"--so the helmsman answered,
"Learn the secret of the sea?
Only those who brave its dangers
Comprehend its mystery!"
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

The sea is certainly common to all.

Titus Maccius Plautus



*There is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much
worth doing as simply messing about in boats.*

Kenneth Grahame

*The clouds were building up now for the trade wind
and he looked ahead and saw a flight of wild ducks
etching themselves against the sky over the water,
then blurring, then etching again and he knew
no man was ever alone on the sea.*

Ernest Hemingway

*Thus, I steer my bark, and sail
On even keel, with gentle gale.*

Matthew Green

*There is, one knows not what sweet
mystery about this sea, whose
gently awful stirrings seems to speak
of some hidden soul beneath...*

Herman Melville



A sailor is an artist whose medium is the wind.

Webb Chiles

*It's remarkable how quickly a good
and favorable wind can sweep away the maddening
frustrations of shore living.*

Ernest K. Gann

*Behold the threaden sails,
Borne with the invisible and creeping wind,
Draw the huge bottoms through the furrow'd sea,
Breasting the lofty surge*

William Shakespeare

*Once more upon the waters! Yet once more!
And the waves bound beneath me as a steed
That knows his rider.*

Lord Byron

*The pessimist complains about the wind;
the optimist expects it to change;
the realist adjusts the sails.*

William Arthur Ward



It isn't that life ashore is distasteful to me.
But life at sea is better.

Sir Francis Drake

I wanted freedom, open air and adventure.
I found it on the sea.

Alaine Gerbault

If one does not know to which port one
is sailing no wind is favorable.

Seneca

The thing I realized this last few days is
that the earth is a big place.

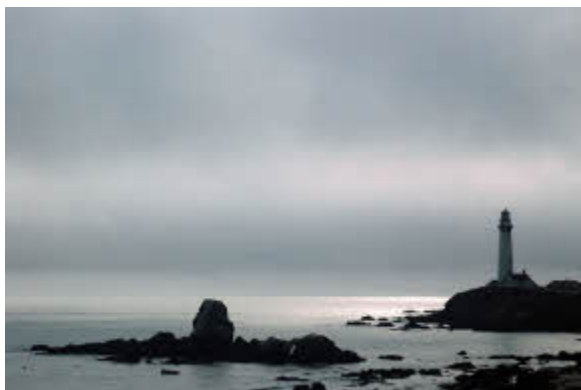
Paul Cayard

Never a ship sails out of a bay,
but carries my heart as a stowaway.

Roselle Mercier Montgomery

Our voyage had commenced, and at last
we were away, gliding through the clean water
past the reeds. Care was lifted from our shoulders,
for we were free from advice, pessimism,
officialism, heat and hot air.

Adlard Coles



*The land is dearer for the sea,
The ocean for the shore.*

Lucy Laboom

*The night comes stealing o'er me,
And clouds are on the sea;
While the wavelets rustle before me
With a mystical melody.*

Heinrich Heine

*The ocean old, Centuries old,
Strong as youth, and as uncontrolled,
Paces restless to and fro
Up and down the sands of gold.*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

*There are some things you learn best in calm,
and some in storm.*

Willa Cather

*...there was a grandeur in everything around
which gave a solemnity to the scene, a silence
and solitariness which affected every part!
No human being but ourselves for miles; and no sound
heard but the pulsations of the great Pacific!*

Richard Henry Dana



To young men contemplating a voyage,
I would say go.

Joshua Slocum

He that will not sail till all dangers
are over must never put to sea.

Thomas Fuller

That's what a ship is, you know -
it's not just a keel and a hull and a deck and sails,
that's what a ship needs.
But what a ship is, ... really is, is freedom.

Captain Jack Sparrow

Men go back to the mountains, as they
go back to sailing ships at sea, because in the
mountains and on the sea, they must face up.

Henry David Thoreau

My soul is full of longing
For the secret of the Sea,
And the heart of the great ocean
Sends a thrilling pulse through me.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



To be successful at sea we must keep things simple.

Pete Culler

Sailors, with their built in sense of order, service and discipline, should really be running the world.

Nicholas Monsarrat

Whenever I find myself growing grim
about the mouth...then, I account it high time
to get to sea as soon as I can.

Herman Melville

Ah! What pleasant visions haunt me
As I gaze upon the sea!
All the old romantic legends,
All my dreams come back to me.
Sails of silk and ropes of sandal,
Such as gleam in ancient lore;
And the singing of the sailors,
And the answer from the shore!

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I never was on the dull, tame shore,
But I loved the great sea more and more.

Barry Cornwall



Build a deck high up on it, so it can carry you across the misty sea.
I'll provision it with as much food and water and red wine
as you will need to satisfy your wants. I'll give you
clothes and send a favoring wind blowing from your stern,
so you may reach your own native land unharmed,
if the gods are willing, the ones who hold wide heaven,
whose will and force are mightier than my own.

Calypso to Odysseus - Homer

Mackerel skies and mares tails,
soon will be time to shorten sails.

Old Sailors Proverb

Oh! for a soft and gentle wind,
I heard a fair one cry,
But give to me the roaring breeze,
And the white waves heaving high;
And white waves heaving high, my boys.
The good ship tight and free;
The world of waters is our home,
And merry men are we.

Sailors' Song

Fortune brings in some boats that are not steered.

William Shakespeare



Moons waxed and waned,
the lilacs bloomed and died,
In the broad river ebbed and flowed the tide
ships went to sea, and ships came home from .
And the slow years sailed by and ceased to t

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The days pass happily with me
wherever my ship sails.

Joshua Slocum

I don't worry about the storms,
I am learning to sail my own ship.

Louisa May Alcott

It's out there at sea that you are really yours

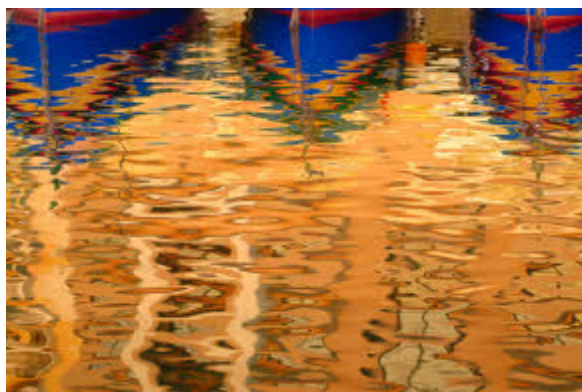
Vito Dumas

The sea is the same as it has been
since before men ever went on it in boats.

Ernest Hemingway

The sea appears all golden
Beneath the sun-lit sky.

Heinrich Heine



Land was created to provide a place for boats to visit.

Brooks Atkinson

*Ships are the nearest things to dreams
that hands have ever made.*

Robert N. Rose

*Bards and prophets tune their mystic lyres
While listening to the music of the waves!*

Sarah Josepha Hale

*Rivers are roads which move
and which carry us whither we desire to go.*

Blaise Pascal

*The surface of the Earth is the shore of the cosmic ocean...
The water seems inviting.
The ocean calls.*

Carl Sagan

*It's not the towering sail, but the unseen wind
that moves the ship.*

Proverb



*The sea has never been friendly to man.
At most it has been the accomplice
of human restlessness.*

Joseph Conrad

*At sea, I learned how little a person needs,
not how much.*

Robin Lee Graham

*Tut! The best thing I know between
France and England is the sea.*

Douglas William Jerrold

*And as great seamen, using all their wealth
And skills in Neptune's deep invisible paths,
In tall ships richly built and ribbed with brass,
To put a girdle round about the world.*

George Chapman

*Skill'd in the globe and sphere,
he gravely stands,
And, with his compass,
measures seas and lands.*

John Dryden



*Out of sight of land the sailor feels safe.
It is the beach that worries him.*

Charles C. Davis

*For one thing, I was no longer alone;
a man is never alone with the wind
— and the boat made three.*

Hilaire Belloc

*I would not creep along the coast but steer
Out in mid-sea, by guidance of the stars.*

TS Eliot

*Every morning the sun rose cloudless from the sea,
and set again at night in the sea, in a flood of light.
The stars, too, came out of the blue one after another,
night after night, unobscured, and twinkled
as clear as on a still, frosty night at home,
until the day came upon them.*

Richard Henry Dana

It's always ourselves we find in the sea.

E.E. Cummings

Without patience, a sailor I would never be.

Lee Allred



Like the undulating motion
Of the deep, majestic ocean,
When the whispering billows glide
Smooth along the tranquil tide ;
Calmly thus, prepared, resign'd,
Swells the independent mind.

James Montgomery

The wind and the waves are always
on the side of the ablest navigator.

Edmund Gibbon

I can't change the direction of the wind,
but I can adjust my sails
to always reach my destination.

Jimmy Dean

They who plough the sea do not carry
the winds in their hands.

Publius Syrus

Wind is to us what money is to life on shore.

Sterling Hayden

A sailor's joys are as simple as a child's.

Bernard Moitessier



Not all who wander are lost.

JRR Tolkien

*There are three sorts of people;
those who are alive, those who are dead,
and those who are at sea.*

Anacharsis

A man is never lost at sea.

Ernest Hemingway

*As for myself, the wonderful sea
charmed me from the first.*

Joshua Slocum

*My spirit descends where the day-spring is born,
Where the billows are rubies on fire,
And the breezes that rock the light cradle of morn
Are sweet as the Phoenix' pyre.*

James Montgomery

*What fairy-like music steals over the sea.
Entrancing our senses with charmed melody?*

CB Wilson



No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars,
or sailed to an uncharted land,
or opened a new heaven to the human spirit.

Helen Keller

... the best pilots have need of mariners, besides sails,
anchor and other tackle.

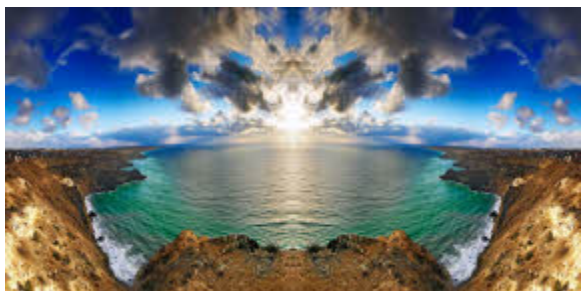
Ben Jonson

Sometimes we are lucky enough to know our lives
have been changed, to discard the old and embrace
the new and run headlong down an immutable course.
It happened to me... on that summer's day
when my eyes were opened to the sea.

Jacques Yves-Cousteau

Full ten thousand miles behind us,
And a thousand miles before,
Ancient ocean waves to waft us
To the well remembered shore.
Newborn breezes swell to send us
To our childhood welcome skies,
To the glow of friendly faces
And the glance of loving eyes.

Charles Mackay



Twenty years from now you will be more
disappointed by the things that you didn't do
than by the ones you did do.
So throw off the bowlines. Sail away
from the safe harbor.
Catch the trade winds in your sails.
Explore. Dream. Discover.
Mark Twain

From clime to clime the wanderer loved to roam.
The waves his heritage, the world his home.
James Montgomery

When I forget how talented God is, I look to the sea.
Whoopi Goldberg

To sail is necessary.
Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus

Now - bring me that horizon.
The last line from Pirates of the Caribbea



I must go down to the seas again,
to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship
and a star to steer her by,
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song
and the white sail's shaking,
And a gray mist on the sea's face,
and a gray dawn breaking.

John Masefield

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Christopher Columbus to
Captain Jack Sparrow

*Is it the draw of unknown lands,
the rhythm of the waves,
the thrill of adventure? Or is it the sea,
something about the sea itself,
which draws a sailor to his task?*
Confronting the raw elements of life
sharing in her triumphs and her sorrows
in ways no land-lubber will ever know,
the sailor knows that his skill,
and his ability to move with the pulse
of the sea, skies and wind are all that stand
between himself and eternity.
I have never known an ex-sailor.
It would be an anomaly.
There are sailors and there are land lovers.
And there really is nothing in between.

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