**Responsibility**

**I find it interesting that the meanest life, the poorest existence, is attributed to God’s will, but as human beings become more affluent, as their living standard and style begin to ascend the material scale, God descends the scale of responsibility at a commensurate speed. *(Maya Angelou, in I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings)***

**We are responsible for the world in which we find ourselves, if only because we are the only sentient force which can change it. *(James Baldwin)***

**We have a Bill of Rights. What we need is a Bill of Responsibilities. *(Bill Maher)***

**After the age of 40, every man is responsible for his own face. *(Albert Camus)***

**Hagar: “This is my valuable assistant Lucky Eddie! He carries a lot of responsibility into battle!” Servant: “What’s in the bag?” Hagar: “My lunch.” *(Dik Browne, in Hagar The Horrible comic strip)***

**Every private citizen has a public responsibility. *(Myra Janco Daniels, in Newsweek)***

**The responsibility of a creative life is both a curse and a blessing. It's the thing that gives you life and is killing you at the same time. *(Daniel Day-Lewis, in W magazine)***

**I believe that to meet the challenges of our times, human beings will have to develop a greater sense of universal responsibility. Each of us must learn to work not just for oneself, one’s own family, or nation, but for the benefit of all humankind. Universal responsibility is the key to human survival. It is the best foundation for world peace. *(The Dalai Lama)***

**Personal notice in Indianapolis Star: "I will gladly be responsible for all debts contracted by Marilyn G. I love her more now that when we wed 18 years ago today. Your devoted husband, Nat. P.S. What's for supper?" *(Reader's Digest)***

**You can delegate authority, but not responsibility. *(Stephen W. Comiskey)***

**If you can put the question "Am I or am I not responsible for my acts?" then you are responsible. *(Fyodor Dostoyevsky)***

**In dreams begin responsibility. *(Pindar)***

**Frank says to the IRS man: “I don’t want to pay my fair share of taxes. I want to pay someone else’s fair share.” *(Bob Thaves, in Frank & Ernest comic strip)***

**That word “hypegiaphobia” means “fear of responsibility.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Have you ever had to paint some roof trim, high up? You get halfway up that 36-foot extension ladder and you start wondering about the ladder, its footing and your body weight. You stop and hug the ladder, looking neither up nor down. Your left leg begins a ridiculous but controllable shuddering. At length you conquer that particular rung and inch your way to the next, then the next. Finally you're at the top, clinging for your life. How can you take one hand off the ladder to use the paintbrush? But you do. Tight as a fiddle, you begin. The sky is clear. The sun is nice. The thirsty wood soaks up the paint. You whistle and think high, positive thoughts and do a good job and forget about the height. You've learned an important lesson of life from this: No matter what higher responsibility you take on, it's scary, very scary -- until you start working. *(James Alexander Thom, on the fear of responsibility, in Nuggets)***

**Nothing keeps a person’s feet on the ground like having a little responsibility placed on his or her shoulders. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I just wish the crocus, the tulips, and other early spring flowers would leave their hibernation sanctuary and rise to the occasion. *(Bob Schirm)***

**We are responsible for each other, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that you are my fault. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

**A man who enjoys responsibility usually gets it. A man who merely likes exercising authority usually loses it. *(Malcolm S. Forbes, in Forbes magazine)***

**It is the first responsibility of every citizen to question authority. *(Benjamin Franklin)***

**When government accepts responsibility for people, then people no longer take responsibility for themselves. *(George Pataki)***

**Most of us can read the handwriting on the wall; we just assume it’s addressed to somebody else. *(Ivern Ball, in National Enquirer)***

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

**Nothing strengthens the judgment and quickens the conscience like individual responsibility. *(Elizabeth Cady Stanton, American feminist)***

**Do you realize the responsibility I carry? I’m the only person standing between Richard Nixon and the White House. *(John F. Kennedy)***

**The average age at which an Italian child leaves his parents’ home is 28. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 28, 2006)***

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**The Battle of Gettysburg had just been fought. Lincoln sensed an opportunity to end the war by driving hard against Lee's rear in retreat. A swift, daring attack might do it. As commander in chief of the Army, he ordered General Meade to pursue. A friendly note in the president's handwriting accompanied the instructions: "The order I enclose is not of record. If you succeed, you need not publish the order. If you fail, publish it. Then, if you succeed, you will have all the credit of the movement. If not, I'll take all the responsibility.**

***(Herbert V. Prochnow, in The Public Speaker's Treasure Chest)***

**You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

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**When did China pass laws to require married couples to be responsible for the welfare of their parents? In 1980. Marriage vows include a commitment not only for husband and wife to take care of each other until death, but to support their parents, too. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Boss to employee: “We’ve decided, Sherman, to give you more responsibility. From now on, you’ll be responsible for everything that goes wrong.” *(Marty Lowe, in The Wall Street Journal)***

Nelson: “Grampa, why does the moon follow us while we’re driving?” Grandpa: “That’s because I’ve got it tied to this invisible string.” Nelson: “That’s silly.” Grandpa: “It’s true. Here . . . hold on to it for a while for me. My hands getting tired.” Nelson: “Whoa! I’m not ready for this kind of responsibility!” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)*

**The only responsibility we ever have to other human beings is to love and nurture them as they are right now. *(Shirley Briggs)***

**Few things help people more than placing responsibility upon them and letting them know that you trust them. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**In Buenos Aires, mothers say to me, "My son is 34 and he's not getting married; I don't know what to do." So I tell them, "Don't iron his shirts anymore." *(Pope Francis)***

**I think our No. 1 problem is that nobody wants to take responsibility for anything, but don't quote me*. (Randy Glaswbergen, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**The government is like a baby’s alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other. *(Ronald Reagan)***

**Our real responsibility is to our inner world. No matter what happens outside, we are the caretakers of an inner sanctuary, where no changing events have the power to sway us from manifesting a vision. *(Alan Cohen)***

**Heredity is a splendid phenomenon that relieves us of responsibility for our shortcomings. *(Doug Larson)***

**Let's think of the word "responsible" as "response-able". Are we able to respond by doing what needs to be done? Along with prayer, are we willing to make the needed inner changes or take outer action? *(Eileen Ramsey)***

**We do not do what we want, and yet we are responsible for what we are -- that is the fact. *(Jean-Paul Sartre)***

**Many years ago Albert Schweitzer told a beautiful parable concerning our responsibilities to others. He told about a flock of wild geese that had settled to rest on a pond. One of the flock had been captured by a gardener, who had clipped his wings before releasing it. When the geese started to resume their flight, this one tried frantically, but vainly, to lift itself into the air. The others, observing his struggles, flew about in obvious efforts to encourage him, but it was no use. Thereupon, the entire flock settled back on the pond and waited, even though the urge to go on was strong within them. For several days they waited until the damaged feather had grown sufficiently to permit the goose to fly. Meanwhile, the unethical gardener, having been converted by the ethical geese, gladly watched them as they finally rose together and all resumed their long flight. *(Dynamic Preaching)***

**Some will not look on suffering because it creates responsibility. *(Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen)***

**Should I pay the bills, wash the windows, do the grocery shopping? Or race toward a blazing sunset, well beyond the horizon into the arms of uncertainty! At least alter egos shirk responsibility with flair! *(Pat Brady & Don Wimmer, in Rose Is Rose comic strip)***

**A father said to his son, “I hear you skipped school to play football.” His son answered, “No I didn’t, and I have the fish to prove it!” *(Tidbits)***

**No snowflake in an avalanche ever feels responsible. *(Stanislaw Jerzy Lec, Polish writer)***

**To be a spiritual person is not to be afraid of responsibility. *(Rabbi David Hartman)***

**People need responsibility. They resist assuming it, but they cannot get along without it. *(John Steinbeck, in Saturday Review)***

**The prospective father-in-law asked his daughter’s fiancé, “Young man, are you able to support a family?” The surprised groom-to-be replied, “Well, no. I was just planning to support your daughter. The rest of you will have to fend for yourselves.” *(The Amnerican Legion magazine)***

**It is our responsibilities, not ourselves, that we should take seriously. *(Peter Ustinov)***

**If you want children to keep their feet on the ground, put some responsibility on their shoulders. *(Abigail van Buren)***

**Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him, and to let him know that you trust them. (*Booker T. Washington)***

**Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action. *(George Washington)***

**In dreams begins responsibility. *(William Butler Yeats)***

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