

**'Off I go, rummaging about in books for sayings which please me – not so as to store them up (for I have no storehouse) but so as to carry them back to this book, where they are no more mine than they were in their original place.'**

- Michel de Montaigne, 'On Schoolmasters' Learning'  
(M.A. Screech, 'The Complete Essays')

Key:	B.	= The Bible
	THDF	= The Tragical History of Dr Faustus, Christopher Marlow
	F1	= Faust Pt 1, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (translated by Philip Wayne)
	DrF	= Doctor Faustus, Thomas Mann (translated by H.T. Lowe-Porter)
	PL	= 'Paradise Lost', John Milton
	DC	= The Divine Comedy, Dante (translated by Allen Mandelbaum)
	SCJ	= Christopher Janaway, 'Schopenhauer'
	S90	= Paul Strathern, 'Schopenhauer in 90 Minutes'
	K90	= Paul Strathern, 'Kierkegaard in 90 Minutes'

Abbreviations: (p) = paraphrased  
(w) = web search

'Then give me back the time of growing... Oh, give me back my youth again!' Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Faust' Pt1 (George Madison Priest)

'It is an uneasy lot... never to be fully possessed by the glory we behold.' George Elliot, 'Middlemarch'

'I am at the end of my rope...To whom shall I make my complaint?' Søren Kierkegaard, 'Repetition and Philosophical Crumbs (M.G. Piety) (w)

## PROLOGUE

'Not marching now in fields of Thrasimene... intends our Muse to vaunt his heavenly verse.' –Marlowe, THDF. (Given the nature of this work, there are too many such references, which are integral rather than ornamental, to cite further of them: so, if it sound like Marlowe, then it probably is! I only cite those which appear as chapter head quotations)

'By what marvel are we empowered to encompass the great reckoning of infinite reality in the little room of our life?' (Given the nature of the work, there are too many such paraphrases to cite them all, and I rather hope that some enjoyment may be derived from spotting them. I mention this only, as the first I might make this comment, and also because it itself is based on a reference in Shakespeare's 'As You Like It' to the death of Christopher Marlow: "When a man's verses cannot be understood, nor a man's good wit seconded with the forward child, understanding, it strikes a man more dead than a great reckoning in a little room.")

'Fie my wandering Muse, how thou dost stray!' – John Milton, 'At a Vacation Exercise in the College'

'come they as dreams or memories to me?' – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, F1

‘vivere est cogitare’ (‘to live is to think’) – Cicero.

‘Half heard through boarded time... cannot catch the words.’ – Louis MacNeice, ‘Carrick Revisited’

‘I remembered Mr Hooke-Morgan telling us that the poem was by a highly regarded twentieth century literary figure’ (*D.H. Lawrence, in fact, but not only is this one of the time faded frescoes of a memory which the Narrator discusses, and which I may have completely invented, I can find no quotation which is its like, nor any which suggest it is even likely.*)

‘load the ore... into the rift’ (p) John Keats, Letters (to P.B. Shelley)

‘One famous writer observed that autobiography is a sort of retrospective imagination which feeds the analytic faculty with boundless alternatives’: Vladimir Nabokov, ‘Lolita’

‘reality is the invention of unimaginative people’. – Peter Ackroyd, Chatterton

‘to try to catch time itself by the tail’. – Jean Paul Sartre, Nausea. (*translated by Robert Baldick*)

‘to impermanent becoming the character of being’. – Thomas Mann, *DrF*

‘I was not there. But today it is a psychological fact that I was there, for whoever has lived a story like this, lived it through, as I have lived this one, that frightful intimacy makes him an eye and ear-witness, even to its hidden phases’. – *Ibid*

‘the unreasonable demands made upon the reader does not lie at my door and need not trouble me’ – *Ibid*

“I am not... pity the tale of me!” – Sir Philip Sidney, ‘Astrophil and Stella’

## CHORUS 1

‘would throw himself into a corner and let their dynamic genius work upon his mind’ (p) Friedrich Nietzsche, on reading Schopenhauer.

‘Only ‘will’ is the ‘thing in itself’... and also of the whole.’ – (p) Schopenhauer, ‘The World as Will and Representation’ *SCJ*

‘Beauty is truth... all ye need to know’ – Keats, ‘Ode on a Grecian Urn’

‘ ‘Will’ appears in every blindly acting force of nature... of what is manifested.’ (p) Schopenhauer, ‘The World as Will and Representation’ *SCJ*

‘I am that which began... I am the soul’ – Algernon Charles Swinburne, ‘Hertha’

Only at one point do I have access to the world ... this dual knowledge of 'Will' and 'representation' – Schopenhauer, 'The World as Will and Representation' S90

'The only thing that really marks the human out... not to follow its impulses.' – *I cannot now discover where I found this quote.*

How much stronger are the emotions aroused in man... he actually knows of death.' – Schopenhauer, 'On the Suffering of the World' (*courtesy of Google, as far as I can determine*)

'that must end us... this intellectual being' – John Milton, *PL*

'The state to which death restores us... So it disappears.' – Schopenhauer, 'Parerga and Paralipomena' S90

'This therefore is nature's unambiguous declaration... would not have non-being as its goal.' Schopenhauer, 'On the Vanity of Existence' (*courtesy of Google, as far as I can determine*)

'All in all our condition is something that it were better should not be.' – Schopenhauer, 'The World as Will and Representation' SCJ

'This world's no blot for us... my meat and drink' – Robert Browning, 'Fra Lippo Lippi'

## **Chapter One,** **ii**

'Men's courses will foreshadow certain ends, to which, if persevered in, they must lead' – Charles Dickens, 'A Christmas Carol'

'It is not only out of consideration for the reader... matter which' – (p) Mann, *DrF*

'this is no crossing for a little bark... would spare himself' – Dante, *DC*

'to see him fumbling with our rich and delicate language ... the hands of a chimpanzee' – Evelyn Waugh, on Stephen Spender

'trite, but the truth of the sentiment is not to be denied for all that' – Flann O'Brien, 'The Dalkey Archive'

'madeleines were never commonly available in my neck of the woods but I believe the principle is the same' – *referencing the famous episode in the first volume of Proust, 'A La Recherche du Temps Perdu'*

'I cannot paint... unborrowed from the eye' – William Wordsworth, 'Tintern Abbey'

'like an unbodied joy whose race has just begun' – P.B. Shelley, 'To a Skylark'

‘shrink from every connection with the actual...it’s endless spaces my domain’ – (p) Mann, *DrF*

‘Like Conradin in ‘Sredni Vashtar’ ‘ – Saki, *short story from ‘The Chronicles of Clovis’*

‘my soul roamed and soared through the universe on the wings of imagination, in ecstasies surpassing all other pleasures’ – (p) Jean Jacques Rousseau, ‘Reveries of a Solitary Walker’ (*Peter France*)

rise like lions after slumber in unvanquishable number – P.B. Shelley, ‘The Masque of Anarchy’

which I found on the back of a ‘*The Jam*’ album, I recall – *it was ‘Sound Affects’*

‘the world is wrought to sympathy with hopes and fears it heeded not’ – P.B. Shelley, ‘To a Skylark’

‘compelled to give, according to their ability...according to their need’, (p) Karl Marx, ‘Critique of the Gotha Program’ (*w*)

‘die so slowly that none call it murder’ – Samuel Taylor Coleridge, ‘Religious Musings’

‘hope springs eternal in the human breast’ – ‘*they*’ first being Alexander Pope, ‘An Essay on Man’

‘there is no absurdity so palpable... with an air of great solemnity’ – Schopenhauer, ‘Studies in Pessimism’ (*courtesy of Google, as far as I can determine*)

‘Doomed, in the long crucifixion of desire... desirous fragmentariness’ – D.H. Lawrence, ‘Lui et Elle’

‘Be careful whom and what’s to be believed, the gate is wide, but do not be deceived’ – Dante, *The Divine Comedy* (*my own poetising of Allen Mandelbaum’s translation*)

‘we deceive and flatter no one by such delicate artifice as we do our selves’ – Schopenhauer (*courtesy of Google, as far as I can determine*)

‘sic probo’ (‘*thus I prove it*’) – from Marlowe’s ‘Dr Faustus’

‘*cum veritatem qua liberetur inquirat, credatur ei expedire quod fallitur*’ – St Augustine

‘like one who having into truth... he did believe’ – Shakespeare ‘The Tempest’

### iii

‘Two lads that thought... and to be boy eternal’ – Shakespeare ‘A Winter’s Tale’

### iv

‘When I was a child, I spake as a child... I put away childish things’ – B., 1 Corinthians, 13:11

‘The lady doth protest too much, methinks’ – Shakespeare ‘Hamlet’

‘We will gradually grow indifferent... and the number of their errors’ – Schopenhauer, ‘Parerga and Paralipomena’ (*from Alain de Botton, ‘Status Anxiety’*)

**v**

‘Their conference will be a greater help to me, than all my labours, plod I ne’er so fast’, Marlowe, *THDF*.

**vi**

‘How am I glutted with the conceit of this!’ – *ibid.*

‘Speak not to me about the motley rabble... in its vulgar tide’ – Goethe, *F1*

‘Vex not thou the poet’s mind... come not here.’ – Tennyson, ‘The Poet’s Mind’

**Two**

‘Well, let us on! We’ll plumb your deepest ground, for in your Nothing may the All be found’ – Goethe, *F1*

**Three**

‘Seat thyself sultanically among the moons of Saturn... both contemporary and hereditary’ – Melville, ‘Moby Dick’

‘Freedom had dawned... closed behind him’ – Mann, *DrF*

‘Truly, he discovered, Melancholy dwells... bidding adieu’ – (*p*) Keats, Ode on Melancholy

‘the mastering pressure of wearisome, necessary things’ ... ‘necessary and disagreeable and real’ – Saki, Sredni Vashtar

‘What? Shall I ever sigh and pine?... a large as store’ – George Herbert, ‘The Collar’

‘My name is Fist, in everything thy equal’ – Goethe, *F1*

‘the man of the semper idem, of self-assertion against circumstances’ (*‘semper idem’ = ‘always the same’*) – Mann, *DrF*

‘for it lieth also in my nature, for good or ill, to look beyond’ – *ibid.*

'Faith, like a jackal... her most vital hopes' –Melville, 'Moby Dick'

'It was as if I had entered into an inheritance which had belonged to me from time immemorial – (p)  
Proust, 'A La Recherche du Temps Perdu' (C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin)

'Eric Clapton, I seem to recall, singing about going down to Rosdale' – *referencing 'Crossroads', originally by Robert Johnson, although the line is originally from Johnson's 'Travelling Riverside Blues'.*

'the blast of war... summoning the blood' – (p) Shakespeare, 'Henry V'

'By my penny of observation' – Shakespeare, 'Love's Labour's Lost'

'For within him hell he brings... by change of place' – John Milton, *PL*

'The mind is its own place... a Hell of a Heav'n' – *Ibid*

'Ex veritatem in umbris et imaginibus' – Me, here. *It is, no doubt, an embarrassingly inaccurate inversion of 'ex umbris et imaginibus veritatem': Out of shadows and figures into the truth; cardinal Newman's motto from his grave cross*

'power which adds supreme flavour to existence... slowly in the light' – Virginia Woolf, 'Mrs Dalloway'

'full XXIV years ab dato recessi?' – Mann, *DrF*

'Grasp your chance with resolute trust... You'll carry on because you must' – Goethe, *F1*

'there is nothing neither hea'en nor hell but thinking makes it so' – Shakespeare, Hamlet ('*there is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so*')

'Pleased to meet you, hope you guess my name' – The Rolling Stones, 'Sympathy for the Devil'

#### **Four**

'When I dipt into the future... and all the wonder that would be' – Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 'Locksley Hall'

'the brokers, the bankers... fast – and slow – asleep' – (*freely paraphrased*) Dylan Thomas, 'Under Milkwood'

#### **Five**

##### **i**

'Youth of delight come hither and see the opening morn' – William Blake, 'The Voice of the Ancient Bard'

'et in Ebriata ego' – *my own unlearned Latin again, I'm afraid*

'therein a theft from the possible' – Mann, *DrF*

'heav'n in her eye ... unfelt before' – Milton, *PL*

'I paused – I looked... all expired save her' – Edgar Allan Poe, 'To Helen'

'Ravishment... did kiss and greet' – Keats 'Endymion'

'seem like mockery upon the asking' – Goethe, *F1*

'one simple, passionate kiss... the meeting of our lips' – Laurence Binyon, 'Westward'

'even as lightning... down to earth descends' – Dante, *DC*

'to celebrate His throne with warbl'd hymns, and to his Godhead sing forc't Halleluliah's' – Milton, *PL*

## ii

'It seems to me that the problem with diaries... speculating on cosmic order' – Ann Beattie (*w*)

' "I need her more than want her, and I want her for all time" – Jimmy Webb, 'Wichita Lineman'  
(performed by Glenn Campbell)

'What then remains... now yours alone' – *I simply cannot discover from where these lines come. I had thought I remembered that they were Poe's*

'those who walk and wot not what they are' – Shakespeare, 'Love's Labour's Lost'

'to carry on all matters... a theme for Sophocles' – (*p*) Keats, Letters

'awake for ever in a sweet unrest... and so live ever" – Keats, 'Bright Star'

'save only the divine light in thine eyes... they were the world to me! – Edgar Allan Poe, 'To Helen'

## iii

'The flower that follows the sun does so even in cloudy days' – Robert Leighton, 'Eighteen Sermons'  
(Sermon IV)

'As flies to wanton boy are we... they kill us for their sport' – Shakespeare, 'King Lear'

'adore the sun, that looks upon his worshipper, but knows of him no more' – Shakespeare, 'All's Well That Ends Well'

'the fancy, however illusory, however foolish, does me good!' – Mann, *DrF*

**iv**

'The good news is that you don't know how great you can be!' – Anne Frank, *Diaries (w)*

'for small have continual plodders ever won' – Shakespeare, 'Love's Labour's Lost'

'fade far away, dissolve, and quite forget... where men sit and her each other groan' – Keats, 'Ode to a Nightingale'

**v**

'There are two tragedies in life. One is not to get your heart's desire. The other is to get it' – *a common misquotation of 'there are two tragedies in life. One is to lose your heart's desire. The other is to gain it'* – George Bernard Shaw, 'Man and Superman'

**vi**

'Who chooseth me shall gain what many men desire' – Shakespeare, 'The Merchant of Venice'

'If this avails to make you satisfied... I'll join you in your little mummer's trick' – Goethe, *F1*

**vii**

'The world is a looking-glass and gives back to every man the reflection of his own face' – William Makepeace Thackeray, 'Vanity Fair'

**viii**

'Who can refute a sneer?' – William Paley, *on Edward Gibbon's 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire'*

'I have seen more men destroyed... by drink or harlots' – 'The Autobiography of William Butler Yeats'

'He could be King of the Delta Blues... he could to have all the whisky and women he wants!' – (p) a 'Vision' of Robert Johnson meeting the Devil at the Crossroads, as told by (fellow bluesman) Henry Goodman

'A dose like that within your guts, my boy, and every other wench is Helen of Troy!'" – Goethe, *F1*



**ix**

‘Flung roses, roses riotously with the throng,’ – Ernest Dowson, ‘Non sum qualis eram bonae sub regno Cynarae’

**x**

‘When I awoke and found the dawn was grey’ – *ibid.*

**xi**

‘Fancy... thou art a seduced and seducing slut...’tis a shame to break with thee’ – Laurence Sterne, ‘A Sentimental Journey’

‘They told me that the day and night... a red round globe, hot burning’ – Blake, ‘Visions of the Daughters of Albion’

‘John had recently been reading a novel which imagined the true history of King Arthur...’ – Mary Stewart, ‘The Crystal Cave’ (*from her rather wonderful ‘Merlin’ series of novels*)

**xii**

‘Examine them of their several names and dispositions’ – Marlow, *THDF*

**SIX**

**i**

‘Holland... lies so low they’re only saved by being dammed’ – Thomas Hood, ‘Up the Rhine’

**ii**

‘When the hour glass is set... not for a long time yet’ – Mann, *DrF*

**SEVEN**

**i**

‘Life is just what happens to you while you’re busy making other plans’ John Lennon, ‘Beautiful Boy (Darling Boy)’

‘anon out of the earth a fabric huge rose like an exhalation’ – Milton, *PL*

‘Had earth anything to show more fair?’ (*p*) and ‘Never did sun more beautifully steep... never felt, a calm so deep’ – William Wordsworth, ‘Composed Upon Westminster Bridge’

'The point is, Ladies and gentlemen, 'Greed', for lack of a better word, is good... marked the upward surge in mankind' – Oliver Stone and Stanley Weiser, 'Wall Street'

'It is not from the benevolence of the butcher ... an end which was no part of his intention' – Adam Smith, 'The Wealth of Nations'

'The city seen from the Queensboro Bridge... all the mystery and beauty in the world' – F. Scott Fitzgerald, 'The Great Gatsby'

'to bear you on my mantle through the air... kingdoms of the earth and the glory of them' – Mann, *DrF*

'Forgive my pompous way of talking. It is really ridiculous exagéré' – *ibid.*

'I am spreading out my magic cloak. I will take you to Paris, to Brussels, Antwerp, Venice, Copenhagen' – *ibid.*

'Au fond de temple saint, paré de fleurs et d'or' – *aria from Bizet's, 'The Pearl Fishers'*

## ii

'Per me si va nella città dolente... per me si va tra la perduta gente' (*'Through me the way to the city of woe, through me the way to eternal pain, through me the way to go amongst the lost'*) – Dante, *DC*

'I'm an alien, I'm a legal alien, I'm an Englishman in New York' Sting, 'an Englishman in New York'

'That serene and blessed mood... in body and become a living soul' – 'Wordsworth, Tintern Abbey'

## iii

'Here's the rule for bargains: "Do other men, for they would do you." That's the true business precept' – Dickens, 'Martin Chuzzlewit'

## EIGHT

'There are one hundred and ninety-three living species of monkeys and apes. One hundred and ninety-two of them are covered with hair' – Desmond Morris, 'The Naked Ape'

## NINE

### i

'Society ...not only sanctions gross and unfair relations among men ...measure happiness and success' – Philip Roth, 'Portnoy's Complaint'

‘And in their wedlock was born a son... bind Siddhattha's heart to the interests of the world’ – from Buddhist sacred texts (*w*)

‘With the greater part of rich people... nobody can possess but themselves’ – Smith, ‘The Wealth of Nations’

*The story of the ‘Little Boat’ and the musings on Margot from ‘The Good Life’ were inspired by a Terry Wogan article in the ‘Daily Telegraph’*

‘falleth down unto it, and worshipping it, and saith, ‘Deliver me; for thou art my god’ – B., Isaiah 44:17

‘The anguish of one soul... the fate of thousands’ – Goethe, *F1*

‘the first man who having enclosed a piece of ground... real founder of civil society’ –Rousseau. ‘On the Origin and Foundation of the Inequality of Mankind’ (*Robert Wokler*)

‘property is theft’ – Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, slogan from his book ‘What is Property?’ (*w*)

‘Unto every one that hath shall be given’ – B., Matthew 25:29

‘Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness’ – *ibid.* 25:30

‘the devil can cite Scripture for his purpose’ – Shakespeare, ‘The Merchant of Venice’

‘We turn towards God only to obtain the impossible’ – Albert Camus, ‘The Myth of Sisyphus’ (*w*)

‘Religion is the masterpiece... how they should think’ – Schopenhauer, ‘Studies in Pessimism’ (*courtesy of Google, as far as I can determine*)

‘study is like the heaven’s glorious sun, that will not be deep-searched with saucy looks – Shakespeare, ‘Love's Labour's Lost’

‘Hast thou ever raised thy mind... fixed thy spirit in awe and wonder’ – Samuel Taylor Coleridge, ‘The Friend’

‘Do not all charms fly... dull catalogue of common things’ – Keats, ‘Lamia’

‘My heart leaps up when I behold... or let me die’ – Wordsworth, ‘My Heart Leaps Up’

‘All those exceptional human beings... encouraged by the gift of speech at that’ – Kierkegaard, Journals K90

'a twilight of uncritical semi-understanding among the gullible.' – Herbert Spiegelberg, (referring to Martin Heidegger) 'The Phenomenological Movement' (*w*)

"'Were I a pagan...watching the self-deception' – Kierkegaard, Journals K90

'God bestowed the gift of speech... look down on the result' – *ibid.*

'Our life is not only short... enjoy our discomfort' – Schopenhauer, 'Parerga and Paralipomena' S90

'A decent upbringing in this country gives one a sort of bluffer's guide to everything...we can talk for fifteen minutes without notes' – *inspired by a Sarah Lyall article in the 'The New York Times' about British wit*  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/10/weekinreview/10lyall.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/10/weekinreview/10lyall.html?_r=0)

'one must never miss an opportunity of quoting things by others, they are always more interesting than those one thinks up oneself' – Proust (*from 'How Proust Can Change Your Life', Alain de Botton*)

'mere dull unconscious ...ichthyosaurus being' – Mann, *DrF*

'Here's to Liberty!' & 'Bring in the wine' – 'Champagne Aria' *from* Mozart's 'Don Giovanni'

"'Fin ch'han dal vino ... fa preparar! – *ibid.*

'Made it, Ma! Top of the World!' – James Cagney in 'White Heat'

'in the end there is left a life... in a madhouse or a prison' – Anton Chekhov, 'Lady With a Dog' (*Richard Ford, 'The Essential Tales of Chekhov'*)

'Blow, winds, and crack your cheeks... I tax you not with unkindness' – Shakespeare, 'King Lear'

'and what they swallow does them no harm, just as a grain of corn passes undigested through the body of a bird' – (*p*) George Orwell, 1984

## ii

'Say not the struggle naught availeth... and as things have been, things remain' – Arthur Hugh Clough, 'Say Not the Struggle Naught Availeth'

'it's not enough to succeed, others must fail' – Gore Vidal (*w*)

'the pulse of the world beating in my own body' – (*p*) Mann, *DrF*

'where pilasters round ... with golden architrave' – Milton, *PL*

'feed my arrogance with sugar' – Mann, *DrF*

‘polity of multifarious, incongruous and independent denizens’ – R.L. Stevenson, ‘Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’

‘more than loved me... follow to their end’ – (p) Arthur Miller, ‘Death of a Salesman’

‘the life of every individual is really always a tragedy but gone through in detail, it has the character of a comedy – Schopenhauer, ‘The World as Will and Representation’ (*courtesy of Google, as far as I can determine*)

‘cogito ergo est’ – *more of my own hamfisted reworking of Latin; this of Descartes famous dictum which, I hope means, ‘I think therefore it is’*

‘filling the heart with longing without hope’ – Mann, DrF

‘ideas can be a tyranny... my mind is off its hinges’ – Goethe, F1

### iii

‘The fact is, we are all, and always, asleep, through our lives...or understand anything’ – John Ruskin, ‘The Ethics of the Dust’ (*by today’s standards, rather grotesquely subtitled ‘Ten Lectures to Little Housewives on The Elements of Crystallisation’*)

‘At the time of its publishing, there was quite some adverse response to the opening of the first volume of Proust’s ‘A La Recherche du Temps Perdu’... instigate most of the problems in the world’ – *I must here acknowledge Alain de Botton’s wonderful ‘How Proust Can Change Your Life, noty only for inspiring these ruminations but for spurring me to apply the considerable time required to read all of ‘A La Recherche du Temps Perdu’: simply the most enjoyable novel ever (and, therefore, also to acknowledge the beauty of the prose in the Scott Moncrieff/ Kilmartin version).*

‘curious conscience that still hoards its strength for darkness’ – Keats, ‘To Sleep’

‘the passèd day did not then tend to shine upon my pillow, breeding its many woes’ – (p) *ibid.*

‘Conscience – consciousness – makes cowards of us all’ – (p) Shakespeare, ‘Hamlet’

‘rather bear those ills we have than fly to others that we know not of – *ibid.*

‘esse est percipi et percipere’ – George Berkeley, ‘A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge’

‘beauty is unbearable... the whole of our lives’ – Albert Camus (*w*)

‘To dwell with beauty... burst joy’s grape against his palate’ – (p) Keats, ‘Ode on Melancholy’

‘the church spire... Which deadens and endures’ – MacNeice, ‘Sunday Morning’

‘would they had some better thing to do than plague me in my short hour of ease’ – Goethe, *F1*

‘Farewell happy fields... hail infernal world’ – Milton, *PL*

#### iv

‘To sell a bargain well is as cunning as ‘fast-and-loose’ – Shakespeare, ‘Love's Labour's Lost’

‘ill fenc’t... to keep out such a foe’ – (p) Milton, *PL*

#### v

‘for not to irksome toil, but to delight He made us’ – *ibid.*

‘glowing wine on his palate lingered swallowed’ – James Joyce, ‘Ulysses’

‘What a piece of work is a man’ – Shakespeare, ‘Hamlet’

‘fulfilment’s desolate attic’ – Philip Larkin, ‘Deceptions’

‘madder music and stronger wine’ – (p) Dowson, ‘Non sum qualis eram bonae sub regno Cynarae’

‘You are the sun and moon and stars... caught in the fire’ – Radiohead, ‘You’

‘Beati quorum tecta sunt peccata’ – Dante, *DC*

‘but ordinarily and tolerably sinful’ – Mann, *DrF*

‘one of the many hot pincers with which he had initially been pinched and plagued’ (p) – *ibid.*

“One man except, who sees thee’ & ‘who should’st be seen a goddess – Milton, *PL*

‘Wonder not, Sovran mistress’ – *ibid.*

#### TEN

##### i

‘the restless course that time doth run...payment of my latest years’ – Marlowe, *THDF*

‘when I had journeyed half of our life’s way’ – Dante, *DC*

## ii

'There is a microscopically thin line between... So what the hell, leap!' – Cynthia Heimel, 'Lower Manhattan Survival Tactics' from 'The Village Voice' (*w*)

'Un sot trouve toujours un plus sot qui l'admire' (*A fool can always find a bigger fool to admire him*) – Nicholas Boileau-Despreaux, 'L'Art poetique' (*w*)

## ELEVEN

### i

'Who chooseth me shall get as much as he deserves' – Shakespeare, 'The Merchant of Venice'

'Now, what news on the Rialto' – *ibid.*

### ii

'No Grand Inquisitor has in readiness such terrible tortures as has anxiety' – Kierkegaard, 'The Concept of Anxiety' (*w*)

'Why did you throw in your lot with ours... your quick, arrogant head' – Goethe, *F1*

'Indeed? But one must be satisfied... but everything altogether' – (p) Mann, *DrF*

'Oh, yes, here everything ends... and happens to all eternity' – (p) *ibid.*

'Inside these echoless walls... no man can hear his own tune' – *ibid.*

### iii

'A strangely lovely fervency, a yearning... the song of innocence, the joy of spring' – Goethe, *F1*

'like the obstinate fact of the future' – Philip Roth, 'Everyman'

'amongst the dark Satanic mills' – Blake, 'Milton: a Poem'

'the morning rose... globéd peonies' – (p) Keats, 'Ode on Melancholy'

'to be as the poet's piper of the Grecian urn... must ever bid the spring adieu' – (p) Keats, 'Ode on a Grecian Urn'

'we eat without tasting, look without seeing and live without ever perceiving what is real' – *a very widely quoted line in articles on Eastern philosophies for which I can find no attribution* (*w*)

‘What, then, of those rare, strange and surprising moments... the revivification of his memory to us who never experienced it’ – *again referencing the famous episode in the first volume of Proust, ‘A La Recherche du Temps Perdu’*

‘and I saw... his tears burned my cheeks and his heart moved in mine’ – Dylan Thomas, ‘Poem in October’

‘this happy state ... of woe and sorrow’ – Milton, *PL*

‘there are never enough tears to mourn their passing’ – Stephen Fry, ‘Moab Is My Washpot’ (*used to acknowledge a passage I found chiming so closely to, and so eloquently with, one I’d already written for this novel*)

‘Childhood is the only time of life when despite the fact that our appetites do not simply govern us but constitute us... it barely notices our efforts; where all our love, if taken at all, is taken for granted’ – *This whole passage owes a very heavy debt of gratitude to Adam Phillips, ‘Going Sane’.*

‘hope is theirs by fancy fed’ – Thomas Grey, ‘On a Distant Prospect of Eton College’

‘Even despotic kings, even the ancient gods... feel a wish and its fulfilment as one’ – Ian McEwan, ‘Saturday’

‘there is no gold that may grant that ye seek’ – Thomas Wyatt, ‘Satire II: The Country Mouse and the Town Mouse’

‘a grief without a pang... in word, or sigh, or tear’ – Coleridge, ‘Dejection; an Ode’

‘might now perhaps their wonted impulse give... make it move and live – *ibid.*

‘The child’s clear eye is clouded over by ideas and opinions... like a memory of paradise’ – Peter Matthiessen, preface to ‘Nine-Headed Dragon River, Zen Journals 1969-1982’

## TWELVE

### i

‘Why did I laugh tonight... deigns to reply’ – Keats, ‘Why Did I Laugh Tonight?’

‘the passion poesy’ – Keats, ‘Endymion’

‘a sense sublime of something far more deeply interfused... and rolls through all things’ – Wordsworth, ‘Tintern Abbey’

‘tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune’ – Shakespeare, ‘Hamlet’

‘You are the sun and moon and stars – Radiohead, ‘You’



‘Even as I gazed at her, my soul was free from any other need’ – Dante, *DC*

‘You’re my foundation and my support’ – Miller, ‘Death of a Salesman’

‘quietude, and sultriness, and slumber’ – Poe, ‘To Helen’

‘– it sings a song of undying love... it would shrink to the earth if you came in’ – Tennyson, ‘The Poet’s Mind’

‘ ‘What’ it will be Questioned... Holy is the Lord God Almighty’ – Blake, ‘A Vision of the Last Judgement’

‘O my sons, O too dutiful... was it hard to be free?’ – Swinburne, ‘Hertha’

‘host of golden daffodils’ – Wordsworth, ‘I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud’

‘darling buds of May’ – Shakespeare, Sonnet 18

‘the nightingale’s soul poured forth in such an ecstasy’ – (p) Keats, ‘Ode to a Nightingale’

‘the gay motes that people the sun beams’ – Milton, ‘Il Penseroso’

‘the ruin of Ozymandias and the lone and level sands that stretch far away’ – (p) Shelley, ‘Ozymandias’

‘For behold, I am with you... look forth now and see.’ – Swinburne, ‘Hertha’

‘You who suffer from the tribulations of life!’ ... ‘Rejoice at the glad tidings!’ – Paul Carus, ‘The Gospel of Buddha’

## ii

‘Then to my human heart I turn at once’ – Keats, ‘Why Did I Laugh Tonight?’

## iii

‘O mortal pain!... to question heaven and hell and heart in vain – *ibid.*

‘I feed a weakness or two, lest they should get clamorous’ – George Eliot, ‘Middlemarch’

“Have you read any Flan O’Brien?” – the novel referenced is ‘The Dalkey Archive’

‘We hold opinions about people in general; seek to fulfil general ambitions amid the competition of people in general; in every detail of our lives we fail to separate ourselves from the mass. As time goes

on, our own individual possibilities become wholly entangled in the impersonal mass of mankind at large, and we accept this as being entirely natural' – (p) Mary Warnock (on Martin Heidegger), 'Existentialism'

'Bright star, would I as steadfast as thou art' – Keats, 'Bright Star'

'everybody has to die, but I always believed an exception would be made in my case' – William Saroyan (*in a press statement five days before his death. The full quote is 'everybody has to die, but I always believed an exception would be made in my case. Now what?'*)

'the total emptiness for ever...nothing more true' – Larkin, 'Aubade'

'Which thinker was it who challenged us to explain logically why torturing a baby is morally wrong?' – *I thought it was Hegel, but I can't find my original source for this thought*

'Do unto others only as you would have done unto yourself' – The 'Golden Rule'; *in this form, the common English rendering of that appearing in Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31*

'the fundamental characteristic of a human being ... and no one else's' – (p) Warnock, 'Existentialism'

'Beside or above me naught is there to know... I am stricken and I am the blow' – Swinburne, 'Hertha'

'who chooseth me must give and hazard all he hath' – Shakespeare, 'The Merchant of Venice'

'appetite to feed the truth with further proof of itself' – *This sounds so wonderfully baroque that I can't get it out of my head that it is a reference, however I can't discover from where (perhaps I do occasionally turn out a creditable figurative phrase of my own?)*

### THIRTEEN

'What a vile and abject thing is Man... things monstrous and impossible' – Montaigne, 'An Apology for Raymond Sebond' (*M.A. Screech*)

'Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?' – Robert Browning, 'Andrea del Sarto'

'a mortgage on his body and a lien on his soul' – (p) Robert Johnson, 'Travelling Riverside Blues'

'Into what abyss of fears... from deep to deeper plunged' – Milton, *PL*

'The past isn't real. It's just a dream – Don't mention the past' – Bret Easton Ellis, 'American Psycho'

'think our former state a happy dream... shows us but this' – Shakespeare, King Richard II

'far from regions where his thoughts were thorns' – (p) Goethe, *F1*

'reflections on the long, narrow pig trough... majesty of the American people' – Rudyard Kipling, 'Letters of Travel'

'I am not yet born; forgive me... my thoughts when they think me' – Louis MacNeice, 'Prayer Before Birth'

'And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon... we'll have a good time then' – Harry and Sandra Chapin, 'The Cat's in the Cradle'

'that more than one poor being should be whelmed in this swamp of wretchedness' – Goethe, *F1*

'do one thing for me, Sredni Vashtar' – Saki, 'Sredni Vashtar'

'he looked at the future from his spot in the gutter... man, I am lookin' at those stars!' – (p) Oscar Wilde, 'Lady Windermere's Fan'

'and now with holy dread there wakes the pure awareness of the soul' – Goethe, *F1*

'Only thine eyes remained... They have not left me (as my hopes have) since' – Poe, 'To Helen'

'lead him through the years... saved by their bright light' – (p) *ibid.*

'This is not an exit' – Easton Ellis, 'American Psycho' (*the novel's closing words*)

'Abandon hope all ye who enter here' – Dante, *The Divine Comedy* (*the idiomatic rendition*)

## Epilogue

'emerge to see – once more – the stars' – Dante, *DC* (*the poem's ending words*)

'I read recently... one of our most celebrated modern novelists declare the worst piece of advice he had ever been given was that we should write only about what we know' – Sebastian Faulkes in a 'Daily Telegraph' interview

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/features/3634680/Culture-clinic-Sebastian-Faulks.html>

'apt the mind or fancy is to rove unchek't, and of her roving is no end' – Milton, *PL*

'publish and be damned' – actually a retort of Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington on being blackmailed.

'Non pudeat dicere, quod non pudet sentire' – Plato *from* Montaigne, 'On Some Lines of Virgil' (*M.A. Screech*)

‘those who conceal them from others usually do so from themselves’ – (p) *ibid.*

‘Quare vitia sua nemo confitetur? Quia etiam nunc in illia est; somnium narrare vigilantis est’ – Seneca *ibid.*

‘Homo sum, humani nil a me alienum pluto’ – Terence (*one of a number of such aphorisms carved into a roof beam of Montaigne's study*)

‘everything is below the level of tragedy except the passionate egoism of the sufferer’ – Eliot, ‘Middlemarch’

‘no object is in viler taste, I’ll swear, than a poor devil stricken with despair’ – Goethe, *F1*

‘is not meant to be a debauchee... and yet commit the error’ – Coleridge, ‘Lectures Upon Shakespeare’

‘to embrace your hero in his destruction... in the bewilderment of his tragic fall’ – Philip Roth, ‘American Pastoral’

‘find some apes and children who’ll admire’ – Goethe, *F1*