

**A Clown**

Designed by [Brent Payton](#)

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## Interpretation and Definitions

### Interpretation

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**When a clown moves  
into a palace, he doesn't  
become a king. The  
palace becomes a circus.**

---

**Turkish Proverb**

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The sad truth is that most  
evil is done by people  
who never make up their  
minds to be good or evil.

---

Hannah Arendt

---

The search for the truth is  
the most important work  
in the whole world —  
and the most dangerous.

---

Carl Jung

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The fact is, that the public  
have an insatiable curiosity  
to know everything, except  
what is worth knowing.

---

Oscar Wilde

---

When we are no longer  
able to change a situation,  
we are challenged to  
change ourselves.

---

Victor Frankl

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Sometimes I wonder whether  
the world is being run by smart  
people who are putting us on or  
by imbeciles who really mean it.

---

Mark Twain

---

The schools we go to are reflections  
of the society that created them.  
Nobody is going to give you the ed-  
ucation you need to overthrow them.

---

Assata Shakur

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Do not look for healing  
at the feet of those who  
broke you.

---

Rupi Kaur

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The measure of a  
man is what he  
does with power.

---

Plato

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In difficult times, carry  
something beautiful  
in your heart.

---

Blaise Pascal

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The best way to keep a prisoner from escaping is to make sure he never knows he's in prison.

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Fyodor Dostoevsky

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We are in the hands of men  
whose power and wealth have  
separated them from the reality  
of daily life and from the imagi-  
nation. We are right to be afraid.

---

Grace Paley

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You should be angry. You must not be bitter. Bitterness is like cancer. It eats upon the host. It doesn't do anything to the object of its displeasure. So use that anger. You write it. You paint it. You dance it. You march it. You vote it. You do everything about it. You talk it. Never stop talking it.

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Maya Angelou

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Any book worth  
banning is a book  
worth reading.

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Isaac Asimov

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No one is more arrogant toward women, more aggressive or scornful, than the man who is anxious about his virility.

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Simone de Beauvoir

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People pay for what they do,  
and still more, for what they  
have allowed themselves to be-  
come. And they pay for it very  
simply: by the lives they lead.

---

James Baldwin

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The world has a serious  
shortage of both logic  
and kindness.

---

Haruki Murakami

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We do this because the  
world we live in is a  
house on fire and the peo-  
ple we love are burning.

---

Sandra Cisneros

---

The first method for estimating the intelligence of a ruler is to look at the men he has around him.

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Niccolo Machiavelli

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All men make mistakes, but  
a good man yields when  
he knows his course is  
wrong, and repairs the evil.  
The only crime is pride.

---

Sohpocles

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**We cannot control the  
evil tongues of others;  
but a good life enables  
us to disregard them.**

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**Cato**

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And if you think tough  
men are dangerous, wait  
until you see what weak  
men are capable of.

---

Jordan B. Peterson

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In the very end, civilizations perish because they listen to their politicians and not to their poets.

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Jonas Mekas

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Hard times require  
furious dancing.  
Each of us is proof.

---

Alice Walker

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The new is already here.  
The old is just making a  
lot of noise dying.

---

Eckhart Tolle

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We are powerful  
because we have  
survived.

---

Audre Lorde

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The purpose of propaganda  
is to make one set of people  
forget that the other  
sets of people are human.

---

Aldous Huxley

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A man without ethics  
is a wild beast loosed  
upon this world.

---

Albert Camus

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The task of a liberated person is  
not to scold the world and preach  
to it, but to delight it back to its  
senses.

---

Alan Watts

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That men do not learn  
very much from the lessons  
of history is the most im-  
portant of all the lessons  
that history has to teach.

---

Aldous Huxley

---

I am so tired of waiting. Aren't  
you, for the world to become  
good and beautiful and kind?  
Let us take a knife and cut the  
world in two — and see what  
worms are eating at the rind.

---

Langston Hughes

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Morality doesn't mean  
'obeying gods'. Morality  
means 'liberating yourself  
and others from suffering'.

---

Yuval Noah Harari

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The greatest form of activism  
is to be a living example  
of the type of people you'd  
like to see walking this earth.

---

Ebonee Davis

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When science finally  
locates the center of the  
universe, some people will  
be surprised they're not it.

---

Bernard Bailey

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When another person makes you suffer, it is because he suffers deeply within himself, and his suffering is spilling over. He does not need punishment; he needs help. That's the message he is sending.

---

Thich Nhat Hanh

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Love, friendship, and  
respect do not unite people  
as much as a common  
hatred for something.

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Anton Chekhov

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Whenever you find yourself  
on the side of the majority,  
it is time to pause and reflect.

---

Mark Twain

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This is precisely the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair. No place for self pity. No need for silence. No room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal.

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Toni Morrison

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It is hard to imagine a more stupid or more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong.

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Thomas Sowell

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The Earth is littered  
with the ruins of  
empires that believed  
they were eternal.

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Camille Paglia

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**Those who believe  
without reason cannot  
be convinced by reason.**

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**Daniel Dennett**

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The closer the  
collapse of an empire,  
the crazier its laws.

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Cicero

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And the little screaming fact  
that sounds through all his-  
tory: repression works only  
to strengthen and knit the re-  
pressed.

---

John Steinbeck

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Pay attention to who you've been trained to demonize. Oppressive systems have many tactics in eliminating a threat. Appealing to a false sense of morality is one of them.

---

Cole Arthur Riley

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When wealth is passed off as merit, bad luck is seen as bad character. This is how ideologues justify punishing the sick and the poor. But poverty is neither a crime or a character flaw. Stigmatise those who let people die, not those who struggle to live.

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Sarah Kendzior

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They fear love because  
it creates a world they  
can't control.

---

George Orwell

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The oppressor would not be  
so strong if he did not have  
accomplices among the  
oppressed.

---

Simone de Beauvoir

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Poverty is the parent  
of revolution and  
crime.

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Aristotle

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When the rich rob the  
poor, it's called business.  
When the poor fight  
back, it's called violence.

---

Mark Twain

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It is dangerous to be  
right in matters on  
which the established  
authorities are wrong.

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Voltaire

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**Freedom is  
something that dies  
unless it's used.**

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**Hunter S. Thompson**

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There is no greater tyranny  
than that which is perpe-  
trated under the shield of the  
law and in the name of justice.

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Montesquieu

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Tolerance becomes a  
crime when applied  
to evil.

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Thomas Mann

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We should measure the prosperity of a nation not by the number of millionaires, but by the absence of poverty, the prevalence of health, the efficiency of the public schools, and the number of people who can and do read worthwhile books.

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W.E.B. Du Bois

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When asked how fascism starts, Bertrand Russell replied, "First, they fascinate the fools. Then they muzzle the intelligent".

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We can disagree and still love  
each other unless your dis-  
agreement is rooted in my  
oppression and denial of my  
humanity and right to exist.

---

James Baldwin

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Always take sides. Neutrality  
helps the oppressor, never the  
victim. Silence encourages the  
tormentor, never the tormented.

---

Elie Wiesel

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The simple step of a courageous individual is not to take part in the lie.

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Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn

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Wherever the choice has had  
to be made between the man  
of reason and the madman,  
the world has unhesitat-  
ingly followed the madman.

---

Aldous Huxley