



## Leo Tolstoy: Life & Words (Volume 3)

*Ann Kannings*

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This book is an anthology of 199 quotes from Leo Tolstoy and 60 selected facts about Leo Tolstoy. Tolstoy was educated at home by German and French tutors. In 1844, he began studying law and oriental languages at Kazan University. His teachers described him as "both unable and unwilling to learn." In 1851, after running up heavy gambling debts, Tolstoy went with his older brother to the Caucasus and joined the army. Both Tolstoy's father and grandfather had a passion for gambling and had exhausted the family wealth. Tolstoy believed that the aristocracy was a burden on the poor, and that the only solution to how we live together is through anarchism. Tolstoy opposed private property and the institution of marriage and valued the ideals of chastity and sexual abstinence (The Kreutzer Sonata). During the Boxer Rebellion in China, Tolstoy praised the Boxers. Tolstoy read the works of Chinese thinker and philosopher, Confucius. Tolstoy was enthused by the economic thinking of Henry George, incorporating it approvingly into later works such as Resurrection. In his autobiography, Mohandas Gandhi labels Tolstoy "the greatest apostle of non-violence that the present age has produced". Tolstoy and Gandhi shared a common belief in the merits of vegetarianism, the subject of several of Tolstoy's essays. Tolstoy became a major supporter of the Esperanto movement. Tolstoy was watched by the Russian secret police, named "Ohranka". War and Peace has over 400,000 words. "All happy families are alike; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." "The two most powerful warriors are patience and time." "If you want to be happy, be." "In the name of God, stop a moment, cease your work, and look around you." "Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself." "The best stories don't come from "good vs. bad" but "good vs. good." "To get rid of an enemy one must love him." "Everything intelligent is so boring." "If you look for perfection, you'll never be content." "Respect was invented to cover the empty place where love should be." "Only people who are capable of loving strongly can also suffer great sorrow, but this same necessity of loving serves to counteract their grief and heals them." "Is it really possible to tell someone else what one feels?" "When you love someone, you love the person as they are, and not as you'd like them to be." "Nothing is so necessary for a young man as the company of intelligent women." "Be bad, but at least don't be a liar, a deceiver!"

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