Transcendentalism Quotes

Directions: Read the quote and translate into familiar language. Next, see what transcendental tenet(s) the speaker is referring to in their quote.

1. [**All our progress is an unfolding, like a vegetable bud. You have first an instinct, then an opinion, then a knowledge as the plant has root, bud, and fruit. Trust the instinct to the end, though you can render no reason.**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/9290.html)

Translation:

Tenet(s):

1. [**If I have lost confidence in myself, I have the universe against me.**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/31051.html)

Translation: if one can’t feel good about themselves, how do they expect the rest of the world supposed to treat them?

Tenet(s): one must be reliant on oneself

1. [**I pack my trunk, embrace my friends, embark on the sea, and at last wake up in Naples, and there beside me is the Stern Fact, the Sad Self, unrelenting, identical, that I fled from.**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/31291.html)

Translation: You can’t run from your problems no matter where you go.

Tenet(s):society is the source of corruption

1. [**The end of the human race will be that it will eventually die of civilization.**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/796.html)

Translation: Our downfall will be our rapid advancement.

Tenet(s): TECHNOLLGY IS WRONG

1. [**Those who cannot tell what they desire or expect, still sigh and struggle with indefinite thoughts and vast wishes.**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/8522.html)

Translation:

Tenet(s):

1. [**Whoso would be a man must be a nonconformist.**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/26942.html)

Translation: Real men do not conform to society.

Tenet(s): encouraged reform

1. [**He who is in love is wise and is becoming wiser, sees newly every time he looks at the object beloved, drawing from it with his eyes and his mind those virtues which it possesses.**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/30446.html)

Translation: Men who are in love are the true wise ones since they learn from their past experiences.

Tenet(s): knowledge through instinct not from studies, appeal to simplistic life

1. [**A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines.**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/26760.html)

Translation: Being like everybody else is the bane of small minds, a virtue loved by those small-minded statesmen, philsophers, and divines.

Tenet(s): BE DIFFERENT!

1. [**A man builds a fine house; and now he has a master, and a task for life; he is to furnish, watch, show it, and keep it in repair, the rest of his days.**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/2013.html)

Translation: We let our possessions/material things rule us

Tenet(s): Materialism is wrong

1. [**The reward of a thing well done is to have done it.**](http://www.quotationspage.com/quote/2070.html)

Translation: When something is done right, acknowledge is as a job well done.

Tenet(s): Emphasis on here & now

**Elements of Transcendentalism**

1. Intuition and spontaneous behavior outweigh rationality and deliberate thought (tools of society).

2. Microcosm and macrocosm: each part of nature contains all within it. "Every particular in nature, a leaf, a drop, a crystal, a moment of time is related to the whole, and partakes of the perfection of the whole. Each particle is a microcosm, and faithfully renders the likeness of the world." Everything is interconnected.

3. Principle of analogy, of perceiving correspondences: "[M]an is an analogist, and studies relations in all objects." Ex. Colony of ants=society and man

4. Emblematic Nature: "Every natural fact is a symbol of some spiritual fact." “Physical facts reveal hidden, spiritual truths.”

5. Universal soul ("Oversoul"): "Meantime within man is the soul of the whole; the wise silence; the universal beauty, to which every part and particle is equally related." “Everything reflects the Divine Soul.”

6. Emphasis on perfectionism and optimism. The essential nature of human beings is good and society is to blame for the corruption that mankind endures. Transcendentalism also takes the Romantic view of man's steady degeneration from childhood to adulthood as he is corrupted by culture: "A man is a god in ruins."

7. Emphasis on non-conformity, individualism, and self-reliance. Avoidance of the “masses” and “mob-mentality.” The ability to act/think for oneself emerges from these qualities.