

THE PICTURE OF  
DORIAN GRAY.   
BY  
OSCAR  
WILDE 



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# THE PREFACE

*THE artist is the creator of beautiful things.*

*To reveal art and conceal the artist is art's aim.*

*The critic is he who can translate into another manner or a new material his impression of beautiful things.*

*The highest as the lowest form of criticism is a mode of autobiography.*

*Those who find ugly meanings in beautiful things are corrupt without being charming. This is a fault.*

*Those who find beautiful meanings  
in beautiful things are the cultivated.  
For these there is hope.*

*They are the elect to whom beautiful things  
mean only Beauty.*

*There is no such thing as a moral or an  
immoral book. Books are well written,  
or badly written. That is all.*

*The nineteenth century dislike of Realism is the  
rage of Caliban seeing his own face in a glass.*

*The nineteenth century dislike of  
Romanticism is the rage of Caliban  
not seeing his own face in a glass.*

*The moral life of man forms part of the  
subject-matter of the artist, but the morality  
of art consists in the perfect use of an im-  
perfect medium.*

*No artist desires to prove anything. Even  
things that are true can be proved.*

*No artist has ethical sympathies. An  
ethical sympathy in an artist is an un-  
pardonable mannerism of style.*

*No artist is ever morbid. The artist  
can express everything.*

*Thought and language are to the artist  
instruments of an art.*

*Vice and virtue are to the artist materials  
for an art.*

*From the point of view of form, the type of all  
the arts is the art of the musician. From the*

*point of view of feeling, the actor's craft is the type.*

*All art is at once surface and symbol.*

*Those who go beneath the surface do so at their peril.*

*Those who read the symbol do so at their peril.*

*It is the spectator, and not life, that art really mirrors.*

*Diversity of opinion about a work of art shows that the work is new, complex, and vital.*

*When critics disagree the artist is in accord with himself.*

*We can forgive a man for making a useful thing as long as he does not admire it. The only excuse for making a useless thing is that one admires it intensely.*

*All art is quite useless.*

**OSCAR WILDE** e