

The Picture of Dorian Gray

"He is all my art to me now," said the painter gravely. "I sometimes think, that there are only two eras of any importance in the world's history. The first is the appearance of a new medium for art, and the second is the appearance of a new personality for art also. And the face of Dorian Gray will some day be to me. It is not simply that I paint from him, draw from him, sketch from him. Of course, I have done all that. But he is much more to me than a model or a sitter. I am dissatisfied with what I have done of him, or that his beauty is such that art cannot express it. There is nothing that art cannot express, and I know that the work I have done, since I met Dorian Gray, is the best work of my life. But in some curious way his personality has suggested to me an entirely new manner in art, an entirely new mode of style. I see things differently, I think of them differently. I can now recreate life in a way that was hidden from me before. A dream of form in days of thought but it is what Dorian Gray has been to me.

He defines for me the lines of a fresh school, a school that is to have in it all the passion of the romantic spirit, all the perfection of the spirit that is Greek. The harmony of soul and body – how much that is! We in our madness have separated the two, and have invented a realism that is vulgar, an ideality that is empty.

And Beauty is a form of Genius. It is higher, indeed, than Genius, as it needs no explanation. It is of the great facts of the world, like sunlight, or spring-time, or the reflection in dark waters of that silver shell we call the moon. But what the gods give they quickly take away. Beauty is the wonder of wonders. Don't waste the gold of your days, trying to improve the hopeless failure, or giving away your life to the ignorant, the common, and the vulgar. Live the wonderful life that is in you! Let nothing be lost upon you! Be always searching for new sensations. There is absolutely nothing in the world but youth!"

В тексте встречаются знаки препинания, которые также будут диктоваться:

Stop – точка, comma – запятая, exclamation mark – восклицательный знак, quotation marks – кавычки, dash – тире.