

Shakespeare Quotes

“Shakespeare doth still hold the power to captivate and inspire the modern soul, both in speech and in pen. His classic words are known throughout the world, and find their place in writing when used with care and in measure. The Man hath bestowed upon our tongue a wealth of new words, and his thoughts have truly withstood the trials of time – ever timeless. Take pleasure, I pray, in the bounty of his wit!” Perfect for class discussion, creative writing, or just sounding gloriously eloquent. These gems go deep into the human condition, with a mix of wit, wisdom, and a splash of drama for good measure. Study the helpful hints and learn how to use some of the quotes creatively.

Shakespeare Quotes Volume 1

1. ‘To be, or not to be: that is the question’ (Hamlet, Act 3, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Hamlet is contemplating life and death – whether it is better to live and suffer or

to end life and escape pain.

- Use it when: You’re jokingly or seriously pondering a difficult choice or existential dilemma.

2. ‘All the world’s a stage..’ (As You Like It, Act 2, Scene 7)

- Meaning: Life is like a play, and people are like actors playing different roles in various stages of life.

- Use it when: Reflecting on the roles people take in life, especially in speeches or reflective essays.

3. ‘Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?’ (Romeo and Juliet, Act 2, Scene 2)

- Meaning: Juliet isn’t asking where Romeo is, but why he has to be Romeo – a Montague, her family’s enemy.

- Use it when: Expressing frustration over someone being in the “wrong” group or context (ironically or dramatically).

4. ‘Now is the winter of our discontent’ (Richard III, Act 1, Scene 1)

- Meaning: A time of unhappiness or trouble is ending (ironically followed by much darker things).

- Use it when: Commenting on a tough situation turning around – or sarcastically, when things are not improving.

5. ‘Is this a dagger which I see before me..’ (Macbeth, Act 2, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Macbeth hallucinates a dagger as he prepares to murder Duncan – showing guilt and moral conflict.

- Use it when: Describing a moment of inner turmoil or foreshadowing a bad decision.

6. ‘Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.’ (Twelfth Night, Act 2, Scene 5)

- Meaning: Greatness can come in different ways – by birth, effort, or circumstance.
 - Use it when: Praising someone's success or mocking someone who stumbled into power.
7. 'Cowards die many times before their deaths...' (Julius Caesar, Act 2, Scene 2)
- Meaning: The fearful live in constant dread, while the brave only face death once.
 - Use it when: Encouraging courage or criticizing excessive fearfulness.
8. 'Full fathom five thy father lies...' (The Tempest, Act 1, Scene 2)
- Meaning: A poetic description of a drowned man whose body has become part of the sea.
 - Use it when: Describing transformation, death, or the mysterious power of nature in a poetic context.
9. 'A man can die but once.' (Henry IV, Part 2, Act 3, Scene 2)
- Meaning: Since death is inevitable and final, it's better to face it bravely.
 - Use it when: Talking about facing danger or taking a bold step.
10. 'How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child!' (King Lear, Act 1, Scene 4)
- Meaning: Few things hurt more than ingratitude from your own child.
 - Use it when: Expressing pain from betrayal or disappointment, especially from someone close.
11. 'Frailty, thy name is woman.' (Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 2)
- Meaning: Hamlet bitterly criticizes his mother, generalizing that women are weak and fickle.
 - Use it when: Quoting ironically or analyzing gender stereotypes in literature or history (be cautious – it's dated and sexist).
12. 'If you prick us, do we not bleed?' (The Merchant of Venice, Act 3, Scene 1)
- Meaning: Shylock argues that Jews are human too, deserving empathy and capable of revenge.
 - Use it when: Emphasizing shared humanity, especially in the face of discrimination or injustice.
13. 'I am one who loved not wisely but too well.' (Othello, Act 5, Scene 2)
- Meaning: Othello explains that his intense love led him to make terrible mistakes.
 - Use it when: Reflecting on emotional decisions or tragic relationships.
14. 'The lady doth protest too much, methinks.' (Hamlet, Act 3, Scene 2)
- Meaning: When someone denies something too strongly, it may sound suspicious.
 - Use it when: Suggesting someone's over-eager denial reveals the opposite of what they claim.
15. 'We are such stuff as dreams are made on...' (The Tempest, Act 4, Scene 1)
- Meaning: Life is brief and intangible, like a dream.
 - Use it when: Philosophizing about the nature of life or expressing the fleeting

beauty of a moment.

16. 'Life's but a walking shadow...' (Macbeth, Act 5, Scene 5)

- Meaning: Macbeth sees life as meaningless and short, a sad illusion.
- Use it when: Expressing cynicism or existential despair – or analyzing tragedy and ambition.

17. 'Beware the Ides of March.' (Julius Caesar, Act 1, Scene 2)

- Meaning: A prophetic warning about Caesar's death on March 15.
- Use it when: Jokingly warning someone about danger or betrayal on a specific date.

18. 'Get thee to a nunnery.' (Hamlet, Act 3, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Hamlet tells Ophelia to go to a convent, either to protect her or insult her.
- Use it when: Quoting dramatically in jest or analyzing gender, madness, or hypocrisy.

19. 'If music be the food of love, play on.' (Twelfth Night, Act 1, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Duke Orsino wants to drown in music to get over his obsession with love.

- Use it when: Talking about love, passion, or using music to express emotion.

20. 'What's in a name? A rose by any name would smell as sweet.' (Romeo and Juliet, Act 2, Scene 2)

- Meaning: Juliet argues that a name doesn't change the essence of a person.
- Use it when: Questioning labels, stereotypes, or the importance of names.

21. 'The better part of valor is discretion.' (Henry IV, Part 1, Act 5, Scene 4)

- Meaning: Sometimes it's braver to retreat or be cautious than to rush into danger.
- Use it when: Justifying a smart or safe decision instead of a risky one.

22. 'To thine own self be true.' (Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 3)

- Meaning: Be honest with yourself and stay true to your values.
- Use it when: Giving advice about integrity or authenticity.

23. 'All that glitters is not gold.' (The Merchant of Venice, Act 2, Scene 7)

- Meaning: Not everything that looks valuable truly is.
- Use it when: Warning about false appearances or deceptive looks.

24. 'Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears: I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.' (Julius Caesar, Act 3, Scene 2)

- Meaning: A famous speech opening – Antony seems respectful but cleverly sways the

crowd against Caesar's killers.

- Use it when: Mimicking a dramatic or persuasive speech intro, especially to get attention.

25. 'Nothing will come of nothing.' (King Lear, Act 1, Scene 1)

- Meaning: If you don't act or speak, you won't gain anything.
- Use it when: Urging someone to take action or speak up.

26. 'The course of true love never did run smooth.' (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 1, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Love often faces obstacles.
- Use it when: Commenting on romantic struggles with a touch of poetic flair.

27. 'Lord, what fools these mortals be!' (A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 1, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Puck the fairy mocks humans for their silly behavior, especially in love.
 - Use it when: Lightly teasing someone for acting foolishly or irrationally.
28. 'Cry "Havoc!" and let slip the dogs of war.' (Julius Caesar, Act 3, Scene 1)
- Meaning: Unleash chaos and destruction – a call to war and vengeance.
 - Use it when: Dramatically describing conflict or chaos, especially in writing or speech.
29. 'There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.' (Hamlet, Act 2, Scene 2)
- Meaning: Events are neutral – our thoughts define them as positive or negative.
 - Use it when: Discussing mindset, perception, or relativity of values.
30. 'A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!' (Richard III, Act 5, Scene 4)
- Meaning: In desperation, King Richard would trade everything for a simple horse in battle.
 - Use it when: Exaggerating a need for something small in a crisis or humorous context.
31. 'There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.'
(Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 5)
- Meaning: The world is full of mysteries beyond human understanding or rational thought.
 - Use it when: Talking about the unknown, wonder, or things science or logic can't fully explain.
32. 'Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind; and therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.'
(A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 1, Scene 1)
- Meaning: Love isn't based on appearances, but emotion and imagination.
 - Use it when: Reflecting on love being irrational or unexpected – or when someone falls for someone surprising.
33. 'The fault, dear Brutus, lies not within the stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings.'
(Julius Caesar, Act 1, Scene 2)
- Meaning: We can't blame fate or destiny for our failures – we're responsible for our own condition.
 - Use it when: Encouraging personal accountability or pushing against fatalism.
34. 'Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?'
(Sonnet 18)
- Meaning: The speaker compares a loved one to a beautiful summer day – only better and more lasting.
 - Use it when: Quoting romantic poetry, or charming someone with a classic compliment.
35. 'Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments.'
(Sonnet 116)
- Meaning: True love remains steady and unshaken by obstacles.
 - Use it when: Celebrating steadfast love – great in weddings, vows, or poetic tributes.

36. 'The evil that men do lives after them; The good is oft interrèd with their bones.'

(Julius Caesar, Act 3, Scene 2)

- Meaning: People often remember the bad things someone did, not the good.
- Use it when: Reflecting on legacy, gossip, or public memory.

37. 'But, for my own part, it was Greek to me.'

(Julius Caesar, Act 1, Scene 2)

- Meaning: I didn't understand it at all – it was like a foreign language.
- Use it when: Admitting confusion, especially about complex subjects.

38. 'Neither a borrower nor a lender be; for loan oft loses both itself and friend,

and borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.'

(Hamlet, Act 1, Scene 3)

- Meaning: Avoid borrowing or lending – it leads to trouble and poor financial habits.
- Use it when: Offering old-school financial advice or cautioning against mixing money and friendship.

39. 'We know what we are, but know not what we may be.'

(Hamlet, Act 4, Scene 5)

- Meaning: We understand our current selves, but our future potential is unknown.
- Use it when: Talking about personal growth, possibility, or uncertainty.

40. 'Off with his head!'

(Richard III, Act 3, Scene 4)

- Meaning: A cold and ruthless command for execution – shows tyranny and power.
 - Use it when: Dramatically (and jokingly) demanding action, especially in playful authority
- e.g., in the classroom or games.

41. 'Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown.'

(Henry IV, Part 2, Act 3, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Leadership comes with constant worry and responsibility.
- Use it when: Discussing the pressures of being in charge, whether in politics, school, or life.

42. 'Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows.'

(The Tempest, Act 2, Scene 2)

- Meaning: Hard times can bring unlikely people together.
- Use it when: Noting odd alliances or friendships formed in tough circumstances.

43. 'This is very midsummer madness.'

(Twelfth Night, Act 3, Scene 4)

- Meaning: This is totally absurd or crazy – like something from a dream.
- Use it when: Reacting to chaos, silliness, or irrational behavior with flair.

44. 'Some Cupid kills with arrows, some with traps.'

(Much Ado About Nothing, Act 3, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Love can strike suddenly or be sneakily planned.
- Use it when: Describing how romance sometimes happens through strategy or surprise.

45. 'I cannot tell what the dickens his name is.'

(The Merry Wives of Windsor, Act 3, Scene 2)

- Meaning: "Dickens" here is an old euphemism for "the devil" – used to express

frustration or confusion.

- Use it when: Playfully saying you've forgotten someone's name or details.

46. 'We have seen better days.'

(Timon of Athens, Act 4, Scene 2)

- Meaning: Things used to be better; now times are hard.
- Use it when: Reflecting on decline or misfortune – often with a nostalgic or dry tone.

47. 'I am a man more sinned against than sinning.'

(King Lear, Act 3, Scene 2)

- Meaning: I've been wronged more than I've done wrong.
- Use it when: Defending yourself or feeling unfairly treated.

48. 'Brevity is the soul of wit.'

(Hamlet, Act 2, Scene 2)

- Meaning: Being concise is the essence of cleverness.
- Use it when: Encouraging short, sharp speech or writing – great for editing advice!

49. 'This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle... This blessed plot, this earth,

this realm, this England.'

(Richard II, Act 2, Scene 1)

- Meaning: A poetic tribute to England's majesty and heritage.
- Use it when: Quoting patriotically or dramatically about one's homeland – or parodying grand nationalism.

50. 'What light through yonder window breaks?'

(Romeo and Juliet, Act 2, Scene 2)

- Meaning: Romeo sees Juliet at her window and compares her beauty to the rising sun.
- Use it when: Being romantically poetic, or cheekily dramatic when spotting someone through a window.

Shakespeare Quotes Volume 2

1. "The wheel is come full circle."

(King Lear, Act 5, Scene 3)

- Meaning: What goes around, comes around – karma or fate has caught up.
- Use it when: Reflecting on poetic justice, someone getting what they deserve, or cycles of life.

2. "My salad days, when I was green in judgment."

(Antony and Cleopatra, Act 1, Scene 5)

- Meaning: Refers to youth and inexperience – a time of innocence and impulsiveness.
- Use it when: Nostalgically talking about your younger, less wise self.

3. "Sweet are the uses of adversity."

(As You Like It, Act 2, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Difficult times can have unexpected benefits or teach us valuable lessons.
- Use it when: Comforting someone (or yourself) during hardship with some literary optimism.

4. "Men at some time are masters of their fates."

(Julius Caesar, Act 1, Scene 2)

- Meaning: At least occasionally, people can shape their own destiny – fate isn't everything.

- Use it when: Encouraging self-determination or responsibility.

5. "The better part of valour is discretion."

(Henry IV, Part 1, Act 5, Scene 4)

- Meaning: Sometimes it's braver to retreat or avoid danger than to charge in.

- Use it when: Justifying a cautious or wise choice – especially when avoiding conflict.

6. "I must be cruel only to be kind."

(Hamlet, Act 3, Scene 4)

- Meaning: Sometimes harsh actions are done for someone's ultimate benefit.

- Use it when: Making a tough decision you believe is ultimately helpful – classic for teachers, parents, leaders.

7. "There's daggers in men's smiles."

(Macbeth, Act 2, Scene 3)

- Meaning: Not everyone who smiles is a friend – beware of hidden motives.

- Use it when: Warning against false friends or deception.

8. "Though she be but little, she is fierce!"

(A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 3, Scene 2)

- Meaning: Someone small in size can still be strong, brave, or intense.

- Use it when: Celebrating someone's unexpected strength or energy – often used admiringly (or playfully).

9. "A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool."

(As You Like It, Act 5, Scene 1)

- Meaning: True wisdom includes humility; arrogant people often know the least.

- Use it when: Reflecting on intellectual humility – or calling out overconfidence.

10. "It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

(Macbeth, Act 5, Scene 5)

- Meaning: Life can seem chaotic, loud, and ultimately meaningless.

- Use it when: Describing something overdramatic and empty – or going full existential.

11. "The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose."

(The Merchant of Venice, Act 1, Scene 3)

- Meaning: Even evil people can twist good words (like the Bible) to serve their own agenda.

- Use it when: Warning against manipulation, hypocrisy, or cherry-picking arguments.

12. "O brave new world that has such people in't!"

(The Tempest, Act 5, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Amazement or irony at discovering new people or a new place – sometimes innocent, sometimes sarcastic.

- Use it when: Expressing awe, shock, or dry wit about the modern world or a strange situation.

13. "Thou art as fat as butter."

(Henry IV, Part 1, Act 2, Scene 4)

- Meaning: A humorous insult – Falstaff is being roasted for being chubby.
 - Use it when: Joking around in mock-Elizabethan fashion, especially in a friendly roast.
14. “I do love nothing in the world so well as you – is not that strange?”
(Much Ado About Nothing, Act 4, Scene 1)
- Meaning: A vulnerable confession of love that even surprises the speaker.
 - Use it when: Writing or acting out a love confession that’s both sweet and a bit awkward.
15. “My only love sprung from my only hate!”
(Romeo and Juliet, Act 1, Scene 5)
- Meaning: Juliet realizes she’s fallen for Romeo – a Montague – her family’s sworn enemy.
 - Use it when: Talking about impossible or forbidden love.
16. “The robbed that smiles, steals something from the thief.”
(Othello, Act 1, Scene 3)
- Meaning: When you stay calm after a loss, you deny the thief the satisfaction of your despair.
 - Use it when: Speaking about grace under pressure or responding to injustice with dignity.
17. “I am not bound to please thee with my answers.”
(The Merchant of Venice, Act 4, Scene 1)
- Meaning: I don’t owe you a pleasing response – truth may be uncomfortable.
 - Use it when: You need to stand your ground or be blunt, especially when honesty outweighs diplomacy.
18. “Lord, what fools these mortals be!”
(A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Act 3, Scene 2)
- Meaning: Humans act ridiculously, especially when in love.
 - Use it when: Commenting on other people’s drama, confusion, or impulsive behavior – classic eye-roll energy.
19. “The lunatic, the lover, and the poet / Are of imagination all compact.”
(A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Act 5, Scene 1)
- Meaning: Love, madness, and creativity are all fueled by powerful imagination.
 - Use it when: Celebrating artistic minds, emotional intensity, or beautifully irrational people.
20. “There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.”
(Julius Caesar, Act 4, Scene 3)
- Meaning: Success comes by seizing the right moment – don’t let opportunities pass you by.
 - Use it when: Encouraging bold action, especially when timing is everything.
21. “I’ll teach you differences.”
(King Lear, Act 1, Scene 4)
- Meaning: A threat or promise to show someone their mistake – or put them in their place.
 - Use it when: You’re fed up with someone’s attitude or feel the need to drop some truth

(dramatically, of course).

22. "Time shall unfold what plighted cunning hides."

(King Lear, Act 1, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Time will reveal the truth behind deceit or lies.
- Use it when: Trusting that dishonesty will eventually be exposed – great for a slow-burn mystery or moral payoff.

23. "He jests at scars that never felt a wound."

(Romeo and Juliet, Act 2, Scene 2)

- Meaning: People who've never been hurt don't understand real pain.
- Use it when: Defending someone's emotional reaction, or pointing out someone's lack of empathy.

24. "O, that way madness lies."

(King Lear, Act 3, Scene 4)

- Meaning: Dwelling on certain thoughts or feelings will drive you mad.
- Use it when: Warning against overthinking, obsession, or spiraling into anxiety.

25. "Speak low, if you speak love."

(Much Ado About Nothing, Act 2, Scene 1)

- Meaning: True love is soft and intimate – not loud or boastful.
- Use it when: Talking about quiet affection or emotional sincerity.

26. "Nature teaches beasts to know their friends."

(Coriolanus, Act 2, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Even animals recognize loyalty – humans should too.
- Use it when: Criticizing betrayal or ungratefulness in a relationship or friendship.

27. "They stumble that run fast."

(Romeo and Juliet, Act 2, Scene 3)

- Meaning: Rushing leads to mistakes.
- Use it when: Advising caution or patience – especially in love, decisions, or ambition.

28. "I do desire we may be better strangers."

(As You Like It, Act 3, Scene 2)

- Meaning: A hilariously polite way of saying "I'd rather not know you."
- Use it when: Throwing shade with class – a brilliant insult in disguise.

29. "Let grief convert to anger; blunt not the heart, enrage it."

(Macbeth, Act 4, Scene 3)

- Meaning: Use sorrow as fuel for action – let pain inspire resistance.
- Use it when: Discussing transformation through adversity, or moments of emotional strength.

30. "The miserable have no other medicine but only hope."

(Measure for Measure, Act 3, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Hope is all that remains when you have nothing else.
- Use it when: Offering comfort, or highlighting the resilience of those in despair.

31. "O, beware, my lord, of jealousy: it is the green-eyed monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on."

(Othello, Act 3, Scene 3)

- Meaning: Jealousy consumes and torments the one who feels it.

- Use it when: Talking about toxic emotions – especially jealousy in love or competition.

32. “The empty vessel makes the loudest sound.”

(Henry V, Act 4, Scene 4)

- Meaning: Those with the least substance often speak the most.
- Use it when: Calling out someone who talks big but lacks depth – useful in debates or character analysis.

33. “Better a witty fool than a foolish wit.”

(Twelfth Night, Act 1, Scene 5)

- Meaning: It’s better to be clever and playful than someone who thinks they’re smart but isn’t.
- Use it when: Embracing humor or critiquing pretentiousness.

34. “The wheel is come full circle.”

(King Lear, Act 5, Scene 3)

- Meaning: What goes around comes around – karma has done its job.
- Use it when: Reflecting on justice, consequences, or life’s poetic symmetry.

35. “Words are easy, like the wind; faithful friends are hard to find.”

(The Passionate Pilgrim, Poem 20)

- Meaning: Talk is cheap – true loyalty is rare.
- Use it when: Commenting on trust, friendship, or false promises.

36. “Sweet are the uses of adversity.”

(As You Like It, Act 2, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Hardship can lead to wisdom and unexpected blessings.
- Use it when: Reflecting on personal growth through struggle.

37. “Men have died from time to time, and worms have eaten them, but not for love.”

(As You Like It, Act 4, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Love may hurt, but it’s rarely fatal. A cheeky take on romantic drama.
- Use it when: Lightening the mood when someone’s being overly dramatic about romance.

38. “Conscience does make cowards of us all.”

(Hamlet, Act 3, Scene 1)

- Meaning: Overthinking and guilt can prevent us from taking action.
- Use it when: Talking about fear, hesitation, or moral dilemmas.

39. “In time we hate that which we often fear.”

(Antony and Cleopatra, Act 1, Scene 3)

- Meaning: Fear can turn into hatred over time.
- Use it when: Exploring emotional shifts in relationships or politics.

40. “Give me my robe, put on my crown; I have immortal longings in me.”

(Antony and Cleopatra, Act 5, Scene 2)

- Meaning: A grand, poetic way of facing death with dignity and desire for something eternal.
- Use it when: Describing powerful final moments, grand exits, or someone rising above the end.

41. “Though she be but little, she is fierce.”

(A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Act 3, Scene 2)

- Meaning: Don’t judge someone by their size – she may be small, but she’s

powerful.

- Use it when: Celebrating unexpected strength or fiery personalities.

42. "I will wear my heart upon my sleeve for daws to peck at."

(Othello, Act 1, Scene 1)

- Meaning: To show your emotions openly, even if it makes you vulnerable.
- Use it when: Talking about honesty, emotional openness – or heartbreak.

43. "O brave new world, that has such people in't!"

(The Tempest, Act 5, Scene 1)

- Meaning: An amazed, sometimes sarcastic comment on human behavior.
- Use it when: Reacting to shocking trends, tech, or politics – still relevant today.

44. "They do not love that do not show their love."

(Two Gentlemen of Verona, Act 1, Scene 2)

- Meaning: Love should be expressed, not hidden.
- Use it when: Discussing emotional expression or sincerity in relationships.

45. "A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool."

(As You Like It, Act 5, Scene 1)

- Meaning: True wisdom lies in humility.
- Use it when: Encouraging reflection, growth, or criticizing arrogance.

46. "Lord, what fools these mortals be!"

(A Midsummer Night's Dream, Act 3, Scene 2)

- Meaning: People act ridiculously, especially in love.
- Use it when: Laughing at human behavior – a cheeky, knowing observation.

47. "I'll not budge an inch."

(The Taming of the Shrew, Induction, Scene 1)

- Meaning: I'm standing my ground – no compromise.
- Use it when: Showing determination or stubbornness, dramatically or humorously.

48. "Wisely and slow. They stumble that run fast."

(Romeo and Juliet, Act 2, Scene 3)

- Meaning: Haste brings mistakes – take your time.
- Use it when: Advising patience in love, choices, or planning.

49. "The robbed that smiles, steals something from the thief."

(Othello, Act 1, Scene 3)

- Meaning: Keeping your dignity in loss denies power to your oppressor.
- Use it when: Talking about grace, resilience, or emotional strength after betrayal.

50. "When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions."

(Hamlet, Act 4, Scene 5)

- Meaning: Misfortune tends to pile on all at once.
- Use it when: Describing a bad day/week/life moment where everything seems to go wrong.