

THE WISDOM OF WILL DURANT

Civilization is an occasional and temporary interruption of the jungle. In the end nothing is lost; for good, evil - every event has effects forever.

Barbarism is always around civilization; amid it, beneath it, ready to engulf it by arms, or mass migration or unchecked fertility. Barbarism is like the jungle; it never admits its defeat; it waits patiently for centuries to recover the territory it has lost.

Government is the nationalization of force.

Men look to love and life for everything; they receive a little less than that; they imagine that they have received nothing. These are the three stages of the pessimist.

The scenes of our youth, like the past, are always beautiful if we do not have to live in them again.

Religion is stronger than the state.

The king dies, but the bureaucracy is immortal.

***Gems collected from Will Durant's The Story of Civilization
Vol I: Our Oriental Heritage***