

# No Water No Life<sup>®</sup>

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## Quotes about Fresh Water

### Proverbs on Water

*African:* The stone in the water does not comprehend how parched the hill is.

*Unknown:* No good water comes from a muddy spring.

*West African:* Filthy water cannot be washed.

*African:* You think of water when the well is dry.

*Kenyan woman, after walking 1-1/2 hours to fetch water:* This water won't come home by itself.

*African:* Return to old watering holes for more than water; friends and dreams are there to meet you.

### Water as Inspiration

*Barry Lopez, US author:* To stick your hand into the river, is to feel the cords that bind the earth together, in one piece.

*Loran Eisely, US author:* If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water..

*Langston Hughes, US author (The Negro Speaks of Rivers):*

I've known rivers:  
I've known rivers ancient as the world  
And older than the flow of human  
Blood in human veins.  
My soul has grown deep like the river.

*Helen Hayes, actress:* In this sometimes turbulent world, the river is a cosmic symbol of durability and destiny; awesome, but steadfast. In this period of deep national concern, I wish everyone could live for a while beside a great river.

*Jerry Danzic, NYC photographer:* Rivers define a city the way a man parts his hair. They wander and separate and curve, and provide starting points for the eye to linger upon.

*Henry VanDyke, US author and educator:* A river is the most human and companionable of all inanimate things. It has a life, a character, a voice of its own; and it is as full of good fellowship as a sugar maple is of sap. It can talk in various tones, loud or low, and of many subjects grave and gay.... For real company and friendship there is nothing, outside of the animal kingdom, that is comparable to a river." -

## Power and Importance of Water

*Will Durant, US historian and philosopher:* Civilization is a stream with banks. The stream is sometimes filled with blood from people killing, stealing, shouting, and doing the things historians usually record – while, on the banks, unnoticed, people build homes, make love, raise children, sing songs, write poetry, whittle statues. The story of civilization is the story of what happens on the banks.

*Mark Twain, U.S. author:* Whisky is for drinking-- water is for fighting over.

*Wallace Stegner, U.S. author:* Water is the true wealth in a dry land.

*Leonardo da Vinci, Italian artist:* Water is the driver of Nature.

*Roderick Haig-Brown:* Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and it runs over from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, "I have never seen a river that I could not love. Moving water has a fascinating vitality. It has power and grace and associations. It has a thousand colors and shapes, yet it follows laws so definite that the tiniest streamlet is an exact replica of a great river."

*Eudora Welty (One Writer's Beginnings):* Look for where the sky is brightest along the horizon. That reflects the nearest river. Strike out for a river and you will find habitation.

*Julius Kagamba Singoma, African Union Commission:* Rain-fed agriculture is the backbone of Africa.

## Conservation of Water

*David Brower, Sierra Club:* "We cannot go on fiddling while the earth's wild places burn...."

*Hal Borland, (Beyond Your Doorstep):* Any river is really the summation of a whole valley. It shapes not only the land, but the culture of that valley. To think of any river as nothing but water is to ignore the greater part of it.

*Linda Hogan:* Between earth and earth's atmosphere, the amount of water remains constant; there is never a drop more, never a drop less. This is a story of circular infinity, of a planet birthing itself.

*Jacques Cousteau, underwater explorer:* We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one.

*Rachel Carlson, US author:* In an age when man has forgotten his origins and is blind even to his most essential needs for survival, water along with other resources has become the victim of his indifference.

*Rebecca Wodder, President, American Rivers:* Charles Kuralt, a former American Rivers board member, said that "America is a great story and there's a river on every page," I'm sure he would agree that trashing our rivers is trashing our American story.

*The Architecture and Engineering of the New York City Water Supply:* You have to recognize we're a closed system -- the earth is a closed system -- three quarters of it is covered with water, only a small percentage of that is drinkable ... the rest brackish. The challenge is universal. Consequently, it being a closed system, we're drinking the same water that Napoleon drank. We're drinking the same water that Archimedes drank. We're drinking the same water that Galileo drank. So you just have to recognize that, put it into that context, and realize you can only do so much with it.