

“One can generally say this about men: that they are ungrateful, fickle, simulators and deceivers, avoiders of danger, greedy for gain... men are less hesitant about harming someone who makes himself loved than one who makes himself feared because love is held together by a chain of obligation which, since men are a sorry lot, is broken on every occasion in which their own self-interest is concerned; but fear is held together by a dread of punishment which will never abandon you.”

-Niccolo Machiavelli, THE PRINCE

“Therefore if sometimes I should laugh or sing,
It is because there is no other way
My eyes can let go of these tears that sting.”

-Petrarch