What Lewis NEVER Wrote: Quotes Misattributed to the Oxford Professor Don

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Abstract

Most people today rely on the Internet for quotations and their sources. While C.S. Lewis is frequently very quotable, there are many quotes attributed to him that he never wrote. This talk will present those quotes frequently falsely attributed to Lewis, provide proof that he never said them, and (where possible) show who wrote them. Examples are: “You don’t have a soul. You are a Soul. You have a body,” and “You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream.” Additionally the talk will explore what these non-Lewis quotes say about a culture looking for answers without paying careful attention to sources.

Recommended Citation


VERDICT.

What Lewis NEVER Wrote: Quotes Misattributed to the Oxford Professor Don. William O’Flaherty EssentialCSLewis.com. #1: “You don’t have a soul. You are a Soul. You have a body.” Imperfect Reflections traced the quote to a 1959 book by Walter Miller, Canticle for Leibowitz (a science fiction novel), where a character says “You don’t have a soul, Doctor. You are a soul. You have a body, temporarily.” My restatement Lewis would agree with. What lewis has written related to this: “A dogmatic belief in objective value is necessary to the very idea of a rule which is not tyranny or an obedience which is not slavery.” The Abolition of Man, chapter 3. C. S. Lewis is best known as the author of the beloved Chronicles of Narnia series, but he was also a highly esteemed professor who held positions at both Oxford and Cambridge Universities in England, a poet, a broadcaster, and a theologian. We’ve compiled interesting facts you may not know about Lewis, just in time for the anniversary week of the publication of one of his most beloved novels, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, originally published on September 15, 1952. Lewis met the author of The Hobbit and the Lord of the Rings trilogy when they were both professors at Oxford University in England. Theirs was a life long friendship — even if they sometimes had disagreements, particularly when discussing each other’s books! 2 Misattributed. 3 Quotes about Lewis. 4 External links. Quotes[edit]. I have at last come to the end of the Faerie Queene: and though I say "at last", I almost wish he had lived to write six books more as he had hoped to do — so much have I enjoyed it. On Edmund Spenser and his famous work, in a letter to Arthur Greeves (7 March 1916), published in The Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis : Family Letters, 1905–1931 (2004) edited by Walter Hooper, p. 170. The man is a humbug — a vulgar, shallow, self-satisfied mind, absolutely inaccessible to the complexities and delicacies of the real world.