

Self-expression is power. It belongs to genius. It makes for fame. Self-expression is a cause. The effect is beauty, the medium is the artist.

Self-expression is soul-revelation. It is the divine in man speaking of the divinity of things.

To the mediocre there is no self-expression; there is only imitation. It is spontaneous. It is never forced. It comes of its own accord amidst the rush of thoughts.

It is not facility of expression. It is an answer to the appeal of God and nature made to the heart of man.

It is harmony breaking into the harmony of things.

No writer can be great without this gift. No amount of labor can make his works immortal without it. No talent, however brilliant, can be creative without it. There must be self-expression if the style is to be original. There must be self-expression if the thought is to be distinctive. There must be self-expression if there is to be an artist at all.

---Fernando M. Maramag



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