Plotinus
(204 – 270 CE)

Neo-Platonist Greek born in the Egyptian delta, influenced by scholarly world of Alexandria, lived in Rome, and died near Naples.

quotes of Plotinus

The world is knowable, harmonious, and good.

Being is desirable because it is identical with Beauty, and Beauty is loved because it is Being. We ourselves possess Beauty when we are true to our own being; ugliness is in going over to another order; knowing ourselves, we are beautiful; in self-ignorance, we are ugly.

Perhaps, the good and the beautiful are the same, and must be investigated by one and the same process; and in like manner the base and the evil.

It is by participation of species that we call every sensible object beautiful. Thus, since everything void of form is by nature fitted for its reception, as far as it is destitute of reason and form it is base and separate from the divine reason, the great fountain of forms; and whatever is entirely remote from this immortal source is perfectly base and deformed.

It is now time, leaving every object of sense far behind, to contemplate, by a certain ascent, a beauty of a much higher order; a beauty not visible to the corporeal eye, but alone manifest to the brighter eye of the soul, independent of all corporeal aid.

Whoever perceives this species of beauty, should be seized with much greater delight, and more vehement admiration, than any corporeal beauty can excite; as now embracing beauty real and substantial. Such affections, I say, ought to be excited about true beauty.

–Knowing demands the organ fitted to the object of its observation.

1 compiled from GoodReads, EGS, WikiQuotes, Brainyquote,
Withdraw into yourself and look.

We must enter deep into ourselves, and, leaving behind the objects of corporeal sight, no longer look back after any of the accustomed spectacles of sense.

What machine employ, or what reason consult by means of which we may contemplate this ineffable beauty; a beauty abiding in the most divine sanctuary without ever proceeding from its sacred retreats.

We shall never be able to tell of virtue’s brightness, unless by looking inward we perceive the fair countenance of justice and temperance.

Everyone therefore must become divine, and of godlike beauty, before he can gaze upon a god and the beautiful itself.

Pleasure and distress, fear and courage, desire and aversion, where have these affections and experiences their seat? Clearly, either in the Soul alone, or in the Soul as employing the body, or in some third entity deriving from both. And for this third entity, again, there are two possible modes: it might be either a blend or a distinct form due to the blending.

God is not external to anyone, but is present with all things, even though they are unaware that he is there.

I am striving to give back the Divine in myself to the Divine in the All.

After death, wherever it lies, under earth or over earth, the body will rot.

To make the existence and coherent structure of this Universe depend upon automatic activity and upon chance is against all good sense.