

Details of text extracts:

Text 1

Text: *On Going on a Journey*

Author: William Hazlitt (1822)

Text 2

Text: *Jackboots Rule the Countryside*

Author: Jeremy Clarkson (2005)

Text 1

William Hazlitt was a critic and thinker who was known for writing essays on a wide range of subjects. In this passage he explains how to enjoy yourself when you go walking in the countryside.

One of the pleasantest things in the world is going on a journey through the countryside but I like to go by myself. I can enjoy society in a room but, out of doors, nature is company enough for me. I am then never less alone than when I am alone.

I cannot see the worth of walking and talking at the same time. When I am in the country I wish to vegetate like the country. I go out of town in order to forget the town and all that is in it. There are those who go to watering-places¹ for this purpose and carry the town with them. I like more elbow-room and fewer encumbrances². I like solitude, when I give myself up to it, for the sake of solitude. 5

Give me the clear blue sky over my head, and the green turf beneath my feet, a winding road before me, and a three hours' march to dinner—and then to thinking! It is hard if I cannot start some game on these lone heaths. I laugh, I run, I leap, I sing for joy. Then I begin to feel, think, and be myself again. 10

No one likes antithesis, argument, and analysis better than I do; but I would sometimes rather be without them. Is not this wild rose sweet without a comment? Does not this daisy leap to my heart set in its coat of emerald? Yet, if I were to explain to you the circumstance that has so endeared it to me, you would only smile. I should be but bad company all that way, and therefore I prefer being alone. 15

I have heard it said that, when such a mood comes on you and you wish to be alone, you may walk or ride on by yourself. But this looks like a breach of manners, a neglect of others, and you are thinking all the time that you ought to rejoin your party. 'Out upon such half-hearted fellowship,' say I. I like to be either entirely by myself, or entirely at the disposal of others; to talk or to be silent, to walk or to sit still, to be sociable or to be solitary. 20

I grant there is one subject on which it is pleasant to talk on a journey, and that is, what we shall have for our supper when we get to our inn at night. The open air improves this sort of conversation by setting a keener edge on appetite. Every mile of the road heightens the flavour of the viands³ we expect at the end of it. 25

How fine it is to enter some old town just at approach of nightfall, or to come to some straggling village with the lights streaming through the surrounding gloom; and then, after enquiring for the best entertainment that the place affords, to 'take one's ease at one's inn'!

¹ watering-places: spas and resorts

² encumbrances: things that weigh you down

³ viands: items of food

Text 2

Jeremy Clarkson is an English broadcaster, journalist and writer. Here he describes a walk he took in the countryside.

Adapted from J Clarkson, 'The World According to Clarkson Volume 2', pp171-174, Penguin Books Ltd, 2006. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

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