

The Tower Quotes

Writer: William Butler Yeats | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Quotes

"What shall I do with this absurdity — O heart, O troubled heart?"

Explanation: The poet expresses his frustration with old age. Though his body is weak, his heart and imagination are still full of passion and youth. He feels trapped in an aging body.

"Does the imagination dwell the most / Upon a woman won or woman lost?"

Explanation: Yeats reflects on the power of imagination, wondering whether creativity grows from success or loss in love. It shows his philosophical conflict between passion and memory.

"Now shall I make my soul."

Explanation: This is Yeats's declaration of spiritual creation. He decides to shape his soul through art, wisdom, and imagination, accepting death as a step toward immortality.

"Death and life were not / Till man made up the whole."

Explanation: Yeats claims that life and death themselves are creations of the human soul. Through imagination, man gives meaning to existence and the universe.