

## SHORTER QUOTES VARIOUS AUTHORS ON HARMONY

<http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/harmony>

from Ancient Greek ἁρμονία (harmonia, “joint, union, agreement, concord of sounds”)

<https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=harmony>

late 14c., “combination of tones pleasing to the ear,”

from Old French *harmonie*, *armonie* “harmony,”

also the name of a musical instrument (12c.),

from Latin *harmonia*,

from Greek *harmonia* “agreement, concord of sounds,”

also as a proper name, the personification of music,

literally “means of joining,” used of ship-planks, etc.,

also “settled government, order,” related to *harmos* “fastenings of a door; joint, shoulder,” from PIE ar(ə)-smo-, suffixed form of root \*ar- “to fit together.”

Modern scientific harmony, using combinations of notes to form chords, is from 16c.

Sense of “agreement of feeling, concord” is from late 14c.

### PLATO on HARMONY

*Symposium*, 186d-187c (Translation: Plato Complete Works by John Cooper e.a.)

The physician’s task is to effect a reconciliation and establish mutual love between the most basic bodily elements. Which are those elements? They are, of course, those that are most opposed to one another, as hot is to cold, bitter to sweet, wet to dry, cases like those. In fact, our ancestor Asclepius first established medicine as a profession when he learned how to produce concord and love between such opposites—that is what those poet fellows say, and—this time—I concur with them.

Medicine, therefore, is guided everywhere by the god of Love, and so are physical education and farming as well. Further, a moment’s reflection suffices to show that the case of poetry and music, too, is precisely the same. Indeed, this may have been just what Heraclitus had in mind, though his mode of expression certainly leaves much to be desired. The one, he says, “being at variance with itself is in agreement with itself” “like the attunement of a bow or a lyre.”

Naturally, it is patently absurd to claim that an attunement or a harmony is in itself discordant or that its elements are still in discord with one another. Heraclitus probably meant that an expert musician creates a harmony by resolving the prior discord between [b] high and low notes. For surely there can be no harmony so long as high and low are still discordant; harmony, after all, is consonance, and consonance is a species of agreement.

Discordant elements, as long as they are still in discord, cannot come to an agreement, and they therefore cannot produce a harmony. Rhythm, for example, is produced only when fast and slow, [c] though earlier discordant, are brought into agreement with each other. Music, like medicine, creates agreement by producing concord and love between these various opposites. Music is therefore simply the science of the effects of Love on rhythm and harmony.'

### WILLIAM QUAN JUDGE (Aphorisms on Karma)

“Karma is an undeviating and unending tendency in the Universe to restore equilibrium, and it operates incessantly.”

**FROM MAGAZINE VIDYA ('Aquarian Harmony')**

Contemplation of harmony diffuses the coarse tendency to black-and-white thinking that causes so much division and violence in human relations. The Aquarian mind understands that good and evil have no absolute existence. By musical analogy, no composer speaks of 'good intervals' and 'bad intervals'. On the contrary, she understands the relativities of consonance and dissonance, and their uses in the arc of musical narrative. An analogous revolution in human consciousness would constitute a giant step towards universal non-violence and compassionate understanding. Although human beings frequently behave cruelly and inflict suffering with vengeful motives, Nature Herself is impersonally beneficent. Aquarian perception recasts pain and pleasure, disease and health, and suffering and well-being in the impersonal terms of disharmony and harmony. And so, both are accepted as necessary aspects to the evolution of consciousness.

**G. HODSON on HARMONY**

At the very heart and center of existence, pervading the whole manifestation of the divine Idea, there exists one predominant Law. This Law – insofar as it may be comprehended by humanity – decrees that the tendency to preserve harmonious equilibrium, shall always be stronger than the tendencies toward discordance.

From within, from the very most interior center of existence and consciousness, the fact of oneness evermore proves to be the overriding truth.

**SHORT QUOTES ON ECOLOGY****SATISH KUMAR ('Soil, Soul, Society')**

"We need to realize that harmony is a fundamental principle of ecology. When there is a breakdown in harmony there is discord and conflict. Our human responsibility is to restore and maintain harmony."

(...)

"The Iranian Sufi scholar Hossein Ghomshei says that the knowledge of universal harmony is science, the expression and communication of harmony is the arts and the practice of harmony in our daily life is religion. Thus there is no conflict between science, the arts, and religion; they complement each other in pursuit of harmony. Many of our environmental problems arise because we have put the sciences, the arts, and religious practices into different compartments...we need to create a coherence between science, art, and religion in order to live a life of harmony."

(...)

"When we learn 'from nature' and not 'about' nature, we establish a close relationship with her. There is an implicit humility and reverence towards the mystery of natural processes."

**FRITJOF CAPRA**

"The extensive explorations between science and spirituality over the past three decades have made it evident the sense of oneness, which is the key characteristic of the spiritual experience, is fully confirmed by understanding of reality in contemporary science...It is becoming more clear that the qualities of consciousness—the perceiver of—and the ability to awaken and perceive pattern of wholeness at different levels of perception (as the knower becomes one with the known in the Platonic sense) allows us to belong to the universe as its ethical trustee."