For the writer, language is a placenta. Language is not only a sweet and glorious conquest, but legitimization, a home.

NORMAN MANEA,
"NOMADIC LANGUAGE"

If authority be required, let us appeal to Plutarch, the prince of ancient biographers. . . . "Nor is it always in the most distinguished achievements that men’s virtues or vices may be best discerned; but very often an action of small note, a short saying, or a jest, shall distinguish a person’s real character more than the greatest sieges, or the most important battles." To this may be added the sentiments of the very man whose life I am about to exhibit.

JAMES BOSWELL,
THE LIFE OF SAMUEL JOHNSON