Welcome to the ODA’s collection of aviation quotes commemorating the Centennial of Powered Flight. From the earliest days of mankind on the Earth, we have cherished a magnificent dream of being able to soar in the heavens. Wilbur & Orville Wright – brothers from Dayton, Ohio, who were by trade printers and bicycle builders – believed not only in each other but in themselves, and applied their superb, self-trained knowledge of engineering to develop a series of experiments based on their persistent vision of human flight.

On December 17, 1903, at 10:35 a.m., the brothers succeeded in making the first sustained, powered flight under the control of a human pilot in the dunes near Kitty Hawk on the Carolina coast. It lasted 12 seconds, traveled at a ground speed of 6.8 m.p.h. and reached air speed of 30 m.p.h., while covering the length of 120 feet.

And the world was forever changed.

The miracle of air travel. No other innovation in the 20th Century so defined humankind or initiated such a series of technological advances – with flight representing a fundamental turning point in human history, in which we built wings for ourselves and forever expanded our vision of the possible. The invention of the airplane has revolutionized both travel & commerce, redefined the way the U.S. has fought its wars, and fueled sweeping technological change across the world. The legacy of the Wright Brothers embodies fundamental traits consistent with all of America’s pioneers throughout the decades: persistence on the path toward their dream – despite injury, set-backs, frustration & disappointments – ultimately to achieve the euphoria of discovery.

The history of Orville and Wilbur Wright holds supreme examples of values still held dear today, as humankind embarks upon the 21st Century: vision, teamwork, inventiveness, courage, determination, ambition & the need for challenge.

~ Honoring the Centennial of Powered Flight, 1903-2003 ~
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Not long ago, when I was a student in college, just flying an airplane seemed a dream. But that dream turned into reality.


The most beautiful dream that has haunted man since Icarus, is . . . today . . . reality.

- Louis Blériot, the 1st English aviator to successfully cross the English Channel in an aeroplane, 25 July 1909.

It is possible to fly without motors, but not without knowledge and skill.

- Wilbur Wright (1867-1912).

You haven’t seen a tree until you’ve seen its shadow from the sky.

- Amelia Earhart (1897-1937).

When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned upward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.

- Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), painter, artist, engineer & Renaissance genius from Florence, Italy.

It is not enough to just ride the earth. You have to aim higher, try to take off, even fly. It is our duty.

Jose Yacopi, 20th / 21st Century Argentine Luthier. (A “luthier” is an artisan who handcrafts guitars.)
7.
Within all of us is a varying amount of space lint and star dust, the residue from our creation. Most are too busy to notice it, but it is stronger in some than others. It is strongest in those who fly—and is responsible for an unconscious, subtle desire to slip into some wings and try for the elusive boundaries of our origin.


8.
It is as though we have grown wings, which — thanks to Providence — we have learned to control.

- Louis Blériot (1872-1936), Atlantic Monoplanes of Tomorrow.

9.
I fly because it releases my mind from the tyranny of petty things.

- Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (1900-1944), pilot & poet.

10.
Flying was a very tangible freedom. In those days, it was beauty, adventure, discovery—the epitome of breaking into new worlds.


11.
Lovers of air travel find it exhilarating to hang poised between the illusion of immortality and the fact of death.

- Alexander Chase, U.S. journalist born in 1926, from Perspectives.

12.
Courage is the price that life extracts for granting peace. The soul that knows it not knows no release from little things ~ Knows not the livid loneliness of fear, or mountain heights, Where bitter joy can hear the sound of wings.

- Amelia Earhart (1897-1937).

13.
The airplane has unveiled for us the true face of the Earth.
14.
The modern airplane creates a new geographical dimension,
a navigable ocean of air blankets the whole surface of the globe.
There are no distant places any longer: the world is small and the world is one.
-Wendell Wilkie, American presidential candidate running against Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1942.

15.
Dad,
I left my heart up there.
~ Francis Gary Powers, CIA U-2 pilot shot down over the Soviet Union, describing his first flight at age 14.

16.
Even before we . . . had reached 300 feet, I recognized that the sky would be my home. I tumbled out of the airplane with stars in my eyes.
~ Geraldyn Cobb (1931– ),
1st woman to be recommended as an astronaut, regarding her first flight at age 12.

17.
Aeronautics was neither an industry nor a science.
It was a miracle.
~ Igo Ivan Sikorsky (1889-1972), aviation pioneer who gave the world its 1st practical helicopter.

18.
The engine is the heart of an aeroplane, but the pilot is its soul.
Sir Walter Alexander Raleigh, critic & essayist,
Professor of Modern Literature at University College, Liverpool, England, 1922.

19.
The desire to fly is an idea handed down to us by our ancestors, who—in their grueling travels across trackless lands in prehistoric times—looked enviously on the birds soaring freely through space at full speed, above all obstacles, on the infinite highway of the air.
-Wilbur Wright (1867-1912).
20.
No bird ever flew nonstop from New York to Tokyo.
Or raced 15 miles high at triple the speed of sound.
But birds do something else.
They do not conquer the air; they romance it.

~ Peter Garrison, pilot and aviation writer, regular columnist for Flying Magazine — “Aftermath” and “Technicalities.”

21.
I’ll run my hand gently over the wing of a small airplane and say to him, “This plane can teach you more things and give you more gifts than I ever could. It won’t get you a better job, a faster car, or a bigger house. But if you treat it with some respect and keep your eyes open, it may remind you of some things you used to know — that life is in the moment, joy matters more than money, the world is a beautiful place, and that dreams really, truly are possible.”

And then, because air-planes speak in a language beyond words, I’ll take him up in the evening summer sky and let the airplane show him what I mean.


22.
It will free man from the remaining chains, the chains of gravity, which still tie him to this planet.
It will open him to the gates of heaven.

~ Wernher von Braun, 10 Feb 1958, 1st Director of the Marshall Space Flight Center.

23.
I may be flying a complicated airplane, rushing through space,
But in this cabin I’m surrounded by simplicity and thoughts free of time.
How detached the intimate things around me seem from the great world down below.
How strange is this combination of proximity and separation.
That ground — seconds away — thousands of miles away.
This air, stirring mildly around me.
That air, rushing by the speed of a tornado, an inch beyond.
These minute details in my cockpit. The grandeur of the world outside.
The nearness of death.
The longness of life.

24. To most people, the sky is the limit. To those who love aviation, the sky is home.  
~ Jerry Crawford, Wings Over Texas.

25. We who fly do so for the love of flying. We are alive in the air, with this miracle that lies in our hands and beneath our feet.  

26. Flying alone! Nothing gives such a sense of mastery over time, over mechanism — mastery indeed over space, time and life itself as this.  

27. Until now I have never really lived! Life on earth is a creeping, crawling business. It is in the air that one feels the glory of being a man and of conquering the elements. There is an exquisite smoothness of motion and the joy of gliding through space. It is wonderful!  
~ Gabrielle d’Annunzio (1863-1938), poet & futurist, Italian military & political leader.

28. Be like the bird in flight . . . pausing a while on boughs too slight, feels them give way beneath her, yet sings, knowing yet that she has wings.  
~ Victor Hugo (1802-1885), premiere writer of the 19th Century.
29.

Birds in flight, claims the architect Vincenzo Volentieri, are not between places—they carry their places with them. We never wonder where they live; they are at home in the sky, in flight. Flight is their way of being in the world.

- Dusty McTavish

30.

Flying has torn apart the relationship of space and time; it uses our old clock but with new yardsticks.

- Charles A. Lindbergh (1902-1974).

31.

For pilots sometimes see behind the curtain, behind the veil of gossamer velvet, and find the truth behind man, the force behind a Universe.

~ Richard Bach (1936- ),
American philosopher, poet & author,

32.

I owned the world that hour as I rode over it . . . Free of the earth, free of the mountains, free of the clouds, but how inseparably I was bound to them.

Charles A. Lindbergh,
on flying above the Rocky Mountains,

33.

We thought, humble and proud at the same time, all at once in love again with this painful, bittersweet, lovely thing called flight.

~ Richard Bach (1936- ), American author,
34. I have often said that the lure of flying is the lure of beauty.
   The reason flyers fly, whether they know it or not,
   is the aesthetic appeal of flying.
   - Amelia Earhart, (1897-1937).

35. What freedom lies in flying, what Godlike power it gives to men . . .
   I lose all consciousness in this strong unmortal space
   crowded with beauty, pierced with danger.
   - Charles A. Lindbergh (1902-1974).

36. Aeronautics confers beauty and grandeur, combining art and science
   for those who devote themselves to it . . .
   The aeronaut, free in space, sailing in the infinite, loses himself
   in the immense undulations of nature.
   He climbs, he rises, he soars, he reigns, he hurtles the proud
   vault of the azure sky . . .
   George Besançon, founder of the first successful
   aviation journal L’Aérophile, February 1902.

37. Aviation will give new nourishment to the spirit of mankind.
   It will add airspace to those other great heighteners of cosmic mood:
   the wood, the sea, the desert.
   ~ Christian Morgenstern
   (1871-1914), German poet .

38. The facts are that flying satisfies deeply rooted desires.
   For as long as time these desires have hungered vainly for fulfillment.
   The horse, and later the motorcar, have merely teased them.
   The upward sweep of the airplane signifies release.
   - Bruce Gould, Sky Larking, 1929.
39. More than anything else, the sensation [of flying] is one of perfect peace mingled with an excitement that strains every nerve to the utmost ~ if you can conceive of such a combination.

~ Wilbur Wright (1867-1912).

40. The Wright Brothers created the single greatest cultural force since the invention of writing. The airplane became the first World Wide Web, bringing people of differing languages, ideas and values together.

- Bill Gates, CEO, Microsoft Corporation
  4 March 1998.

41. Keep thy airspeed up, lest the earth come up and smite thee.

~William Kershner, pilot & author of numerous flight manuals between 1958 and 2002 that are regarded as “a must for any person learning to fly.”

42. The exhilaration of flying is too keen, the pleasure too great, for it to be neglected as a sport.

- Orville Wright (1871-1948).

43. The purpose of the propeller is to keep a pilot cool. If you think not, stop the propeller and watch him sweat.

- Author unknown

44. The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

- Mark Russell, American political satirist & comedian.

45. Son ~ you’re going to have to make up your mind about growing up and becoming a pilot. You can’t do both.

- Author unknown
46. It is easy to make a small fortune in aviation so long as you start with a large fortune.

- *Author Unknown*

47. Below twenty, boys are too rash for flying. Above twenty-five they are too prudent.


48. Flying is the second greatest thrill known to man. . .
   Landing is the first!

- *Author unknown*

49. Construction of an aerial vehicle which can carry even a single man . . . requires the discovery of some new metal or force. Even with such a discovery, we could not expect one to do more than carry its owner.

- Simon Newcome, U.S. Astronomer, 1903.

50. Flight is freedom in its purest form,
   To dance with the clouds which follow a storm;
   To roll and glide, to wheel and spin,
   To feel the joy that swells within;
   To leave the earth with its troubles and fly,
   To know the warmth of a clear spring sky;
   Then back to earth at the end of a day,
   Released from the tensions which melted away.
   Should my end come while I am in flight,
   Whether brightest day or darkest night;
   Spare me your pity and shrug off the pain,
   Secure in the knowledge that I’d do it again;
   For each of us is created to die,
   And within me I know I was born to fly.

- Gary Claud Stokor, aviator & poet.

51. What are we doing? We’re reaching for the stars.

- Christa McAuliffe, upon entering the astronaut program, *Time* Magazine, 10 February 1986.
52.

The natural function of the wing is to soar upwards and carry that which is heavy up to the place where dwells the race of gods. More than any other thing that pertains to the body, it partakes of the nature of the Divine.

- Plato, 427-347 BC, excerpt from “Phaedrus,” translated from the original Greek & published by Benjamin Jowett in 1871.

53.

Man must rise above the Earth—to the top of the atmosphere and beyond—for only thus will he fully understand the world in which he lives.

- Socrates, Greek philosopher, 469-399 BC.

54.

It’s wonderful to climb the liquid mountains of the sky.
Behind me and before me is God and I have no fears.

- Helen Keller, at age 74, on flight around the world, 5 February 1955.

55.

By day, or on a cloudless night, a pilot may drink the wine of the gods, but it has an earthly taste; he’s a god of the earth, like the one of the Grecian deities who lives on worldly mountains and descended for communion with men. But at night, over a stratus layer, all sense of the planet may disappear. You know that down below, beneath that heavenly blanket, is the earth, factual and hard. But it’s an intellectual knowledge; it’s a knowledge tucked away in the mind, not a feeling that penetrates the body. And if at times you renounce experience and mind’s heavy logic, it seems that the world has rushed along on its orbit, leaving you alone flying above a forgotten cloud bank, somewhere in the solitude of interstellar space.


56.

Ours is the commencement of the flying age, and I am happy to have popped into existence at a period so interesting.

- Amelia Earhart, 20 Hours, 40 Minutes, 1928.
57. We want the air to unite the peoples, and not to divide them.
- Lord Swinton, U.K. Secretary for Air from 1935 to 1937 in English Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin’s 3rd Cabinet.

58. Unlike the boundaries of the sea by the shorelines, the “ocean of air” laps at the border of every state, city, town and home throughout the entire world.
- L. Welch Pogue (1899-2003), pioneering aviation attorney & Chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board.

59. To invent an airplane is nothing.
To build one is something.
To fly is everything.
- Otto Lilienthal (1848-1896), early inventor of mono-plane and bi-plane gliders. Lilienthal’s writings directly helped frame the Wrights’ statements on the “problem of flight” - and his ideas were reflected in Wilbur Wright’s 1st letter to Octave Chanute.

60. I take the paraglider to the mountain or I roll Daisy out of her hangar and I pick the prettiest part of the sky and I melt into the wing and then into the air, till I’m just soul on a sunbeam.

61. Flying without feathers is not easy; my wings have no feathers.

62. Our passionate preoccupation with the sky, the stars, and a God somewhere out there in outer space is a homing impulse. We are drawn back to where we came from.
- Russel Schweickart, U.S. Astronaut, upon returning from Apollo 9.
63.
Sometimes I feel a strange exhilaration up here,
which seems to come from something beyond the mere stimulus of flying.
It is a feeling of belonging to the sky, of owning and being owned —
if only for a moment — by the air I breathe.

64.
The plane seems exultant now, even arrogant.
We did it, we did it! We’re up, above you.
We were dependant on you just now, prisoners fawning on you for favors,
for wind and light. But now, we are free. We are up! We are off!
Like someone singing ecstatically, climbing, soaring —
a sustained note of power and joy.

65.
Every flyer who ventures across oceans to distant lands is a potential explorer.
Riding through the air on silver wings instead of sailing the seas with white wings,
he must steer his own course, for the air is uncharted, and he must therefore explore for himself the strange eddies and currents of
the ever-changing sky in its many moods.

66.
Though I fly through the Valley of Death I will fear no evil,
for I am at 80,000 feet and climbing.
- Sign over the entrance to the SR-71 operating location on Kedena AB, Okinawa.

67.
Real flight and dreams of flight go together.
Both are part of the same movement.
Not A before B, but all together.
68.
But to fly is like swimming. You do not forget easily.
I have been on the ground more than ten years.
Yet if I close my eyes, I can again feel the stick in my right hand,
the throttle in my left, the rudder bar beneath my feet.
I can sense the freedom and the cleanliness
and all the things which only a pilot knows.

~ From the forward to Samurai!,
quoting Saburo Sakai, Japan’s greatest flying ace,
who was banned from flying at the end of WWII.

69.
He did it alone.
We had a cast of millions.

- Neil Armstrong (1930– ), test pilot & 1st astronaut to walk
  on the moon, referring to Charles Lindbergh, 1969.

70.
Flying has always been to me this wonderful metaphor.
In order to fly you have to trust what you can’t see.
Up on the mountain ridges where very few people have been …
there is this special world in which we dwell that’s not marked by boundaries …
where we are not hedged about with walls & desks. So often in an office,
the very worst thing that can happen is you could drop your pencil.
Out there is a reminder that there are a lot worse things & a lot greater rewards.

- Richard Bach, television interview.

71.
I am alive.
Up here with the song of the engine and the air whispering on my face as the
sunlight and shadows play upon the banking, wheeling wings,
I am completely, vibrantly alive.
With the stick in my right hand, the throttle in my left, and the rudder beneath
my feet, I can savor that essence from which life is made.

- Stephen Coonts, aviator, attorney,
  adventure novelist & owner of
  a Cessna 421B, a 1942 Stearman & a Breezy.
72. If you have flown, perhaps you can understand the love a pilot develops for flight. It is much the same emotion a man feels for a woman, or a wife for her husband.

- Louise Thaden (1905-1979), pioneer aviatrix & co-founder of the Ninety-Nines.

73. The Wright Brothers flew through the smoke screen of impossibility.

- Dorothea Brande, American creative writing teacher of the 1920s, from her book Wake Up & Live.

74. When we walk to the edge of all the light we have and take the step into the darkness of the unknown, we must believe that one of two things will happen. There will be something solid for us to stand on or we will be taught to fly.

- Patrick Overton, minister, author & Director of The Front Porch Institute in Astoria, Oregon.

75. The last of the lonely places is the sky, a trackless void where nothing lives or grows, and above it—space itself. Man may have been destined to walk upon ice or sand, or climb the mountains or take craft upon the sea. But surely he was never meant to fly? Yet he does, and finding out how to do it was his last great adventure.

- Frederick Forsyth (1938- ), one of youngest pilots in the RAF, serving 1956-1958.

76. Oh, that I had wings like a dove, for then I would fly away, and be at rest.

- Psalms 55:6
77.

I wanted to go higher than Rockefeller Center, which was being erected across the street from Saks Fifth Avenue and was going to cut off my view of the sky. . . . Flying got into my soul instantly but the answer as to why must be found some-where back in the mystic maze of my birth and childhood and the circumstances of my earlier life. Whatever I am is elemental and the beginnings of it all have their roots in Sawdust Road. I might have been born in a hovel, but I determined to travel with the wind and stars.

~ Jacqueline Cochran (1906-1980), Founder & Director of the Women’s Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) and aviation recordholder, from The Stars at Noon, 1954.

78.

It is appearance, characteristics and performance that make a man love an airplane, and they are what puts emotion into one. You love a lot of things if you live around them, but there isn’t any woman and there isn’t any horse, nor any before nor any after, that is as lovely as a great airplane.


79.

Flying is more than a sport and more than a job; flying is pure passion and desire, which fill a lifetime.

- General Adolf Galland, Luftwaffe, the best known of Germany’s WWII fighter pilots & air leaders, from The First and the Last, 1954.

80.

You can always tell when a man has lost his soul to flying. The poor [fool] is hopelessly committed to stopping whatever he is doing long enough to look up and make sure the aircraft purring overhead continues on course and does not suddenly fall out of the sky. It is also his bound duty to watch every aircraft within view take off and land.

- Ernest K. Gann, author, pilot, sailor, adventurer, from his novel Fate is the Hunter, 1961.

81.

Flying is a lot like playing a musical instrument; you’re doing so many things and thinking of so many other things, all at the same time. It becomes a spiritual experience. Something wonderful happens in the pit of your stomach.

- Dusty McTavish
82.
Instrument flying is when your mind gets a grip on the fact that there is vision beyond sight.
- U.S. Navy Approach Magazine, circa WWII.

83.
Before take-off, a professional pilot is keen, anxious, but lest someone should read his true feelings he is elaborately casual. The reason for this is that he is about to enter a new though familiar world. The process of entrance begins a short time before he leaves the ground and is completed the instant he is in the air. From that moment on, not only his body but his spirit and personality exist in a separate world known only to himself and his comrades.

As the years go by, he returns to this invisible world rather than to earth for peace and solace. There also he finds a profound enchantment, ‘tho he can seldom describe it. He can discuss it with others of his kind, and because they too know and feel its power, they understand. But his attempts to communicate his feelings to other earthly confidants invariably end in failure.

Flying is hypnotic and all pilots are victims to the spell. Their world is like a magic island in which the factors of life and death assume their proper values. Thinking becomes clear because there are no earthly foibles or embellishments to confuse it. Thinking must remain straightforward for the professional pilot, or they die . . .

- Ernest K. Gann, from his Forward to Island in the Sky, 1944.

84.
My father had been opposed to my flying from the first and had never flown himself. However, he had agreed to go up with me at the first opportunity, and one afternoon he climbed into the cockpit and we flew over the Redwood Falls together. From that day on I never heard a word against my flying and he never missed a chance to ride in the plane.

- Charles A. Lindbergh (1902-1974).

85.
I will fly in the greatness of God as the marsh-hen flies in the freedom that fills the space ‘twixt the marsh and the skies.

- Sidney Lanier, American poet, in the poem “The Marshes of Glynn.”
86.
Any pilot can describe the mechanics of flying.
What it can do for the spirit of man is beyond description.

~ Barry M. Goldwater (1901-1998), GOP legend,
U.S. Senator & presidential candidate.

87.
In soloing—as in other activities—
it is far easier to start something than to finish it.

- Amelia Earhart, *20 Hours, 40 Minutes*, 1928.

88.
HIGH FLIGHT
Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of the Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I’ve climbed, and jointed the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds— and done a million things
You have not dreamed of— wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence.
Hov’ring there, I’ve chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I’ve topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew—
And, while with silent, lifting mind I’ve trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

~ John Gillespie Magee, Jr., RCAF, Digby, England,
inspired by his 30,000 ft test flight in a new Spitfire V,
3 September 1941. He was killed in battle 3 months later.

89.
We shall never forget them nor the last time we saw them,
as they prepared for their mission and waved good-bye
and slipped the surly bonds of Earth to touch the face of God.

~ Ronald Reagan, addressing NASA employees
following the tragic loss of the Challenger 7 crew,
90.
Come to the edge.
We might fall!
Come to the edge.
It’s too high!
COME TO THE EDGE!
And they came.
She pushed …
And they flew.

~ Christopher Logue, English poet & playwright, born 1926.

91.
BECAUSE I FLY
Because I fly
I laugh more than other men.
I look up and see more than they,
I know how the clouds feel,
What it’s like to have the blue in my lap,
To look down on birds,
To feel a thing called the stick …
Who but I can slice between God’s billowed legs,
And feel them laugh and crash with His step?
Who else has seen the unclimbed peaks?
The rainbow’s secret?
The real reason birds sing?
Because I fly,
I envy no man on earth.

~ Tom Clark, Idaho pilot, circa 1960.

92.
Here above the farms and ranches of the Great Plains,
aviation lives up to the promise that inspired dreamers through the ages.
Here you are truly separate from the earth, at least for a little while,
removed from the dares and concerns that occupy you on the ground.
This separation from the earth is more than symbolic,
more than a physical removal—it has an emotional dimension
as tangible as the wood, fabric and steel that has transported you aloft.

93.
Flyers have a sense of adventure yet to come, instead of dimly recalling adventures of long ago as the only moments in which they truly lived.


94.
If you want to grow old as a pilot, you have to know when to push it and when to back off.

- General Chuck Yeager (1923- ), USAF, 1st pilot to break the sound barrier.

95.
And now ‘tis man who dares assault the sky … And as we come to claim our promised place, Aim only to replay the good you gave, And warm with human love the chill of space.

- Prof. Thomas G. Bergin, Yale University, “Space Prober.”
  This was the 1st poem to be launched into orbit about the Earth.
  It was inscribed on the instrument panel of a satellite called Traac, launched from Cape Kennedy on 14 November 1961.

96.
To see the Earth as it truly is, small and blue and beautiful in that eternal silence where it floats, is to see ourselves as riders on the earth together, brothers on that bright loveliness in the eternal cold—brothers who know now they are truly brothers.

- Archibald MacLeish (1892-1982), American poet & playwright.

97.
This morning at 3:15, Wilbur passed away, aged 45 years, 1 month and 14 days. A short life full of consequences, an unfailing intellect, imperturbable temper, great self-reliance and as great modesty, seeing the light clearly, pursuing it steadily, he lived and died.

~ Bishop Milton Wright, in his diary, 30 May 1912.
98.
Give me the wings, Magician! So their tune
Mix with the silver trumpets of the moon,
And, beyond music mounting, clean outrun
    The golden diapason of the sun.
There is a secret that birds are learning
Where the long lanes in heaven have a turning
And no man yet has followed: therefore these
    Laugh hauntingly across our usual seas.
I’ll not be mocked by curlews in the sky;
    Give me the wings, Magician, or I die.

- Humbert Wolfe (1885-1940),
  British journalist during WWII, poet & songwriter.

99.
In our dreams we are able to fly …
and that is a remembering of how we were meant to be.

- Madeleine L’Engle, award-winning American author, from

100.
We all yearn to fly. We are creatures of longing.
We do not need to [physically fly] to be airborne.
What I call the aerial instinct — the drive to transcend our present condition —
is the defining characteristic of a human being. We are restless animals,
eternal travelers who are forever in the process of becoming.
Consciousness itself is a flight from the here and now to the beyond.
Our reach always exceeds our grasp, which is what Heaven is for ...

- Sam Keen, 20th Century theology professor
  & cultural journalist, from his best-selling book Learning to Fly.