

Quotations from the Masters

"The older I grow, the more I value pawns."

Paul Keres

"When you don't know what to do, wait for your opponent to get an idea- it's sure to be wrong."

Tarrasch

"A passed pawn increases in strength as the number of pieces on the board diminishes."

Capablanca

"The passed pawn is a criminal, who should be kept under lock and key. Mild measures, such as police surveillance, are not sufficient."

Nimzovitch

"Sacrifices only prove that someone has blundered."

Tartakover

"It is peculiar but a fact nevertheless, that gamblers in chess always have enthusiastic followers."

Botvinnik

"First-class players lose to second class players because second-class players sometimes play a first-class game."

Tarrasch

"A win by an unsound combination, however showy, fills me artistic horror"

William Steinitz

"An attack on the wing should be met by play in the center."

Nimzovitch

"Combinations have always been the most intriguing aspect of chess. The master looks for them, the public applauds them, (and) the critics praise them. It is because combinations are possible that chess is more than a lifeless mathematical exercise. They are the poetry of the game; they are to chess what melody is to music. They represent the triumph of mind over matter."

Reuben Fine

"If one piece is badly posted, the whole game is bad."

Tarrasch

"The mistakes are there, waiting to be made."

Tartakover

"Chess, like love, is infectious at any age."

Flohr

"The hallmark of the artist is simplicity."

Larry Evans

"Chess is a matter of delicate judgment, knowing when to punch and how to duck."

Bobby Fischer

There's not the mystery in ten murders that there is in one game of chess."

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

"Nothing so easily ruins a position as pawn moves."

Tarrasch

"The game of chess is the touchstone of the intellect."

Goethe