

RISKS by Janet Rand

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool,
To weep is to risk being called sentimental.
To reach out to another is to risk involvement.
To expose feelings is to risk showing
your true self.

To place your ideas and your dreams before
the crowd is to risk being called naive.
To love is to risk not being loved in return.
To live is to risk dying. To hope is to risk despair,
to try is to risk failure.

But risk must be taken, because the greatest
risk of life is to risk nothing.

The person who risks nothing, does nothing,
has nothing, is nothing, and becomes
nothing.

He may avoid suffering and sorrow,
but he simply cannot learn,
feel, change, grow or love.

Chained by his attitude, he is a slave;
he has fortified his freedom.

Only the person who risks is truly free.