

David Foster Wallace

Some Thoughts, Delivered on a Significant Occasion,
about Living a Compassionate Life

A Modern
Literary
Master

This is Water Some
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Occasion, about Living a Compassionate
Life **David Foster Wallace**



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This is Water: Some Thoughts, Delivered on a Significant Occasion, about Living a Compassionate Life

David Foster Wallace

"Wallace is a contemporary American master working at
the extreme edge of the radar, asking question after
question about the mad, mad world."

—*The Guardian (UK)*

"Wallace is bracingly insightful...

Few of his young peers have spoken as eloquently and
feelingly as he has about the hard tasks of the moral
imagination that contemporary American life imposes on
them." —Pankaj Mishra, *New York Times Book Review*

In his first and only such address, award-winning writer David
Foster Wallace offers indispensable advice on the realities and
challenges each of us encounters "day in, day out." Writing with
his one-of-a-kind blend of casual humor, exacting intellect, and
practical philosophy, David Wallace probes the challenges of
daily living and offers advice that renews us with every reading.

What is the actual, real-life value of education? In this pointedly
observant examination of daily life, David Foster Wallace seeks
an answer to this deceptively simple question. In doing so, he
notes that, "the most obvious, ubiquitous, important realities are
often the ones that are the hardest to see and talk about." In
other words, to really understand the world, we have to get out
of our own thoughts and learn to see what's right in front of us.
With this, he touches on the most basic, most important decision
we all make every day—how to think about our world.

DAVID FOSTER WALLACE was the critically-acclaimed author of
two novels, *Infinite Jest* and *The Broom of the System*; three story
collections, *Oblivion*, *Brief Interviews with Hideous Men*, and *Girl
With Curious Hair*; and three nonfiction collections, *McCain's
Promise*, *Consider the Lobster*, and *A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll
Never Do Again*. He was invited to address the graduating class of
Kenyon College in 2005, the only such address he ever gave. He
died in 2008.