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Henry James and the Requirements of the Imagination

The artist is present in every page of every book from which he sought so assiduously to eliminate himself.

Henry James

I shall get just the good I said a few moments ago I wished to put into Isabel's reach—that of having met the requirements of my imagination.

The Portrait of a Lady

There was the difference and the opposition, as I really believe I was already aware—that one way of taking life was to go in for everything and everyone, which kept you abundantly occupied; and the other was to be as occupied, quite as occupied, just with the sense and the image of it all, and on only a fifth of the actual immersion: a circumstance extremely strange.

Henry James, Autobiography