

A.J. Ayer

Quotes

Philosophy, Atheism, Religious, May, Believe, Reality, Ethics, Philosophical, Atheist, Facts, Analysis, Thinking, People, Morality, Insightful, Significant, Nonsensical, Beautiful, Capable, Jobs

No morality can be founded on authority, even if the authority were divine.

~A.J. Ayer

But if science may be said to be blind without philosophy, it is true also that philosophy is virtually empty without science.

~A.J. Ayer

We say that a sentence is factually significant to any given person, if, and only if, he knows how to verify the proposition which it purports to express.

~A.J. Ayer

Even logical positivists are capable of love.

~A.J. Ayer

The ground for taking ignorance to be restrictive of freedom is that it causes people to make choices which they would not have made if they had seen what the realization of their choices involved.

~A.J. Ayer

Why should you mind being wrong if someone can show you that you are?

~A.J. Ayer

I saw a Divine Being. I'm afraid I'm going to have to revise all my various books and opinions.

~A.J. Ayer

It seems that I have spent my entire life trying to make life more rational and that it was all wasted effort.

~A.J. Ayer

It appears, then, that ethics, as a branch of knowledge, is nothing more

than a department of psychology and sociology.

~A.J. Ayer

No moral system can rest solely on authority.

~A.J. Ayer

While moral rules may be propounded by authority the fact that these were so propounded would not validate them.

~A.J. Ayer

The traditional disputes of philosophers are, for the most part, as unwarranted as they are unfruitful.

~A.J. Ayer

Bertrand Russell would not have wished to be called a saint of any description; but he was a great and good man.

~A.J. Ayer

I see philosophy as a fairly abstract activity, as concerned mainly with the analysis of criticism and concepts, and of course most usefully of scientific concepts.

~A.J. Ayer

We shall maintain that no statement which refers to a 'reality' transcending the limits of all possible sense-experience can possibly have any literal significance.

~A.J. Ayer

There is philosophy, which is about conceptual analysis - about the meaning of what we say - and there is all of this ... all of life.

~A.J. Ayer

I take it, therefore, to be a fact, that one's existence ends with death. I think it possible to show how this fact can be emotionally acceptable.

~A.J. Ayer

I suddenly stopped and looked out at the sea and thought, my God, how beautiful this is ... for 26 years I had never really looked at it before.

~A.J. Ayer

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