

Abba Eban

Quotes

*Men, Israel, War, Missing, Sarcastic, Mean, Believe, People, Humans, Futility
Of Life, Opposites, Humility, Arabia, Tragedy, Minorities, Unconditional Love,
Differences, Cairo, Rejection, Palestinian*

History teaches us that men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all other alternatives.

~Abba Eban

If Algeria introduced a resolution declaring that the earth was flat and that Israel had flattened it, it would pass by a vote of 164 to 13 with 26 abstentions.

~Abba Eban

Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

~Abba Eban

A consensus means that everyone agrees to say collectively what no one believes individually.

~Abba Eban

Israel is not an aviary.

~Abba Eban

You can't achieve anything without getting in someone's way. You can't be detached and effective.

~Abba Eban

The Jews are the living embodiment of the minority, the constant reminder of what duties societies owe their minorities, whoever they might be.

~Abba Eban

One of the chief tasks of any dialogue with the Gentile world is to prove that the distinction between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism is not a distinction at all.

~Abba Eban

Lest Arab governments be tempted out of sheer routine to rush into

impulsive rejection, let me suggest that tragedy is not what men suffer but what they miss.

~Abba Eban

I think that this is the first war in history that on the morrow the victors sued for peace and the vanquished called for unconditional surrender.

~Abba Eban

A nation writes its history in the image of its ideal.

~Abba Eban

His ignorance is encyclopedic.

~Abba Eban

Tragedy is the difference between what is and what could have been.

~Abba Eban

It is our experience that political leaders do not always mean the opposite of what they say.

~Abba Eban

Playing the game I have learned the meaning of humility. It has given me an understanding of futility of the human effort.

~Abba Eban

Consensus is what many people say in chorus but do not believe as individuals.

~Abba Eban

Tragedy is not what men suffer but what they miss.

~Abba Eban

Human beings act intelligently only after they have exhausted the alternatives

~Abba Eban

Science is not a sacred cow. Science is a horse. Don't worship it. Feed it. [Addressing a group of prospective contributors to an Israeli scientific research program]

~Abba Eban

Better to be disliked than pitied.

~Abba Eban

Salvation, the prophets tell us, is preconditioned by repentance. The redeeming act of God waits upon man's initiative.

~Abba Eban

It [idolatry] nourishes mans ambition to domineer over his fellow man. Idolatry, therefore, is the source of all social and moral evil in the world.

~Abba Eban

A statesman who keeps his ear permanently glued to the ground will have neither elegance of posture nor flexibility of movement.

~Abba Eban

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