

Alfred Korzybski

Quotes

*May, Men, Maps, World, Self Esteem, Use, Doe, Faith, Thinking, Identity,
Reality, Science, Philosophy, Different, Isolation, People, Two, Whatever You
Say, Territory, Ideas*

If words are not things, or maps are not the actual territory, then, obviously, the only possible link between the objective world and the linguistic world is found in structure, and structure alone.

~Alfred Korzybski

The map is not the territory.

~Alfred Korzybski

Man's achievements rest upon the use of symbols.... we must consider ourselves as a symbolic, semantic class of life, and those who rule the symbols, rule us.

~Alfred Korzybski

There are two ways to slice easily thorough life; to believe everything or to doubt everything. Both ways save us from thinking.

~Alfred Korzybski

To use words to sense reality is like going with a lamp to search for darkness.

~Alfred Korzybski

Words don't mean, people mean.

~Alfred Korzybski

The map is not the territory... The only usefulness of a map depends on similarity of structure between the empirical world and the map.

~Alfred Korzybski

Who rules our symbols, rules us.

~Alfred Korzybski

A person does what he does because he sees the world as he sees it.

~Alfred Korzybski

If a psychiatric and scientific inquiry were to be made upon our rulers, mankind would be appalled at the disclosures.

~Alfred Korzybski

I am the same kind of moron as the rest of you, it's the method that does the work, for me as well as for you.

~Alfred Korzybski

We see what we see because we miss all the finer details.

~Alfred Korzybski

God may forgive your sins, but your nervous system won't.

~Alfred Korzybski

What we call progress consists in coordinating ideas with realities.

~Alfred Korzybski

Thus, we see that one of the obvious origins of human disagreement lies in the use of noises for words.

~Alfred Korzybski

I think therefore I seem to be.

~Alfred Korzybski

I want to make clear only that words are not the things spoken about, and that there is no such thing as an object in absolute isolation.

~Alfred Korzybski

It is a fallacy of the old schools to divide man into parcels, elements, thoughts, emotions, intuitions, etc. All human faculties consist of an interconnected whole.

~Alfred Korzybski

Two important characteristics of maps should be noticed. A map is not

the territory it represents, but, if correct, it has a similar structure to the territory, which accounts for its usefulness.

~Alfred Korzybski

The present non-aristotelian system is based on fundamental negative premises; namely, the complete denial of 'identity.'

~Alfred Korzybski

Identity is invariably false to facts.

~Alfred Korzybski

The objective level is not words, and cannot be reached by words alone. We must point our finger and be silent, or we will never reach this level.

~Alfred Korzybski

He who learns and learns and yet does not know what he knows, is one who plows and plows yet never sows.

~Alfred Korzybski

Whatever you say about something, it is not.

~Alfred Korzybski

Different 'philosophies' represent nothing but methods of evaluation, which may lead to empirical mis-evaluation if science and empirical facts are disregarded.

~Alfred Korzybski

Whatever you might say the object "is", well it is not.

~Alfred Korzybski

Identification makes general sanity and complete adjustment impossible. Training in non-identity plays a therapeutic role with adults.

~Alfred Korzybski

Any object of thought is both 'more than what we think, and different'.

~Alfred Korzybski

Whatever you say it is, is simply what YOU SAY it is.

~Alfred Korzybski

Second order effects, such as belief in belief, makes fanaticism.

~Alfred Korzybski

It is now no mystery that some quite influential 'philosophers' were 'mentally' ill.

~Alfred Korzybski

Whatever you may say something is, it is not!

~Alfred Korzybski

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise.

~Alfred Korzybski

One would have to say "in the end everything is a gag, etc" because everything is infinitely more than just a gag. The same applies to other "is"-statements such as "Laughter is an instant vacation"

~Alfred Korzybski

Psycho-galvonic experiments show clearly that every emotion or thought is always connected with some electrical current.

~Alfred Korzybski

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