

# Anatole France

## Quotes

*Men, Life, Literature, Book, Inspirational, People, Science, Education,  
Ignorance, Law, Animal, Love, Nature, Thinking, Order, Heart, Writing,  
Motivational, Dream, Reading*

Until one has loved an animal a part of one's soul remains unawakened.

~Anatole France

If the path be beautiful, let us not ask where it leads.

~Anatole France

In its majestic equality, the law forbids rich and poor alike to sleep under bridges, beg in the streets and steal loaves of bread.

~Anatole France

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.

~Anatole France

When a thing has been said and well, have no scruple. Take it and copy it.

~Anatole France

Stupidity is far more dangerous than evil, for evil takes a break from time to time, stupidity does not.

~Anatole France

Chance is perhaps the pseudonym of God when he did not want to sign.

~Anatole France

All changes, even the most longed for, have their melancholy; for what we leave behind us is a part of ourselves; we must die to one life before we can enter another.

~Anatole France

Religion has done love a great service by making it a sin.

~Anatole France

If fifty million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing.

~Anatole France

A woman without breasts is like a bed without pillows.

~Anatole France

You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; in just the same way, you learn to love by loving.

~Anatole France

In art as in love, instinct is enough.

~Anatole France

It is better to understand little than to misunderstand a lot.

~Anatole France

I cling to my imperfection, as the very essence of my being.

~Anatole France

The truth is that life is delicious, horrible, charming, frightful, sweet, bitter, and that is everything.

~Anatole France

Man is a rational animal. He can think up a reason for anything he wants to believe.

~Anatole France

Wandering re-establishes the original harmony which once existed between man and the universe.

~Anatole France

Never lend books, for no one ever returns them

~Anatole France

An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't.

~Anatole France

Justice is the means by which established injustices are sanctioned

~Anatole France

Devout believers are safeguarded in a high degree against the risk of certain neurotic illnesses; their acceptance of the universal neurosis spares them the task of constructing a personal one.

~Anatole France

Awaken people's curiosity. It is enough to open minds, do not overload them. Put there just a spark.

~Anatole France

Sometimes one day in a difference place gives you more than ten years of a life at home.

~Anatole France

Nine tenths of education is encouragement.

~Anatole France

Irony is the gaiety of reflection and the joy of wisdom.

~Anatole France

Armenia is dying, but it will survive. The little blood that it still has left is precious blood that will give birth to a heroic generation. A nation that does not want to die, does not die.

~Anatole France

Silence is the wit of fools.

~Anatole France

What can be more foolish than to think that all this rare fabric of heaven and earth could come by chance, when all the skill of art is not able to make an oyster!

~Anatole France

Chance is the pseudonym God uses when He'd rather not sign His own name.

~Anatole France

It is the certainty that they possess the truth that makes men cruel.

~Anatole France

True education is the ability to discern the difference between what you do know and what you don't.

~Anatole France

Nature, in her indifference, makes no distinction between good and evil.

~Anatole France

Only men who are not interested in women are interested in women's clothes. Men who like women never notice what they wear.

~Anatole France

Intelligent women always marry fools

~Anatole France

I thank fate for having made me born poor. Poverty taught me the true value of the gifts useful to life.

~Anatole France

To imagine is everything, to know is nothing at all.

~Anatole France

The more you say, the less they remember.

~Anatole France

He flattered himself on being a man without any prejudices; and this pretension itself is a very great prejudice.

~Anatole France

An education which does not cultivate the will is an education that depraves the mind.

~Anatole France

Without lies humanity would perish of despair and boredom.

~Anatole France

It is human nature to think wisely and to act in an absurd fashion.

~Anatole France

The average man does not know what to do with this life, yet wants another one which will last forever.

~Anatole France

We have never heard the devil's side of the story, God wrote all the book.

~Anatole France

A simple style is like white light. Although complex, it does not appear to be so.

~Anatole France

Suffering... We owe to it all that is good in us, all that gives value to life; we owe to it pity, we owe to it courage, we owe to it all the virtues.

~Anatole France

A tale without love is like beef without mustard: insipid.

~Anatole France

The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards.

~Anatole France

Lack of understanding is a great power. Sometimes it enables men to conquer the world.

~Anatole France

One thing above all gives charm to men's thoughts, and this is unrest. A mind that is not uneasy irritates and bores me.

~Anatole France

Word-carpentry is like any other kind of carpentry: you must join your sentences smoothly.

~Anatole France

Existence would be intolerable if we were never to dream.

~Anatole France

Lovers who love truly do not write down their happiness.

~Anatole France

The greatest virtue of man is perhaps curiosity.

~Anatole France

It is well for the heart to be naive and for the mind not to be.

~Anatole France

For every monarchy overthrown the sky becomes less brilliant, because it loses a star. A republic is ugliness set free.

~Anatole France

There are very honest people who do not think that they have had a bargain unless they have cheated a merchant.

~Anatole France

The dog is a religious animal. In his savage state he worships the moon and the lights that float upon the waters. These are his gods to whom he appeals at night with long-drawn howls.

~Anatole France

Never lend books, for no one ever returns them; the only books I have in my library are books that other folks have left me.

~Anatole France

A person is never happy except at the price of some ignorance.

~Anatole France

People who have no weaknesses are terrible; there is no way of taking advantage of them.

~Anatole France

That man is prudent who neither hopes nor fears anything from the uncertain events of the future.

~Anatole France

What men call civilization is the condition of present customs; what they call barbarism, the condition of past ones.

~Anatole France

To die for an idea is to set a rather high price upon conjecture.

~Anatole France

Man is so made that he can only find relaxation from one kind of labor by taking up another.

~Anatole France



Ignorance and error are necessary to life, like bread and water.

~Anatole France

Of all the ways of defining man, the worst is the one which makes him out to be a rational animal.

~Anatole France

It is by acts and not by ideas that people live.

~Anatole France

I am a physician. I keep a drug-shop of lies. I give relief, consolation. Can one console and relieve without lying? ... Only women and doctors know how necessary and how helpful lies are to men.

~Anatole France

Of all the sexual aberrations, chastity is the strangest.

~Anatole France

The faculty of doubting is rare among men. A few choice spirits carry the germs of it in them, but these do not develop without training.

~Anatole France

In every well-governed state wealth is a sacred thing; in democracies it is the only sacred thing.

~Anatole France

If it were absolutely necessary to choose, I would rather be guilty of an immoral act than of a cruel one.

~Anatole France

What frightens us most in a madman is his sane conversation.

~Anatole France

America, where thanks to Congress, there are forty million laws to

enforce the Ten Commandments.

~Anatole France

Unhappiness does make people look stupid.

~Anatole France

History books that contain no lies are extremely dull.

~Anatole France

A person is never happy except at the price of some ignorance. [The ability to focus on positives and distract your mind from negatives for at least a time is a necessary skill for being happy.]

~Anatole France

There is only one science, love, one riches, love, only one policy, love. To make love is all the law and the prophets.

~Anatole France

No government ought to be without censors; and where the press is free, no one ever will. Chance is the pseudonym of God when he did not want to sign.

~Anatole France

The good critic is he who relates the adventures of his soul among masterpieces.

~Anatole France

Universal peace will be realized, not because man will become better, but because a new order of things, a new science, new economic necessities, will impose peace.

~Anatole France

You become a good writer just as you become a good joiner: by planing down your sentences.

~Anatole France

Until you have loved an animal, part of your soul will have remained dormant.

~Anatole France

I prefer the folly of enthusiasm to the indifference of wisdom.

~Anatole France

Dictionary: The universe in alphabetical order.

~Anatole France

The finest words in the world are only vain sounds if you can't understand them. The best sentence? The shortest.

~Anatole France

Innocence most often is a good fortune and not a virtue.

~Anatole France

The first virtue of all really great men is that they are sincere. They eradicate hypocrisy from their hearts.

~Anatole France

Change is the essence of life.

~Anatole France

Caress your phrase tenderly; it will end by smiling at you.

~Anatole France

The impotence of God is infinite.

~Anatole France

The books that everybody admires are those that nobody reads.

~Anatole France

Time deals gently only with those who take it gently.

~Anatole France

Nothing spoils a confession like repentance.

~Anatole France

An old philosopher said to Monsieur Coignard, a Reverend Father: 'You are a pig!' To which Abad Coignard answered: 'You flatter me, sir. But unfortunately, I'm only a man.'

~Anatole France

What we call strategy is mainly just crossing rivers on bridges and passing mountains through cols.

~Anatole France

There is a certain impertinence in allowing oneself to be burned for an opinion.

~Anatole France

It is only the poor who pay cash, and that not from virtue, but because they are refused credit.

~Anatole France

The wonder is, not that the field of stars is so vast, but that man has measured it.

~Anatole France

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