

# Arthur Koestler

## Quotes

*Men, Self, Reality, Believe, Society, Science, Discovery, Creativity, Two, Past,  
Thinking, History, Philosophy, Book, Real, War, May, Mean, Ideas, Art*

Courage is never to let your actions be influenced by your fears.

~Arthur Koestler

The jester is brother to the sage.

~Arthur Koestler

One should either write ruthlessly what one believes to be the truth, or else shut up.

~Arthur Koestler

The principle mark of genius is not perfection but originality, the opening of new frontiers.

~Arthur Koestler

The story of the Khazar Empire, as it slowly emerges from the past, begins to look like the most cruel hoax which history has ever perpetrated.

~Arthur Koestler

Nothing is more sad than the death of an illusion.

~Arthur Koestler

Politics can be relatively fair in the breathing spaces of history; at its critical turning points there is no other rule possible than the old one, that the end justifies the means.

~Arthur Koestler

Creativity is a type of learning process where the teacher and pupil are located in the same individual.

~Arthur Koestler

In any language it is a struggle to make a sentence say exactly what you mean.

~Arthur Koestler

I believe that the evidence for telepathy is overwhelming and that it is a part of reality that is above science. Science allows us to glimpse [only] fragments of reality.

~Arthur Koestler

Brain-washing starts in the cradle.

~Arthur Koestler

If power corrupts, the reverse is also true; persecution corrupts the victims though perhaps in subtler and more tragic ways.

~Arthur Koestler

Two half-truths do not make a truth, and two half- cultures do not make a culture

~Arthur Koestler

The principle that the end justifies the means is and remains the only rule of political ethics; anything else is just a vague chatter and melts away between one's fingers.

~Arthur Koestler

Creativity is the defeat of habit by originality.

~Arthur Koestler

The more original a discovery, the more obvious it seems afterwards.

~Arthur Koestler

The evolution of the brain not only overshoot the needs of prehistoric man, it is the only example of evolution providing a species with an organ which it does not know how to use.

~Arthur Koestler

The integrative tendencies of the individual are incomparably more dangerous than his self-assertive tendencies.

~Arthur Koestler

Scientists are peeping toms at the keyhole of eternity.

~Arthur Koestler

If the creator has a purpose in equipping us with a neck, he surely would have meant for us to stick it out.

~Arthur Koestler

I went to Communism as one goes to a spring of fresh water, and I left Communism as one clammers out of a poisoned river strewn with the wreckage of flooded cities and the corpses of the drowned.

~Arthur Koestler

When all is said, its atmosphere [England's] still contains fewer germs of aggression and brutality per cubic foot in a crowded bus, pub or queue than in any other country in which I have lived

~Arthur Koestler

I am not sure whether ethical absolutes exist. But I am sure that we have to act as if they existed or civilization perishes.

~Arthur Koestler

The most persistent sound which reverberates through man's history is the beating of war drums.

~Arthur Koestler

One may not regard the world as a sort of metaphysical brothel for emotions.

~Arthur Koestler

True creativity often starts where language ends.

~Arthur Koestler

Men cannot be treated as units in operations of political arithmetic because they behave like the symbols for zero and the infinite , which dislocate all mathematical operations.

~Arthur Koestler

Conscious and unconscious experiences do not belong to different compartments of the mind; they form a continuous scale of gradations, of degrees of awareness.

~Arthur Koestler

A publisher who writes is like a cow in a milk bar.

~Arthur Koestler

What is an editor but a cross between a fall guy and a father figure?  
arthur koestler

~Arthur Koestler

The progress of science, like an ancient desert trail, is strewn with the bleached skeletons of discarded theories, doctrines, and axioms which seemed to possess eternal life.

~Arthur Koestler

God seems to have left the receiver off the hook and time is running out.

~Arthur Koestler

Chemically induced hallucinations, delusions and raptures may be frightening or wonderfully gratifying; in either case they are in the nature of confidence tricks played on one's own nervous system.

~Arthur Koestler

The moment of truth, the sudden emergence of a new insight, is an act of intuition.

~Arthur Koestler

In the pun, two strings of thought are tangled into one acoustic knot.

~Arthur Koestler

A writer's ambition should be to trade a hundred contemporary readers for ten readers in ten years' time and for one reader in a hundred years' time.

~Arthur Koestler

The prerequisite of originality is the art of forgetting, at the proper moment, what we know.

~Arthur Koestler

The creative act does not create something out of nothing; it uncovers, selects, reshuffles, combines, synthesizes already existing facts, ideas, faculties, and skills.

~Arthur Koestler

The ultimate truth is penultimately a falsehood.

~Arthur Koestler

[My father] loved me tenderly and shyly from a distance, and later on took a naive pride in seeing my name in print.

~Arthur Koestler

The definition of the individual was: a multitude of one million divided by one million.

~Arthur Koestler

History knows no scruples and no hesitation. Inert and unnering flows towards her goal. History knows her way. She makes no mistakes.

~Arthur Koestler

Coincidence may be described as the chance encounter of two unrelated causal chains which - miraculously, it seems - merge into a

significant event.

~Arthur Koestler

Prometheus is reaching out for the stars with an empty grin on his face.

~Arthur Koestler

We cannot unthink unless we are insane.

~Arthur Koestler

The RÃ©gime did not want Communists; it wanted robots. It will take at least a generation to change them back into humans again.

~Arthur Koestler

In creating the human brain, evolution has wildly overshot the mark.

~Arthur Koestler

Aggressiveness is not the main trouble with the human species, but rather an excess capacity for fanatical devotion.

~Arthur Koestler

Honor is decency without vanity.

~Arthur Koestler

Newton's apple and Cezanne's apple are discoveries more closely related than they seem.

~Arthur Koestler

Space-ships and time machines are no escape from the human condition.

~Arthur Koestler

Creativity in science could be described as the act of putting two and two together to make five

~Arthur Koestler

War is a ritual, a deadly ritual, not the result of aggressive self-assertion, but of self-transcending identification. Without loyalty to tribe, church, flag or ideal, there would be no wars.

~Arthur Koestler

Every creative act - in science, art, or religion - involves a regression to a more primitive level, a new innocence of perception liberated from the cataract of accepted beliefs.

~Arthur Koestler

The individual is not a killer, but the group is, and by identifying with it the individual is transformed into a killer.

~Arthur Koestler

Hitherto man had to live with the idea of death as an individual; from now onward mankind will have to live with the idea of its death as a species.

~Arthur Koestler

History had a slow pulse; man counted in years, history in generations

~Arthur Koestler

The new frontiers to be conquered are mainly in the convolutions of the cortex.

~Arthur Koestler

Faith is a wondrous thing; it is not only capable of moving mountains, but also of making you believe that a herring is a race horse.

~Arthur Koestler

Two half truths do not make a truth.

~Arthur Koestler

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself. Boredom sets into boring minds. The more original a discovery, the more obvious it seems afterwards.

~Arthur Koestler

Habit is the denial of creativity and the negation of freedom; a self-imposed straitjacket of which the wearer is unaware.

~Arthur Koestler

To sell oneself for thirty pieces of silver is an honest transaction; but to sell oneself to one's own conscience is to abandon mankind.

~Arthur Koestler

Laughter and weeping, the Greek masks of comedy and tragedy, mark the extremes of a continuous spectrum; both provide channels for the overflow of emotion; both are

~Arthur Koestler

History knows no scruples and no hesitation. Inert and unerring, she flows towards her goal. At every bend in her course she leaves the mud which she carries and the corpses of the drowned.

~Arthur Koestler

the self-assertive tendency is the dynamic expression of the holon's wholeness, the integrative tendency, the dynamic expression of its partness.

~Arthur Koestler

No writer or teacher or artist can escape the responsibility of influencing others whether he intends to or not, whether he is conscious of it or not.

~Arthur Koestler

The cell door slammed behind Rubishov.

~Arthur Koestler

The 'missing link' between ape and man will probably never be found because it was an embryo.

~Arthur Koestler

We know that virtue does not matter to history, and that crimes remain unpunished; but that every error had its consequences and venges itself unto the seventh generation.

~Arthur Koestler

Woe unto the defeated, whom history treads into the dust.

~Arthur Koestler

The discoveries of yesterday are the truisms of tomorrow, because we can add to our knowledge but cannot subtract from it.

~Arthur Koestler

Some of the greatest discoveries...consist mainly in the clearing away of psychological roadblocks which obstruct the approach to reality; which is why, post factum they appear so obvious.

~Arthur Koestler

...the temptation, which consisted of a single word written on the cemetery of the defeated: Sleep.

~Arthur Koestler

The ultimate truth is penultimately always a falsehood. He who will be proved right in the end appears to be wrong and harmful before it.

~Arthur Koestler

The more backwoodish a social group, juvenile or adult, the stricter its conception of the normal, and the readier it will ridicule any departure from it.

~Arthur Koestler

The fact is: I no longer believe in my own infallibility. That is why I am lost.

~Arthur Koestler

The temptations of God were always more dangerous for mankind than those of Satan.

~Arthur Koestler

History is a priori amoral; it has no conscience.

~Arthur Koestler

Show us not the aim without the way. For ends and means on earth are so entangled That changing one, you change the other too; Each different path brings other ends in view

~Arthur Koestler

To want to meet an author because you like his books is as ridiculous as wanting to meet the goose because you like pate de foie gras.

~Arthur Koestler

one of the tests of a theory is that, once grasped, it appears self-evident.

~Arthur Koestler

There is an abundance of ancient place names in the Ukraine and Poland, which derive from 'Khazar' or 'Zhid' (Jew).

~Arthur Koestler

There is only one prospect worse than being chained to an intolerable existence: The nightmare of a botched attempt to end it.

~Arthur Koestler

You can't help people being right for the wrong reasons...This fear of finding oneself in bad company is not an expression of political purity; it is an expression of a lack of self-confidence.

~Arthur Koestler

Einstein's space is no closer to reality than Van Gogh's sky.

~Arthur Koestler

Adolescence is a kind of emotional seasickness. Both are funny, but only in retrospect.

~Arthur Koestler

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