

Baruch Spinoza

Quotes

*Men, Philosophical, Mind, Life, Thinking, Law, Ideas, Believe, Desire, Emotion,
Hatred, Hate, Causes, Order, Body, Self, Virtue, Hands, Ignorance, Nature*

The highest activity a human being can attain is learning for understanding, because to understand is to be free.

~Baruch Spinoza

The most tyrannical of governments are those which make crimes of opinions, for everyone has an inalienable right to his thoughts.

~Baruch Spinoza

If you want the present to be different from the past, study the past.

~Baruch Spinoza

No matter how thin you slice it, there will always be two sides.

~Baruch Spinoza

Reason cannot defeat emotion, an emotion can only be displaced or overcome by a stronger emotion.

~Baruch Spinoza

Nothing in nature is by chance... Something appears to be chance only because of our lack of knowledge.

~Baruch Spinoza

The more clearly you understand yourself and your emotions, the more you become a lover of what is.

~Baruch Spinoza

Men believe themselves to be free, simply because they are conscious of their actions, and unconscious of the causes whereby those actions are determined.

~Baruch Spinoza

The world would be happier if men had the same capacity to be silent that they have to speak.

~Baruch Spinoza

The highest endeavor of the mind, and the highest virtue, it to understand things by intuition.

~Baruch Spinoza

I have made a ceaseless effort not to ridicule, not to bewail, not to scorn human actions, but to understand them.

~Baruch Spinoza

Philosophy has no end in view save truth; faith looks for nothing but obedience and piety.

~Baruch Spinoza

What Paul says about Peter tells us more about Paul than about Peter.

~Baruch Spinoza

[Believers] are but triflers who, when they cannot explain a thing, run back to the will of God; this is, truly, a ridiculous way of expressing ignorance.

~Baruch Spinoza

I do not know how to teach philosophy without becoming a disturber of established religion.

~Baruch Spinoza

What everyone wants from life is continuous and genuine happiness.

~Baruch Spinoza

He who seeks equality between unequals seeks an absurdity.

~Baruch Spinoza

Be not astonished at new ideas; for it is well known to you that a thing does not therefore cease to be true because it is not accepted by many.

~Baruch Spinoza

Academies that are founded at public expense are instituted not so much to cultivate men's natural abilities as to restrain them.

~Baruch Spinoza

When a man is prey to his emotions, he is not his own master.

~Baruch Spinoza

We feel and know that we are eternal.

~Baruch Spinoza

God is the indwelling and not the transient cause of all things.

~Baruch Spinoza

Superstition, then, is engendered, preserved, and fostered by fear.

~Baruch Spinoza

Whatsoever is contrary to nature is contrary to reason, and whatsoever is contrary to reason is absurd.

~Baruch Spinoza

In the state of nature, wrong-doing is impossible ; or, if anyone does wrong, it is to himself, not to another.

~Baruch Spinoza

He who loves God cannot endeavor that God should love him in return.

~Baruch Spinoza

Do not weep; do not wax indignant. Understand.

~Baruch Spinoza

If facts conflict with a theory, either the theory must be changed or the facts.

~Baruch Spinoza

It may easily come to pass that a vain man may become proud and imagine himself pleasing to all when he is in reality a universal nuisance.

~Baruch Spinoza

Schisms do not originate in a love of truth, which is a source of courtesy and gentleness, but rather in an inordinate desire for supremacy.

~Baruch Spinoza

Freedom is self-determination.

~Baruch Spinoza

Nature has no goal in view, and final causes are only human imaginings.

~Baruch Spinoza

If men were born free, they would, so long as they remained free, form no conception of good and evil.

~Baruch Spinoza

We must take care not to admit as true anything, which is only probable. For when one falsity has been let in, infinite others follow.

~Baruch Spinoza

Those who know the true use of money, and regulate the measure of wealth according to their needs, live contented with few things.

~Baruch Spinoza

Men who are ruled by reason desire nothing for themselves which they would not wish for all mankind.

~Baruch Spinoza

Love is pleasure accompanied by the idea of an external cause, and hatred pain accompanied by the idea of an external cause.

~Baruch Spinoza

Freedom is absolutely necessary for the progress in science and the liberal arts.

~Baruch Spinoza

I would warn you that I do not attribute to nature either beauty or deformity, order or confusion. Only in relation to our imagination can things be called beautiful or ugly, well-ordered or confused.

~Baruch Spinoza

Desire nothing for yourself, which you do not desire for others.

~Baruch Spinoza

Sadness diminishes a man's powers

~Baruch Spinoza

Peace is not the absence of war, but a virtue based on strength of character.

~Baruch Spinoza

A good thing which prevents us from enjoying a greater good is in truth an evil.

~Baruch Spinoza

The greatest good is the knowledge of the union which the mind has with the whole nature.

~Baruch Spinoza

There is no hope unmingled with fear, and no fear unmingled with hope.

~Baruch Spinoza

God is not He who is, but That which is.

~Baruch Spinoza

Nothing in the universe is contingent, but all things are conditioned to exist and operate in a particular manner by the necessity of the divine nature.

~Baruch Spinoza

Statesman are suspected of plotting against mankind, rather than consulting their interests, and are esteemed more crafty than learned.

~Baruch Spinoza

In practical life we are compelled to follow what is most probable ; in speculative thought we are compelled to follow truth.

~Baruch Spinoza

The greatest pride, or the greatest despondency, is the greatest ignorance of one's self.

~Baruch Spinoza

Pride is pleasure arising from a man's thinking too highly of himself.

~Baruch Spinoza

He alone is free who lives with free consent under the entire guidance of reason.

~Baruch Spinoza

Speculation, like nature, abhors a vacuum.

~Baruch Spinoza

. . . to know the order of nature, and regard the universe as orderly is the highest function of the mind.

~Baruch Spinoza

He, who knows how to distinguish between true and false, must have

an adequate idea of true and false.

~Baruch Spinoza

Minds are not conquered by force, but by love and high-mindedness.

~Baruch Spinoza

The endeavor to understand is the first and only basis of virtue.

~Baruch Spinoza

Big fish eat small fish with as much right as they have power.

~Baruch Spinoza

The mind has greater power over the emotions, and is less subject thereto, insofar as it understands all things to be necessary.

~Baruch Spinoza

Faith is nothing but obedience and piety.

~Baruch Spinoza

To give aid to every poor man is far beyond the reach and power of every man. Care of the poor is incumbent on society as a whole.

~Baruch Spinoza

It is usually the case with most men that their nature is so constituted that they pity those who fare badly and envy those who fare well.

~Baruch Spinoza

True virtue is life under the direction of reason.

~Baruch Spinoza

Let unswerving integrity be your watchword.

~Baruch Spinoza

Care of the poor is incumbent on society as a whole.

~Baruch Spinoza

Those who are believed to be most abject and humble are usually most ambitious and envious.

~Baruch Spinoza

I can control my passions and emotions if I can understand their nature

~Baruch Spinoza

Blessed are the weak who think that they are good because they have no claws.

~Baruch Spinoza

Whatsoever is, is in God, and without God nothing can be, or be conceived.

~Baruch Spinoza

A free man thinks of nothing less than of death; and his wisdom is a meditation not on death but on life.

~Baruch Spinoza

If anyone conceives that he is loved by another, and believes that he has given no cause for such love, he will love that other in return.

~Baruch Spinoza

The eternal wisdom of God ... has shown itself forth in all things, but chiefly in the mind of man, and most of all in Jesus Christ.

~Baruch Spinoza

Hatred is increased by being reciprocated, and can on the other hand be destroyed by love.

~Baruch Spinoza

Ambition is the immoderate desire for honor.

~Baruch Spinoza

God and all attributes of God are eternal.

~Baruch Spinoza

Whatsoever is, is in God.

~Baruch Spinoza

Reality and perfection are synonymous.

~Baruch Spinoza

Laws directed against opinions affect the generous-minded rather than the wicked, and are adapted less for coercing criminals than for irritating the upright.

~Baruch Spinoza

All is One (Nature, God)

~Baruch Spinoza

True piety for the universe but no time for religions made for man's convenience.

~Baruch Spinoza

Fear cannot be without hope nor hope without fear.

~Baruch Spinoza

Nature is satisfied with little; and if she is, I am also.

~Baruch Spinoza

If slavery, barbarism and desolation are to be called peace, men can have no worse misfortune.

~Baruch Spinoza

I saw that all things I feared, and which feared me, had nothing good or

bad in them save insofar as the mind was affected by them.

~Baruch Spinoza

.... we are a part of nature as a whole, whose order we follow.

~Baruch Spinoza

So long as a man imagines that he cannot do this or that, so long as he is determined not to do it; and consequently so long as it is impossible to him that he should do it.

~Baruch Spinoza

Nature offers nothing that can be called this man's rather than another's; but under nature everything belongs to all.

~Baruch Spinoza

None are more taken in by flattery than the proud, who wish to be the first and are not.

~Baruch Spinoza

Everything in nature is a cause from which there flows some effect.

~Baruch Spinoza

Men are mistaken in thinking themselves free; their opinion is made up of consciousness of their own actions, and ignorance of the causes by which they are determined.

~Baruch Spinoza

Happiness is a virtue, not its reward.

~Baruch Spinoza

The less the mind understands and the more things it perceives, the greater its power of feigning is; and the more things it understands, the more that power is diminished.

~Baruch Spinoza

Measure, time and number are nothing but modes of thought or rather of imagination.

~Baruch Spinoza

A miracle signifies nothing more than an event... the cause of which cannot be explained by another familiar instance, or.... which the narrator is unable to explain.

~Baruch Spinoza

In the mind there is no absolute or free will.

~Baruch Spinoza

I have tried sedulously not to laugh at the acts of man, nor to lament them, nor to detest them, but to understand them.

~Baruch Spinoza

No to laugh, not to lament, not to detest, but to understand.

~Baruch Spinoza

All happiness or unhappiness solely depends upon the quality of the object to which we are attached by love.

~Baruch Spinoza

Everything excellent is as difficult as it is rare.

~Baruch Spinoza

All things excellent are as difficult as they are rare.

~Baruch Spinoza

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