

Bayard Rustin Quotes

*Gay, Fighting, Believe, People, Thinking, Men, Rights, War, Movement, Ubuntu,
Peace, Law, Mean, Spring, Children, Democracy, Degrees, Firsts, Years, Ifs*

Let us be enraged about injustice, but let us not be destroyed by it.

~Bayard Rustin

We are all one - and if we don't know it, we will learn it the hard way.

~Bayard Rustin

We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers.

~Bayard Rustin

When an individual is protesting society's refusal to acknowledge his dignity as a human being, his very act of protest confers dignity on him.

~Bayard Rustin

If we desire a society in which men are brothers, then we must act towards one another with brotherhood. If we can build such a society, then we would have achieved the ultimate goal of human freedom.

~Bayard Rustin

The real radical is that person who has a vision of equality and is willing to do those things that will bring reality closer to that vision. . .

~Bayard Rustin

The only weapon we have is our bodies, and we need to tuck them in places so wheels don't turn

~Bayard Rustin

To be afraid is to behave as if the truth were not true.

~Bayard Rustin

If I do not fight bigotry wherever it is, bigotry is thereby strengthened. And to the degree that it is strengthened, it will, thereby, have the power to turn on me.

~Bayard Rustin

The moral man is he who is opposed to injustice per se, opposed to injustice wherever he finds it; the moral man looks for injustice first of all in himself.

~Bayard Rustin

Every indifference to prejudice is suicide because, if I don't fight all bigotry, bigotry itself will be strengthened and, sooner or later, it will return on me.

~Bayard Rustin

God does not require us to achieve any of the good tasks that humanity must pursue. What God requires of us is that we not stop trying.

~Bayard Rustin

Bigotry's birthplace is the sinister back room of the mind where plots and schemes are hatched for the persecution and oppression of other human beings.

~Bayard Rustin

My activism did not spring from being black...The racial injustice that was present in this country during my youth was a challenge to my belief in the oneness of the human family.

~Bayard Rustin

People will never fight for your freedom if you have not given evidence that you are prepared to fight for it yourself.

~Bayard Rustin

The proof that one truly believes is in action.

~Bayard Rustin

I believe in social dislocation and creative trouble.

~Bayard Rustin

There is a strong moralistic strain in the civil rights movement that would remind us that power corrupts, forgetting that the absence of power also corrupts.

~Bayard Rustin

Since Israel is a democratic state surrounded by essentially undemocratic states which have sworn her destruction, those interested in democracy everywhere must support Israel's existence.

~Bayard Rustin

The organizers and perpetrators of segregation are as much the enemy of America as any foreign invader.

~Bayard Rustin

When you're wrong, you're wrong. But when you're right, you're wrong anyhow.

~Bayard Rustin

Surely, I must at all times attempt to obey the law of the state. But when the will of God and the will of the state conflict, I am compelled to follow the will of God.

~Bayard Rustin

You have to join every other movement for the freedom of people.

~Bayard Rustin

Black gay activists should try to build coalitions of people for the elimination of all injustice.

~Bayard Rustin

Martin Luther King, with whom I worked very closely, became very distressed when a number of the ministers working for him wanted him to dismiss me from his staff because of my homosexuality.

~Bayard Rustin

I believe there are certain types of movements which cannot be married.

~Bayard Rustin

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