

# Bernard Beckett

## Quotes

*Ideas, Mind, Fear, Memories, World, Dying, Book, Machines, Host, People,  
Together, Failing, Littles, Sometimes, Thinking, Feels, Routine, Teenager,  
Curiosity, Death*

The only thing binding individuals together is ideas. Ideas mutate and spread; they change their hosts as much as their hosts change them.

~Bernard Beckett

I try not to be surprised. Surprise is the public face of a mind that has been closed.

~Bernard Beckett

Thought, like any parasite, cannot exist without a compliant host.

~Bernard Beckett

A society that fears knowledge is a society that fears itself.

~Bernard Beckett

Human spirit is the ability to face the uncertainty of the future with curiosity and optimism.

~Bernard Beckett

Many scholars have complained of our tendency to see history only in conflicts, but I am not convinced they are right. It is in conflict that our values are exposed.

~Bernard Beckett

... from our vantage point it is now clear that the only thing the population had to fear was fear itself.

~Bernard Beckett

In the end, living is defined by dying.

~Bernard Beckett

I write with teenagers in mind.

~Bernard Beckett

I cannot choose to ignore this feeling, of life slowly bleeding out of me. I

cannot ignore the fact that life only makes sense to me when I see a smile, or feel another hand in mine.

~Bernard Beckett

Consciousness is the feel of accessing memory.

~Bernard Beckett

Superstition is the need to view the world in terms of simple cause and effect.

~Bernard Beckett

Which came first, the mind or the idea of the mind? Have you never wondered? They arrived together. The mind is an idea.

~Bernard Beckett

Sometimes, even the very best course of action fails.

~Bernard Beckett

Are you saying a society wracked by plague is preferable to one wracked by indifference?

~Bernard Beckett

The mind is not a machine, it is an idea. And the Idea resists all attempts to control it.

~Bernard Beckett

This is always the problem with building heroes. To keep them pure, we must build them stupid. The world is built on compromise and uncertainty, and such a place is too complex for heroes to flourish.

~Bernard Beckett

Science is a little bit more than a wonderful way of modelling and predicting; its a wonderful technical abstraction. I think science is a really wonderful technical abstraction.

~Bernard Beckett

Unable to attribute misfortune to chance, unable to accept their ultimate insignificance within the greater scheme, the people looked for monsters in their midst.

~Bernard Beckett

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