

Bertrand Russell

Quotes

Men, Thinking, People, Philosophy, Believe, Science, World, War, Religion, Happiness, Life, Children, May, Two, Mean, Wish, Desire, Math, Giving, Fear

The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts.

~Bertrand Russell

The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time.

~Bertrand Russell

Fear is the main source of superstition, and one of the main sources of cruelty. To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom.

~Bertrand Russell

Men are born ignorant, not stupid. They are made stupid by education.

~Bertrand Russell

An Honest politician will not be tolerated by a democracy unless he is very stupid ... because only a very stupid man can honestly share the prejudices of more than half the nation.

~Bertrand Russell

If there were in the world today any large number of people who desired their own happiness more than they desired the unhappiness of others, we could have a paradise in a few years.

~Bertrand Russell

We have in fact, two kinds of morality, side by side: one which we preach, but do not practice, and another which we practice, but seldom preach.

~Bertrand Russell

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

~Bertrand Russell

The fact that an opinion has been widely held is no evidence whatever that it is not utterly absurd.

~Bertrand Russell

The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt.

~Bertrand Russell

Cruel men believe in a cruel god and use their belief to excuse their cruelty. Only kindly men believe in a kindly god, and they would be kindly in any case.

~Bertrand Russell

Grasshopper always wrong in argument with chicken.

~Bertrand Russell

More important than the curriculum is the question of the methods of teaching and the spirit in which the teaching is given

~Bertrand Russell

I believe four ingredients are necessary for happiness: health, warm personal relations, sufficient means to keep you from want, and successful work.

~Bertrand Russell

Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric.

~Bertrand Russell

Collective fear stimulates herd instinct, and tends to produce ferocity toward those who are not regarded as members of the herd.

~Bertrand Russell

We are faced with the paradoxical fact that education has become one of the chief obstacles to intelligence and freedom of thought.

~Bertrand Russell

There is much pleasure to be gained from useless knowledge.

~Bertrand Russell

One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important.

~Bertrand Russell

A hallucination is a fact, not an error; what is erroneous is a judgment based upon it.

~Bertrand Russell

Those who have never known the deep intimacy and the intense companionship of happy mutual love have missed the best thing that life has to give.

~Bertrand Russell

You must believe that you can help bring about a better world.

~Bertrand Russell

A stupid man's report of what a clever man says can never be accurate, because he unconsciously translates what he hears into something he can understand.

~Bertrand Russell

Next to enjoying ourselves, the next greatest pleasure consists in preventing others from enjoying themselves, or, more generally, in the acquisition of power.

~Bertrand Russell

The secret to happiness is to face the fact that the world is horrible.

~Bertrand Russell

To understand the actual world as it is, not as we should wish it to be, is the beginning of wisdom.

~Bertrand Russell

Even when the experts all agree, they may well be mistaken.

~Bertrand Russell

To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already three parts dead.

~Bertrand Russell

And if there were a God, I think it very unlikely that He would have such an uneasy vanity as to be offended by those who doubt His existence

~Bertrand Russell

Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind.

~Bertrand Russell

Love should be a tree whose roots are deep in the earth, but whose branches extend into heaven.

~Bertrand Russell

The problem with the wise is they are so filled with doubts while the dull are so certain.

~Bertrand Russell

There is no nonsense so errant that it cannot be made the creed of the vast majority by adequate governmental action.

~Bertrand Russell

Many people when they fall in love look for a little haven of refuge from the world, where they can be sure of being admired when they are not admirable, and praised when they are not praiseworthy.

~Bertrand Russell

In all affairs it's a healthy thing now and then to hang a question mark on the things you have long taken for granted.

~Bertrand Russell

Belief in God and a future life makes it possible to go through life with less of stoic courage than is needed by skeptics.

~Bertrand Russell

The degree of one's emotions varies inversely with one's knowledge of the facts - the less you know the hotter you get.

~Bertrand Russell

The coward wretch whose hand and heart
Can bear to torture aught
below,
Is ever first to quail and start
From the slightest pain or equal
foe.

~Bertrand Russell

Religions, which condemn the pleasures of sense, drive men to seek the pleasures of power. Throughout history power has been the vice of the ascetic.

~Bertrand Russell

It's coexistence or no existence.

~Bertrand Russell

I think we ought always to entertain our opinions with some measure of doubt. I shouldn't wish people dogmatically to believe any philosophy, not even mine.

~Bertrand Russell

Remember your humanity, and forget the rest.

~Bertrand Russell

Every great idea starts out as a blasphemy.

~Bertrand Russell

By self-interest, Man has become gregarious, but in instinct he has remained to a great extent solitary; hence the need of religion and morality to reinforce self-interest.

~Bertrand Russell

A good world needs knowledge, kindness, and courage; it does not need a regretful hankering after the past or a fettering of the free intelligence by the words uttered long ago by ignorant men.

~Bertrand Russell

Right discipline consists, not in external compulsion, but in the habits of mind which lead spontaneously to desirable rather than undesirable activities.

~Bertrand Russell

People seem good while they are oppressed, but they only wish to become oppressors in their turn: life is nothing but a competition to be the criminal rather than the victim.

~Bertrand Russell

Obviousness is always the enemy of correctness.

~Bertrand Russell

I am sometimes shocked by the blasphemies of those who think themselves pious.

~Bertrand Russell

The only thing that will redeem mankind is cooperation.

~Bertrand Russell

No people anywhere in the world would accept being expelled en masse from their own country; how can anyone require the people of

Palestine to accept a punishment which nobody else would tolerate?

~Bertrand Russell

The observer, when he seems to himself to be observing a stone, is really, if physics is to be believed, observing the effects of the stone upon himself.

~Bertrand Russell

Boys and girls should be taught respect for each other's liberty... and that jealousy and possessiveness kill love.

~Bertrand Russell

To conquer fear is the beginning of wisdom.

~Bertrand Russell

There is something feeble and a little contemptible about a man who cannot face the perils of life without the help of comfortable myths.

~Bertrand Russell

One of the most interesting and harmful delusions to which men and nations can be subjected is that of imagining themselves special instruments of the Divine Will.

~Bertrand Russell

When a man tells you that he knows the exact truth about anything you are safe in inferring that he is an inexact man.

~Bertrand Russell

War doesn't determine who's right, it determines who's left

~Bertrand Russell

Religion is something left over from the infancy of our intelligence, it will fade away as we adopt reason and science as our guidelines.

~Bertrand Russell

So far as I can remember, there is not one word in the Gospels in praise of intelligence.

~Bertrand Russell

We must be skeptical even of our skepticism.

~Bertrand Russell

Logic must no more admit a unicorn than zoology can.

~Bertrand Russell

Not to be absolutely certain is, I think, one of the essential things in rationality.

~Bertrand Russell

Most human beings, though in varying degrees, desire to control, not only their own lives but also the lives of others

~Bertrand Russell

Of all forms of caution, caution in love is perhaps the most fatal to true happiness.

~Bertrand Russell

Mathematics rightly viewed possesses not only truth but supreme beauty.

~Bertrand Russell

Love is something far more than desire for sexual intercourse; it is the principal means of escape from the loneliness which afflicts most men and women throughout the greater part of their lives.

~Bertrand Russell

No great achievement is possible without persistent work.

~Bertrand Russell

Few people can be happy unless they hate some other person, nation, or creed.

~Bertrand Russell

To be without some of the things you want is an indispensable part of happiness.

~Bertrand Russell

If an opinion contrary to your own makes you angry, that is a sign that you are subconsciously aware of having no good reason for thinking as you do.

~Bertrand Russell

Much that passes as idealism is disguised hatred or disguised love of power.

~Bertrand Russell

It is likely that America will be more important during the next century or two, but after that it may well be the turn of China.

~Bertrand Russell

The best life is the one in which the creative impulses play the largest part and the possessive impulses the smallest.

~Bertrand Russell

Truth is a shining goddess, always veiled, always distant, never wholly approachable, but worthy of all the devotion of which the human spirit is capable.

~Bertrand Russell

The fundamental concept in social science is Power, in the same sense in which Energy is the fundamental concept in physics.

~Bertrand Russell

Too little liberty brings stagnation, and too much brings chaos.

~Bertrand Russell

Do not feel envious of the happiness of those who live in a fool's paradise, for only a fool will think that is happiness.

~Bertrand Russell

My whole religion is this: do every duty, and expect no reward for it, either here or hereafter.

~Bertrand Russell

The world is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper.

~Bertrand Russell

I would never die for my beliefs because I might be wrong.

~Bertrand Russell

Science is what you know, philosophy is what you don't know.

~Bertrand Russell

Most of the greatest evils that man has inflicted upon man have come through people feeling quite certain about something which, in fact, was false.

~Bertrand Russell

Find more pleasure in intelligent dissent than in passive agreement, for, if you value intelligence as you should, the former implies a deeper agreement than the latter.

~Bertrand Russell

Next to worry probably one of the most potent causes of unhappiness is envy.

~Bertrand Russell

Why is propaganda so much more successful when it stirs up hatred than when it tries to stir up friendly feeling?

~Bertrand Russell

Life is just one cup of coffee after another, and don't look for anything else.

~Bertrand Russell

When two great powers disagree about anything - it doesn't matter what - they must find a way to settle it somehow by arbitration or by negotiation, not by war or threat of war.

~Bertrand Russell

A happy life must be to a great extent a quiet life, for it is only in an atmosphere of quiet that true joy dare live.

~Bertrand Russell

Extreme hopes are born of extreme misery, and in such a world hopes could only be irrational.

~Bertrand Russell

The more things a man is interested in, the more opportunities of happiness he has and the less he is at the mercy of fate, since if he loses one thing he can fall back upon another.

~Bertrand Russell

It is a waste of energy to be angry with a man who behaves badly, just as it is to be angry with a car that won't go.

~Bertrand Russell

All human activity is prompted by desire.

~Bertrand Russell

Happiness is not best achieved by those who seek it directly.

~Bertrand Russell

Democracy is the process by which people choose the man who'll get the blame.

~Bertrand Russell

Patriotism is the willingness to kill and be killed for trivial reasons.

~Bertrand Russell

One of the most powerful of all our passions is the desire to be admired and respected.

~Bertrand Russell

Punctuality is a quality the need of which is bound up with social co-operation.

~Bertrand Russell

Really high-minded people are indifferent to happiness, especially other people's.

~Bertrand Russell

Against my will, in the course of my travels, the belief that everything worth knowing was known at Cambridge gradually wore off. In this respect my travels were very useful to me.

~Bertrand Russell

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