

Carl Sagan Quotes

*Science, Stars, Thinking, Atheist, Cosmos, Children, Years, Ideas, Book,
Space, Believe, Religion, Earth, People, Mean, War, Long, Religious,
Civilization, Inspirational*

Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.

~Carl Sagan

It is far better to grasp the universe as it really is than to persist in delusion, however satisfying and reassuring.

~Carl Sagan

The nitrogen in our DNA, the calcium in our teeth, the iron in our blood, the carbon in our apple pies were made in the interiors of collapsing stars. We are made of starstuff.

~Carl Sagan

Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it we go nowhere.

~Carl Sagan

I don't want to believe. I want to know.

~Carl Sagan

The absence of evidence is not the evidence of absence.

~Carl Sagan

The brain is like a muscle. When it is in use we feel very good. Understanding is joyous.

~Carl Sagan

We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology.

~Carl Sagan

For small creatures such as we the vastness is bearable only through love.

~Carl Sagan

You have to know the past to understand the present.

~Carl Sagan

Who are we? We find that we live on an insignificant planet of a humdrum star lost in a galaxy tucked away in some forgotten corner of a universe in which there are far more galaxies than people.

~Carl Sagan

The nuclear arms race is like two sworn enemies standing waist deep in gasoline, one with three matches, the other with five.

~Carl Sagan

Our species needs, and deserves, a citizenry with minds wide awake and a basic understanding of how the world works.

~Carl Sagan

If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe.

~Carl Sagan

Science is not only compatible with spirituality; it is a profound source of spirituality.

~Carl Sagan

Our ancestors worshipped the Sun, and they were not that foolish. It makes sense to revere the Sun and the stars, for we are their children.

~Carl Sagan

I am often amazed at how much more capability and enthusiasm for science there is among elementary school youngsters than among college students.

~Carl Sagan

In Mozambique, the story goes, monkeys do not talk, because they

know if they utter even a single word some man will come and put them to work.

~Carl Sagan

Better the hard truth, I say, than the comforting fantasy.

~Carl Sagan

The cure for a fallacious argument is a better argument, not the suppression of ideas.

~Carl Sagan

There is perhaps no better a demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world.

~Carl Sagan

We live on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam

~Carl Sagan

The notion that science and spirituality are somehow mutually exclusive does a disservice to both.

~Carl Sagan

Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.

~Carl Sagan

Skeptical scrutiny is the means, in both science and religion, by which deep thoughts can be winnowed from deep nonsense.

~Carl Sagan

I also wish that the Pledge of Allegiance were directed at the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as it is when the President takes his oath of office, rather than to the flag and the nation

~Carl Sagan

We are like butterflies who flutter for a day and think it is forever.

~Carl Sagan

[Kepler] preferred the hard truth to his dearest illusions, and that is the heart of science.

~Carl Sagan

Where we have strong emotions, we're liable to fool ourselves.

~Carl Sagan

If we continue to accumulate only power and not wisdom, we will surely destroy ourselves.

~Carl Sagan

we make our world significant by the courage of our questions and the depth of our answers

~Carl Sagan

You can't convince a believer of anything; for their belief is not based on evidence, it's based on a deep seated need to believe

~Carl Sagan

The dumbing down of America is evident in the slow decay of substantive content, a kind of celebration of ignorance.

~Carl Sagan

There are many hypotheses in science which are wrong. That's perfectly all right: it's the aperture to finding out what's right. Science is a self-correcting process.

~Carl Sagan

Every one of us is, in the cosmic perspective, precious. If a human disagrees with you, let him live. In a hundred billion galaxies, you will not find another.

~Carl Sagan

A celibate clergy is an especially good idea, because it tends to suppress any hereditary propensity toward fanaticism.

~Carl Sagan

I believe our future depends powerfully on how well we understand this cosmos in which we float, like a mote of dust in the morning sky.

~Carl Sagan

The universe forces those who live in it to understand it.

~Carl Sagan

The universe is not required to be in perfect harmony with human ambition.

~Carl Sagan

Nothing disturbs me more than the glorification of stupidity.

~Carl Sagan

Every kid starts out as a natural-born scientist, and then we beat it out of them. A few trickle through the system with their wonder and enthusiasm for science intact.

~Carl Sagan

Be grateful everyday for the brief but magnificent opportunity that life provides.

~Carl Sagan

The difference between physics and metaphysics is not that the practitioners of one are smarter than the practitioners of the other. The difference is that the metaphysicist has no laboratory.

~Carl Sagan

It does no harm to the romance of the sunset to know a little bit about it.

~Carl Sagan

Who are we, if not measured by our impact on others?

~Carl Sagan

In science it often happens that scientists say, "You know that's a really good argument; my position is mistaken..."

~Carl Sagan

Don't judge everyone else by your own limited experience.

~Carl Sagan

We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology and yet have cleverly arranged things so that almost no one understands science and technology.

~Carl Sagan

Organic as a dandelion seed, [the ship of our imagination] will carry us to worlds of dreams and worlds of facts

~Carl Sagan

One of the greatest gifts adults can give - to their offspring and to their society - is to read to children.

~Carl Sagan

The size and age of the Cosmos are beyond ordinary human understanding. Lost somewhere between immensity and eternity is our tiny planetary home.

~Carl Sagan

Every star may be a sun to someone.

~Carl Sagan

It is of interest to note that while some dolphins are reported to have learned English - up to fifty words used in correct context - no human being has been reported to have learned dolphinese.

~Carl Sagan

A millennium before Europeans were willing to divest themselves of the Biblical idea that the world was a few thousand years old, the Mayans were thinking of millions and the Hindus billions.

~Carl Sagan

We are made of stellar ash. Our origin and evolution have been tied to distant cosmic events. The exploration of the cosmos is a voyage of self-discovery.

~Carl Sagan

Not all birds can fly. What separates the flyers from the walkers is the ability to take off.

~Carl Sagan

I can find in my undergraduate classes, bright students who do not know that the stars rise and set at night, or even that the Sun is a star.

~Carl Sagan

Extinction is the rule. Survival is the exception.

~Carl Sagan

And you are made of a hundred trillion cells. We are, each of us, a multitude.

~Carl Sagan

The universe seems neither benign nor hostile, merely indifferent.

~Carl Sagan

Science is a way to not fool ourselves.

~Carl Sagan

We've arranged a civilization in which most crucial elements profoundly depend on science and technology.

~Carl Sagan

She had studied the universe all her life, but had overlooked its clearest message: For small creatures such as we the vastness is bearable only through love.

~Carl Sagan

The very act of understanding is a celebration of joining, merging, even if on a very modest scale, with the magnificence of the Cosmos.

~Carl Sagan

Understanding is a kind of ecstasy

~Carl Sagan

Humans - who enslave, castrate, experiment on, and fillet other animals - have had an understandable penchant for pretending animals do not feel pain.

~Carl Sagan

Advances in medicine and agriculture have saved vastly more lives than have been lost in all the wars in history.

~Carl Sagan

The secrets of evolution are death and time-the deaths of enormous numbers of lifeforms that were imperfectly adapted to the environment; and time for a long succession of small mutations.

~Carl Sagan

The price we pay for anticipation of the future is anxiety about it

~Carl Sagan

If we are to survive, our loyalties must be broadened further, to include the whole human community, the entire planet Earth.

~Carl Sagan

We should be teaching our children the scientific method and the reasons for a Bill of Rights. With it comes a certain decency, humility and community spirit.

~Carl Sagan

The sky calls to us. If we do not destroy ourselves, we will one day venture to the stars.

~Carl Sagan

We can judge our progress by the courage of our questions and the depth of our answers, our willingness to embrace what is true rather than what feels good.

~Carl Sagan

History is full of people who out of fear, or ignorance, or lust for power has destroyed knowledge of immeasurable value which truly belongs to us all. We must not let it happen again.

~Carl Sagan

Our perceptions are fallible. We sometimes see what isn't there. We are prey to optical illusions. Occasionally we hallucinate. We are error-prone.

~Carl Sagan

The fact that some geniuses were laughed at does not imply that all who are laughed at are geniuses.

~Carl Sagan

Looking at fires when high, by the way, especially through one of those prism kaleidoscopes which image their surroundings, is an

extraordinarily moving and beautiful experience.

~Carl Sagan

The cosmos is within us. We are made of star stuff

~Carl Sagan

Our ancestors lived out of doors. They were as familiar with the night sky as most of us are with our favorite television programs.

~Carl Sagan

Stars are phoenixes, rising from their own ashes.

~Carl Sagan

We were wanderers from the beginning.

~Carl Sagan

There are no forbidden questions in science, no matters too sensitive or delicate to be probed, no sacred truths.

~Carl Sagan

If the constellations had been named in the twentieth century, I suppose we would see bicycles and refrigerators in the sky.

~Carl Sagan

We are star stuff harvesting sunlight.

~Carl Sagan

Except in pure mathematics, nothing is known for certain (although much is certainly false).

~Carl Sagan

The universe is a pretty big place. If it's just us, seems like an awful waste of space.

~Carl Sagan

Some racists still reject the plain testimony written in the DNA that all the races are not only human but nearly indistinguishable. . . .

~Carl Sagan

Human beings grew up in forests; we have a natural affinity for them. How lovely a tree is, straining toward the sky.

~Carl Sagan

Knowing a great deal is not the same as being smart; intelligence is not information alone but also judgement, the manner in which information is coordinated and used.

~Carl Sagan

Across the sea of space, the stars are other suns.

~Carl Sagan

Our passion for learning ... is our tool for survival.

~Carl Sagan

We are, each of us, a multitude. Within us is a little universe.

~Carl Sagan

Even through your hardest days, remember we are all made of stardust.

~Carl Sagan

The Hindu religion is the only of the World's great faiths dedicated to the idea that the Cosmos itself undergoes an immense, indeed an infinite, number of deaths and rebirths.

~Carl Sagan

The fact that someone says something doesn't mean it's true. Doesn't mean they're lying, but it doesn't mean it's true.

~Carl Sagan

Science is not perfect. It's often misused; it's only a tool, but it's the best tool we have. Self-correcting, ever changing, applicable to everything: with this tool, we vanquish the impossible.

~Carl Sagan

I consider it an extremely dangerous doctrine, because the more likely we are to assume that the solution comes from the outside, the less likely we are to solve our problems ourselves.

~Carl Sagan

When you make the finding yourself - even if you're the last person on Earth to see the light - you'll never forget it.

~Carl Sagan

If you are only skeptical, then no new ideas make it through to you.

~Carl Sagan

We live in a vast and awesome universe in which, daily, suns are made and worlds destroyed, where humanity clings to an obscure clod of rock.

~Carl Sagan

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