

Daniel Dennett

Quotes

*People, Religion, Thinking, Believe, Atheism, Mind, Religious, Ideas, Way,
Long, Philosophy, Order, Atheist, Giving, Evolution, Roles, Mistake, Brain,
Children, Consciousness*

The secret of happiness is: Find something more important than you are and dedicate your life to it.

~Daniel Dennett

Not a single one of the cells that compose you knows who you are, or cares.

~Daniel Dennett

The idea that God is a worthy recipient of our gratitude for the blessings of life but should not be held accountable for the disasters is a transparently disingenuous innovation of the theologians.

~Daniel Dennett

Life itself is just a thin coat of paint on the planet, and we hold the paintbrush.

~Daniel Dennett

There's simply no polite way to tell people they've dedicated their lives to an illusion.

~Daniel Dennett

The chief trick to making good mistakes is not to hide them-especially not from yourself.

~Daniel Dennett

What you can imagine depends on what you know.

~Daniel Dennett

There are no forces on this planet more dangerous to all of us than the fanaticisms of fundamentalism.

~Daniel Dennett

There may be things that are completely unknowable to us, so we must be careful not to treat the limits of our knowledge as sure guides to the

limit of what there is.

~Daniel Dennett

A child raised on a desert island, alone, without social interaction, without language, and thus lacking empathy, is still a sentient being.

~Daniel Dennett

There is no polite way to suggest to someone that they have devoted their life to a folly.

~Daniel Dennett

No matter how smart you are, you're smarter if you take the easy ways when they are available.

~Daniel Dennett

I think religion for many people is some sort of moral viagra.

~Daniel Dennett

Most people in the West who say they believe in God actually believe in belief in God.

~Daniel Dennett

We need to let our children grow up to face the world armed with knowledge, with much more knowledge than we ourselves had at their age. It is scary, but the alternative is worse.

~Daniel Dennett

Religions have depended on the relative isolation and ignorance of their flocks, forever and this is all breaking down.

~Daniel Dennett

I am a philosopher, not a scientist, and we philosophers are better at questions than answers.

~Daniel Dennett

Philosophers' Syndrome: mistaking a failure of the imagination for an insight into necessity.

~Daniel Dennett

The earth has grown a nervous system, and it's us.

~Daniel Dennett

True, you don't have to be religious to be crazy, but it helps. Indeed, if you are religious, you don't have to be crazy in the medically certifiable sense in order to do massively crazy things.

~Daniel Dennett

There are no good reasons to believe in god.

~Daniel Dennett

The only meaning of life worth caring about is one that can withstand our best efforts to examine it.

~Daniel Dennett

Religion is defined as social systems whose participants avow a supernatural agent or agents whose approval is to be sought.

~Daniel Dennett

The evidence for evolution pours in, not only from geology, paleontology, biogeography, and anatomy, but of course from molecular biology and every other branch of the life sciences.

~Daniel Dennett

Darwin's idea of natural selection makes people uncomfortable because it reverses the direction of tradition.

~Daniel Dennett

There's no polite way to say to somebody (religious followers) 'Do you realize you've wasted your life?'

~Daniel Dennett

There is a time for politeness and there is a time when you are obliged to be rude.

~Daniel Dennett

Thanks to technology, what almost anybody can do has been multiplied a thousandfold, and our moral understanding about what we ought to do hasn't kept pace.

~Daniel Dennett

There is no reality of consciousness independent of the effects of various vehicles of content on subsequent action (and hence, of course, on memory).

~Daniel Dennett

There is no such thing as philosophy-free science, just science that has been conducted without any consideration of its underlying philosophical assumptions.

~Daniel Dennett

Human consciousness is just about the last surviving mystery.

~Daniel Dennett

The only answer to the endless chains of why, why, why is that the alternatives died

~Daniel Dennett

We have had plenty of atheist presidents; they just wouldn't admit it.

~Daniel Dennett

The haven all memes depend on reaching is the human mind, but a human mind is itself an artifact created when memes restructure a human brain in order to make it a better habitat for memes.

~Daniel Dennett

I'm the guy who reputedly denies that people experience colors or pains, and thinks that thermostats think "€" just ask my critics.

~Daniel Dennett

In the beginning, there were no reasons; there were only causes. Nothing had a purpose, nothing has so much as a function; there was no teleology in the world at all.

~Daniel Dennett

YES we have a soul but it's made of lots of tiny robots

~Daniel Dennett

Words are memes that can be pronounced.

~Daniel Dennett

It is not so much that we, using our brains, spin our yarns, as that our brains, using yarns, spin us.

~Daniel Dennett

In the long run I certainly hope information is the cure for fanaticism, but I am afraid information is more the cause than the cure.

~Daniel Dennett

Now that mobile phones and the internet have altered the epistemic selective landscape in a revolutionary way, every religious organisation must scramble to evolve defences or become extinct.

~Daniel Dennett

The mind is the effect, not the cause.

~Daniel Dennett

Some of the greatest, most revolutionary advances in science have

been given their initial expression in attractively modest terms, with no fanfare.

~Daniel Dennett

In short, we need to recover the courage we celebrate in our heroes, and in particular, the courage to tolerate, for the sake of a free society, a level of risk we hardly ever imagined in the past.

~Daniel Dennett

How good are the best musical imaginations? Can a trained musician, swiftly reading a score tell just how that voicing of dissonant oboes and flutes over the massed strings will sound?

~Daniel Dennett

Words have a genealogy and it's easier to trace the evolution of a single word than the evolution of a language.

~Daniel Dennett

As every scuba diver knows, panic is your worst enemy: when it hits, your mind starts to thrash and you are likely to do something really stupid and self-destructive.

~Daniel Dennett

I am inclined to think that nothing could matter more than what people love. At any rate, I can think of no value that I would place higher. I would not want to live in a world without love.

~Daniel Dennett

The problem is that no ethical system has ever achieved consensus. Ethical systems are completely unlike mathematics or science. This is a source of concern.

~Daniel Dennett

AI makes philosophy honest

~Daniel Dennett

True, you don't have to be religious to be crazy, but it helps.

~Daniel Dennett

Human freedom is not an illusion; it is an objective phenomenon, distinct from all other biological conditions and found in only one species - us.

~Daniel Dennett

Minds are in limited supply, and each mind has a limited capacity for memes, and hence there is considerable competition among memes for entry in as many minds as possible.

~Daniel Dennett

A scholar is just a library's way of making another library.

~Daniel Dennett

If I know better than you know what I am up to, it is only because I spend more time with myself than you do.

~Daniel Dennett

You can't get through seminary and come out believing in God!

~Daniel Dennett

Churches have given us great treasures such as music and architecture. Whether that pays for the harm they have done is another matter.

~Daniel Dennett

Sometimes you don't just want to risk making mistakes; you actually want to make them - if only to give you something clear and detailed to fix.

~Daniel Dennett

Atheism, a term which will, I'm sure, eventually become as unnecessary as round-earthism.

~Daniel Dennett

Imagination is cheap as long as you don't have to worry about the details.

~Daniel Dennett

I think many people are terribly afraid of being demoted by the Darwinian scheme from the role of authors and creators in their own right into being just places where things happen in the universe.

~Daniel Dennett

The way evolution always discovers reasons is by retroactive endorsement.

~Daniel Dennett

Problems in science are sometimes made easier by adding complications.

~Daniel Dennett

...but I also can't prove that mushrooms could not be intergalactic spaceships spying on us.

~Daniel Dennett

Go ahead and believe in God , if you like, but don't imagine that you have been given any grounds for such a belief by science.

~Daniel Dennett

I don't think there is any religious revival. I think what we are hearing, the furor, is merely the hysterical response of the churches the handwriting on the wall that they are seeing.

~Daniel Dennett

Natural selection is not gene centrist and nor is biology all about genes; our comprehending minds are a result of our fast evolving culture.

~Daniel Dennett

Cost is always an object - the second law of thermodynamics sees to that

~Daniel Dennett

Reasons for declaring belief is not are not the same as reasons for believing in god.

~Daniel Dennett

If the best the roboticists can hope for is the creation of some crude, cheesy, second-rate, artificial consciousness, they still win.

~Daniel Dennett

People are afraid of being more ignorant than their children•especially, apparantly, their daughters.

~Daniel Dennett

I don't myself need that role for God. My view is that creation itself, the universe itself, is the most wonderful thing deserving awe and respect. And that satisfies me as my substitute for God.

~Daniel Dennett

I even agree that the concept of god helps some people lead better lives. That does happen. Don't ever forget it. I just think there are better ways to help people lead better lives.

~Daniel Dennett

If nobody cares, then it doesn't matter what happens to flowers.

~Daniel Dennett

Keep Darwinian thinking out of cosmology, out of psychology, out of

human culture, out of ethics, politics, and religion!

~Daniel Dennett

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