

David Brin

Quotes

*Writing, People, Self, Character, Errors, Mistake, Past, Literature, Civilization,
Ideas, Believe, Thinking, Children, Wall, Accountability, Interesting, Smart,
Book, Reality, Corruption*

You don't have conversations with microprocessors. You tell them what to do, then helplessly watch the disaster when they take you literally!

~David Brin

When it comes to privacy and accountability, people always demand the former for themselves and the latter for everyone else.

~David Brin

It is said that power corrupts, but actually it's more true that power attracts the corruptible. The sane are usually attracted by other things than power.

~David Brin

The village is coming back, like it or not.

~David Brin

In all of history, we have found just one cure for error—a partial antidote against making and repeating grand, foolish mistakes, a remedy against self-deception. That antidote is criticism.

~David Brin

Why must conversions always come so late? Why do people always apologize to corpses?

~David Brin

If you believe you can make a living as a writer, you already have enough ego.

~David Brin

But honestly, if you do a rigorous survey of my work, I'll bet you'll find that biology is a theme far more often than physical science.

~David Brin

My first duty to write a gripping yarn. Second is to convey credible

characters who make you feel what they feel. Only third comes the idea.

~David Brin

The worst mistake of first contact, made throughout history by individuals on both sides of every new encounter, has been the unfortunate habit of making assumptions. It often proved fatal.

~David Brin

Gaia spins on, silently contemplating what it means to be born into a sarcastic universe.

~David Brin

Prison for the crime of puberty -- that was how secondary school had seemed.

~David Brin

Learn to control ego. Humans hold their dogmas and biases too tightly, and we only think that our opponents are dogmatic! But we all need criticism. Criticism is the only known antidote to error.

~David Brin

History and geology show what an eyeblink it's been since our current, comfortable culture came about. And yet that culture is using up absolutely everything at a ferocious rate.

~David Brin

Change is the principal feature of our age and literature should explore how people deal with it. The best science fiction does that, head-on.

~David Brin

Creative people see Prometheus in a mirror, never Pandora.

~David Brin

Petals floating by, Drift through my woman's hand, As she remembers me.

~David Brin

Only a knowledgeable, empowered and vocal citizenry can perform well in democracy.

~David Brin

We already live a very long time for mammals, getting three times as many heartbeats as a mouse or elephant. It never seems enough though, does it?

~David Brin

Above all, TRIBES is fun, and even kind of sexy... in that every round features an Opportunity for Reproduction, which is the main aim of the game, as it is in most of Nature

~David Brin

If you have other things in your life-family, friends, good productive day work-these can interact with your writing and the sum will be all the richer.

~David Brin

I would normally never set out to write a trilogy.

~David Brin

Fortunately, human beings are remarkably diverse models to work from

~David Brin

I like to be surprised. Fresh implications and plot twists erupt as a story unfolds. Characters develop backgrounds, adding depth and feeling. Writing feels like exploring

~David Brin

The sane are usually attracted by other things than power.

~David Brin

Cultural contamination that is directed outward is always seen as 'enlightenment.'

~David Brin

Reciprocal accountability, or criticism [is] the only known antidote to error.

~David Brin

In the end, the work of diplomats continues even while others fight. So, it's not necessarily true that everyone needs to march.

~David Brin

Life is not fair... Anyone who says it is, or even that it ought to be, is a fool or worse.

~David Brin

I regret having been the bearer of ambiguous tidings.

~David Brin

A neurosis defends itself by coming up with rationalizations to explain away bizarre behavior.

~David Brin

Beware of assumptions that seem "obvious" in one decade. They may become quaint in the next.

~David Brin

Anyone who wants simple, pat stories should buy another author's product. The real universe ain't that way, and neither are my fictive ones.

~David Brin

Alas, criticism has always been what human beings, especially leaders, most hate to hear.

~David Brin

Change is the very fabric of our time.

~David Brin

Where subtlety fails us we must simply make do with cream pies.

~David Brin

Ideologies are too seductive anyway. It does a man good to see things from a different point of view.

~David Brin

The three basic material rights -- continuity, mutual obligation, and the pursuit of happiness.

~David Brin

My education and background thoroughly inform my writing

~David Brin

But it is a delightful challenge to try to depict interesting aliens.

~David Brin

All this talk of using tax policy to 'assess social costs'...what a dumb idea. The only way to stop polluters is to put them against walls and shoot them.

~David Brin

Science Fiction is the jazz of literature.

~David Brin

What point was there in pursuing an ever-elusive popularity?

~David Brin

With gritty action and realistic science, Peter Watts brings to life a dark and vivid world.

~David Brin

Self-awareness is probably overrated. A complex, self-regulating system doesn't need it in order to be successful, or even smart.

~David Brin

It is a paradox of Life that all species breed past mere replacement. Any paradise of plenty soon fills to become paradise no more.

~David Brin

Patience is fine, but I'm not going to stop asking the Universe to make sense!

~David Brin

The fundamental premise of sci-fi is not spaceships and lasers - it's that children can learn from the mistakes of their parents.

~David Brin

Only people with full stomachs become environmentalists.

~David Brin

The best time to act on this was decades ago. The second best time is now.

~David Brin

One of life's joys was to have friends who gave you reality checks...who would call you on your crap before it rose so high you drowned in it.

~David Brin

I find humans tremendously interesting

~David Brin

One of the rules I try to follow is that normal people are going to be involved even in heroic events

~David Brin

Everything isn't subjective. Reality also matters. Truth matters. It is still a word with meaning.

~David Brin

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