

David Hume

Quotes

*Men, Philosophical, Passion, Philosophy, Science, Mind, Order, Religious,
Thinking, Art, Reflection, Wise, Principles, Believe, Past, Ideas, Law,
Government, World, Miracle*

There is no such thing as freedom of choice unless there is freedom to refuse.

~David Hume

Nothing is more surprising than the easiness with which the many are governed by the few.

~David Hume

Beauty in things exists in the mind which contemplates them.

~David Hume

A wise man proportions his belief to the evidence.

~David Hume

When men are most sure and arrogant they are commonly most mistaken, giving views to passion without that proper deliberation which alone can secure them from the grossest absurdities.

~David Hume

The life of man is of no greater importance to the universe than that of an oyster.

~David Hume

Be a philosopher but, amid all your philosophy be still a man.

~David Hume

A propensity to hope and joy is real riches; one to fear and sorrow real poverty.

~David Hume

All knowledge degenerates into probability.

~David Hume

It is an absurdity to believe that the Deity has human passions, and one

of the lowest of human passions, a restless appetite for applause

~David Hume

Mohammed praises [instances of] treachery, inhumanity, cruelty, revenge, and bigotry that are utterly incompatible with civilized society.

~David Hume

When I hear that a man is religious, I conclude he is a rascal!

~David Hume

In all ages of the world, priests have been enemies of liberty.

~David Hume

No amount of observations of white swans can allow the inference that all swans are white, but the observation of a single black swan is sufficient to refute that conclusion.

~David Hume

To hate, to love, to think, to feel, to see; all this is nothing but to perceive.

~David Hume

The mind is a kind of theater, where several perceptions successively make their appearance; pass, re-pass, glide away, and mingle in an infinite variety of postures and situations.

~David Hume

He is happy whom circumstances suit his temper; but he is more excellent who suits his temper to any circumstance.

~David Hume

Reading and sauntering and lounging and dosing, which I call thinking, is my supreme Happiness.

~David Hume

All power, even the most despotic, rests ultimately on opinion.

~David Hume

The heart of man is made to reconcile the most glaring contradictions.

~David Hume

Morals excite passions, and produce or prevent actions. Reason of itself is utterly impotent in this particular. The rules of morality, therefore, are not conclusions of our reason.

~David Hume

The Crusades - the most signal and most durable monument of human folly that has yet appeared in any age or nation.

~David Hume

A man acquainted with history may, in some respect, be said to have lived from the beginning of the world, and to have been making continual additions to his stock of knowledge in every century.

~David Hume

Habit may lead us to belief and expectation but not to the knowledge, and still less to the understanding, of lawful relations.

~David Hume

It's when we start working together that the real healing takes place... it's when we start spilling our sweat, and not our blood.

~David Hume

Human happiness seems to consist in three ingredients: action, pleasure and indolence.

~David Hume

It is not reason which is the guide of life, but custom.

~David Hume

Custom is the great guide to human life.

~David Hume

When men are most sure and arrogant they are commonly most mistaken.

~David Hume

Heaven and hell suppose two distinct species of men, the good and the bad. But the greatest part of mankind float betwixt vice and virtue.

~David Hume

Nothing indeed can be a stronger presumption of falsehood than the approbation of the multitude.

~David Hume

A little philosophy makes a man an Atheist: a great deal converts him to religion

~David Hume

Belief is nothing but a more vivid, lively, forcible, firm, steady conception of an object, than what the imagination alone is ever able to attain.

~David Hume

Eloquence, when in its highest pitch, leaves little room for reason or reflection.

~David Hume

Examine the religious principles which have, in fact, prevailed in the world. You will scarcely be persuaded that they are other than sick men's dreams.

~David Hume

Scholastic learning and polemical divinity retarded the growth of all true

knowledge.

~David Hume

Any pride or haughtiness, is displeasing to us, merely because it shocks our own pride, and leads us by sympathy into comparison, which causes the disagreeable passion of humility.

~David Hume

That the sun will not rise tomorrow is no less intelligible a proposition, and implies no more contradiction, than the affirmation, that it will rise.

~David Hume

The corruption of the best things gives rise to the worst.

~David Hume

Everything in the world is purchased by labor.

~David Hume

Moving from an objective statement of fact to a subjective statement of value does not work, because it leaves open questions that have not been answered.

~David Hume

The Christian religion not only was at first attended with miracles, but even at this day cannot be believed by any reasonable person without one.

~David Hume

Every wise, just, and mild government, by rendering the condition of its subjects easy and secure, will always abound most in people, as well as in commodities and riches.

~David Hume

No testimony is sufficient to establish a miracle, unless the testimony

be of such a kind, that its falsehood would be more miraculous than the fact which it endeavors to establish.

~David Hume

Heroism, or military glory, is much admired by the generality of mankind. They consider it as the most sublime kind of merit. Men of cool reflection are not so sanguine in their praises of it.

~David Hume

Weakness, fear, melancholy, together with ignorance, are the true sources of superstition. Hope, pride, presumption, a warm indignation, together with ignorance, are the true sources of enthusiasm.

~David Hume

Liberty of thinking, and of expressing our thoughts, is always fatal to priestly power, and to those pious frauds on which it is commonly founded.

~David Hume

I am apt to suspect the Negroes to be naturally inferior to the Whites. There scarcely ever was a civilization of their complexion, nor even any individual, eminent either in action or speculation.

~David Hume

I do not have enough faith to believe there is no god.

~David Hume

The identity that we ascribe to things is only a fictitious one, established by the mind, not a peculiar nature belonging to what we're talking about.

~David Hume

Reason is, and ought only to be the slave of the passions.

~David Hume

The sweetest path of life leads through the avenues of learning, and whoever can open up the way for another, ought, so far, to be esteemed a benefactor to mankind.

~David Hume

Beauty is no quality in things themselves: It exists merely in the mind which contemplates them; and each mind perceives a different beauty.

~David Hume

Generally speaking, the errors in religion are dangerous; those in philosophy only ridiculous.

~David Hume

To philosopher and historian the madness and imbecile wickedness of mankind ought to appear ordinary events.

~David Hume

The most lively thought is still inferior to the dullest sensation.

~David Hume

In a vain man, the smallest spark may kindle into the greatest flame, because the materials are always prepared for it.

~David Hume

Nothing is so improving to the temper as the study of the beauties either of poetry, eloquence, music, or painting.

~David Hume

What a peculiar privilege has this little agitation of the brain which we call 'thought'.

~David Hume

It is harder to avoid censure than to gain applause.

~David Hume

Of all sciences there is none where first appearances are more deceitful than in politics.

~David Hume

Men often act knowingly against their interest.

~David Hume

No truth appears to me more evident than that beasts are endowed with thought and reason as well as men.

~David Hume

While we are reasoning concerning life, life is gone.

~David Hume

Poets themselves, tho' liars by profession, always endeavour to give an air of truth to their fictions.

~David Hume

The feelings of our heart, the agitation of our passions, the vehemence of our affections, dissipate all its conclusions, and reduce the profound philosopher to a mere plebeian

~David Hume

Barbarity, caprice; these qualities, however nominally disguised, we may universally observe from the ruling character of the deity in all regular religions.

~David Hume

A purpose, an intention, a design, strikes everywhere even the careless, the most stupid thinker.

~David Hume

Superstition is an enemy to civil liberty.

~David Hume

When we reflect on the shortness and uncertainty of life, how despicable seem all our pursuits of happiness.

~David Hume

The bigotry of theologians is a malady which seems almost incurable.

~David Hume

Truth springs from argument amongst friends.

~David Hume

Self-denial is a monkish virtue.

~David Hume

The heights of popularity and patriotism are still the beaten road to power and tyranny.

~David Hume

In this sullen apathy neither true wisdom nor true happiness can be found.

~David Hume

The fact that different cultures have different practices no more refutes [moral] objectivism than the fact that water flows in different directions in different places refutes the law of gravity

~David Hume

A man posing for a painting.

~David Hume

Nothing is pure and entire of a piece. All advantages are attended with disadvantages. A universal compensation prevails in all conditions of being and existence.

~David Hume

The law always limits every power it gives.

~David Hume

The greater part of mankind may be divided into two classes; that of shallow thinkers who fall short of the truth; and that of abstruse thinkers who go beyond it.

~David Hume

History is the discovering of the principles of human nature.

~David Hume

Beauty, whether moral or natural, is felt, more properly than perceived.

~David Hume

Liberty of any kind is never lost all at once.

~David Hume

And what is the greatest number? Number one.

~David Hume

Your corn is ripe today; mine will be so tomorrow. 'Tis profitable for us both, that I should labour with you today, and that you should aid me tomorrow.

~David Hume

Philosophy would render us entirely Pyrrhonian, were not nature too strong for it.

~David Hume

Accuracy is, in every case, advantageous to beauty, and just reasoning to delicate sentiment. In vain would we exalt the one by depreciating the other.

~David Hume

Reason is, and ought only to be the slave of the passions, and can never pretend to any other office than to serve and obey them.

~David Hume

This avidity alone, of acquiring goods and possessions for ourselves and our nearest friends, is insatiable, perpetual, universal, and directly destructive of society.

~David Hume

Praise never gives us much pleasure unless it concur with our own opinion, and extol us for those qualities in which we chiefly excel.

~David Hume

Where ambition can cover its enterprises, even to the person himself, under the appearance of principle, it is the most incurable and inflexible of passions

~David Hume

If ... the past may be no Rule for the future, all Experience becomes useless and can give rise to no Inferences or Conclusions.

~David Hume

Nothing is more dangerous to reason than the flights of the imagination and nothing has been the occasion of more mistakes among philosophers.

~David Hume

Art may make a suite of clothes, but nature must produce a man.

~David Hume

It affords a violent prejudice against almost every science, that no prudent man, however sure of his principles, dares prophesy concerning any event, or foretell the remote consequences of things.

~David Hume

Uncommon expressions are a disfigurement rather than an embellishment of discourse.

~David Hume

Avarice, the spur of industry.

~David Hume

The simplest and most obvious cause which can there be assigned for any phenomena, is probably the true one.

~David Hume

The richest genius, like the most fertile soil, when uncultivated, shoots up into the rankest weeds.

~David Hume

Great pleasures are much less frequent than great pains.

~David Hume

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