

# Edward Teller

## Quotes

*Science, Believe, Simple, Future, Technology, Education, Physics, May, Purpose, Defeat, Discovery, Hydrogen Bomb, Significant, Knowing, Extinction, Simplicity, Clean, Knowledge, Life, Cases*

The science of today is the technology of tomorrow.

~Edward Teller

Secrecy in science does not work. Withholding information does more damage to us than to our competitors.

~Edward Teller

There's no system foolproof enough to defeat a sufficiently great fool.

~Edward Teller

I believe in evil. It is the property of all those who are certain of truth. Despair and fanaticism are only differing manifestations of evil.

~Edward Teller

The extinction of the human race will come from its inability to EMOTIONALLY comprehend the exponential function.

~Edward Teller

Science attempts to find logic and simplicity in nature. Mathematics attempts to establish order and simplicity in human thought.

~Edward Teller

No endeavor that is worthwhile is simple in prospect; if it is right, it will be simple in retrospect.

~Edward Teller

We must learn to live with contradictions, because they lead to deeper and more effective understanding.

~Edward Teller

Had we not pursued the hydrogen bomb, there is a very real threat that we would now all be speaking Russian. I have no regrets.

~Edward Teller

I think that intellectuals who end up in hell will have to read page proofs and check indexes there.

~Edward Teller

The best weapon of a dictatorship is secrecy; the best weapon of a democracy is openness.

~Edward Teller

A fact is a simple statement that everyone believes. It is innocent, unless found guilty. A hypothesis is a novel suggestion that no one wants to believe. It is guilty, until found effective.

~Edward Teller

In the theater you create a moment, but in that moment, there is a touch, a twinkle of eternity. And not just eternity, but community. . . . That connection is a sense of life for me.

~Edward Teller

I hate doubt, yet I am certain that doubt is the only way to approach anything worth believing in.

~Edward Teller

I believe in excellence. It is a basic need of every human soul. All of us can be excellent, because, fortunately, we are exceedingly diverse in our ambitions and talents.

~Edward Teller

When Columbus took off, the purpose was to improve trade relations with China. That problem has not been solved to this very day, but just look at the by-products.

~Edward Teller

I believe in good. It is an ephemeral and elusive quality. It is the center of my beliefs, but it cannot be strengthened by talking about it.

~Edward Teller

There is a time for scientists and movie stars and those who have flown the atlantic to restrain their opinions lest they be taken more seriously than they should be.

~Edward Teller

Secrecy, once accepted, becomes an addiction.

~Edward Teller

U.S. has lost a battle more important and greater than Pearl Harbor.

~Edward Teller

Really exotic methods of propulsion . . . will have to be devised to get there. How it will be done, I do not know. Whether it will be done, I am not quite certain. But I would bet it can be done.

~Edward Teller

When you're certain you cannot be fooled, you become easy to fool.

~Edward Teller

Life improves slowly and goes wrong fast, and only catastrophe is clearly visible.

~Edward Teller

I am guilty of the great crime of optimism.

~Edward Teller

I claim that relativity and the rest of modern physics is not complicated. It can be explained very simply. It is only unusual or, put another way, it is contrary to common sense.

~Edward Teller

The main purpose of science is simplicity and as we understand more

things, everything is becoming simpler.

~Edward Teller

My experience has been in a short 77 years that in the end when you fight for a desperate cause and have good reasons to fight, you usually win.

~Edward Teller

I tried to contribute to the defeat of the Soviets. If I contributed 1%, it is 1% of something enormous.

~Edward Teller

Physics is, hopefully, simple. Physicists are not.

~Edward Teller

No, I'm the infamous Edward Teller.

~Edward Teller

Physics without mathematics is meaningless.

~Edward Teller

There is no case where ignorance should be preferred to knowledge - especially if the knowledge is terrible.

~Edward Teller

Society's emissions of carbon dioxide may or may not turn out to have something significant to do with global warming-the jury is still out.

~Edward Teller

In our educational institutions applied science may almost be described as a "no-man's land."

~Edward Teller

One may say that predictions are dangerous particularly for the future.

If the danger involved in a prediction is not incurred, no consequence follows and the uncertainty principle is not violated.

~Edward Teller

[Chemistry] laboratory work was my first challenge. ... I still carry the scars of my first discovery-that test-tubes are fragile.

~Edward Teller

A state-of-the-art calculation requires 100 hours of CPU time on the state-of-the-art computer, independent of the decade.

~Edward Teller

Two paradoxes are better than one they may even suggest a solution.

~Edward Teller

If anyone wants a hole in the ground, nuclear explosives can make big holes

~Edward Teller

The eyes of childhood are magnifying lenses.

~Edward Teller

Could we have avoided the tragedy of Hiroshima? Could we have started the atomic age with clean hands? No one knows. No one can find out.

~Edward Teller

If not for me, the H-bomb would have been developed in Russia first. In the U.S., we'd now be speaking Russian.

~Edward Teller

Today's science is tomorrow's technology.

~Edward Teller

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