

# Elias Canetti

## Quotes

*Men, People, Literature, Want, Inspirational, Justice, Dying, Statistics, Home,  
Mankind, Names, Important, Eye, Ifs, Hate, Self, Should, Fate, Thinking,  
Constellations*

The great writers of aphorisms read as if they had all known each other well.

~Elias Canetti

People love as self-recognition what they hate as an accusation.

~Elias Canetti

Whenever you observe an animal closely, you feel as if a human being sitting inside were making fun of you.

~Elias Canetti

All the things one has forgotten scream for help in dreams.

~Elias Canetti

There is no such thing as an ugly language. Today I hear every language as if it were the only one, and when I hear of one that is dying, it overwhelms me as though it were the death of the earth.

~Elias Canetti

Every decision is liberating, even if it leads to disaster. Otherwise, why do so many people walk upright and with open eyes into their misfortune?

~Elias Canetti

His head is made of stars, but not yet arranged into constellations.

~Elias Canetti

When you write down your life, every page should contain something no one has ever heard about

~Elias Canetti

The process of writing has something infinite about it. Even though it is interrupted each night, it is one single notation.

~Elias Canetti

Explain nothing. Put it there. Say it. Leave.

~Elias Canetti

There is nothing that man fears more than the touch of the unknown.

~Elias Canetti

A head full of stars, just not in constellation yet.

~Elias Canetti

Of all the words in all languages I know, the greatest concentration is in the English word I.

~Elias Canetti

It is important to say all the great thoughts again, without knowing that they have already been said.

~Elias Canetti

Speak as though it were the last sentence allowed you.

~Elias Canetti

Every decision is liberating, even if it leads to disaster.

~Elias Canetti

There is no doubt: the study of man is just beginning, at the same time that his end is in sight

~Elias Canetti

Success listens only to applause. To all else it is deaf

~Elias Canetti

Adults find pleasure in deceiving a child. They consider it necessary, but they also enjoy it. The children very quickly figure it out and then practice deception themselves.

~Elias Canetti

Learning is the art of ignoring.

~Elias Canetti

Understanding, as we understand it, is misunderstanding.

~Elias Canetti

The first effect of adjusting to other people is that one becomes boring.

~Elias Canetti

Beauty always has something remote.

~Elias Canetti

People's fates are simplified by their names.

~Elias Canetti

A 'modern' man has nothing to add to modernism, if only because he has nothing to oppose it with. The well-adapted drop off the dead limb of time like lice.

~Elias Canetti

Justice requires that everyone should have enough to eat. But it also requires that everyone should contribute to the production of food.

~Elias Canetti

The self-explorer, whether he wants to or not, becomes the explorer of everything else.

~Elias Canetti

The act of naming is the great and solemn consolation of mankind

~Elias Canetti

The fear of burglars is not only the fear of being robbed, but also the fear of a sudden and unexpected clutch out of the darkness.

~Elias Canetti

Success is the space one occupies in the newspaper. Success is one day's insolence.

~Elias Canetti

One has a prejudice wherever one fears a transformation.

~Elias Canetti

The profoundest thoughts of the philosophers have something trickle about them. A lot disappears in order for something to suddenly appear in the palm of the hand.

~Elias Canetti

Most religions do not make men better, only warier.

~Elias Canetti

Travelling, one accepts everything; indignation stays at home. One looks, one listens, one is roused to enthusiasm by the most dreadful things because they are new. Good travellers are heartless.

~Elias Canetti

A child. . . opens and closes like a blossom.

~Elias Canetti

There can be no Creator, simply because his grief at the fate of his creation would be inconceivable and unendurable.

~Elias Canetti

The planet's survival has become so uncertain that any effort, any thought that presupposes an assured future amounts to a mad gamble.

~Elias Canetti

I try to imagine someone saying to Shakespeare, 'Relax!'

~Elias Canetti

One should not confuse the craving for life with endorsement of it.

~Elias Canetti

Pessimists are not boring. Pessimists are right. Pessimists are superfluous.

~Elias Canetti

It doesn't matter how new an idea is: what matters is how new it becomes.

~Elias Canetti

Rulers who want to unleash war know very well that they must procure or invent a first victim.

~Elias Canetti

You have but to know an object by its proper name for it to lose its dangerous magic.

~Elias Canetti

...how could I, fool that I am, go on sitting in my office, or here at home, instead of leaping onto a train with my eyes shut and opening them only when I am with you?

~Elias Canetti

I cannot become modest; too many things burn in me; the old solutions are falling apart; nothing has been done yet with the new ones. So I begin, everywhere at once, as if I had a century ahead of me.

~Elias Canetti

Everything one records contains a grain of hope, no matter how deeply it may come from despair.

~Elias Canetti

It is important what a man still plans at the end. It shows the measure of

injustice in his death.

~Elias Canetti

You draw closer to truth by shutting yourself off from mankind.

~Elias Canetti

He who is obsessed by death is made guilty by it.

~Elias Canetti

Whether or not God is dead: it is impossible to keep silent about him who was there for so long.

~Elias Canetti

One should use praise to recognize what one is not.

~Elias Canetti

Words are not too old, only people are too old if they use the same words too frequently.

~Elias Canetti

Death is a scandal. The machine is functioning, we are all hostages

~Elias Canetti

I want to keep smashing myself until I am whole.

~Elias Canetti

As if one could know the good a person is capable of, when one doesn't know the bad he might do.

~Elias Canetti

History portrays everything as if it could not have come otherwise. History is on the side of what happened.

~Elias Canetti

In eternity everything is just beginning.

~Elias Canetti

In five minutes the earth would be a desert, and you cling to books.

~Elias Canetti

Someone who always has to lie discovers that every one of his lies is true

~Elias Canetti

A person often falls very ill in order to become someone else and then returns to health much disappointed.

~Elias Canetti

There emanates from superlatives a destructive force.

~Elias Canetti

He would like to start from scratch. Where is scratch?

~Elias Canetti

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