

# Eliezer Yudkowsky

## Quotes

*People, Thinking, Believe, Book, World, Zero, Years, Rationality, Reality, Law,  
Want, Trying, Doe, School, Mean, Skills, Important, Answers, Criticism, Ifs*

Moore's Law of Mad Science: Every eighteen months, the minimum IQ necessary to destroy the world drops by one point.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

You are personally responsible for becoming more ethical than the society you grew up in.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Many have stood their ground and faced the darkness when it comes for them. Fewer come for the darkness and force it to face them.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

By far the greatest danger of Artificial Intelligence is that people conclude too early that they understand it.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Trying and getting hurt can't possibly be worse for you than being... stuck.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

To worship a sacred mystery was just to worship your own ignorance.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

The AI does not hate you, nor does it love you, but you are made out of atoms which it can use for something else.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

The people I know who seem to make unusual efforts at rationality, are unusually honest, or, failing that, at least have unusually bad social skills.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

When you are older, you will learn that the first and foremost thing which any ordinary person does is nothing.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

I see little hope for democracy as an effective form of government, but I admire the poetry of how it makes its victims complicit in their own destruction.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Intelligence is the source of technology. If we can use technology to improve intelligence, that closes the loop and potentially creates a positive feedback cycle.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Science has heroes, but no gods. The great Names are not our superiors, or even our rivals, they are passed milestones on our road; and the most important milestone is the hero yet to come.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

To confess your fallibility and then do nothing about it is not humble; it is boasting of your modesty.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

There were mysterious questions, but a mysterious answer was a contradiction in terms.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Your strength as a rationalist is your ability to be more confused by fiction than by reality. If you are equally good at explaining any outcome, you have zero knowledge.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Not every change is an improvement but every improvement is a change; you can't do anything BETTER unless you can manage to do it DIFFERENTLY, you've got to let yourself do better than other people!

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

I'm lazy! I hate work! Hate hard work in all its forms! Clever shortcuts, that's all I'm about!

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

If people got hit on the head by a baseball bat every week, pretty soon they would invent reasons why getting hit on the head with a baseball bat was a good thing.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

There is light in the world, and it is us!

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

The strength of a theory is not what it allows, but what it prohibits; if you can invent an equally persuasive explanation for any outcome, you have zero knowledge.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

If you are equally good at explaining any outcome, you have zero knowledge.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Every mystery ever solved had been a puzzle from the dawn of the human species right up until someone solved it.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Lonely dissent doesn't feel like going to school dressed in black. It feels like going to school wearing a clown suit.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

I ask the fundamental question of rationality: Why do you believe what you believe? What do you think you know and how do you think you know it?

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Remember, if you succeed in everything you try in life, you're living below your full potential and you should take up more difficult or daring things.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

There are no surprising facts, only models that are surprised by facts; and if a model is surprised by the facts, it is no credit to that model.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

There's something in science like the shine of the Patronus Charm, driving back all sorts of darkness and madness.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

When you think of intelligence, don't think of a college professor; think of human beings as opposed to chimpanzees. If you don't have human intelligence, you're not even in the game.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

If cryonics were a scam it would have far better marketing and be far more popular.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

If the iron is hot, I desire to believe it is hot, and if it is cool, I desire to believe it is cool.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Singularitarians are the munchkins of the real world. We just ignore all the usual dungeons and head straight for the cycle of infinite wish spells.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

A burning itch to know is higher than a solemn vow to pursue truth. To feel the burning itch of curiosity requires both that you be ignorant, and that you desire to relinquish your ignorance.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

If you handed [character] a glass that was 90% full, he'd tell you that the 10% empty part proved that no one really cared about water.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

I don't want to rule the universe. I just think it could be more sensibly organised.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Rationality is the master lifehack which distinguishes which other lifehacks to use.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

What people really believe doesn't feel like a BELIEF, it feels like the way the world IS.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

After all, if you had the complete decision process, you could run it as an AI, and I'd be coding it up right now.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

If you don't sign up your kids for cryonics then you are a lousy parent.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

That which the truth nourishes should thrive.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Okay, so either (a) I just teleported somewhere else entirely (b) they can fold space like no one's business or (c) they are simply ignoring all the rules.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Boys," said Hermione Granger, "should not be allowed to love girls

without asking them first! This is true in a number of ways and especially when it comes to gluing people to the ceiling!

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

I am a full-time Research Fellow at the Machine Intelligence Research Institute, a small 501(c)(3) public charity supported primarily by individual donations.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

World domination is such an ugly phrase. I prefer to call it world optimisation.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

Existential depression has always annoyed me; it is one of the world's most pointless forms of suffering.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

We tend to see individual differences instead of human universals. Thus, when someone says the word 'intelligence,' we think of Einstein instead of humans.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

I'm wondering if there's a spell to make lightning flash in the background whenever I make an ominous resolution.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

I only want power so I can get books.

~Eliezer Yudkowsky

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