

Emile Durkheim

Quotes

Men, Order, Suicide, Law, Reality, Doe, Religious, Science, Practice, Thinking, Definitions, Social, Sadness, Ideas, Goal, Class, People, Suicidal, Meditation, Feelings

Each new generation is reared by its predecessor; the latter must therefore improve in order to improve its successor. The movement is circular.

~Emile Durkheim

We do not condemn it because it is a crime, but it is a crime because we condemn it.

~Emile Durkheim

When mores are sufficient, laws are unnecessary. When mores are insufficient, laws are unenforceable.

~Emile Durkheim

Our whole social environment seems to us to be filled with forces which really exist only in our own minds.

~Emile Durkheim

A mind that questions everything, unless strong enough to bear the weight of its ignorance, risks questioning itself and being engulfed in doubt.

~Emile Durkheim

Man is a moral being, only because he lives in society. Let all social life disappear and morality will disappear with it.

~Emile Durkheim

When man discovered the mirror, he began to lose his soul.

~Emile Durkheim

When morals are sufficient, law is unnecessary; when morals are insufficient, law is unenforceable.

~Emile Durkheim

If religion has given birth to all that is essential in society, it is because

the idea of society is the soul of religion.

~Emile Durkheim

To pursue a goal which is by definition unattainable is to condemn oneself to a state of perpetual unhappiness.

~Emile Durkheim

The totality of beliefs and sentiments common to the average members of a society forms a determinate system with a life of its own. It can be termed the collective or creative consciousness.

~Emile Durkheim

Man cannot become attached to higher aims and submit to a rule if he sees nothing above him to which he belongs. To free him from all social pressure is to abandon him to himself and demoralize him.

~Emile Durkheim

Religious representations are collective representations which express collective realities.

~Emile Durkheim

It is science, and not religion, which has taught men that things are complex and difficult to understand.

~Emile Durkheim

It is only by historical analysis that we can discover what makes up man, since it is only in the course of history that he is formed.

~Emile Durkheim

Man could not live if he were entirely impervious to sadness. Many sorrows can be endured only by being embraced, and the pleasure taken in them naturally has a somewhat melancholy character.

~Emile Durkheim

The term suicide is applied to all cases of death resulting directly or indirectly from a positive or negative act of the victim himself, which he knows will produce this result

~Emile Durkheim

There is no sociology worthy of the name which does not possess a historical character.

~Emile Durkheim

By definition, sacred beings are separated beings. That which characterizes them is that there is a break of continuity between them and the profane beings.

~Emile Durkheim

Socialism is not a science, a sociology in miniature: it is a cry of pain.

~Emile Durkheim

Science cannot describe individuals, but only types. If human societies cannot be classified, they must remain inaccessible to scientific description.

~Emile Durkheim

The man whose whole activity is diverted to inner meditation becomes insensible to all his surroundings.

~Emile Durkheim

Reality seems valueless by comparison with the dreams of fevered imaginations; reality is therefore abandoned.

~Emile Durkheim

The first and most basic rule is to consider social facts as things.

~Emile Durkheim

It is too great comfort which turns a man against himself. Life is most

readily renounced at the time and among the classes where it is least harsh.

~Emile Durkheim

Too cheerful a morality is a loose morality; it is appropriate only to decadent peoples and is found only among them.

~Emile Durkheim

Sadness does not inhere in things; it does not reach us from the world and through mere contemplation of the world. It is a product of our own thought. We create it out of whole cloth.

~Emile Durkheim

Even one well-made observation will be enough in many cases, just as one well-constructed experiment often suffices for the establishment of a law.

~Emile Durkheim

Social life comes from a double source, the likeness of consciences and the division of social labour.

~Emile Durkheim

Faith is not uprooted by dialectic proof; it must already be deeply shaken by other causes to be unable to withstand the shock of argument.

~Emile Durkheim

An act cannot be defined by the end sought by the actor, for an identical system of behaviour may be adjustable to too many different ends without altering its nature.

~Emile Durkheim

Irrespective of any external, regulatory force, our capacity for feeling is in itself an insatiable and bottomless abyss.

~Emile Durkheim

The wise man, knowing how to enjoy achieved results without having constantly to replace them with others, finds in them an attachment to life in the hour of difficulty.

~Emile Durkheim

Men have been obliged to make for themselves a notion of what religion is, long before the science of religions started its methodical comparisons.

~Emile Durkheim

One does not advance when one walks toward no goal, or - which is the same thing - when his goal is infinity.

~Emile Durkheim

At first sight, one does not see what relations there can be between religion and logic.

~Emile Durkheim

Religious phenomena are naturally arranged in two fundamental categories: beliefs and rites. The first are states of opinion, and consist in representations; the second are determined modes of action.

~Emile Durkheim

Maniacal suicide. "This is due to hallucinations or delirious conceptions. The patient kills himself to escape from an imaginary danger or disgrace, or to obey a mysterious order from on high, etc.

~Emile Durkheim

I can be free only to the extent that others are forbidden to profit from their physical, economic, or other superiority to the detriment of my liberty.

~Emile Durkheim

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