

Eric Hoffer

Quotes

*Men, Self, People, Literature, Society, Hate, Thinking, Believe, Sacrifice,
Children, Mean, Soul, Power, Life, Art, World, Desire, Real, Giving, Mind*

The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings.

~Eric Hoffer

Propaganda does not deceive people; it merely helps them to deceive themselves.

~Eric Hoffer

The real Antichrist is he who turns the wine of an original idea into the water of mediocrity.

~Eric Hoffer

I hang onto my prejudices, they are the testicles of my mind.

~Eric Hoffer

I can never forget that one of the most gifted, best educated nations in the world, of its own free will, surrendered its fate into the hands of a maniac.

~Eric Hoffer

The suspicious mind believes more than it doubts. It believes in a formidable and ineradicable evil lurking in every person.

~Eric Hoffer

We are more ready to try the untried when what we do is inconsequential. Hence the remarkable fact that many inventions had their birth as toys.

~Eric Hoffer

Creativity is the ability to introduce order into the randomness of nature.

~Eric Hoffer

Nonconformists travel as a rule in bunches. You rarely find a

nonconformist who goes it alone. And woe to him inside a nonconformist clique who does not conform with nonconformity.

~Eric Hoffer

When hopes and dreams are loose in the streets, it is well for the timid to lock doors, shutter windows and lie low until the wrath has passed.

~Eric Hoffer

It is thus with most of us; we are what other people say we are. We know ourselves chiefly by hearsay.

~Eric Hoffer

The basic test of freedom is perhaps less in what we are free to do than in what we are free not to do.

~Eric Hoffer

Fair play is primarily not blaming others for anything that is wrong with us.

~Eric Hoffer

We are told that talent creates its own opportunities. But it sometimes seems that intense desire creates not only its own opportunities, but its own talents.

~Eric Hoffer

The nature of a society is largely determined by the direction in which talent and ambition flow - by the tilt of the social landscape.

~Eric Hoffer

A passionate obsession with the outside world or the private lives of others is an attempt to compensate for a lack of meaning in one's own life

~Eric Hoffer

Rudeness is a weak imitation of strength.

~Eric Hoffer

It takes a vice to check a vice, and virtue is the by-product of a stalemate between opposite vices.

~Eric Hoffer

To become different from what we are, we must have some awareness of what we are.

~Eric Hoffer

The only way to predict the future is to have power to shape the future.

~Eric Hoffer

No matter how noble the objectives of a government, if it blurs decency and kindness, cheapens human life, and breeds ill will and suspicion; it is an evil government.

~Eric Hoffer

Learners inherit the earth; while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.

~Eric Hoffer

Should Americans begin to hate foreigners wholeheartedly, it will be an indication that they have lost confidence in their own way of life.

~Eric Hoffer

A man is likely to mind his own business when it is worth minding. When it is not, he takes his mind off his own meaningless affairs by minding other people's business.

~Eric Hoffer

Our greatest pretenses are built up not to hide the evil and the ugly in us, but our emptiness. The hardest thing to hide is something that is not

there.

~Eric Hoffer

One of the chief differences between an adult and a juvenile is that the adult knows when he is an ass while the juvenile never does.

~Eric Hoffer

One of the marks of a truly vigorous society is the ability to dispense with passion as a midwife of action - the ability to pass directly from thought to action.

~Eric Hoffer

The leader has to be practical and a realist, yet must talk the language of the visionary and the idealist.

~Eric Hoffer

In a time of drastic change, it is the learners who inherit the future.

~Eric Hoffer

An empty head is not really empty; it is stuffed with rubbish. Hence the difficulty of forcing anything into an empty head.

~Eric Hoffer

There is in most passions a shrinking away from ourselves. The passionate pursuer has all the earmarks of a fugitive.

~Eric Hoffer

Retribution often means that we eventually do to ourselves what we have done unto others.

~Eric Hoffer

People who bite the hand that feeds them usually lick the boot that kicks them.

~Eric Hoffer

The true believer, no matter how rowdy and violent his acts, is basically an obedient and submissive person.

~Eric Hoffer

Passionate hatred can give meaning and purpose to an empty life.

~Eric Hoffer

Our credulity is greatest concerning the things we know least about.

~Eric Hoffer

It is easier to love humanity as a whole than to love one's neighbor.

~Eric Hoffer

Man staggers through life yapped at by his reason, pulled and shoved by his appetites, whispered to by fears, beckoned by hopes. Small wonder that what he craves most is self-forgetting.

~Eric Hoffer

You can discover what your enemy fears most by observing the means he uses to frighten you.

~Eric Hoffer

It is the child in man that is the source of his uniqueness and creativeness, and the playground is the optimal milieu for the unfolding of his capacities and talents.

~Eric Hoffer

The search for happiness is one of the chief sources of unhappiness.

~Eric Hoffer

It is not so much the example of others we imitate as the reflection of ourselves in their eyes and the echo of ourselves in their words.

~Eric Hoffer

The beginning of thought is in disagreement - not only with others but also with ourselves.

~Eric Hoffer

There would be no society if living together depended upon understanding each other.

~Eric Hoffer

What monstrosities would walk the streets were some people's faces as unfinished as their minds.

~Eric Hoffer

Someone who thinks the world is always cheating him is right. He is missing that wonderful feeling of trust in someone or something.

~Eric Hoffer

It is futile to judge a kind deed by its motives. Kindness can become its own motive. We are made kind by being kind.

~Eric Hoffer

Children are the keys of paradise.

~Eric Hoffer

A grievance is most poignant when almost redressed.

~Eric Hoffer

Even in slight things the experience of the new is rarely without some stirring of foreboding.

~Eric Hoffer

When people are free to do as they please, they usually imitate each other.

~Eric Hoffer

Rudeness is the weak man's limitation of strength.

~Eric Hoffer

The greatest weariness comes from work not done.

~Eric Hoffer

A nation without dregs and malcontents is orderly, peaceful and pleasant, but perhaps without the seed of things to come.

~Eric Hoffer

Far more critical than what we know or what we don't know is what we don't want to know.

~Eric Hoffer

No matter what our achievements might be, we think well of ourselves only in rare moments.

~Eric Hoffer

Where there is the necessary technical skill to move mountains, there is no need for the faith that moves mountains.

~Eric Hoffer

Fear comes from uncertainty. When we are absolutely certain, whether of our worth or worthlessness, we are almost impervious to fear. Thus a feeling of utter unworthiness can be a source of courage.

~Eric Hoffer

It is compassion rather than the principle of justice which can guard us against being unjust to our fellow men.

~Eric Hoffer

A dissenting minority feels free only when it can impose its will on the majority: what it abominates most is the dissent of the majority.

~Eric Hoffer

The savior who wants to turn men into angels is as much a hater of human nature as the totalitarian despot who wants to turn them into puppets.

~Eric Hoffer

Disappointment is a sort of bankruptcy - the bankruptcy of a soul that expends too much in hope and expectation.

~Eric Hoffer

Compassion is the antitoxin of the soul: where there is compassion even the most poisonous impulses remain relatively harmless.

~Eric Hoffer

We all have private ails. The troublemakers are they who need public cures for their private ails.

~Eric Hoffer

Our frustration is greater when we have much and want more than when we have nothing and want some. We are less dissatisfied when we lack many things than when we seem to lack but one thing.

~Eric Hoffer

Without a sense of proportion there can be neither good taste nor genuine intelligence, nor perhaps moral integrity.

~Eric Hoffer

The opposite of the religious fanatic is not the fanatical atheist but the gentle cynic who cares not whether there is a god or not.

~Eric Hoffer

Naivete in grownups is often charming; but when coupled with vanity it is indistinguishable from stupidity.

~Eric Hoffer

It is part of the formidableness of a genuine mass movement that the self-sacrifice it promotes includes also a sacrifice of some of the moral sense, which cramps and restrains our nature.

~Eric Hoffer

We are made kind by being kind.

~Eric Hoffer

The uncompromising attitude is more indicative of an inner uncertainty than a deep conviction. The implacable stand is directed more against the doubt within than the assailant without.

~Eric Hoffer

There is apparently no surer way of turning a thing into its opposite than by exaggerating it

~Eric Hoffer

We can be absolutely certain only about things we do not understand.

~Eric Hoffer

Add a few drops of venom to a half truth and you have an absolute truth.

~Eric Hoffer

You can never get enough of what you don't need to make you happy.

~Eric Hoffer

Absolute faith corrupts as absolutely as absolute power.

~Eric Hoffer

It is by its promise of a sense of power that evil often attracts the weak.

~Eric Hoffer

It still holds true that man is most uniquely human when he turns

obstacles into opportunities.

~Eric Hoffer

Wise living consists perhaps less in acquiring good habits than in acquiring as few habits as possible.

~Eric Hoffer

When you automate an industry you modernize it; when you automate a life you primitivize it.

~Eric Hoffer

The hardest thing to cope with is not selfishness or vanity or deceitfulness, but sheer stupidity.

~Eric Hoffer

Power corrupts the few, while weakness corrupts the many.

~Eric Hoffer

The burning conviction that we have a holy duty toward others is often a way of attaching our drowning selves to a passing raft.

~Eric Hoffer

Self-contempt, however vague, sharpens our eyes for the imperfections of others. We usually strive to reveal in others the blemishes we hide in ourselves.

~Eric Hoffer

To know a person's religion we need not listen to his profession of faith but must find his brand of intolerance.

~Eric Hoffer

To spell out the obvious is often to call it in question.

~Eric Hoffer

A soul that is reluctant to share does not as a rule have much of its own. Miserliness is here a symptom of meagerness.

~Eric Hoffer

You rarely find a nonconformist who goes it alone.

~Eric Hoffer

We see through others only when we see through ourselves.

~Eric Hoffer

We do not really feel grateful toward those who make our dreams come true; they ruin our dreams.

~Eric Hoffer

Rudeness luxuriates in the absence of self-respect.

~Eric Hoffer

It is easier to hate an enemy with much good in him than one who is all bad. We cannot hate those we despise.

~Eric Hoffer

There is no loneliness greater than the loneliness of a failure. The failure is a stranger in his own house.

~Eric Hoffer

We usually see only the things we are looking for- so much so that we sometimes see them where they are not.

~Eric Hoffer

Self-esteem and self-contempt have specific odors; they can be smelled.

~Eric Hoffer

Nationalist pride, like other variants of pride, can be a substitute for

self-respect.

~Eric Hoffer

Compassion is the antitoxin of the soul.

~Eric Hoffer

What greater reassurance can the weak have than that they are like anyone else?

~Eric Hoffer

The majority prove their worth by keeping busy. A busy life is the nearest thing to a purposeful life.

~Eric Hoffer

It would be difficult to exaggerate the degree to which we are influenced by those we influence.

~Eric Hoffer

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