

Ernest Renan

Quotes

Men, Jesus, People, History, Sacrifice, Life, Atheism, Writing, Death, Done, Ideas, Education, Work, Humanity, May, Religious, Christian, Beautiful, Wish, Believe

Our opinions become fixed at the point where we stop thinking.

~Ernest Renan

I can die when I wish to: that is my elixir of life.

~Ernest Renan

Muslims are the first victims of Islam. To liberate a Muslim from his religion is the best service that one can render him!

~Ernest Renan

Man makes holy what he believes as he makes beautiful what he loves.

~Ernest Renan

Forgetfulness, and I would even say historical error, are essential in the creation of a nation.

~Ernest Renan

A nation is a body of people who have done great things together.

~Ernest Renan

Good humor is a philosophic state of mind; it seems to say to nature that we take her no more seriously than she takes us.

~Ernest Renan

To have common glories in the past, a common will in the present; to have done great things together, to will to do the like again, "such are the essential conditions for the making of a people.

~Ernest Renan

No idea can succeed except at the expense of sacrifice; no one ever escapes without enduring strain from the struggle of life.

~Ernest Renan

To be able to think freely, a man must be certain that no consequence will follow whatever he writes.

~Ernest Renan

When people complain of life, it is almost always because they have asked impossible things of it.

~Ernest Renan

It is through Christianity that Judaism has really conquered the world. Christianity is the masterpiece of Judaism.

~Ernest Renan

Getting its history wrong is part of being a nation.

~Ernest Renan

A grain of sand leads to the fall of a mountain when the moment has come for the mountain to fall.

~Ernest Renan

Communism is in conflict with human nature.

~Ernest Renan

The talent of historians lies in their creating a true ensemble out of facts which are but half true.

~Ernest Renan

The simplest schoolboy is now familiar with truths for which Archimedes would have sacrificed his life.

~Ernest Renan

As a rule, all heroism is due to a lack of reflection, and thus it is necessary to maintain a mass of imbeciles. If they once understand themselves the ruling men will be lost.

~Ernest Renan

Jesus was the greatest religious genius that ever lived.

~Ernest Renan

The prayer of the agnostic: "O God, if there is a God, save my soul if I have a soul."

~Ernest Renan

The epic disappeared along with the age of personal heroism; there can be no epic with artillery.

~Ernest Renan

The man who obeys is nearly always better than the man who commands.

~Ernest Renan

As soon as sacrifice becomes a duty and necessity to mankind. I see no limit to the horizon which opens before him.

~Ernest Renan

Work is the best thing to make us love life.

~Ernest Renan

Let us remember that sorrow alone is the creator of great things.

~Ernest Renan

Blessed are the blind, for they know not enough to ask why.

~Ernest Renan

All history is incomprehensible without Christ.

~Ernest Renan

All the great things of humanity have been accomplished in the name of absolute principles.

~Ernest Renan

To conceive the good, in fact, is not sufficient; it must be made to succeed among men. To accomplish this less pure paths must be followed.

~Ernest Renan

He whom God has touched will always be a being apart: he is, whatever he may do, a stranger among men; he is marked by a sign.

~Ernest Renan

Relax yourself from one job by doing a different one.

~Ernest Renan

The liberty of the individual is a necessary postulate of human progress.

~Ernest Renan

The virtue of man is, in a word, the great proof of God.

~Ernest Renan

Religion is not a popular error; it is a great instinctive truth, sensed by the people, expressed by the people.

~Ernest Renan

His glory Jesus Christ does not consist in being placed without the confines of history; a more real worship is paid to him, by showing that the whole of history is incomprehensible without him.

~Ernest Renan

In morals, truth is but little prized when it is a mere sentiment, and only attains its full value when realized in the world as fact.

~Ernest Renan

You may take great comfort from the fact that suffering inwardly for the sake of truth proves abundantly that one loves it and marks one out as

being of the elect.

~Ernest Renan

History is as much an art as a science.

~Ernest Renan

The ignorance of French society gives one a rough sense of the infinite.

~Ernest Renan

The greatest men of a nation are those it puts to death.

~Ernest Renan

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