

Gaston Bachelard

Quotes

Dream, Memories, Life, Men, World, Giving, Poetry, Imagination, Book, Children, House, Childhood, Writing, Past, Soul, Real, Reality, Love, Space, Reading

The subconscious is ceaselessly murmuring, and it is by listening to these murmurs that one hears its truth.

~Gaston Bachelard

One must always maintain one's connection to the past and yet ceaselessly pull away from it.

~Gaston Bachelard

If I were asked to name the chief benefit of the house, I should say: the house shelters day-dreaming, the house protects the dreamer, the house allows one to dream in peace.

~Gaston Bachelard

Even a minor event in the life of a child is an event of that child's world and thus a world event.

~Gaston Bachelard

Reverie is not a mind vacuum. It is rather the gift of an hour which knows the plenitude of the soul.

~Gaston Bachelard

What is the source of our first suffering? It lies in the fact that we hesitated to speak... It was born in the moment when we accumulated silent things within us.

~Gaston Bachelard

A house that has been experienced is not an inert box. Inhabited space transcends geometrical space.

~Gaston Bachelard

When the image is new, the world is new.

~Gaston Bachelard

Our house is our corner of the world.

~Gaston Bachelard

Rilke wrote: 'These trees are magnificent, but even more magnificent is the sublime and moving space between them, as though with their growth it too increased.

~Gaston Bachelard

Daydream transports the dreamer outside the immediate world to a world that bears the mark of infinity.

~Gaston Bachelard

A word is a bud attempting to become a twig. How can one not dream while writing? It is the pen which dreams. The blank page gives the right to dream.

~Gaston Bachelard

Childhood lasts all through life. It returns to animate broad sections of adult life... Poets will help us to find this living childhood within us, this permanent, durable immobile world.

~Gaston Bachelard

The house protects the dreamer, the house allows one to dream in peace

~Gaston Bachelard

Poetry is one of the destinies of speech... One would say that the poetic image, in its newness, opens a future to language.

~Gaston Bachelard

Love is never finished expressing itself, and it expresses itself better the more poetically it is dreamed.

~Gaston Bachelard

So, like a forgotten fire, a childhood can always flare up again within us.

~Gaston Bachelard

To disappear into deep water or to disappear toward a far horizon, to become part of depth of infinity, such is the destiny of man that finds its image in the destiny of water.

~Gaston Bachelard

The blank page gives us the right to dream.

~Gaston Bachelard

He who ceases to learn cannot adequately teach.

~Gaston Bachelard

All knowledge is in response to a question. If there were no question, there would be no scientific knowledge. Nothing proceeds from itself.

~Gaston Bachelard

The reveries of two solitary souls prepare the sweetness of loving.

~Gaston Bachelard

Ideas are refined and multiplied in the commerce of minds. In their splendor, images effect a very simple communion of souls.

~Gaston Bachelard

Man is a creation of desire, not a creation of need.

~Gaston Bachelard

Words are clamor-filled shells. There's many a story in the miniature of a single word!

~Gaston Bachelard

The only possible proof of the existence of water, the most convincing and the most intimately true proof, is thirst.

~Gaston Bachelard

Through imagination, thanks to the subtleties of the irreality function, we re-enter the world of confidence, the world of the confident being, which is the proper world for reverie.

~Gaston Bachelard

We must listen to poets.

~Gaston Bachelard

A special kind of beauty exists which is born in language, of language, and for language.

~Gaston Bachelard

The repose of sleep refreshes only the body. It rarely sets the soul at rest.

~Gaston Bachelard

One must live to build one's house, and not build one's house to live in.

~Gaston Bachelard

Man is an imagining being.

~Gaston Bachelard

The characteristic of scientific progress is our knowing that we did not know.

~Gaston Bachelard

We are never real historians, but always near poets, and our emotion is perhaps nothing but an expression of a poetry that was lost.

~Gaston Bachelard

To feel most beautifully alive means to be reading something beautiful.

~Gaston Bachelard

The great function of poetry is to give back to us the situations of our

dreams.

~Gaston Bachelard

The best proof of the specificity of the book is that it is at once a reality of the virtual and a virtuality of the real.

~Gaston Bachelard

If we did not have a feminine being within us, how would we rest ourselves?

~Gaston Bachelard

Nobody knows that in reading we are re-living our temptations to be a poet. All readers who have a certain passion for reading, nurture and repress, through reading, the desire to become a writer.

~Gaston Bachelard

To live life well is to express life poorly; if one expresses life too well, one is living it no longer.

~Gaston Bachelard

Childhood lasts all through life.

~Gaston Bachelard

Words, in their distant past, have the past of my reveries.

~Gaston Bachelard

Instead of looking for the dream in reverie, people should look for reverie in the dream. There are calm beaches in the midst of nightmares.

~Gaston Bachelard

The spoken reverie of substances calls matter to birth, to life, to spirituality.

~Gaston Bachelard

There is no original truth, only original error.

~Gaston Bachelard

Literary imagination is an aesthetic object offered by a writer to a lover of books.

~Gaston Bachelard

Empirical description involves enslavement to the object by decreeing passivity on the part of the subject.

~Gaston Bachelard

It is better to live in a state of impermanence than in one of finality.

~Gaston Bachelard

Ideas are invented only as correctives to the past. Through repeated rectification of this kind one may hope to disengage an idea that is valid.

~Gaston Bachelard

Two half philosophers will probably never a whole metaphysician make.

~Gaston Bachelard

True poetry is a function of awakening. It awakens us, but it must retain the memory of previous dreams.

~Gaston Bachelard

Childhood knows unhappiness through men. In solitude, it can relax its aches. When the human world leaves him in peace, the child feels like the son of the cosmos.

~Gaston Bachelard

Our whole childhood remains to be reimagined. In reimagining it, we have the possibility of recovering it in the very life of our reveries as a

solitary child.

~Gaston Bachelard

The past of the soul is so distant! The soul does not live on the edge of time. It finds its rest in the universe imagined by reverie.

~Gaston Bachelard

A clear conscience is, for me, an occupied conscience-never empty-the conscience of a man at work until his last breath.

~Gaston Bachelard

The dream remains overloaded with the badly lived passions of daytime life. Solitude in the nocturnal dream is always a hostility. It is strange. It isn't really our solitude.

~Gaston Bachelard

Any comparison diminishes the expressive qualities of the terms of the comparison.

~Gaston Bachelard

Why should the actions of the imagination not be as real as those of perception?

~Gaston Bachelard

It will always be a fact that the woman is the person one idealizes, also the person who wishes his idealization.

~Gaston Bachelard

We understand nature by resisting it.

~Gaston Bachelard

The night dreamer cannot articulate a cogito. The night dream is a dream without a dreamer.

~Gaston Bachelard

A book is always an emergence above everyday life. A book is expressed life and thus is an addition to life.

~Gaston Bachelard

The reflected world is the conquest of calm.

~Gaston Bachelard

The cleverer I am at miniaturizing the world, the better I possess it.

~Gaston Bachelard

Happy is the man who knows or even the man who remembers those silent vigils where silence itself was the sign of the communion of souls!

~Gaston Bachelard

What action could bodies and substances have if they were not named in a further increase of dignity where common nouns become proper nouns?

~Gaston Bachelard

In our life as a civilized person in the industrial age, we are invaded by objects; how could an object have a "force" when it no longer has individuality?

~Gaston Bachelard

It is a poor reverie which invites a nap. One must even wonder whether, in this "failing asleep", the subconscious itself does not undergo a decline in being.

~Gaston Bachelard

It is through the intentionality of poetic imagination that the poet's soul discovers the opening of consciousness common to all true poetry.

~Gaston Bachelard

The poetic image is a sudden salience on the surface of the psyche

~Gaston Bachelard

In living off all the reflecting light furnished by poets, the I which dreams the reverie reveals itself not as poet but as poetizing I.

~Gaston Bachelard

The poetic image exists apart from causality.

~Gaston Bachelard

Irony gives us, at little expense, the impression that we are experienced psychologists.

~Gaston Bachelard

The reverie would not last if it were not nourished by the images of the sweetness of living, by the illusions of happiness.

~Gaston Bachelard

A man is a man to the extent that he is a superman. A man should be defined by the sum of those tendencies which impel him to surpass the human condition.

~Gaston Bachelard

For a knowledge of intimacy, localization in the spaces of our intimacy is more urgent than determination of dates.

~Gaston Bachelard

To go upstairs in the word house is to withdraw step by step; while to go down to the cellar is to dream.

~Gaston Bachelard

In writing, you discover interior sonorities in words. Diphthongs sound differently beneath the pen. One hears them with their sounds divorced.

~Gaston Bachelard

The philosophy of poetry must acknowledge that the poetic act has no past, at least no recent past, in which its preparation and appearance could be followed.

~Gaston Bachelard

Air is the very substance of our freedom, the substance of superhuman joy.... aerial joy is freedom.

~Gaston Bachelard

One doesn't read poetry while thinking of other things.

~Gaston Bachelard

The poetic image [â€™] is not an echo of the past. On the contrary: through the brilliance of any image, the distant past resounds with echoes.

~Gaston Bachelard

To verify images kills them, and it is always more enriching to imagine than to experience.

~Gaston Bachelard

An excess of childhood is the germ of a poem.

~Gaston Bachelard

For in the end, the irreality function functions as well in the face of man as in the face of the cosmos. What would we know of others if we did not imagine things?

~Gaston Bachelard

We comfort ourselves by reliving memories of protection

~Gaston Bachelard

Of course, any simplification runs the risk of mutilating reality; but it helps us establish perspectives.

~Gaston Bachelard

The metaphor is~ an origin, the origin of an image which acts directly, immediately.

~Gaston Bachelard

All the senses awaken and fall into harmony in poetic reverie. Poetic reverie listens to this polyphony of the senses, and the poetic consciousness must record it.

~Gaston Bachelard

At all times and in all fields the explanation by fire is a rich explanation.

~Gaston Bachelard

The words of the world want to make sentences.

~Gaston Bachelard

Dreaming by the river, I dedicated my imagination to water, to clear, green water, the water that makes the meadows green.

~Gaston Bachelard

By listening to certain words as a child listens to the sea in a seashell, a word dreamer hears the murmur of a world of dreams.

~Gaston Bachelard

The human mind has claimed for water one of its highest values-the value of purity.

~Gaston Bachelard

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