

# George Santayana Quotes

*Men, Art, Philosophy, World, Mind, Passion, Memories, Life, Soul, Inspirational,  
Love, Religion, Ideas, May, Imagination, People, Beauty, Real, Wisdom, Believe*

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

~George Santayana

To be interested in the changing seasons is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring.

~George Santayana

Do not have evil-doers for friends, do not have low people for friends: have virtuous people for friends, have for friends the best of men.

~George Santayana

There is no cure for birth and death save to enjoy the interval.

~George Santayana

The passions grafted on wounded pride are the most inveterate; they are green and vigorous in old age.

~George Santayana

Each religion, by the help of more or less myth, which it takes more or less seriously, proposes some method of fortifying the human soul and enabling it to make its peace with its destiny.

~George Santayana

Intelligence is quickness in seeing things as they are.

~George Santayana

Experience seems to most of us to lead to conclusions, but empiricism has sworn never to draw them.

~George Santayana

Man is a gregarious animal, and much more so in his mind than in his body. He may like to go alone for a walk, but he hates to stand alone in his opinions.

~George Santayana

The Difficult is that which can be done immediately; the Impossible that which takes a little longer.

~George Santayana

It is easier to make a saint out of a libertine than out of a prig.

~George Santayana

Self-assurance is contemptible and fatal unless it is self-knowledge.

~George Santayana

People never believe in volcanoes until the lava actually overtakes them.

~George Santayana

My atheism, like that of Spinoza, is true piety towards the universe and denies only gods fashioned by men in their own image, to be servants of their human interests.

~George Santayana

The wisest mind has something yet to learn.

~George Santayana

A child educated only at school is an uneducated child.

~George Santayana

Character is the basis of happiness and happiness the sanction of character.

~George Santayana

Wealth, religion, military victory have more rhetorical than efficacious worth.

~George Santayana

The philosophy of the common man is an old wife that gives him no

pleasure, yet he cannot live without her, and resents any aspersions that strangers may cast on her character.

~George Santayana

An artist is a dreamer consenting to dream of the actual world.

~George Santayana

To be happy you must have taken the measure of your powers, tasted the fruits of your passion, and learned your place in the world.

~George Santayana

Wisdom lies in taking everything with good humor and a grain of salt.

~George Santayana

To me, it seems a dreadful indignity to have a soul controlled by geography.

~George Santayana

For an idea ever to be fashionable is ominous, since it must afterwards be always old fashioned

~George Santayana

To call war the soil of courage and virtue is like calling debauchery the soil of love.

~George Santayana

Depression is rage spread thin.

~George Santayana

Perhaps the universe is nothing but an equilibrium of idiocies.

~George Santayana

A man's feet should be planted in his country, but his eyes should survey the world.

~George Santayana

We must welcome the future, remembering that soon it will be the past; and we must respect the past, remembering that it was once all that was humanly possible.

~George Santayana

Skepticism is a discipline fit to purify the mind of prejudice and render it all the more apt, when the time comes, to believe and to act wisely.

~George Santayana

A country without a memory is a country of madmen.

~George Santayana

I like to walk about amidst the beautiful things that adorn the world.

~George Santayana

Our character ... is an omen of our destiny, and the more integrity we have and keep, the simpler and nobler that destiny is likely to be.

~George Santayana

Man is not made to understand life, but to live it.

~George Santayana

I believe in general in a dualism between facts and the ideas of those facts in human heads.

~George Santayana

In a moving world readaptation is the price of longevity.

~George Santayana

If artists and poets are unhappy, it is after all because happiness does not interest them.

~George Santayana

Knowledge of what is possible is the beginning of happiness.

~George Santayana

Men become superstitious, not because they have too much imagination, but because they are not aware that they have any.

~George Santayana

A man is morally free when, in full possession of his living humanity, he judges the world, and judges other men, with uncompromising sincerity.

~George Santayana

Whoever it was who searched the heavens with a telescope and found no God would not have found the human mind if he had searched the brain with a microscope.

~George Santayana

In Greece wise men speak and fools decide.

~George Santayana

Graphic design is the paradise of individuality, eccentricity, heresy, abnormality, hobbies and humors.

~George Santayana

Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

~George Santayana

Beauty is a pledge of the possible conformity between the soul and nature, and consequently a ground of faith in the supremacy of the good.

~George Santayana

Skepticism is the chastity of the intellect...

~George Santayana

Fanaticism consists of redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim.

~George Santayana

It is a great bond to dislike the same things.

~George Santayana

Religion is the natural reaction of the imagination when confronted by the difficulties in a truculent world.

~George Santayana

Chaos is a name for any order that produces confusion in our minds.

~George Santayana

The earth has music for those who listen.

~George Santayana

Only the dead have seen the end of the war.

~George Santayana

In each person I catch the fleeting suggestion of something beautiful and swear eternal friendship with that.

~George Santayana

love make us poets, and the approach of death should make us philosophers.

~George Santayana

If pain could have cured us we should long ago have been saved.

~George Santayana

Happiness is the only sanction of life; where happiness fails, existence

remains a mad and lamentable experiment.

~George Santayana

The pride of the artisan in his art and its uses is pride in himself...It is in his skill and ability to make things as he wishes them to be that he rejoices.

~George Santayana

Nothing can so pierce the soul as the uttermost sigh of the body.

~George Santayana

Friendship is almost always the union of a part of one mind with the part of another; people are friends in spots.

~George Santayana

Repetition is the only form of permanence that Nature can achieve.

~George Santayana

History is a pack of lies about events that never happened told by people who weren't there.

~George Santayana

To know what people really think, pay regard to what they do, rather than what they say.

~George Santayana

Familiarity breeds contempt only when it breeds inattention.

~George Santayana

A soul is but the last bubble of a long fermentation in the world.

~George Santayana

The true Christian is in all countries a pilgrim and a stranger.

~George Santayana



Advertising is the modern substitute for argument; its function is to make the worse appear the better.

~George Santayana

The highest form of vanity is love of fame.

~George Santayana

The body is an instrument, the mind its function, the witness and reward of its operation.

~George Santayana

Periods of tranquillity are seldom prolific of creative achievement. Mankind has to be stirred up.

~George Santayana

The lover knows much more about absolute good and universal beauty than any logician or theologian, unless the latter, too, be lovers in disguise.

~George Santayana

Oaths are the fossils of piety.

~George Santayana

Society is like the air, necessary to breathe but insufficient to live on.

~George Santayana

The theatre, for all its artifices, depicts life in a sense more truly than history, because the medium has a kindred movement to that of real life, though an artificial setting and form.

~George Santayana

Eternal vigilance is the price of knowledge.

~George Santayana

Nonsense is so good only because common sense is so limited.

~George Santayana

The truth is cruel, but it can be loved, and it makes free those who have loved it.

~George Santayana

The mass of mankind is divided into two classes, the Sancho Panza's who have a sense for reality, but no ideals, and the Don Quixote's with a sense for ideals, but mad.

~George Santayana

Well-bred instinct meets reason halfway

~George Santayana

Intolerance is a form of egotism, and to condemn egotism intolerantly is to share it.

~George Santayana

Nietzsche was personally more philosophical than his philosophy. His talk about power, harshness, and superb immorality was the hobby of a harmless young scholar and constitutional invalid.

~George Santayana

The young man who has not wept is a savage, and the older man who will not laugh is a fool.

~George Santayana

The mind of the Renaissance was not a pilgrim mind, but a sedentary city mind, like that of the ancients.

~George Santayana

Sanity is madness put to good use.

~George Santayana

The world is a perpetual caricature of itself; at every moment it is the mockery and the contradiction of what it is pretending to be.

~George Santayana

The working of great institutions is mainly the result of a vast mass of routine, petty malice, self interest, carelessness and sheer mistake. Only a residual fraction is thought.

~George Santayana

Emotion is primarily about nothing and much of it remains about nothing to the end.

~George Santayana

Habit is stronger than reason.

~George Santayana

Everything in nature is lyrical in its ideal essence, tragic in its fate, and comic in its existence.

~George Santayana

Music is a means of giving form to our inner feelings, without attaching them to events or objects in the world.

~George Santayana

To delight in war is a merit in the soldier, a dangerous quality in the captain, and a positive crime in the statesman.

~George Santayana

The human mind is not rich enough to drive many horses abreast and wants one general scheme, under which it strives to bring everything.

~George Santayana

We should have to abandon our vested illusions, our irrational religions and patriotisms.

~George Santayana

Almost every wise saying has an opposite one, no less wise, to balance it.

~George Santayana

Beauty as we feel it is something indescribable; what it is or what it means can never be said.

~George Santayana

Memory itself is an internal rumour.

~George Santayana

It takes a wonderful brain and exquisite senses to produce a few stupid ideas.

~George Santayana

Work and love these are the basics; waking life is a dream controlled.

~George Santayana

The family is one of nature's masterpieces.

~George Santayana

The world is so ordered that we must, in a material sense, lose everything we have and love, one thing after another, until we ourselves close our eyes.

~George Santayana

Theory helps us to bear our ignorance of facts.

~George Santayana

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