

Georges Bataille

Quotes

*Men, Giving, Literature, World, Doe, Animal, Mind, Philosophy, Order, Way,
Desire, Thinking, Needs, Mean, God, Sacrifice, Giving Up, Facts, Names,
Emotional*

I don't want your love unless you know i am repulsive, and love me even as you know it.

~Georges Bataille

A kiss is the beginning of cannibalism.

~Georges Bataille

The need to go astray, to be destroyed, is an extremely private, distant, passionate, turbulent truth.

~Georges Bataille

Not every woman is a prostitute, but prostitution is the natural apotheosis of the feminine attitude.

~Georges Bataille

It is clear that the world is purely parodic, that each thing seen is the parody of another, or is the same thing in a deceptive form.

~Georges Bataille

The sexual act is in time what the tiger is in space.

~Georges Bataille

We have in fact only two certainties in this world - that we are not everything and that we will die.

~Georges Bataille

We want to decipher skies and paintings, go behind these starry backgrounds or these painted canvases and, like kids trying to find a gap in a fence, try to look through the cracks in the world.

~Georges Bataille

My true church is a whorehouse - the only one that gives me true satisfaction.

~Georges Bataille

The power of death signifies that this real world can only have a neutral image of life, that life's intimacy does not reveal its dazzling consumption until the moment it gives out.

~Georges Bataille

Incredible nervous state, trepidation beyond words: to be this much in love is to be sick (and I love to be sick).

~Georges Bataille

Extreme seductiveness is at the boundary of horror

~Georges Bataille

Life has always taken place in a tumult without apparent cohesion, but it only finds its grandeur and its reality in ecstasy and in ecstatic love.

~Georges Bataille

Entirety exists within me as exuberance in empty longing in the desire to burn with desire.

~Georges Bataille

Thought does not ennoble us and neither does it differentiate humans from other animals.

~Georges Bataille

I enjoyed the innocence of unhappiness and of helplessness; could I blame myself for a sin which attracted me, which flooded me with pleasure precisely to the extent it brought me to despair?

~Georges Bataille

How cruel my suffering is,â€™no one is more talkative than I am!

~Georges Bataille

The owl flies, in the moonlight, over a field where the wounded cry out. Like the owl, I fly in the night over my own misfortune.

~Georges Bataille

To choose evil is to choose freedom, emancipation from all restraint.

~Georges Bataille

The chaos of the mind cannot constitute a reply to the providence of the universe. All it can be is an awakening in the night, where all that can be heard is anguished poetry let loose.

~Georges Bataille

Nothing is more necessary or stronger in us than rebellion.

~Georges Bataille

Obscenity is our name for the uneasiness which upsets the physical state associated with self-possession, with the possession of a recognized and stable individuality.

~Georges Bataille

The sovereign being is burdened with a servitude that crushes him, and the condition of free men is deliberate servility.

~Georges Bataille

You perhaps now know that desire reduces us to pulp.

~Georges Bataille

The emotional element which gives an obsessive value to communal existence is death.

~Georges Bataille

Life is whole only when it isn't subordinate to a specific object that exceeds it. In this way, the essence of entirety is freedom.

~Georges Bataille

A judgment about life has no meaning except the truth of the one who

speaks last, and the mind is at ease only at the moment when everyone is shouting at once and no one can hear a thing.

~Georges Bataille

When my face is flushed with blood, it becomes red and obscene. It betrays at the same time, through morbid reflexes, a bloody erection and a demanding thirst for indecency and criminal debauchery.

~Georges Bataille

We did not lack modestyâ€™”on the contraryâ€™”but something urgently drove us to defy modesty together as immodestly as possible.

~Georges Bataille

I believe that truth has only one face: that of a violent contradiction.

~Georges Bataille

The difficulty that contestation must be done in the name of an authority is resolved this: I contest in the name of contestation what experience itself is.

~Georges Bataille

The sacred demands the violation of what is normally the object of terrified respect.

~Georges Bataille

We reach ecstasy by a contestation of knowledge. Were I to stop at ecstasy and grasp it, in the end I would define it.

~Georges Bataille

By the care she lavishes on her toilet, by the concern she has for her beauty set off by her adornment, a woman regards herself as an object always trying to attract men's attention.

~Georges Bataille

The circumstances of my life are paralyzing.

~Georges Bataille

Literature ... is the rediscovery of childhood.

~Georges Bataille

Eroticism cannot be entirely revealed without poetry.

~Georges Bataille

Pleasure only starts once the worm has got into the fruit; to become delightful, happiness must be tainted with poison.

~Georges Bataille

Each of us is incomplete compared to someone else - an animal's incomplete compared to a person... and a person compared to God, who is complete only to be imaginary.

~Georges Bataille

Sovereignty, loyalty, and solitude.

~Georges Bataille

Eroticism is the approval of life unto death.

~Georges Bataille

The warrior's nobility is like a prostitute's smile, the truth of which is self-interest.

~Georges Bataille

Indeed, the direction of the future is only there in order to elude us.

~Georges Bataille

The total person is first disclosed ... in areas of life that are lived frivolously.

~Georges Bataille

[Zarathustra] never abandoned the watchword of not having any end, not serving a cause, because, as he knew, causes pluck off the wings we fly with.

~Georges Bataille

If I give up the viewpoint of action, my perfect nakedness is revealed to me.

~Georges Bataille

The essence of morality is a questioning about morality; and the decisive move of human life is to use ceaselessly all light to look for the origin of the opposition between good and evil.

~Georges Bataille

Sacrifice is nothing other than the production of sacred things.

~Georges Bataille

Eroticism is assenting to life even in death.

~Georges Bataille

I teach the art of turning anguish into delight.

~Georges Bataille

Philosophy finds itself to be no longer anything but the heir to a fabulous mystical theology, but missing a God and wiping the slate clean.

~Georges Bataille

I remain in intolerable non-knowledge, which has no other way out than ecstasy itself.

~Georges Bataille

In what will survive me I am in harmony with my annihilation.

~Georges Bataille

The truth is paradoxical to the extent of being exactly contrary to the usual perception.

~Georges Bataille

What does physical eroticism signify if not a violation of the very being of its practitioners? - A violation bordering on death, bordering on murder?

~Georges Bataille

If I want to realize totality in my consciousness, I have to relate myself to an immense, ludicrous, and painful convulsion of all of humanity.

~Georges Bataille

Human entirety can only be what it is when giving up the addiction to others' ends.

~Georges Bataille

Humanity-attached-to-the-task-of-changing-the-world, which is only a single and fragmentary aspect of humanity, will itself be changed in humanity-as-entirety.

~Georges Bataille

Naturally, love's the most distant possibility.

~Georges Bataille

An intention that rejects what has no meaning in fact is a rejection of the entirety of being.

~Georges Bataille

Only literature could reveal the process of breaking the law - without which the law would have no end - independently of the necessity to create order.

~Georges Bataille

Nothing radically changes when instead of human satisfaction, we think of the satisfaction of some heavenly being! God's person displaces the problem and does not abolish it.

~Georges Bataille

The analysis of laughter had opened to me points of contact between the fundamentals of a communal and disciplined emotional knowledge and those of discursive knowledge.

~Georges Bataille

Though the immediate impression of rebellion may obscure the fact, the task of authentic literature is nevertheless only conceivable in terms of a desire for fundamental communication with the reader.

~Georges Bataille

Eroticism, it may be said, is assenting to life up to the point of death

~Georges Bataille

But a sort of rupture-in anguish-leaves us at the limit of tears: in such a case we lose ourselves, we forget ourselves and communicate with an elusive beyond.

~Georges Bataille

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