

Henri Bergson

Quotes

Philosophical, Laughter, Men, Reality, Movement, Happiness, Art, Perception, Faculty, Order, Philosophy, Hands, Essence, Time, Life, Past, Taken, Intuition, Intelligence, Different

To exist is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly.

~Henri Bergson

I would say act like a man of thought and think like a man of action.

~Henri Bergson

Homo sapiens, the only creature endowed with reason, is also the only creature to pin its existence on things unreasonable.

~Henri Bergson

Some other faculty than the intellect is necessary for the apprehension of reality.

~Henri Bergson

There is no greater joy than that of feeling oneself a creator. The triumph of life is expressed by creation.

~Henri Bergson

In laughter we always find an unavowed intention to humiliate and consequently to correct our neighbour.

~Henri Bergson

We are free when our actions emanate from our total personality, when they express it, when they resemble it in the indefinable way a work of art sometimes does the artist.

~Henri Bergson

If reality impacted directly on our senses and our consciousness, if we could have direct communication between the material world and ourselves, art would be unnecessary.

~Henri Bergson

Sex-appeal is the keynote of our whole civilization.

~Henri Bergson

Intuition is a method of feeling one's way intellectually into the inner heart of a thing to locate what is unique and inexpressible in it.

~Henri Bergson

The present contains nothing more than the past, and what is found in the effect was already in the cause.

~Henri Bergson

The motive power of democracy is love

~Henri Bergson

Only those ideas that are least truly ours can be adequately expressed in words.

~Henri Bergson

Laughter is the corrective force which prevents us from becoming cranks.

~Henri Bergson

An absolute can only be given in an intuition, while all the rest has to do with analysis.

~Henri Bergson

Intelligence is characterized by a natural incomprehension of life.

~Henri Bergson

Religion is to mysticism what popularization is to science

~Henri Bergson

To drive out the darkness, bring in the light.

~Henri Bergson

... divine love is not something belonging to God: it is God Himself.

~Henri Bergson

It is emotion that drives the intelligence forward in spite of obstacles.

~Henri Bergson

A situation is always comic if it participates simultaneously in two series of events which are absolutely independent of each other, and if it can be interpreted in two quite different meanings.

~Henri Bergson

In reality, the past is preserved by itself automatically.

~Henri Bergson

The universe... is a machine for the making of gods.

~Henri Bergson

The only cure for vanity is laughter. And the only fault that's laughable is vanity.

~Henri Bergson

One can always reason with reason.

~Henri Bergson

Life does not proceed by the association and addition of elements, but by dissociation and division.

~Henri Bergson

To perceive means to immobilize. To say this is to say that we seize, in the act of perception, something which outruns perception itself.

~Henri Bergson

Action on the move creates its own route, creates to a very great extent the conditions under which it is to be fulfilled and thus baffles all

calculation.

~Henri Bergson

There is nothing [that] disarms us like laughter.

~Henri Bergson

There is nothing in philosophy which could not be said in everyday language.

~Henri Bergson

I cannot escape the objection that there is no state of mind, however simple, that does not change every moment

~Henri Bergson

And I also see how this body influences external images: it gives back movement to them.

~Henri Bergson

Realism is in the work when idealism is in the soul, and it is only through idealism that we resume contact with reality.

~Henri Bergson

It seems that laughter needs an echo.

~Henri Bergson

You will obtain a vision of matter that is perhaps fatiguing for your imagination, but pure and stripped of what the requirements of life make you add to it in external perception.

~Henri Bergson

I see plainly how external images influence the image that I call my body : they transmit movement to it.

~Henri Bergson

The major task of the twentieth century will be to explore the unconscious, to investigate the subsoil of the mind.

~Henri Bergson

Instinct perfected is a faculty of using and even constructing organized instruments; intelligence perfected is the faculty of making and using unorganized instruments.

~Henri Bergson

ACT as men of thought; THINK as men of action.

~Henri Bergson

I believe I experience creativity at every moment of my life.

~Henri Bergson

Is it astonishing that, like children trying to catch smoke by closing their hands, philosophers so often see the object they would grasp fly before them?

~Henri Bergson

For life is tendency, and the essence of a tendency is to develop in the form of a sheaf, creating, by its very growth, divergent directions among which its impetus is divided.

~Henri Bergson

We regard intelligence as man's main characteristic and we know that there is no superiority which intelligence cannot confer on us, no inferiority for which it cannot compensate.

~Henri Bergson

Our laughter is always the laughter of a group.

~Henri Bergson

The emotion felt by a man in the presence of nature certainly counts for

something in the origin of religions.

~Henri Bergson

It is the very essence of intelligence to coordinate means with a view to a remote end, and to undertake what it does not feel absolutely sure of carrying out.

~Henri Bergson

Wherever anything lives, there is, open somewhere, a register in which time is being inscribed.

~Henri Bergson

To ease another's burden, help to carry it.

~Henri Bergson

Genius is that which forces the inertia of humanity to learn.

~Henri Bergson

Spirit borrows from matter the perceptions on which it feeds and restores them to matter in the form of movements which it has stamped with its own freedom.

~Henri Bergson

The vital spirit. L'âme vital

~Henri Bergson

The movement of the stream is distinct from the river bed, although it must adopt its winding course.

~Henri Bergson

Europe is overpopulated, the world will soon be in the same condition, and if the self-reproduction of man is not rationalized... we shall have war.

~Henri Bergson

However spontaneous it seems, laughter always implies a kind of secret freemasonry, or even complicity, with other laughers, real or imaginary.

~Henri Bergson

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