

Henri Poincare

Quotes

*Science, Math, Mind, Ideas, Long, Mean, Intuition, Truth, Beautiful, Law, Nature,
Discovery, Giving, Art, Thinking, Reality, Numbers, Mathematics, People,
Understanding*

Point set topology is a disease from which the human race will soon recover.

~Henri Poincare

It is by logic that we prove, but by intuition that we discover. To know how to criticize is good, to know how to create is better.

~Henri Poincare

There are no solved problems; there are only problems that are more or less solved.

~Henri Poincare

The scientist does not study nature because it is useful; he studies it because he delights in it, and he delights in it because it is beautiful.

~Henri Poincare

Doubt everything or believe everything: these are two equally convenient strategies. With either we dispense with the need for reflection.

~Henri Poincare

If nature were not beautiful, it would not be worth knowing, and if nature were not worth knowing, life would not be worth living

~Henri Poincare

Geometry is the art of correct reasoning from incorrectly drawn figures.

~Henri Poincare

It is through science that we prove, but through intuition that we discover.

~Henri Poincare

It is far better to foresee even without certainty than not to foresee at all.

~Henri Poincare

One geometry cannot be more true than another; it can only be more convenient.

~Henri Poincare

Every good mathematician should also be a good chess player and vice versa.

~Henri Poincare

Mathematical discoveries, small or great are never born of spontaneous generation.

~Henri Poincare

Intuition is more important to discovery than logic.

~Henri Poincare

Analyse data just so far as to obtain simplicity and no further.

~Henri Poincare

Mathematics has a threefold purpose. It must provide an instrument for the study of nature. But this is not all: it has a philosophical purpose, and, I daresay, an aesthetic purpose.

~Henri Poincare

Experiment is the sole source of truth. It alone can teach us something new; it alone can give us certainty.

~Henri Poincare

It is by logic we prove. It is by intuition we discover.

~Henri Poincare

Mathematics is the art of giving the same name to different things. [As opposed to the quotation: Poetry is the art of giving different names to

the same thing].

~Henri Poincare

Mathematicians are born, not made.

~Henri Poincare

Pure logic could never lead us to anything but tautologies; it can create nothing new; not from it alone can any science issue.

~Henri Poincare

The mind uses its faculty for creativity only when experience forces it to do so.

~Henri Poincare

Mathematicians do not study objects, but the relations between objects.

~Henri Poincare

Most striking at first is the appearance of sudden illumination, a manifest sign of long unconscious prior work.

~Henri Poincare

A reality completely independent of the spirit that conceives it, sees it, or feels it, is an impossibility. A world so external as that, even if it existed, would be forever inaccessible to us.

~Henri Poincare

In the old days when people invented a new function they had something useful in mind.

~Henri Poincare

...the feeling of mathematical beauty, of the harmony of numbers and of forms, of geometric elegance. It is a genuinely aesthetic feeling, which all mathematicians know

~Henri Poincare

All great progress takes place when two sciences come together, and when their resemblance proclaims itself, despite the apparent disparity of their substance.

~Henri Poincare

Just as houses are made of stones, so is science made of facts.

~Henri Poincare

Later generations will regard Mengenlehre (set theory) as a disease from which one has recovered.

~Henri Poincare

The aim of science is not things themselves, as the dogmatists in their simplicity imagine, but the relation between things.

~Henri Poincare

Mathematics is the art of giving the same name to different things.

~Henri Poincare

Geometry is not true, it is advantageous.

~Henri Poincare

How is error possible in mathematics?

~Henri Poincare

One does not ask whether a scientific theory is true, but only whether it is convenient.

~Henri Poincare

Guessing before proving! Need I remind you that it is so that all important discoveries have been made?

~Henri Poincare

All of mathematics is a tale about groups.

~Henri Poincare

A small error in the former will produce an enormous error in the latter.

~Henri Poincare

A cat is witty, he has nerve, he knows how to do precisely the right thing at the right moment.

~Henri Poincare

What is it indeed that gives us the feeling of elegance in a solution, in a demonstration?

~Henri Poincare

A sane mind should not be guilty of a logical fallacy, yet there are very fine minds incapable of following mathematical demonstrations.

~Henri Poincare

Ideas rose in clouds; I felt them collide until pairs interlocked, so to speak, making a stable combination.

~Henri Poincare

Sociology is the science with the greatest number of methods and the least results.

~Henri Poincare

It may happen that small differences in the initial conditions produce very great ones in the final phenomena.

~Henri Poincare

Experiment is the sole source of truth.

~Henri Poincare

It is not order only, but unexpected order, that has value.

~Henri Poincare

Thought is only a flash between two long nights, but this flash is everything.

~Henri Poincare

It is the simple hypotheses of which one must be most wary; because these are the ones that have the most chances of passing unnoticed.

~Henri Poincare

But for harmony beautiful to contemplate, science would not be worth following.

~Henri Poincare

Need we add that mathematicians themselves are not infallible?

~Henri Poincare

The subliminal self is in no way inferior to the conscious self. It knows how to choose and to divine.

~Henri Poincare

In one word, to draw the rule from experience, one must generalize; this is a necessity that imposes itself on the most circumspect observer.

~Henri Poincare

[T]he different branches of Arithmetic - Ambition [G]eometry is not true, it is advantageous.

~Henri Poincare

When the physicists ask us for the solution of a problem, it is not drudgery that they impose on us, on the contrary, it is us who owe them thanks.

~Henri Poincare

It is with logic that one proves; it is with intuition that one invents.

~Henri Poincare

Science is built up with facts, as a house is with stones. But a collection of facts is no more a science than a heap of stones is a house.

~Henri Poincare

To invent is to discern, to choose.

~Henri Poincare

A scientist worthy of his name, about all a mathematician, experiences in his work the same impression as an artist; his pleasure is as great and of the same nature.

~Henri Poincare

Chance ... must be something more than the name we give to our ignorance.

~Henri Poincare

Doubting everything and believing everything are two equally convenient solutions that guard us from having to think

~Henri Poincare

Thus, be it understood, to demonstrate a theorem, it is neither necessary nor even advantageous to know what it means.

~Henri Poincare

Les faits ne parlent pas. Facts do not speak.

~Henri Poincare

If we knew exactly the laws of nature and the situation of the universe at the initial moment, we could predict exactly the situation of the same universe at a succeeding moment.

~Henri Poincare

Logic sometimes makes monsters. For half a century we have seen a mass of bizarre functions which appear to be forced to resemble as little as possible honest functions which serve some purpose.

~Henri Poincare

We also know how cruel the truth often is, and we wonder whether delusion is not more consoling.

~Henri Poincare

A very small cause, which escapes us, determines a considerable effect which we cannot ignore, and we say that this effect is due to chance.

~Henri Poincare

Deviner avant de d'annoncer! Ai-je besoin de rappeler que c'est ainsi que se sont faites toutes les découvertes importantes.

~Henri Poincare

Zero is the number of objects that satisfy a condition that is never satisfied. But as never means "in no case", I do not see that any progress has been made.

~Henri Poincare

If we wish to foresee the future of mathematics, our proper course is to study the history and present condition of the science.

~Henri Poincare

Talk with M. Hermite. He never evokes a concrete image, yet you soon perceive that the more abstract entities are to him like living creatures.

~Henri Poincare

But all of my efforts served only to make me better acquainted with the difficulty, which in itself was something.

~Henri Poincare

Hypotheses are what we lack the least.

~Henri Poincare

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