

Huston Smith

Quotes

*Religious, People, Thinking, World, Spiritual, Men, Self, Reality, Believe,
Different, Religion, Church, Giving, Teacher, God, Soul, Beautiful, Heart, Eight,
Art*

The most powerful moral influence is example.

~Huston Smith

If we take the world's enduring religions at their best, we discover the distilled wisdom of the human race.

~Huston Smith

I am profoundly moved and persuaded by the near-death experience.

~Huston Smith

All -isms end up in schisms.

~Huston Smith

We all carry it within us: supreme strength, the fullness of wisdom, unquenchable joy. It is never thwarted, and cannot be destroyed.

~Huston Smith

God is defined by Jesus but not confined to Jesus.

~Huston Smith

The object of pilgrimage is not rest and recreation - to get away from it all. To set out on a pilgrimage is to throw down a challenge to everyday life.

~Huston Smith

At the center of the religious life is a peculiar kind of joy, the prospect of a happy ending that blossoms from necessarily painful ordeals, the promise of human difficulties embraced and overcome.

~Huston Smith

Beware of the differences that blind us to the unity that binds us.

~Huston Smith

Built into human makeup is a longing for a 'more' that the world of

everyday experience cannot requite.

~Huston Smith

Poetry is a special use of language that opens onto the real. The business of the poet is truth telling, which is why in the Celtic tradition no one could be a teacher unless he or she was a poet.

~Huston Smith

Science can prove nothing about God, because God lies outside its province.

~Huston Smith

...primal people see the objects of this world not (or not only) as solid but as open windows to their divine source.

~Huston Smith

Plato described ordinary life as unthinking, lived in a dim cave of shadowy reflections, but said that it is possible to leave the cave and see things in sunlit clarity as they actually are.

~Huston Smith

Sex is the divine in its most available epiphany.

~Huston Smith

Every society and religion has rules, for both have moral laws. And the essence of morality consists, as in art, of drawing the line somewhere.

~Huston Smith

We are a blend of dust and divinity.

~Huston Smith

God enters our lives when through our creative interchanges we make history more just.

~Huston Smith

As known unknowns become known; unknown unknowns proliferate; the larger the island of knowledge, the longer the shoreline of wonder.

~Huston Smith

I am very orthodox in thinking that Jesus acted in his life the way God would have acted if God had assumed human form.

~Huston Smith

What is Zen? Simple, simple, so simple. Infinite gratitude toward all things past; infinite service to all things present; infinite responsibility to all things future.

~Huston Smith

The goal of spiritual life is not altered states, but altered traits

~Huston Smith

When I read the Upanishads, which are part of Vedanta, I found a profundity of worldview that made my Christianity seem like third grade.

~Huston Smith

The crisis that the world finds itself in as it swings on the hinge of a new millennium is located in something deeper than particular ways of organizing political systems and economies.

~Huston Smith

We are free when we are not the slave of our impulses, but rather their master. Taking inward distance, we thus become the authors of our own dramas rather than characters in them.

~Huston Smith

In the post-individualistic era, science and spirituality will become allies, and human beings will realize a vast potentiality now only dimly felt.

~Huston Smith

We become compassionate not from altruism which denies the self for the sake of the other, but from the insight that sees and feels one is the other.

~Huston Smith

If you are drilling for water, it's better to drill one 60-foot well than 10 6-foot wells.

~Huston Smith

Religion teaches us that our lives here on earth are to be used for transformation.

~Huston Smith

So always, if we look back, concern for face-to-face morality, and its modern emphasis on justice as well, have historically evolved as religious issues.

~Huston Smith

Rationalism and Newtonian science has lured us into dark woods, but a new metaphysics can rescue us.

~Huston Smith

In nature, the emphasis is in what is rather than what ought to be.

~Huston Smith

It is commonly said and known that each civilization has its own religion. Now my claim is that if we look deeper, the different civilizations were brought into being by the different revelations.

~Huston Smith

As human beings we are made to surpass ourselves and are truly ourselves only when transcending ourselves.

~Huston Smith

When there are miles to go before we sleep, altered traits are more important than altered states.

~Huston Smith

...the single destination of sanctity could admit of so many different avenues leading to it.

~Huston Smith

Not only is the destiny of the individual bound up with the entire Church; it is responsible for helping to sanctify the entire world of nature and history.

~Huston Smith

First of all, my persuasion is what really breeds violence is political differences. But because religion serves as the soul of community, it gets drawn into the fracas and turns up the heat.

~Huston Smith

The first koan do not have rational answers. They are techniques devised over the millennia for triggering an actual experience.

~Huston Smith

The Sufis say there are three ways to know fire - by hearing it described, by seeing it, or by being burned.

~Huston Smith

The proper response to a great work of art is to enter it as though there were nothing else in the world.

~Huston Smith

Reserved as he [Confucius] was about the supernatural, he was not without it; somewhere in the universe there was a power that was on the side of right.

~Huston Smith

It has been estimated that one third of our Western civilization bears the mark of its Jewish ancestry.

~Huston Smith

After his great awakening, the Buddha continued to meditate and to devote himself to others; otherwise his vision would have receded into a pleasant memory.

~Huston Smith

Most mystics do not want to read religious wisdom; they want to be it. A postcard of a beautiful lake is not a beautiful lake, and Sufis may be defined as those who dance in the lake.

~Huston Smith

What is sickness? What is health? Both are distractions. Put them both aside and go forward.

~Huston Smith

Swami Ashokananda was a brilliant and accomplished spiritual teacher in the West.

~Huston Smith

My body was born into the - baptized in the Methodist church, and it will be buried in the Methodist Church. Meanwhile, I have a soul. And my soul cannot be confined to any human institution.

~Huston Smith

...the only thing that continues is the consequences of our action.

~Huston Smith

With mind distracted, never thinking, "Death is coming," To slave away on the pointless business of mundane life, And then to come out empty--it is a tragic error. (116) trans by Robert Thurman

~Huston Smith

...but with my clamoring ego solidly in place, I considered the title, 'Memories of a Failed Nobody'.

~Huston Smith

We are born in mystery, we live in mystery, and we die in mystery.

~Huston Smith

It would be good if we bore one another's burdens.

~Huston Smith

Practice giving things away, not just things you don't care about, but things you do like.

~Huston Smith

I grew up taking it for granted that missionaries were what American boys grew up to be.

~Huston Smith

Religion is the call to confront reality; to master the self.

~Huston Smith

If Rumi is the most-read poet in America today, Coleman Barks is in good part responsible. His ear for the truly divine madness in Rumi's poetry is really remarkable.

~Huston Smith

Swallow your pride and admit that we all need help at times.

~Huston Smith

The self is too small an object for perpetual enthusiasm.

~Huston Smith

Daily the world grows smaller, leaving understanding the only place where peace can find a home.

~Huston Smith

The faith I was born into formed me.

~Huston Smith

Exclusively oral cultures are unencumbered by dead knowledge, dead facts. Libraries, on the other hand, are full of them.

~Huston Smith

In order to live man must believe in that for which he lives.

~Huston Smith

Imagine a man besottedly in love: he won't waste time speculating whether other women equally merit his affection.

~Huston Smith

I don't have any fear of death. I do, however, have an inordinate fear of becoming dependent on other people. To me, that's the severest test, not death.

~Huston Smith

Most of the book deals with things we already know yet never learn.

~Huston Smith

I have a body and I have a soul. And my body belongs to the faith - in fact, the church - into which it was born, the Methodist Church.

~Huston Smith

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