

Idries Shah Quotes

*People, Men, Thinking, Mean, Trying, Believe, May, Taken, Book, Real,
Information, Doe, Enemy, Way, Wise, Secret, Sufi, Giving, Spiritual, Water*

Enlightenment must come little by little - otherwise it would overwhelm.

~Idries Shah

The word 'choice' is a fraud while people choose only what they have been taught to choose.

~Idries Shah

Knowledge is not gained, it is there all the time. It is the "veils" which have to be dissolved in the mind.

~Idries Shah

Trying to force something is the best way to stop it happening.

~Idries Shah

Opinion is usually something which people have when they lack comprehensive information.

~Idries Shah

You must empty out the dirty water before you fill the pitcher with clean.

~Idries Shah

Meditation - Before you learn how to meditate, you must unlearn what you think meditation might be.

~Idries Shah

The Sufi way is through knowledge and practice, not through intellect and talk.

~Idries Shah

Have you noticed how many people who walk in the shade curse the Sun?

~Idries Shah

Right time, right place, right people equals success. Wrong time, wrong place, wrong people equals most of the real human history.

~Idries Shah

A motto of the human race: Let me do what I like, and give me approval as well.

~Idries Shah

A king who feared wasps once decreed that they were abolished. As it happened, they did him no harm. But he was eventually stung to death by scorpions.

~Idries Shah

Knowledge is something which you can use. Belief is something which uses you.

~Idries Shah

Study the assumptions behind your actions. Then study the assumptions behind your assumptions.

~Idries Shah

The chicken had his wish, and was magically transformed into a fox. Then he found that he could not digest grain.

~Idries Shah

If, from time to time, you give up expectation, you will be able to perceive what it is you are getting.

~Idries Shah

When tomorrow comes, think tomorrow's thoughts.

~Idries Shah

Please, not again what you studied, how long you spent at it, how many books you wrote, what people thought of you - but: what did you learn?

~Idries Shah

Materialism, attachment to things of the world, includes pride. Many religious people suffer from pride: taking pleasure or even delight in being good, or religious.

~Idries Shah

The proverb says that 'The answer to a fool is silence'. Observation, however, indicates that almost any other answer will have the same effect in the long run.

~Idries Shah

You are adrift while you still think that a means is an end.

~Idries Shah

Effort makes some great men famous. Even greater effort enables other great men to remain unknown.

~Idries Shah

An egocentric pessimist is a person who thinks he hasn't changed, but that other people are behaving worse than before.

~Idries Shah

When you realize the difference between the container and the content, you will have knowledge.

~Idries Shah

When Fortune knocks, open the door,' they say. But why should one make fortune knock, by keeping the door shut?

~Idries Shah

The impatient man is his own enemy; he slams the door on his own progress.

~Idries Shah

The secret of Sufism is that it has no secret at all'.

~Idries Shah

The Way of the Sufis cannot be understood by means of the intellect or by ordinary book learning.

~Idries Shah

To 'see both sides' of a problem is the surest way to prevent its complete solution. Because there are always more than two sides.

~Idries Shah

You have not forgotten to remember; You have remembered to forget. But people can forget to forget. That is just as important as remembering to remember - and generally more practical.

~Idries Shah

Worry is a cloud which rains destruction.

~Idries Shah

When a belief becomes more than an instrument, you are lost. You remain lost until you learn what 'belief' is really for.

~Idries Shah

Advice is priceless: when it becomes interference it is preposterous.

~Idries Shah

A real secret is something which only one person knows.

~Idries Shah

Prescribing hard work for the soft, or easy work for the hardy, is generally nonsense. What is always needed in any aim is right effort, right time, right people, right materials.

~Idries Shah

It is not only a matter of not caring who knows - it is also a matter of knowing who cares.

~Idries Shah

The Path is not to be found anywhere except in human service

~Idries Shah

It is the message, not the man, which is important to the Sufis.

~Idries Shah

Enemies are often former or potential friends who have been denied - or think that they have been denied - something.

~Idries Shah

It is not important to have said a thing first, or best - or even most interestingly. What is important is to say it on the right occasion.

~Idries Shah

The colour of the water seems to be the colour of the glass into which it has been poured'.

~Idries Shah

There is a Persian proverb: 'To test that which has been tested is ignorance.' To try to test something without the means of testing is even worse.

~Idries Shah

If you can turn a murderer into a mere thief, you are making progress.

~Idries Shah

The union of the mind and intuition which brings about illumination, and the development which the Sufis seek, is based upon love.

~Idries Shah

The stupidest man I ever met had a favourite saying. It was: 'What do you think I am, stupid, or something?'

~Idries Shah

You need not wonder whether you should have an unreliable person as a friend. An unreliable person is nobody's friend.

~Idries Shah

The learned person who only talks will never Penetrate to the inner heart of humans.

~Idries Shah

The more wakeful a man is to the things which surround him, the more asleep is he, and his waking is worse than his sleep.

~Idries Shah

Premature independence is the daughter of conceit.

~Idries Shah

MAN: Kick him-he'll forgive you. Flatter him-he may or may not see through you. But ignore him and he'll hate you

~Idries Shah

If you give what can be taken, you are not really giving. Take what you are given, not what you want to be given. Give what cannot be taken.

~Idries Shah

Sometimes a pessimist is only an optimist with extra information.

~Idries Shah

A generous person may not have wisdom: but, unlike others, he has the means to gain it.

~Idries Shah

The more you look at 'common knowledge', the more you realise that it is more likely to be common than it is to be knowledge. No real knowledge is common.

~Idries Shah

One cannot learn from someone whom one distrusts.

~Idries Shah

Do not try to be humble: learn humility.

~Idries Shah

The Sufi is One who does not care when something is taken from him, but who does not cease to seek for what he has not.

~Idries Shah

No practice exists in isolation.

~Idries Shah

The sufis believe that they can experience something more complete.

~Idries Shah

If you want to make an ordinary man happy, or think that he is happy, give him money, power, flattery, gifts, honours. If you want to make a wise man happy - improve yourself!

~Idries Shah

The laziness of adolescence is a rehearsal for the incapacity of old age.

~Idries Shah

A certain person may have, as you say, a wonderful presence; I do not know. What I do know is that he has a perfectly delightful absence.

~Idries Shah

From time to time ponder whether you are unconsciously saying: 'Truth is what I happen to be thinking at this moment.'

~Idries Shah

History is not usually what has happened. History is what some people have thought to be significant.

~Idries Shah

If you want to strengthen an enemy and make him exult - hate him.

~Idries Shah

Dramatic. A well developed sense of the dramatic has values beyond what people usually imagine. One of these is to realise the limitations of a sense of the dramatic.

~Idries Shah

Talking about straws and camels' backs is just one way of approaching things. If you have enough camels, no backs need be broken.

~Idries Shah

It is not enough that there is a collection of people with the common aim of working in unison towards an objective... Aspiration and desire only are not enough.

~Idries Shah

When the lion had eaten its fill, and the jackals had taken their share, the ants came along and finished up the meat from the bones of the haughty stag.

~Idries Shah

He that is purified by love is pure; and he that is absorbed in the Beloved and hath abandoned all else is a Sufi. Sirdar Iqbal Ali Shah.

~Idries Shah

When the Higher Man does something worthy of admiration, it is an evidence of his Mastership, not the object of it.

~Idries Shah

But one may say something and yet not be able to do it. Try, for instance, lifting yourself up by the bootstraps.

~Idries Shah

Many things which are called 'secrets' are only things withheld from people until they can understand or effectively experience them.

~Idries Shah

If your desire for 'good' is based on greed, it is not good, but greed.

~Idries Shah

Exercise power by means of kindness, and you may be causing more damage than you could by cruelty. Neither approach is correct.

~Idries Shah

The human being, whether he realises it or not, is trusting someone or something every moment of the day.

~Idries Shah

None should say: 'I can trust' or 'I cannot trust' until he is a master of the option, of trusting or not trusting.

~Idries Shah

Better to be safe than to be sorry' is a remark of value only when these are the actual alternatives.

~Idries Shah

When people have a hard task to do - one which stretches them - they become less concerned with trivial matters.

~Idries Shah

A man who believes the word of a donkey in preference to my word does not deserve to be lent anything.

~Idries Shah

Anybody or anything may stand between you and knowledge if you are unfit for it.

~Idries Shah

Anyone can see that an ass laden with books remains a donkey. A human being laden with the undigested results of a tussle with thoughts and books, however, still passes for wise.

~Idries Shah

When the ignorant have become numerous or powerful enough, they have been referred to by a special name. This name is 'the Wise'.

~Idries Shah

Learn to be as analytical about things of which you are credulous as you are of those which you criticise.

~Idries Shah

People used to play with toys. Now the toys play with them.

~Idries Shah

Banality is like boredom: bored people are boring people, people who think that things are banal are themselves banal. Interesting people can find something interesting in all things.

~Idries Shah

Related Links:

- People Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Mean Quotes
- Trying Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- May Quotes
- Taken Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Real Quotes
- Information Quotes
- Doe Quotes
- Enemy Quotes
- Way Quotes
- Wise Quotes
- Secret Quotes
- Sufi Quotes
- Giving Quotes
- Spiritual Quotes
- Water Quotes