

Isaac Bashevis Singer Quotes

*Men, Animal, Writing, Literature, Vegetarianism, Believe, Children, Book, Art,
Inspirational, Lying, Stories, Character, World, Expression, Choices, Life,
People, Justice, Religious*

Doubt is part of all religion. All the religious thinkers were doubters.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

For those who are willing to make an effort, great miracles and wonderful treasures are in store.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Two important things are to have a genuine interest in people and to be kind to them. Kindness, I've discovered, is everything.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

A story to me means a plot where there is some surprise... Because this is how life is full of surprises.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

In their behavior toward creatures, all men are Nazis. Human beings see oppression vividly when they're the victims. Otherwise they victimize blindly and without a thought.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

As long as people will shed the blood of innocent creatures there can be no peace, no liberty, no harmony between people. Slaughter and justice cannot dwell together.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

We must believe in free will - we have no choice.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Life is God's novel. Let him write it.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

There will never be any peace in the world as long as we eat animals.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

I did not become a vegetarian for my health, I did it for the health of the chickens.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Night is a time of rigor, but also of mercy. There are truths which one can see only when it's dark

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

We all play chess with Fate as partner. He makes a move, we make a move. He tries to checkmate us in three moves, we try to prevent it. We know we can't win, but we're driven to give him a good fight.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Whenever I'm in trouble, I pray. And because I'm in trouble all of the time, I pray almost constantly.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

But if we have people who have the power to tell a story, there will always be readers.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Even in the worm that crawls in the earth there glows a divine spark. When you slaughter a creature, you slaughter God.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Sometimes love is stronger than a man's convictions.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Man prays for mercy, but is unwilling to extend it to others. Why then should man expect mercy from God? It is unfair to expect something that you are not willing to give.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

When you betray somebody else, you also betray yourself.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Our knowledge is a little island in a great ocean of nonknowledge.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

If you keep saying things are going to be bad, you have a good chance of being a prophet.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

What nature delivers to us is never stale. Because what nature creates has eternity in it.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

When a human being kills an animal for food, he is neglecting his own hunger for justice.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

There is a permanent amnesia planted in us, which just as we keep forgetting our dreams, we sometimes keep on forgetting our reality.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

We know what a person thinks not when he tells us what he thinks, but by his actions.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

There will be no justice as long as man will stand with a knife or with a gun and destroy those who are weaker than he is.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

A good writer is basically a story teller, not a scholar or a redeemer of mankind.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Kindness, I've discovered, is everything in life.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Slaughter and justice cannot dwell together.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

The more you see what other people do, the more you learn about yourself.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

What a strange power there is in clothing.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

As often as Herman had witnessed the slaughter of animals and fish, he always had the same thought: in their behavior toward creatures, all men were Nazis.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Men want all women to lie down as whores and get up as virgins.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

The greatness of art is not to find what is common but what is unique.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Literature is the memory of humanity.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Man is a disgusting thing. If you beat him he starts to scream, but if it is the other one who is beaten, then he constructs a theory.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

I don't invent characters because the Almighty has already invented millions... Just like experts at fingerprints do not create fingerprints but learn how to read them.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Originality is not seen in single words or even in sentences. Originality is the sum total of a man's thinking or his writing.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

In relation to them (animals), all people are Nazis for the animals, it is an eternal Treblinka.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

All that God does is for the good.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

In the history of old Jewish literature there was never any basic difference between the poet and the prophet. Our ancient poetry often became law and a way of life.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

It is a general rule that when the grain of truth cannot be found, men will swallow great helpings of falsehood.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

I am thankful, of course, for the prize and thankful to God for each story, each idea, each word, each day.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Every creator painfully experiences the chasm between his inner vision and its ultimate expression.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

A Marxist has never written a good novel.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

I get up every morning with a desire to do some creative work. This desire is made of the same stuff as the sexual desire, the desire to make money, or any other desire.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

No lepidopterist's collection in the entire world...full of iridescent wings, is worth the life of a single butterfly.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

If there would come a voice from God saying, 'I'm against vegetarianism!' I would say, 'Well, I am for it!' This is how strongly I feel in this regard.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Children read books, not reviews. They don't give a hoot about critics.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

When I was a little boy, they called me a liar, but now that I am grown up, they call me a writer.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

In God's mill even chaff becomes flour.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

One has to trust that God knows how to manage the world.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

The soul never dies and the body is never really alive.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

How can we speak of right and justice if we take an innocent creature and shed its blood? How can we pray to God for mercy if we ourselves have no mercy? Nobel laureate in literature.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

The waste basket is the writer's best friend.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

There is no death. How can there be death if everything is part of the Godhead? The soul never dies and the body is never really alive.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

When a day passes, it is no longer there. What remains of it? Nothing more than a story. If stories weren't told or books weren't written, man would live like the beasts, only for the day.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

We are all God's creatures-that we pray to God for mercy and justice while we continue to eat the flesh of animals that are slaughtered on our account is not consistent.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

No matter how much you know a human being, you don't know him enough.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

What nature creates has eternity in it.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

The analysis of character is the highest human entertainment.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

To me the Yiddish language and the conduct of those who spoke it are identical.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

They still believe in God, the family, angels, witches, goblins, logic, clarity, punctuation, and other obsolete stuff.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

If Moses had been paid newspaper rates for the Ten Commandments, he might have written the Two Thousand Commandments.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

When a writer tries to explain too much, he's out of time before he begins.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

While facts never become obsolete or stale, commentaries always do.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

From borrowing one gets poorer and from work one gets richer.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

The sexual organs are the most sensitive organs of the human being. They are not diplomats. They tell the truth.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

God is a writer and we are both the heroes and the readers.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

The second half of the twentieth century is a complete flop.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Sometimes you have the feeling that some little imp is standing behind you and dictating to you, but he gives it to you slowly, drop by drop.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

In our time, when the literature for adults is deteriorating, good books for children are the only hope, the only refuge.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

One can find in the Yiddish tongue and in the Yiddish spirit expressions of pious joy, lust for life, longing for the Messiah, patience and deep appreciation of human individuality.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

In many ways, astrology, numerology and palmistry are corruptions of the occult because they have attempted to make a practice out of something that is essentially imaginative.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

I am not ashamed to admit that I belong to those who fantasize that literature is capable of bringing new horizons and new perspectives--philosophical, religious, aesthetical and even social.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Actually, the true story of a person's life can never be written. It is beyond the power of literature. The full tale of any life would be both utterly boring and utterly unbelievable.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

All is foreseen but the choice is given.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Some of my cronies call me a pessimist and a decadent, but there is always a background of faith behind resignation.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

No doubt the world is entirely an imaginary world, but it is only once removed from the true world.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

There is a plan to this universe. There is a high intelligence, maybe even a purpose, but it's given to us on the installment plan.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

God gave us so many emotions, and so many strong ones. Every human being, even if he is an idiot, is a millionaire in emotions.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Every body resisted (the slaughterer) in its own fashion, tried to escape and seemed to argue with the Creator to its last breath.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

We write not only for children but also for their parents. They, too, are serious children.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

The genuine writer cannot ignore the fact that the family is losing its spiritual foundation.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Children? have no use for psychology.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

When literature becomes overly erudite, it means that interest in the art has gone and curiosity about the artist is what's important. It becomes a kind of idolatry.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

The characters have their own lives and their own logic, and you have to act accordingly.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

A story to me must have some surprise...I must have a passion to write the story.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

When the time comes I will go joyfully. Whatever may be there, it will be real, without complication, without ridicule, without deception.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

It is written, better to be a fool all your days than for one hour to be evil. You are not a fool. They are the fools. For he who causes his neighbor

to feel shame loses Paradise himself.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Each soul must accomplish its task, or it would not have been sent here.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Those who run around with women don't walk tightropes. They find it hard enough to crawl on the ground.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

As much as I can give of myself I give of myself. There's no reason why not. And when I have to hide something, I let the character speak.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

It is a fact that the classics of Yiddish literature are also the classics of the modern Hebrew literature.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

What's the good of not believing? Today it's your wife you don't believe; tomorrow it's God Himself you won't take stock in.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

The pessimism of the creative person is not decadence but a mighty passion for the redemption of man.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

The New England conscience doesn't keep you from doing what you shouldn't - it just keeps you from enjoying it.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Whatever doesn't really happen is dreamed at night. It happens to one if it doesn't happen to another, tomorrow if not today, or a century hence if not next year.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

It seems that the analysis of character is the highest human entertainment. And literature does it, unlike gossip, without mentioning names.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

Shoulders are from God and burdens too.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

What happened was no accident. Everything was preordained. True, the will was free, but heaven also made its ordinances.

~Isaac Bashevis Singer

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