

Jack McDevitt

Quotes

*People, Men, Thinking, Believe, Doe, Running, Problem, School, Civilization,
Real, Hands, Forever, Lying, Wine, Want, Mind, Stars, Moving, Decision, Needs*

It is not faith per se that creates the problem; it is conviction, the notion that one cannot be wrong, that opposing views are necessarily invalid and may even be intolerable.

~Jack McDevitt

The uplifters are forever running around telling blockheads they would do better if they would believe in themselves. But they already do. That is why they are blockheads.

~Jack McDevitt

The measure of a civilization is in the courage, not of its soldiers, but of its bystanders.

~Jack McDevitt

... the truth is that when your people don't tell you what you need to know, it's a failure of leadership.

~Jack McDevitt

Boundaries have no existence save on charts or in small minds. Nature does not draw lines.

~Jack McDevitt

We could never know who we truly were until we heard the whispers of the stars.

~Jack McDevitt

Universal deities ... never seem to smile. Not in any culture. What's the point of having omnipotence if you don't enjoy it?

~Jack McDevitt

Man has always seen himself the peak of creation. The part of the universe that thinks. The purpose for it all. It's no doubt a gratifying view, but the universe may have a different opinion.

~Jack McDevitt

The problem is that too often the only people who can act don't want change. Power doesn't so much corrupt as it breeds conservatism.

~Jack McDevitt

Faith is conviction without evidence, and sometimes even in the face of contrary evidence. In some quarters, this quality is perceived as a virtue.

~Jack McDevitt

Don't assume that a species is intelligent because it produces intelligent individuals.

~Jack McDevitt

Decisions are always made with insufficient information. If you really knew what was going on, the decision would make itself.

~Jack McDevitt

How does it happen that the most intractable types always rise to the top?

~Jack McDevitt

Talking with most people usually involves a search for truth. Talking with congressmen is strictly special effects.

~Jack McDevitt

The queen of virtues is the recognition of one's own flaws.

~Jack McDevitt

Sometimes the cost of integrity is the loss of a friend.

~Jack McDevitt

The cultures we can look at had already grasped the essential unity of nature. No board of gods can survive that knowledge.

~Jack McDevitt

So long as you believe in some truth you do not believe in yourself. You are a servant. A man of faith.

~Jack McDevitt

Truth, beaten down, may well rise again. But there's a reason it gets beaten down. Usually, we don't like it very much.

~Jack McDevitt

If you want data to survive, carve it in rock.

~Jack McDevitt

But, come to think of it, there was no need to wait. Time travelers don't have to wait for anybody.

~Jack McDevitt

If you want creative and successful children, resign yourself to jousting with rebels.

~Jack McDevitt

Katie commented that Americans had lost the ability to enjoy themselves. "We watch television," Dave said.

~Jack McDevitt

If you're paying attention to your wardrobe, Rudy believed, your mind isn't sufficiently occupied.

~Jack McDevitt

If you're right, and nobody really cares what's out there, I wonder whether we're even worth saving.

~Jack McDevitt

So we have progressed to the point where we can move politicians around faster than light. I'm not sure I see the advantage.

~Jack McDevitt

The Peacekeepers had a tradition that every problem had a solution. It was a nice slogan. Wasn't true, but it sounded good.

~Jack McDevitt

What would happen is that people like Geroge and Alyx would grow old and die chasing a dream. Although there were probably worse things to do with one's life.

~Jack McDevitt

One could not always put safety up front as the prime goal. Do that, and who would ever achieve anything of note?

~Jack McDevitt

There is nothing that overwhelms the senses quite like an unwelcome silence.

~Jack McDevitt

Solitude is only a good idea if you have the right people along to share it.

~Jack McDevitt

Intelligence is like pornography. I can't define it, but I know if when I see it.

~Jack McDevitt

The secret to a successful career in virtually any field is good public relations. Forget results. Forget the facts. Perception is all that matters.

~Jack McDevitt

All of the important things ... will turn out to be universally shared. It's why there will be no true aliens.

~Jack McDevitt

Technological civilizations don't last long. You're all right until you get a

printing press. Then a race starts between technology and common sense. And maybe technology always wins.

~Jack McDevitt

There is no justice. There are occasional acts of vengeance, or regret, but there's no real justice. In the natural scheme of things, it is not possible.

~Jack McDevitt

Of course, they (i. e., demons) had always been observed with some regularity, but that could usually be ascribed to an overabundance of piety or wine or imagination. Take your pick.

~Jack McDevitt

Show me what a people admire, and I will tell you everything about them that matters.

~Jack McDevitt

It can provide horrendous weapons to idiots.

~Jack McDevitt

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