

Jack Vance Quotes

*Men, Book, Writing, Giving, Real, Firsts, Thinking, Fiction, Science, Enormous,
War, Might, Jobs, Influence, Art, Years, Ends, Carpenter, Race, Reader*

Of all questions, why? is the least pertinent. It begs the question; it assumes the larger part of its own response; to wit, that a sensible response exists.

~Jack Vance

Human interactions, stimulated as they are by disequilibrium, never achieve balance. In even the most favorable transaction, one party whether he realizes it or not must always come out the worse.

~Jack Vance

Freedom, privileges, options, must constantly be exercised, even at the risk of inconvenience.

~Jack Vance

Good music always defeats bad luck

~Jack Vance

But I've sure worked at jobs where I have been under inspection.

~Jack Vance

While we are alive we should sit among colored lights and taste good wines, and discuss our adventures in far places; when we are dead, the opportunity is past.

~Jack Vance

What is an evil man? The man is evil who coerces obedience to his private ends, destroys beauty, produces pain, extinguishes life.

~Jack Vance

I was a carpenter for a time and everybody watches what you do.

~Jack Vance

A barbarian is not aware that he is a barbarian.

~Jack Vance

I understand the gist of your speculation,' said Rhialto. 'It is most likely nuncupatory.

~Jack Vance

A man is like a rope: both break at a definite strain....The solution is not splicing the rope; it's lessening the tension.

~Jack Vance

Nothing is more conspicuous than a farting princess.

~Jack Vance

Beauty compelled admiration and erotic yearning; such was its organic function. But never by itself could it command love.

~Jack Vance

I haven't been to a movie since somebody gave me free tickets to Star Wars, which I went to.

~Jack Vance

The void is a mouth crying to be filled, a blank mind aching for thought, a cavity desperate for shape. What is not implies what is.

~Jack Vance

Happiness is fugitive; dissatisfaction and boredom are real.

~Jack Vance

Since we are not permitted to act, we are obliged to know.

~Jack Vance

I suspect that the word (art) was invented by second-rate intelligences to describe the incomprehensible activities of their betters.

~Jack Vance

I haven't sold to the movies. In other words, I haven't gotten any

enormous checks yet.

~Jack Vance

As I mentioned, I was a carpenter for a time.

~Jack Vance

There was a writer in the '20s called Christopher Morley, who I remember a little bit of, who had some influence on me, but I couldn't tell you what it was.

~Jack Vance

I give dignity second place to expedience.

~Jack Vance

Truth" is contained in the preconceptions of him who seeks to define it. Any organization of ideas whatever presupposes a judgment on the world.

~Jack Vance

I thought that automobiles were going to have mufflers and go fast and airplanes were going to fly fast.

~Jack Vance

Somebody else's ignorance is bliss.

~Jack Vance

I become drunk as circumstances dictate.

~Jack Vance

But, for instance, when I was awfully young, I read all the Oz books. They were an enormous influence on me.

~Jack Vance

But I'm so slow on it because I find it terribly hard writing blind on

computers. The computer speaks to me, but it's just so slow, I'm so terribly slow using it.

~Jack Vance

But Roy Rockwood, it was science fiction for the sake of science fiction.

~Jack Vance

I worked for half a cent a word. I'm not a fast writer to begin with, so for the first few years I had do other things.

~Jack Vance

It is useless, after all, to complain against inexorable reality.

~Jack Vance

An inch of foreknowledge is worth ten miles of after-thought.

~Jack Vance

A reader is not supposed to be aware that someone's written the story. He's supposed to be completely immersed, submerged in the environment.

~Jack Vance

I'd never been published when I was young.

~Jack Vance

Count me not your friend but the enemy of your enemies.

~Jack Vance

I categorically declare first my absolute innocence, second my lack of criminal intent, and third my effusive apologies.

~Jack Vance

Vance has a genius in evoking the beauty of strangeness, the

strangeness of beauty.

~Jack Vance

I just wrote what I felt like writing since they seemed to sell.

~Jack Vance

I was an omnivore at reading, so that everything I ever read contributed.

~Jack Vance

This is no science, this is art, where equations fall away to elements like resolving chords, and where always prevails a symmetry either explicit or multiplex, but always of a crystalline serenity.

~Jack Vance

I suffer from a spiritual malaise which manifests itself in outbursts of vicious rage.

~Jack Vance

The life we've been leading couldn't last forever. It's a wonder it lasted as long as it did.

~Jack Vance

Beauty is a luster which love bestows to guile the eye. Therefore it may be said that only when the brain is without love will the eye look and see no beauty.

~Jack Vance

Then there was Clark Ashton Smith, who wrote for *Weird Tales* and who had a wild imagination. He wasn't a very talented writer, but his imagination was wonderful.

~Jack Vance

Notice this rent in my garment; I am at a loss to explain its presence! I

am even more puzzled by the existence of the universe.

~Jack Vance

I do not care to listen; obloquy injures my self-esteem and I am skeptical of praise.

~Jack Vance

I do read books. I suppose it's more or less the same thing, but at least I'm alone and I'm an individual. I can stop anytime I want, which I frequently do.

~Jack Vance

In fact, almost every job you get somebody watching you.

~Jack Vance

There are no absolute certainties in this universe. A man must try to whip order into a yelping pack of probabilities, and uniform success is impossible.

~Jack Vance

I don't read other science fiction. I don't read any at all.

~Jack Vance

Law cannot reach where enforcement will not follow. â€”Popular aphorism.

~Jack Vance

The inscrutability [of economics] is perhaps not unintentional. It gives endless employment to dialecticians who otherwise might become public charges or, at very worst, swindlers and tricksters.

~Jack Vance

I must cite an intrinsic condition of the universe. We set forth in any direction which seems convenient; each leads to the same place: the

end of the universe.

~Jack Vance

Why make plans? The sun might well go out tomorrow.

~Jack Vance

Well, I think everything I've ever read contributes to the background from which I write.

~Jack Vance

When you demand the nature of my motives, you reveal the style of your thinking to be callow, captious, superficial, craven, uncertain and impudent.

~Jack Vance

Mischief moves somewhere near and I must blast it with my magic.

~Jack Vance

In the end, death came uniformly to all, and all extracted as much satisfaction from their dying as this essentially graceless process could afford.

~Jack Vance

I never worked in an office in my life.

~Jack Vance

I got done writing Ports of Call and suddenly realized I have far too much material for the book.

~Jack Vance

The universe is eight billion years old, the last two billion of which have produced intelligent life. During this time not one hour of absolute equity has prevailed.

~Jack Vance

Jack Vance's Lyonesse books are the greatest fairy tale of the twentieth century.

~Jack Vance

If there were no such creatures as minstrel-maidens, it would be necessary to invent them.

~Jack Vance

Related Links:

- Men Quotes
- Book Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Giving Quotes
- Real Quotes
- Firsts Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Fiction Quotes
- Science Quotes
- Enormous Quotes
- War Quotes
- Might Quotes
- Jobs Quotes
- Influence Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Years Quotes
- Ends Quotes
- Carpenter Quotes
- Race Quotes
- Reader Quotes