

Jacob Bronowski

Quotes

Men, Science, Art, Animal, Thinking, Discovery, Ascent, Nature, Two, Simple, Errors, Imagination, Mean, Giving, Notebook, Mind, Cutting, Understanding, Philosophy, Unique

It is important that students bring a certain ragamuffin, barefoot irreverence to their studies; they are not here to worship what is known, but to question it.

~Jacob Bronowski

No science is immune to the infection of politics and the corruption of power.

~Jacob Bronowski

Ask an impertinent question and you are on the way to the pertinent answer.

~Jacob Bronowski

Man is unique not because he does science, and his is unique not because he does art, but because science and art equally are expressions of his marvelous plasticity of mind.

~Jacob Bronowski

Knowledge is an unending adventure at the edge of uncertainty.

~Jacob Bronowski

The hand is the cutting edge of the mind.

~Jacob Bronowski

We have to understand that the world can only be grasped by action, not by contemplation. The hand is more important than the eye ... The hand is the cutting edge of the mind.

~Jacob Bronowski

Man masters nature not by force, but by understanding

~Jacob Bronowski

Dissent is the mark of freedom.

~Jacob Bronowski

A genius is a man who has two great ideas.

~Jacob Bronowski

One aim of physical sciences had been to give an exact picture the material world. One achievement of physics in the twentieth century has been to prove that that aim is unattainable.

~Jacob Bronowski

Has there ever been a society which has died of dissent? Several have died of conformity in our lifetime.

~Jacob Bronowski

Man masters nature not by force but by understanding. This is why science has succeeded where magic failed: because it has looked for no spell to cast over nature.

~Jacob Bronowski

There is no absolute knowledge. And those who claim it, whether they are scientists or dogmatists, open the door to tragedy.

~Jacob Bronowski

The world can only be grasped by action, not by contemplation.

~Jacob Bronowski

The most remarkable discovery ever made by scientists is science itself. The discovery must be compared in importance with the invention of cave-painting and of writing.

~Jacob Bronowski

The world is made up of people who never quite get into the first team and who just miss the prizes at the flower show.

~Jacob Bronowski

Nations in their great ages have not been great in art or science, but in

art and science.

~Jacob Bronowski

Satire is not a social dynamite. But it is a social indicator: it shows that new men are knocking at the door.

~Jacob Bronowski

Einstein was a man who could ask immensely simple questions. And what his work showed is that when the answers are simple too, then you can hear God thinking.

~Jacob Bronowski

Certainty ends inquiry.

~Jacob Bronowski

A theory in its day helps to solve the problems of the day.

~Jacob Bronowski

Progress is the exploration of our own error.

~Jacob Bronowski

Science has nothing to be ashamed of even in the ruins of Nagasaki. The shame is theirs who appeal to other values than the human imaginative values which science has evolved.

~Jacob Bronowski

To me, being an intellectual doesn't mean knowing about intellectual issues; it means taking pleasure in them.

~Jacob Bronowski

To imagine is the characteristic act, not of the poet's mind, or the painter's, or the scientist's, but of the mind of man.

~Jacob Bronowski

Every animal leaves traces of what it was; man alone leaves traces of what he created.

~Jacob Bronowski

Astronomy is not the apex of science or of invention. But it is a test of the cast of temperament and mind that underlies a culture.

~Jacob Bronowski

Science, like art, is not a copy of nature but a re-creation of her.

~Jacob Bronowski

We gain our ends only with the laws of nature; we control her only by understanding her laws.

~Jacob Bronowski

Man is a singular creature. He has a set of gifts which make him unique among the animals, so that unlike them, he is not a figure in the landscape, he is the shaper of the landscape.

~Jacob Bronowski

Every judgment in science stands on the edge of error, and is personal.

~Jacob Bronowski

It is a mistake to think of creative activity as something unusual

~Jacob Bronowski

That series of inventions by which man from age to age has remade his environment is a different kind of evolution -- not biological, but cultural evolution . . . "The Ascent of Man.

~Jacob Bronowski

We are all shot through with enough motives to make a massacre, any day of the week that we want to give them their head.

~Jacob Bronowski

There must be something unique about man because otherwise, evidently, the ducks would be lecturing about Konrad Lorenz, and the rats would be writing papers about B. F. Skinner.

~Jacob Bronowski

It doesn't matter whether you're talking about bombs or the intelligence quotients of one race as against another if a man is a scientist, like me, he'll always say Publish and be damned.

~Jacob Bronowski

The most powerful drive in the ascent of man is his pleasure in his own skill. He loves to do what he does well. And having done it well, he loves to do it better.

~Jacob Bronowski

Science is the acceptance of what works and the rejection of what does not. That needs more courage than we might think.

~Jacob Bronowski

There are three creative ideas which, each in its turn, have been central to science. They are the idea of order, the idea of causes, and the idea of chance.

~Jacob Bronowski

Sex was invented as a biological instrument by (say) the green algae. But as an instrument in the ascent of man which is basic to his cultural evolution, it was invented by man himself.

~Jacob Bronowski

Science is a tribute to what we can know, although we are fallible.

~Jacob Bronowski

Fifty years from now if an understanding of man's origins, his evolution, his history, his progress is not in the common place of the school books we shall not exist.

~Jacob Bronowski

It is very much easier to divide your outlook on the world into two halves, to say that you know this belongs to the daily half and this belongs to the Sunday half.

~Jacob Bronowski

Power is the by-product of understanding.

~Jacob Bronowski

All science is the search for unity in hidden likenesses.

~Jacob Bronowski

Beyond all our actions stands the larger shadow: How are we to choose between what we have been taught to think right and something else which manifestly succeeds?

~Jacob Bronowski

The central opposition between magic and science is the opposition between power and knowledge.

~Jacob Bronowski

The world today is made, it is powered by science; and for any man to abdicate an interest in science is to walk with open eyes towards slavery.

~Jacob Bronowski

The idea that the universe is running down comes from a simple observation about machines. Every machine consumes more energy than it renders.

~Jacob Bronowski

The symbol and the metaphor are as necessary to science as to poetry.

~Jacob Bronowski

We are a scientific civilization. That means a civilization in which knowledge and its integrity are crucial. Science is only a Latin word for knowledge ... Knowledge is our destiny.

~Jacob Bronowski

Knowledge is not a loose leaf notebook of facts.

~Jacob Bronowski

The basis for poetry and scientific discovery is the ability to comprehend the unlike in the like and the like in the unlike.

~Jacob Bronowski

A man becomes creative, whether he is an artist or scientist, when he finds a new unity in the variety of nature. He does so by finding a likeness between things which were not thought alike before.

~Jacob Bronowski

Revolutions are not made by fate but by men.

~Jacob Bronowski

Whether our work is art or science or the daily work of society, it is only the form in which we explore our experience which is different.

~Jacob Bronowski

There is a social injunction implied in the positivist and analyst methods. This social axiom is that ;;;;:; We OUGHT to act in such a way that what IS true can be verified to be so.

~Jacob Bronowski

The paradox of knowledge is not confined to the small, atomic scale; on

the contrary, it is as cogent on the scale of man, and even of the stars.

~Jacob Bronowski

The preoccupation with the choice of a mate both by male and female I regard as a continuing echo of the major selective force by which we have evolved.

~Jacob Bronowski

The largest single step in the ascent of man is the change from nomad to village agriculture.

~Jacob Bronowski

The child is not a prisoner of its inheritance; it holds its inheritance as a new creation which its future actions will unfold.

~Jacob Bronowski

I call that brilliant sequence of cultural peaks The Ascent of Man.

~Jacob Bronowski

Nature has not fitted man to any specific environment.

~Jacob Bronowski

The human baby, the human being, is a mosaic of animal and angel.

~Jacob Bronowski

The great poem and the deep theorem are new to every reader, and yet are his own experiences, because he himself recreates them.

~Jacob Bronowski

The progress of science is the discovery at each step of a new order which gives unity to what had seemed unlike.

~Jacob Bronowski

In the moment of appreciation we live again the moment when the

creator saw and held the hidden likeness.

~Jacob Bronowski

Knowledge is not a loose-leaf notebook of facts. Above all, it is a responsibility for the integrity of what we are, primarily of what we are as ethical creatures.

~Jacob Bronowski

I grew up to be indifferent to the distinction between literature and science, which in my teens were simply two languages for experience that I learned together.

~Jacob Bronowski

Dissent is the mark of freedom, as originality is the mark of independence of mind. â€œ No one can be a scientist â€œ if he does not have independence of observation and of thought.

~Jacob Bronowski

One original thought is worth the sum total of human knowledge, because it advances the sum total of human knowledge by that one original thought.

~Jacob Bronowski

To me the most interesting thing about man is that he is an animal who practices art and science and in every known society practices both together.

~Jacob Bronowski

It's a sort of curious phenomenon that God is somehow not quite as nice as the devil; the devil doesn't punish you for behaving well, but God punishes you for behaving badly.

~Jacob Bronowski

It is not the business of science to inherit the earth, but to inherit the

moral imagination; because without that, man and beliefs and science will perish together.

~Jacob Bronowski

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