

James Hillman

Quotes

*Thinking, Soul, People, Ideas, Children, Way, Character, Psychology, Men,
Angel, Kids, World, Inspirational, Two, Childhood, Past, Self, Imagination,
Class, Mean*

All we can do when we think of kids today is think of more hours of school, earlier age at the computer, and curfews. Who would want to grow up in that world?

~James Hillman

Anytime you're gonna grow, you're gonna lose something. You're losing what you're hanging onto to keep safe. You're losing habits that you're comfortable with, you're losing familiarity.

~James Hillman

Love alone is not enough. Without imagination, love stales into sentiment, duty, boredom. Relationships fail not because we have stopped loving but because we first stopped imagining.

~James Hillman

We can't change anything until we get some fresh ideas, until we begin to see things differently.

~James Hillman

Sooner or later something seems to call us onto a particular path... this is what I must do, this is what I've got to have. This is who I am.

~James Hillman

It's important to ask yourself, How am I useful to others? What do people want from me? That may very well reveal what you are here for.

~James Hillman

Just stop for a minute and you'll realize you're happy just being. I think it's the pursuit that screws up happiness. If we drop the pursuit, it's right here.

~James Hillman

To see the angel in the malady requires an eye for the invisible, a

certain blinding of one eye and an opening of the other to elsewhere.

~James Hillman

Psychology, so dedicated to awakening human consciousness, needs to wake itself up to one of the most ancient human truths: we cannot be studied or cured apart from the planet.

~James Hillman

Our life is psychological, and the purpose of life is to make psyche of it, to find connections between life and soul.

~James Hillman

Open your heart, your gaze, to the visitations of angels, even if the gifts they bring may not be centeredness and balance but eccentricity and a wholly unfamiliar sense of pleasure called joy.

~James Hillman

The easy path of aging is to become a thick-skinned, unbudging curmudgeon, a battle-ax. To grow soft and sweet is the harder way.

~James Hillman

Loss means losing what was. We want to change but we don't want to lose. Without time for loss, we don't have time for soul.

~James Hillman

Until the culture recognizes the legitimacy of growing down, each person in the culture struggles blindly to make sense of the darkness that the soul requires to deepen into life.

~James Hillman

Tell me what you yearn for and I shall tell you who you are. We are what we reach for, the idealized image that drives our wandering.

~James Hillman

You know, people come to therapy really for a blessing. Not so much to fix what's broken, but to get what's broken blessed.

~James Hillman

You don't know what you're going to get into when you follow your bliss.

~James Hillman

The gift of an image is that it provides a place to watch your soul.

~James Hillman

Psychology is ultimately mythology, the study of the stories of the soul.

~James Hillman

Yes, there's genetics. Yes, there are chromosomes. Yes, there's biology. Yes, there are environment, sociology, parenting, economics, class, and all of that. But there is something else, as well.

~James Hillman

To hope for nothing, to expect nothing, to demand nothing. This is analytical despair.

~James Hillman

I think we're miserable partly because we have only one god, and that's economics.

~James Hillman

Just stop for a minute and you'll realize you're happy just being.

~James Hillman

The transfiguration of matter occurs through wonder.

~James Hillman

When they talk about family values, it's in a repressive way, as if our

American tradition were only the Puritan tradition or the 19th century oppressive tradition. The Christian tradition.

~James Hillman

Instead of seeing depression as a dysfunction, it is a functioning phenomenon. It stops you cold, sets you down, makes you damn miserable.

~James Hillman

An individual's harmony with his or her 'own deep self' requires not merely a journey to the interior but a harmonizing with the environmental world.

~James Hillman

By seeing differently, we do differently

~James Hillman

Too many people have been analyzing their pasts, their childhoods, their memories, their parents, and realizing that it doesn't do anything-or that it doesn't do enough.

~James Hillman

Each of us needs an adequate biography: How do I put together into a coherent image the pieces of my life? How do I find the basic plot of my story?

~James Hillman

The psyche is highly flammable material. So we are always wrapping things in asbestos, keeping our images and fantasies at arm's length because they are so full of love

~James Hillman

Pathology is not a problem to be solved, but the soul's way of working on itself.

~James Hillman

Attention is the cardinal psychological virtue. On it depends perhaps the other cardinal virtues, for there can hardly be faith nor hope nor love for anything unless it first receives attention.

~James Hillman

Yes, we worship the idea of the "self-made man" - otherwise we'd go on strike against Bill Gates having all that money! We worship that idea.

~James Hillman

As Plotinus tells us, we elected the body, the parents, the place, and the circumstances that suited the soul and that, as the myth says, belongs to its necessity.

~James Hillman

Anything you attend to carefully can bring blessing.

~James Hillman

Art, for example, becomes "art therapy." When patients make music, it becomes "music therapy." When the arts are used for "therapy" in this way, they are degraded to a secondary position.

~James Hillman

We forget that the soul has its own ancestors.

~James Hillman

Depression opens the door to beauty of some kind.

~James Hillman

We approach people the same way we approach our cars. We take the poor kid to a doctor and ask, "What's wrong with him, how much will it cost, and when can I pick him up?"

~James Hillman

From my perspective as a depth psychologist, I see that those who have a connection with story are in better shape and have better prognosis than those to whom story must be introduced.

~James Hillman

Each person enters the world "called," like an oak tree, to fulfill their soul's agenda.

~James Hillman

Each morning, we return from the dream soul trying to adjust to the day world, that moment when the two souls exchange places in the driver's seat.

~James Hillman

I've found that contemporary psychology enrages me with its simplistic ideas of human life, and also its emptiness.

~James Hillman

Words, like angels, are powers which have invisible power over us.

~James Hillman

Aptitude can show calling, but it isn't the only indicator. Ineptitude or dysfunction may reveal calling more than talent, curiously enough.

~James Hillman

I tend to think that you fulfill your own destiny, whether you realize it or not.

~James Hillman

I am not caused by my history-my parents, my childhood and development. These are mirrors in which I may catch glimpses of my image.

~James Hillman

I'm the result of upbringing, class, race, gender, social prejudices, and economics. So I'm a victim again. A result.

~James Hillman

It is impossible to see the angel unless you first have a notion of it.

~James Hillman

I'm cautious about a lot of words

~James Hillman

Our lives are determined less by our childhood than by the traumatic way we have learned to remember our childhoods.

~James Hillman

I see happiness as a by-product. I don't think you can pursue happiness. I think that phrase is one of the very few mistakes the Founding Fathers made

~James Hillman

The circumstances, including my body and my parents, whom I may curse, are my soul's own choice and I do not understand this because I have forgotten

~James Hillman

I know my own deficiencies, one of which is that I had lived away from America for such a long time. It's called expatriate

~James Hillman

The word power has such a generally negative implication in our society. What are people talking about? Are they talking about muscles, or control?

~James Hillman

It's very important for men to look downward, to the next generation

~James Hillman

We're an air bag society that wants guarantees on everything that we buy. We want to be able to take everything back and get another one. We want a 401-k plan and Social Security.

~James Hillman

You are born with a character; it is given, a gift, as the old stories say, from the guardians upon your birth...Each person enters the world called.

~James Hillman

Psychotherapy theory turns it all on you: you are the one who is wrong. If a kid is having trouble or is discouraged, the problem is not just inside the kid; it's also in the system, the society.

~James Hillman

Without time for loss you don't have time for soul.

~James Hillman

Character forms a life regardless of how obscurely that life is lived and how little light falls on it from the stars.

~James Hillman

I don't think anything changes until ideas change.

~James Hillman

The comic spirit masquerades in all things we say and do. We are each a clown and do not need to put on a white face.

~James Hillman

If you are still being hurt by an event that happened to you at twelve, it is the thought that is hurting you now.

~James Hillman

I can no longer be sure whether the psyche is in me or whether I'm in the psyche.

~James Hillman

What I try to point out is the role an ordinary person can have in seeing the child's destiny. You have to have a feeling for the child.

~James Hillman

By setting up a universe which tends to hold everything we do, see, and say in the sway of its cosmos, an archetype is best comparable with a God

~James Hillman

Fear is a huge thing for older people.

~James Hillman

We dull our lives by the way we conceive them.

~James Hillman

Follow the lead of your symptoms, for there's usually a myth in the mess, and a mess is an expression of soul.

~James Hillman

Food is so fundamental, more so than sexuality, aggression, or learning, that it is astounding to realize the neglect of food and eating in depth psychology.

~James Hillman

I don't think anything changes until ideas change. The usual American viewpoint is to believe that something is wrong with the person.

~James Hillman

We cannot be studied or cured apart from the planet.

~James Hillman

Calling can refer not only to ways of doing - meaning work - but also to ways of being.

~James Hillman

In the cosmology that's behind psychology, there is no reason for anyone to be here or do anything.

~James Hillman

Teachers today can't take to a child.

~James Hillman

So when you consider the archetypal, historical, and cultural background of whatever you do, it gives you a sense that your occupation can be a calling and not just a job.

~James Hillman

I don't think you can revive traditions on purpose.

~James Hillman

Many of our troubles are chronic. Life is chronic.

~James Hillman

The idea of death robs inquiry of its passionate vitality and empties our efforts of their purpose by coming to one predestined conclusion, death. Why inquire if you already know the answer?

~James Hillman

The whole culture is under terrible pressure and fraught with worry. It's hard to get out of that box. That's the dominant situation all over the world.

~James Hillman

You don't attack the grunts of Vietnam; you blame the theory behind the war. Nobody who fought in that war was at fault. It was the war itself

that was at fault.

~James Hillman

It's the only way we can get out of being so human-centered: to remain attached to something other than humans.

~James Hillman

We have to give value to authority. We have to give value to office, being in office, holding office.

~James Hillman

Whether we like it or not, men have more of the offices, more of the higher jobs, more of the seats in Congress. Men need to re-examine what their power is. We need to understand how to use it.

~James Hillman

We are human less by virtue of our ideal goals than by the vice of our inferiority.

~James Hillman

We need to work on the world so it will not be so oppressive.

~James Hillman

Reconnecting to the animal means getting to a more sensitive, more artful and more humorous place in the psyche.

~James Hillman

It's better to go into the world half-cocked than not to go into the world at all.

~James Hillman

People used to trust their doctor. They went to an expert. Now people have new ideas and are thinking for themselves. That's a very important change in our collective psychology.

~James Hillman

My goal is to create a therapy of ideas, to try to bring in new ideas so that we can see the same old problems differently.

~James Hillman

Well, if I'm only a result of past causes, then I'm a victim of those past causes. There is no deeper meaning behind things that gives me a reason to be here.

~James Hillman

It's very hard to know what wisdom is

~James Hillman

Economics is a slave-driver. No one has free time; no one has any leisure.

~James Hillman

It's not enough just to be a mother. It's not only the social pressure on mothers by certain kinds of feminism and other sources. There is also economic pressure on them.

~James Hillman

Any symptom can force you to go deeper into some area.

~James Hillman

The moment the angel enters a life it enters an environment. We are ecological from day one.

~James Hillman

Vessels expose the invisible Zeitgeist, the visible formed by the invisible.

~James Hillman

In the past, friendship was a huge thing. But it's hard for us to think of friendship as a calling, because it's not a vocation.

~James Hillman

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