

# Jean-Jacques Rousseau Quotes

*Men, People, Philosophical, Heart, Children, May, Thinking, Soul, Liberty, Law,  
Book, Life, Giving, Believe, Desire, Education, Passion, Rights, Vanity,  
Inspirational*

People in their natural state are basically good. But this natural innocence, however, is corrupted by the evils of society.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I prefer liberty with danger than peace with slavery.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

There are always four sides to a story: your side, their side, the truth and what really happened.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Freedom is the power to choose our own chains

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The freedom of Mankind does not lie in the fact that we can do what we want, but that we do not have to do that which we do not want.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

People who know little are usually great talkers, while men who know much say little.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Why should we build our happiness on the opinions of others, when we can find it in our own hearts?

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Those people who treat politics and morality separately will never understand either of them.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I am not made like any of those I have seen. I venture to believe that I am not made like any of those who are in existence. If I am not better, at least I am different.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

No one is happy unless he respects himself.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The person who has lived the most is not the one with the most years but the one with the richest experiences.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I may be no better, but at least I am different.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Free people, remember this maxim: we may acquire liberty, but it is never recovered if it is once lost.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Once you teach people to say what they do not understand, it is easy enough to get them to say anything you like.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Civilization is a hopeless race to discover remedies for the evils it produces.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Our greatest misfortunes come to us from ourselves.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Insults are the arguments employed by those who are in the wrong.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

No man has any natural authority over his fellow men.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

To be sane in a world of madman is in itself madness.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I have never believed that man's freedom consisted in doing what he wants, but rather in never doing what he does not want to do.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Those that are most slow in making a promise are the most faithful in the performance of it.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Every man has a right to risk his own life for the preservation of it.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

It is unnatural for a majority to rule, for a majority can seldom be organized and united for specific action, and a minority can.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Do not base your life on the judgments of others; first, because they are as likely to be mistaken as you are, and further, because you cannot know that they are telling you their true thoughts.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The passions are the voice of the body.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

To write a good love letter, you ought to begin without knowing what you mean to say, and to finish without knowing what you have written.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Social man lives constantly outside himself.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The world is the book of women. Whatever knowledge they may possess is more commonly acquired by observation than by reading.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The falsification of history has done more to impede human development than any one thing known to mankind.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The greatest braggarts are usually the biggest cowards.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

That man is truly free who desires what he is able to perform, and does what he desires.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Nature wants children to be children before men... Childhood has its own seeing, thinking and feeling.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Religious persecutors are not believers, they are rascals.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

It is too difficult to think nobly when one thinks only of earning a living.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Do not judge, and you will never be mistaken.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Virtue is a state of war, and to live in it we have always to combat with

ourselves.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

...in respect of riches, no citizen shall ever be wealthy enough to buy another, and none poor enough to be forced to sell himself.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Happiness: a good bank account, a good cook, and a good digestion.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

My liveliest delight was in having conquered myself.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Trust your heart rather than your head.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

It is manifestly contrary to the law of nature, however defined, that a handful of people should gorge themselves with superfluities while the hungry majority goes in need of necessities.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Our affections as well as our bodies are in perpetual flux.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Love childhood, indulge its sports, its pleasures, its delightful instincts. Who has not sometimes regretted that age when laughter was ever on the lips, and when the heart was ever at peace?

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Heroes are not known by the loftiness of their carriage; the greatest braggarts are generally the merest cowards.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Absolute silence leads to sadness. It is the image of death.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

There is no subjection so perfect as that which keeps the appearance of freedom.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

One can buy anything with money except morality.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Watch a cat when it enters a room for the first time. It searches and smells about, it is not quiet for a moment, it trusts nothing until it has examined and made acquaintance with everything.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Provided a man is not mad, he can be cured of every folly but vanity; there is no cure for this but experience, if indeed there is any cure for it at all.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Slaves lose everything in their chains, even the desire of escaping from them.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The only moral lesson which is suited for a child--the most important lesson for every time of life--is this: 'Never hurt anybody.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The one thing we do not know is the limit of the knowable.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

All of my misfortunes come from having thought too well of my fellows.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Peter had a genius for imitation; but he lacked true genius, which is

creative and makes all from nothing.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

We have to have powder for our wigs; that is why so many poor people have no bread.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Rather suffer an injustice than commit one.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

All kinds of frankness and honesty are terrible crimes in the eyes of society.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

In the strict sense of the term, a true democracy has never existed, and never will exist.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

You are worried about seeing him spend his early years in doing nothing. What! Is it nothing to be happy? Nothing to skip, play and run around all day long? Never in his life will he be so busy again.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

General abstract truth is the most precious of all blessings; without it, man is blind; it is the eye of reason.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

You forget that the fruits belong to all and that the land belongs to no one.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

For, as I think I have said, I can only meditate when I am walking. When I stop I cease to think; my mind only works with my legs.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau



Government originated in the attempt to find a form of association that defends and protects the person and property of each with the common force of all.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I would rather be a man of paradoxes than a man of prejudices.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The majesty of the Scriptures strikes me with admiration, as the purity of the gospel has its influence on my heart.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The money you have gives you freedom; the money you pursue enslaves you.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Do you not know...that a child badly taught is farther from being wise than one not taught at all?

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

A feeble body weakens the mind.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Force does not constitute right... obedience is due only to legitimate powers.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

It is a mania shared by philosophers of all ages to deny what exists and to explain what does not exist.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Falsehood has an infinity of combinations, but truth has only one mode of being.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I have resolved on an enterprise that has no precedent and will have no imitator. I want to set before my fellow human beings a man in every way true to nature; and that man will be myself.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Ah, that is a perfume in which I delight; when they roast coffee near my house, I hasten to open the door to take in all the aroma.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

That which renders life burdensome to us generally arises from the abuse of it.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Every man has the right to risk his own life in order to preserve it. Has it ever been said that a man who throws himself out the window to escape from a fire is guilty of suicide?

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Temperance and labor are the two best physicians of man; labor sharpens the appetite, and temperance prevents from indulging to excess

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Abstaining so as really to enjoy, is the epicurism, the very perfection, of reason.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Liberty may be gained, but can never be recovered.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Whoever blushes is already guilty; true innocence is ashamed of nothing.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The truths of the Scriptures are so marked and inimitable, that the inventor would be more of a miraculous character than the hero.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I feel an indescribable ecstasy and delirium in melting, as it were, into the system of being, in identifying myself with the whole of nature.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I perceive God everywhere in His works. I sense Him in me; I see Him all around me.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Consolation indiscreetly pressed upon us, when we are suffering undue affliction, only serves to increase our pain, and to render our grief more poignant.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Patience patience quotes is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

As soon as any man says of the affairs of the State "What does it matter to me?" the State may be given up for lost.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Luxury either comes of riches or makes them necessary; it corrupts at once rich and poor, the rich by possession and the poor by covetousness.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Great men never make bad use of their superiority. They see it and feel it and are not less modest. The more they have, the more they know their own deficiencies.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Money is the seed of money, and the first guinea is sometimes more difficult to acquire than the second million.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

One may live tranquilly in a dungeon; but does life consist in living quietly?

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

I have always said and felt that true enjoyment can not be described.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Reason deceives us; conscience, never.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The training of children is a profession, where we must know how to waste time in order to save it.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

We are born weak, we need strength; helpless, we need aid; foolish, we need reason. All that we lack at birth, all that we need when we come to man's estate, is the gift of education.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

We should not teach children the sciences; but give them a taste for them.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Fame is but the breath of people, and that often unwholesome.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

One thinks himself the master of others, and still remains a greater slave than they.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The strongest is never strong enough to be always the master, unless he transforms strength into right, and obedience into duty.

~Jean-Jacques Rousseau

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