

# Johann Kaspar Lavater

## Quotes

*Men, Character, Heart, Wise, Giving, Action, Mind, Pride, Passion, Honesty,  
Mean, Enemy, Want, Silence, May, Love, Laughter, Genius, Humble, Littles*

Neatness begets order; but from order to taste there is the same difference as from taste to genius, or from love to friendship.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

You may depend upon it that he is a good man whose intimate friends are all good, and whose enemies are decidedly bad.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The craftiest trickery are too short and ragged a cloak to cover a bad heart.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

What knowledge is there of which man is capable that is not founded on the exterior,--the relation that exists between visible and invisible, the perceptible and the imperceptible?

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

You can depend on no man, on no friend, but him who can depend on himself.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Trust him not with your secrets, who, when left alone in your room, turns over your papers.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Who makes quick use of the moment is a genius of prudence.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Him, who incessantly laughs in the street, you may commonly hear grumbling in his closet.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Be certain that he who has betrayed thee once will betray thee again.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Sensibility is the power of woman.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

There are no friends more inseparable than pride and hardness of heart, humility and love, falsehood and impudence.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Mistrust the man who finds everything good, the man who finds everything evil and still more the man who is indifferent to everything.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Don't speak evil of someone if you don't know for certain, and if you do know ask yourself, why am I telling it?

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The jealous are possessed by a mad devil and a dull spirit at the same time.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

How few our real wants, and how vast our imaginary ones!

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He, who cannot forgive a trespass of malice to his enemy, has never yet tasted the most sublime enjoyment of love.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Depend on no man, on no friend but him who can depend on himself. He only who acts conscientiously toward himself, will act so toward others.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He who seldom speaks, and with one calm well-timed word can strike dumb the loquacious, is a genius or a hero.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

If you wish to appear agreeable in society, you must consent to be taught many things which you already know.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Trust him little who praise all, him less who censures all and him least who is indifferent about all.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He submits himself to be seen through a microscope, who suffers himself to be caught in a fit of passion.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Say not you know another entirely till you have divided an inheritance with him.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Malice is poisoned by her own venom.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Where there is much pretension, much has been borrowed; nature never pretends.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He who can conceal his joys, is greater than he who can hide his griefs

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Intuition is the clear conception of the whole at once.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The cruelty of the effeminate is more dreadful than that of the hardy.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

If you see one cold and vehement at the same time, set him down for a fanatic.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Strange that cowards cannot see that their greatest safety lies in dauntless courage.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Where pride begins, love ceases.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Action, looks, words, steps, form the alphabet by which you may spell character.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Softness of smile indicates softness of character.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The more any one speaks of himself, the less he likes to hear another talked of.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The more uniform a man's voice, step, manner of conversation, handwriting--the more quiet, uniform, settled, his actions, his character.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He who is passionate and hasty is generally honest. It is your cool, dissembling hypocrite of whom you should beware.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Stubbornness is the strength of the weak.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Truth, wisdom, love, seek reasons; malice only seeks causes.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He who sedulously attends, pointedly asks, calmly speaks, coolly answers and ceases when he has no more to say is in possession of some of the best requisites of man

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The mingled incentives which lead to action are often too subtle and lie too deep for us to analyze.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He knows not how to speak who cannot be silent; still less how to act with vigour and decision. - Who hastens to the end is silent: loudness is impotence.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He who purposely cheats his friend would cheat his God.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The wrath that on conviction subsides into mildness, is the wrath of a generous mind.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He whose pride oppresses the humble may perhaps be humbled, but will never be humble.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He who freely praises what he means to purchase, and he who enumerates the faults of what he means to sell, may set up a partnership with honesty.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Every man has his devilish minutes.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He who prorogues the honesty of today till to-morrow will probably

prorogue his to-morrows to eternity.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The worst of faces still is human.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

It is possible that a wise and good man may be prevailed on to game; but it is impossible that a professed gamester should be a wise and good man.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

She whom smiles and tears make equally lovely may command all hearts.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The prudent see only the difficulties, the bold only the advantages, of a great enterprise; the hero sees both; diminishes the former and makes the latter preponderate, and so conquers.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Vanity and rudeness are seldom seen together.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Who recollects distinctly his past adventures, knows his destiny to come.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Before thou callest a man hero or genius, investigate whether his exertion has features of indelibility; for all that is celestial, all genius, is the offspring of immortality.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Avoid the eye that discovers with rapidity the bad, and is slow to see the good.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The conscience is more wise than science.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The creditor whose appearance gladdens the heart of a debtor may hold his head in sunbeams and his foot on storms.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

You may tell a man thou art a fiend, but not your nose wants blowing; to him alone who can bear a thing of that kind, you may tell all.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He can feel no little wants who is in pursuit of grandeur.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Let the degree of egotism be the measure of confidence.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Desire is the uneasiness a man finds in himself upon the absence of anything whose present enjoyment carries the idea of delight with it.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Injustice arises either from precipitation, or indolence, or from a mixture of both. - The rapid and slow are seldom just; the unjust wait either not at all, or wait too long.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Weaknesses, so called, are nothing more nor less than vice in disguise!

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He who reforms himself has done more towards reforming the public than a crowd or noisy, impotent patriots.



~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Conscience is the sentinel of virtue.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The obstinacy of the indolent and weak is less conquerable than that of the fiery and bold.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Obstinacy is the strength of the weak. Firmness founded upon principle, upon the truth and right, order and law, duty and generosity, is the obstinacy of sages.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Who has a daring eye tell downright truths and downright lies.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The great rule of moral conduct is next to God, respect time.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He who can at all times sacrifice pleasure to duty approaches sublimity.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The more honesty a man has, the less he affects the air of a saint.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The miser robs himself.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Have I done aught of value to my fellow-men? Then have I done much for myself.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

His calumny is not only the greatest benefit a rogue can confer on us, but the only service he will perform for nothing.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

All finery is a sign of littleness.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The quicker, the louder, the applause with which another tries to gain you over to his purpose - the bitterer his censure if he miss his aim.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The true friend of truth and good loves them under all forms, but he loves them most under the most simple form.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Who begins with severity, in judging of another, ends commonly with falsehood.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He, who boldly interposes between a merciless censor and his prey, is a man of vigor: and he who, mildly wise, without wounding, convinces him of his error, commands our veneration.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Who in the same given time can produce more than others has vigor; who can produce more and better, has talents; who can produce what none else can, has genius.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The generous person is always just, and the just who is always generous may, unannounced, approach the throne of heaven.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He who seeks to imbitter innocent pleasure has a cancer in his heart.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Superstition always inspires littleness, religion grandeur of mind; the superstitious raises beings inferior to himself to deities.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Avoid him who from mere curiosity asks three questions running about a thing that cannot interest Him.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He who always prefaces his tale with laughter, is poised between impertinence and folly.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Too much gravity argues a shallow mind.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Calmness of will is a sign of grandeur.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Airs of importance are the credentials of impotence.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Wisdom is the repose of the mind.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The procrastinator is not only indolent and weak, but commonly, false, too; most of the weak are false.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

He knows very little of mankind who expects, by any facts or reasoning, to convince a determined party man.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Neither refinement nor delicacy is indispensable to produce elegance.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Wishes run over in loquacious impotence, will presses on with laconic energy.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

There are three classes of men; the retrograde, the stationary and the progressive.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

The most stormy ebullitions of passion, from blasphemy to murder, are less terrific than one single act of cool villainy.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Copiousness and simplicity, variety and unity, constitute real greatness of character.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Each particle of matter is an immensity, each leaf a world, each insect an inexplicable compendium.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Man without religion is a diseased creature, who would persuade himself he is well and needs not a physician; but woman without religion is raging and monstrous.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

Indiscretion, rashness, falsehood, levity, and malice, produce each other.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

A great passion has no partner.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

What do I owe to my times, to my country, to my neighbors, to my friends? Such are the questions which a virtuous man ought often to ask himself.

~Johann Kaspar Lavater

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