

# Jonathan Swift

## Quotes

*Men, Age, Wise, World, Book, Literature, Law, Funny, People, Lying, Believe,  
Two, Art, Giving, Food, Writing, Inspirational, Running, Children, Time*

Laws are like cobwebs, which may catch small flies, but let wasps and hornets break through.

~Jonathan Swift

We have enough religion to make us hate, but not enough to make us love one another.

~Jonathan Swift

For in reason, all government without the consent of the governed is the very definition of slavery.

~Jonathan Swift

Vision is the Art of seeing Things invisible.

~Jonathan Swift

That the universe was formed by a fortuitous concourse of atoms, I will no more believe than that the accidental jumbling of the alphabet would fall into a most ingenious treatise of philosophy.

~Jonathan Swift

Promises and pie-crust are made to be broken.

~Jonathan Swift

When a true genius appears, you can know him by this sign: that all the dunces are in a confederacy against him.

~Jonathan Swift

You should never be ashamed to admit you have been wrong. It only proves you are wiser today than yesterday

~Jonathan Swift

The sight of you is good for sore eyes.

~Jonathan Swift

He was a bold man that first ate an oyster.

~Jonathan Swift

A wise man will find us to be rogues by our faces.

~Jonathan Swift

It is the first rule in oratory that a man must appear such as he would persuade others to be: and that can be accomplished only by the force of his life.

~Jonathan Swift

So geographers, in Africa maps, With savage pictures fill their gaps,  
And o'er uninhabitable downs Place elephants for want of towns

~Jonathan Swift

They say fish should swim thrice \* \* \* first it should swim in the sea (do you mind me?) then it should swim in butter, and at last, sirrah, it should swim in good claret.

~Jonathan Swift

A fig for partridges and quails, ye dainties I know nothing of ye; But on the highest mount in Wales Would choose in peace to drink my coffee.

~Jonathan Swift

There are few wild beasts more to be dreaded than a talking man having nothing to say.

~Jonathan Swift

'Tis happy for him that his Father was born before him.

~Jonathan Swift

A wise man should have money in his head, but not in his heart.

~Jonathan Swift

Coffee makes us severe, and grave and philosophical.

~Jonathan Swift

I cannot but conclude that the Bulk of your Natives, to be the most pernicious Race of little odious Vermin that Nature ever suffered to crawl upon the Surface of the Earth.

~Jonathan Swift

Falsehood flies, and truth comes limping after it, so that when men come to be undeceived, it is too late; the jest is over, and the tale hath had its effect.

~Jonathan Swift

Every man desires to live long, but no man wishes to be old.

~Jonathan Swift

May you live all the days of your life.

~Jonathan Swift

When I am reading a book, whether wise or silly, it seems to me to be alive and talking to me.

~Jonathan Swift

He had been eight years upon a project for extracting sunbeams out of cucumbers, which were to be put into vials hermetically sealed, and let out to warm the air in raw, inclement summers.

~Jonathan Swift

Power is no blessing in itself, except when it is used to protect the innocent.

~Jonathan Swift

Nothing is so hard for those who abound in riches as to conceive how others can be in want.

~Jonathan Swift

Small causes are sufficient to make a man uneasy, when great ones are not in the way: for want of a block he will stumble at a straw.

~Jonathan Swift

There is nothing constant in this world but inconsistency.

~Jonathan Swift

War: that mad game the world so loves to play.

~Jonathan Swift

We of this age have discovered a shorter, and more prudent method to become scholars and wits, without the fatigue of reading or of thinking.

~Jonathan Swift

I never wonder to see men wicked, but I often wonder to see them not ashamed.

~Jonathan Swift

There's none so blind as they that won't see.

~Jonathan Swift

This is every cook's opinion - no savory dish without an onion, but lest your kissing should be spoiled your onions must be fully boiled.

~Jonathan Swift

Tell truth, and shame the devil.

~Jonathan Swift

It is the talent of human nature to run from one extreme to another.

~Jonathan Swift

An excuse is a lie guarded.

~Jonathan Swift

Cruel people are ever cowards in emergency.

~Jonathan Swift

It is impossible that anything so natural, so necessary, and so universal as death, should ever have been designed by providence as an evil to mankind.

~Jonathan Swift

The worthiest people are the most injured by slander, as is the best fruit which the birds have been pecking at.

~Jonathan Swift

I never knew a man come to greatness or eminence who lay abed late in the morning.

~Jonathan Swift

Wise people are never less alone than when they are alone.

~Jonathan Swift

Falsehood flies, and the truth comes limping after it.

~Jonathan Swift

Hail fellow, well met.

~Jonathan Swift

I never saw, heard, nor read, that the clergy were beloved in any nation where Christianity was the religion of the country. Nothing can render them popular, but some degree of persecution.

~Jonathan Swift

Politics, as the word is commonly understood, are nothing but corruptions.

~Jonathan Swift

You cannot reason a person out of something they were not reasoned into.

~Jonathan Swift

No wise man ever wished to be younger.

~Jonathan Swift

A lie does not consist in the indirect position of words, but in the desire and intention, by false speaking, to deceive and injure your neighbour.

~Jonathan Swift

Satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own.

~Jonathan Swift

Don't set your wit against a child.

~Jonathan Swift

Argument is the worst sort of conversation.

~Jonathan Swift

No man was ever so completely skilled in the conduct of life, as not to receive new information from age and experience.

~Jonathan Swift

The bulk of mankind is as well equipped for flying as thinking.

~Jonathan Swift

Every dog must have his day.

~Jonathan Swift

The best doctors in the world are Doctor Diet, Doctor Quiet, and Doctor

Merryman.

~Jonathan Swift

There is no vice which mankind carries to such wild extremes as that of avarice.

~Jonathan Swift

Censure is the tax a man pays to the public for being eminent.

~Jonathan Swift

A nice man is a man of nasty ideas.

~Jonathan Swift

The tiny Lilliputians surmise that Gulliver's watch may be his god, because it is that which, he admits, he seldom does anything without consulting.

~Jonathan Swift

A tavern is a place where madness is sold by the bottle.

~Jonathan Swift

Many a truth is told in jest.

~Jonathan Swift

How is it possible to expect that mankind will take advice when they will not so much as take warning.

~Jonathan Swift

Although men are accused of not knowing their own weakness, yet perhaps few know their own strength. It is in men as in soils, where sometimes there is a vein of gold which the owner knows not of.

~Jonathan Swift

... the atheists, libertines, despisers of religion ... that is to say all those

who usually pass under the name of Free-thinkers.

~Jonathan Swift

They say fingers were made before forks, and hands before knives.

~Jonathan Swift

The best Maxim I know in this life is, to drink your Coffee when you can, and when you cannot, to be easy without it.

~Jonathan Swift

Under this window in stormy weather I marry this man and woman together; Let none but Him who rules the thunder Put this man and woman asunder.

~Jonathan Swift

My nose itched, and I knew I should drink wine or kiss a fool.

~Jonathan Swift

Old men and comets have been revered for the same reason: their long beards, and pretences to foretell events.

~Jonathan Swift

It is a miserable thing to live in suspense; it is the life of the spider.

~Jonathan Swift

I hate nobody: I am in charity with the world.

~Jonathan Swift

The reason why so few marriages are happy is because young ladies spend their time in making nets, not in making cages.

~Jonathan Swift

One enemy can do more hurt than ten friends can do good.

~Jonathan Swift

Ay, do despise me, I'm the prouder for it; I like to be despised.

~Jonathan Swift

I'm as old as my tongue and a little older than my teeth.

~Jonathan Swift

As love without esteem is capricious and volatile; esteem without love is languid and cold.

~Jonathan Swift

I wonder what fool it was that first invented kissing.

~Jonathan Swift

That incessant envy wherewith the common rate of mankind pursues all superior natures to their own.

~Jonathan Swift

Argument, as usually managed, is the worst sort of conversation, as it is generally in books the worst sort of reading.

~Jonathan Swift

Vanity is a mark of humility rather than of pride.

~Jonathan Swift

Every day is an opportunity to make a new happy ending. May you live all the days of your life.

~Jonathan Swift

I never knew any man cured of inattention.

~Jonathan Swift

It is useless to attempt to reason a man out of a thing he was never reasoned into.

~Jonathan Swift

I must complain the cards are ill shuffled till I have a good hand.

~Jonathan Swift

'T is an old maxim in the schools, That flattery 's the food of fools; Yet now and then your men of wit Will condescend to take a bit.

~Jonathan Swift

The stoical scheme of supplying our wants by lopping off our desires, is like cutting off our feet when we want shoes.

~Jonathan Swift

Triumphant Tories, and desponding Whigs, Forget their feuds, and join to save their wigs.

~Jonathan Swift

There were many times my pants were so thin I could sit on a dime and tell if it was heads or tails.

~Jonathan Swift

If Heaven had looked upon riches to be a valuable thing, it would not have given them to such a scoundrel.

~Jonathan Swift

And surely one of the best rules in conversation is, never to say a thing which any of the company can reasonably wish had been left unsaid.

~Jonathan Swift

Live every day as your last, because one of these days, it will be.

~Jonathan Swift

When dunces are satiric, I take it for a panegyric.

~Jonathan Swift

I would rather be a freeman among slaves than a slave among

freemen.

~Jonathan Swift

The two noblest of things, which are sweetness and light.

~Jonathan Swift

Undoubtedly, philosophers are in the right when they tell us that nothing is great or little otherwise than by comparison.

~Jonathan Swift

Fine words! I wonder where you stole them.

~Jonathan Swift

Nothing is so great an example of bad manners as flattery. If you flatter all the company, you please none; If you flatter only one or two, you offend the rest.

~Jonathan Swift

The ruin of a State is generally preceded by an universal degeneracy of manners and contempt of religion.

~Jonathan Swift

Religion seems to have grown an infant with age, and requires miracles to nurse it, as it had in its infancy.

~Jonathan Swift

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