

Jose Saramago

Quotes

*Writing, Men, World, People, Needs, Eye, Order, Thinking, Mean, Two, Hands,
Names, Book, Littles, Dream, Moments, Doe, Long, Doors, Done*

The world is governed by institutions that are not democratic - the World Bank, the IMF, the WTO.

~Jose Saramago

I think we are blind, Blind but seeing, Blind people who can see, but do not see.

~Jose Saramago

Inside us there is something that has no name, that something is what we are.

~Jose Saramago

People live with the illusion that we have a democratic system, but it's only the outward form of one. In reality we live in a plutocracy, a government of the rich.

~Jose Saramago

The novel is not so much a literary genre, but a literary space, like a sea that is filled by many rivers.

~Jose Saramago

The U.S. needs to control the Middle East, the gateway to Asia. It already has military installations in Uzbekistan.

~Jose Saramago

Words that come from the heart are never spoken, they get caught in the throat and can only be read in ones's eyes.

~Jose Saramago

A journey never ends. Only the travellers end.

~Jose Saramago

What kind of world is this that can send machines to Mars and does nothing to stop the killing of a human being?

~Jose Saramago

We use words to understand each other and even, sometimes, to find each other.

~Jose Saramago

No human being can achieve all he or she desires in this life except in dreams, so good night all.

~Jose Saramago

There are such moments in life, when, in order for heaven to open, it is necessary for a door to close.

~Jose Saramago

Each day is a little bit of history

~Jose Saramago

I am the same person I was before receiving the Nobel Prize. I work with the same regularity, I have not modified my habits, I have the same friends.

~Jose Saramago

...you have to leave the island in order to see the island, that we can't see ourselves unless we become free of ourselves, Unless we escape from ourselves you mean, No, that's not the same thing.

~Jose Saramago

It is strange how the elderly fall silent when they ought to go on speaking, obliging the young to learn everything from scratch.

~Jose Saramago

In matters of feeling and of the heart, too much is always better than too little.

~Jose Saramago

Chaos is merely order waiting to be deciphered

~Jose Saramago

We can escape from everything, but not from ourselves.

~Jose Saramago

Blind people do not need a name, I am my voice, nothing else matters.

~Jose Saramago

Even death, faced with the option of death or life, she would choose life.

~Jose Saramago

But truths need to be repeated many times so that they don't, poor things, lapse into oblivion.

~Jose Saramago

It is difficult to understand these people who democratically take part in elections and a referendum, but are then incapable of democratically accepting the will of the people.

~Jose Saramago

It is economic power that determines political power, and governments become the political functionaries of economic power.

~Jose Saramago

A human being is a being who is constantly 'under construction,' but also, in a parallel fashion, always in a state of constant destruction.

~Jose Saramago

In effect I am not a novelist, but rather a failed essayist who started to write novels because he didn't know how to write essays.

~Jose Saramago

Human nature is, by definition, a talkative one, imprudent, indiscreet, gossipy, incapable of closing its mouth and keeping it closed.

~Jose Saramago

Human vocabulary is still not capable, and probably never will be, of knowing, recognizing, and communicating everything that can be humanly experienced and felt.

~Jose Saramago

If I'm sincere today, what does it matter if I regret it tomorrow?

~Jose Saramago

God, the devil, good, evil, it's all in our heads, not in Heaven or Hell, which we also invented. We do not realize that, having invented God, we immediately became His slaves.

~Jose Saramago

The sun appears in one of the upper corners of the rectangle, on the left of anyone looking at the picture.

~Jose Saramago

Can you imagine what Bush would say if someone like Hugo Chavez asked him for a little piece of land to install a military base, and he only wanted to plant a Venezuelan flag there?

~Jose Saramago

... that's how life should be, when one person loses heart, the other must have heart and courage enough for both.

~Jose Saramago

Strictly speaking, we do not make decisions. Decisions make us.

~Jose Saramago

Words have their own hierarchy, their own protocol, their own artistic

titles, their own plebeian stigmas.

~Jose Saramago

Nothing so tires a person as having to struggle, not with himself, but with an abstraction.

~Jose Saramago

One cannot be too careful with words, they change their minds just as people do.

~Jose Saramago

Men are angels born without wings, nothing could be nicer than to be born without wings and to make them grow.

~Jose Saramago

As citizens, we all have an obligation to intervene and become involved - it's the citizen who changes things.

~Jose Saramago

Men are all the same, they think that because they came out of the belly of a woman they know all there is to know about women.

~Jose Saramago

Perhaps only in a world of the blind will things be what they truly are.

~Jose Saramago

Reading is probably another way of being in a place.

~Jose Saramago

just like everything else in life, let time take its course and it will find a solution.

~Jose Saramago

Doesn't anybody understand that killing in the name of God only makes

Him a murderer?

~Jose Saramago

Without the faintest possibility of finding a job, I decided to devote myself to literature: it was about time to find out what I was worth as a writer.

~Jose Saramago

Everything in this world can volunteer some reply, what takes up time is posing the questions.

~Jose Saramago

A stomach accustomed to hunger is satisfied with very little.

~Jose Saramago

I do not just write, I write what I am. If there is a secret, perhaps that is it.

~Jose Saramago

If you don't write your books, nobody else will do it for you. No one else has lived your life.

~Jose Saramago

This must be what it means to be a ghost, being certain that life exists, because your four senses say so, and yet unable to see it.

~Jose Saramago

Americans have discovered the fragility of life, that ominous fragility that the rest of the world either already experienced or is experiencing now with terrible intensity.

~Jose Saramago

Death ... doesn't take her eyes off us for a minute, so much so that even those who are not yet due to die feel her gaze pursuing them

constantly.

~Jose Saramago

I am traveling less in order to be able to write more. I select my travel destinations according to their degree of usefulness to my work.

~Jose Saramago

Dignity has no price ... when someone starts making small concessions, in the end life loses all meaning.

~Jose Saramago

The possibility of the impossible, dreams and illusions, are the subject of my novels.

~Jose Saramago

When we are born, when we enter this world, it is as if we signed a pact for the rest of our life, but a day may come when we will ask ourselves Who signed this on my behalf?

~Jose Saramago

I always ask two questions: How many countries have military bases in the United States? And in how many countries does the United States not have military bases?

~Jose Saramago

For human words are like shadows, and shadows are incapable of explaining light and between shadow and light there is the opaque body from which words are born.

~Jose Saramago

Your questions are false if you already know the answer.

~Jose Saramago

Forgive me if what has seemed little to you, to me is all.

~Jose Saramago

I had no books at home. I started to frequent a public library in Lisbon. It was there, with no help except curiosity and the will to learn, that my taste for reading developed and was refined.

~Jose Saramago

Things will be very bad for Latin America. You only have to consider the ambitions and the doctrines of the empire, which regards this region as its backyard.

~Jose Saramago

Each part in itself constitutes the whole to which it belongs.

~Jose Saramago

The ear has to be educated if one wishes to appreciate musical sounds, just as the eyes must learn to distinguish the value of words.

~Jose Saramago

Death is present every day in our lives. It's not that I take pleasure in the morbid fascination of it, but it is a fact of life.

~Jose Saramago

Perhaps it is the language that chooses the writers it needs, making use of them so that each might express a tiny part of what it is.

~Jose Saramago

The church has never been asked to explain anything, our speciality, along with ballistics, has always been the neutralisation of the overly curious mind through faith.

~Jose Saramago

The wise man contents himself with what he has, until such time as he invents something better.

~Jose Saramago

We're not short of movements proclaiming that a different world is possible, but unless we can coordinate them into an international movement, capitalism just laughs at all these little organisations.

~Jose Saramago

Words were not given to man in order to conceal his thoughts.

~Jose Saramago

One can show no greater respect than to weep for a stranger.

~Jose Saramago

Writer's make national literature, while translators make universal literature.

~Jose Saramago

The best way to killing a rose is to force it open when it is still only the promise of a bud.

~Jose Saramago

A woman is essentially a vessel made to be filled.

~Jose Saramago

There are times when it is best to be content with what one has, so as not to lose everything.

~Jose Saramago

when you are old and realize that time is running out, you start imagining that you have the cure for all the ills of the world in your hand, and get frustrated because no one pays you any attention.

~Jose Saramago

The attitude of insolent haughtiness is characteristic of the relationships

Americans form with what is alien to them, with others.

~Jose Saramago

I am a person with leftist convictions, and always have been.

~Jose Saramago

A writer is a man like any other: he dreams. And my dream was to be able to say of this book, when I finished: 'This is a book about Alentejo.'

~Jose Saramago

The problem is that the right doesn't need any ideas to govern, but the left can't govern without ideas.

~Jose Saramago

Oh, I'm not just going too far, I've arrived.

~Jose Saramago

...the habit of falling hardens the body, reaching the ground, to in itself, is a relief.

~Jose Saramago

The much-quoted immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary occurred but once so that the world might know that Almighty God, when He so chooses, has no need of men, though He cannot dispense with women.

~Jose Saramago

We say Fine, even though we may be dying, and this is commonly known as taking one's courage in both hands, a phenomenon that has only been observed in the human species.

~Jose Saramago

When I am occupied with a work that requires continuity - a novel, for

example - I write every day.

~Jose Saramago

No, there are three people in a marriage, there's the woman, there's the man, and there's what I call the third person, the most important, the person who is composed of the man and woman together.

~Jose Saramago

The only time we can talk about death is while we're alive, not afterwards.

~Jose Saramago

Today's bread does not eliminate yesterday's hunger, much less that of tomorrow.

~Jose Saramago

Whether we like it or not, the one justification for the existence of all religions is death, they need death as much as we need bread to eat.

~Jose Saramago

all stories are like those about the creation of the universe, no one was there, no one witnessed anything, yet everyone knows what happened.

~Jose Saramago

Consciences keep silence more often than they should, that's why laws were created.

~Jose Saramago

In a king, modesty would be a sign of weakness.

~Jose Saramago

That is the dream of all novelists-that one of their characters will become 'somebody.'

~Jose Saramago

Creating is always so much more stimulating than destroying.

~Jose Saramago

As my cat would say, all hours are good for sleeping.

~Jose Saramago

I don't doubt that a man can live perfectly well on his own, but I'm convinced that he begins to die as soon as he closes the door of his house behind him.

~Jose Saramago

I was born in a family of landless peasants, in Azinhaga, a small village in the province of Ribatejo, on the right bank of the Almonda River, around a hundred kilometres north-east of Lisbon.

~Jose Saramago

The world had already changed before September 11. The world has been going through a process of change over the last 20 or 30 years. A civilization ends, another one begins.

~Jose Saramago

We know that happiness is short-lived, that we fail to cherish it when it is within our grasp and value it only when it has vanished forever.

~Jose Saramago

Look what happened with the employment law in France-the law was withdrawn because the people marched in the streets. I think what we need is a global protest movement of people who won't give up.

~Jose Saramago

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