

Jostein Gaarder

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Believe, Children, Philosophy, Men, Long, Stars, Important,
World, Answers, Years, One Day, Mean, Space, Reason, Philosophical,
Together, Trying, Fall*

A state that does not educate and train women is like a man who only trains his right arm.

~Jostein Gaarder

A hydrogen atom in a cell at the end of my nose was once part of an elephant's trunk. A carbon atom in my cardiac muscle was once in the tail of a dinosaur.

~Jostein Gaarder

How terribly sad it was that people are made in such a way that they get used to something as extraordinary as living.

~Jostein Gaarder

The most subversive people are those who ask questions.

~Jostein Gaarder

An answer is always on the stretch of road that is behind you. Only a question can point the way forward.

~Jostein Gaarder

The question of whether a thing is right or wrong, good or bad, must always be considered in relation to a persons needs.

~Jostein Gaarder

Wasn't it extraordinary to be in the world right now, wandering around in a wonderful adventure!

~Jostein Gaarder

Since the Renaissance, people have had to get used to living their life on a random planet in the vast galaxy.

~Jostein Gaarder

We are thrown together with a sprinkling of stardust.

~Jostein Gaarder

Athens is like a sluggish horse, and I am the gadfly trying to sting it into life.

~Jostein Gaarder

When we look up at the sky, we are trying to find the way to ourselves.

~Jostein Gaarder

There is always Joker to see through the delusion. Generation succeeds generation, but there is a fool walking the earth who is never ravaged by time.

~Jostein Gaarder

There are five billion people living on this planet. But you fall in love with one particular person, and you won't swap her for any other.

~Jostein Gaarder

It's not a silly question if you can't answer it.

~Jostein Gaarder

Wisest is she who knows she does not know.

~Jostein Gaarder

If just one of [those people] experiences life as a crazy adventure--and I mean that he, or she, experiences this every single day... Then he or she is a joker in a pack of cards.

~Jostein Gaarder

Acting responsibly is not a matter of strengthening our reason but of deepening our feelings for the welfare of others.

~Jostein Gaarder

Every single morning I wake with a bang,' he said. 'It's as though the fact that I am alive is injected into me; I am a character in a fairytale, bursting with life.

~Jostein Gaarder

People are, generally speaking, either dead certain or totally indifferent.

~Jostein Gaarder

a sensation is always the same as a piece of news, and a piece of news never lives long.

~Jostein Gaarder

Hegel said that `truth` is subjective, thus rejecting the existence of any `truth` above or beyond human reason. All knowledge is human knowledge.

~Jostein Gaarder

Ladies and Gentlemen...we are floating in Space!

~Jostein Gaarder

When you realize there is something you don't understand, then you're generally on the right path to understanding all kinds of things.

~Jostein Gaarder

But understanding will always require some effort. You probably wouldn't admire a friend who was good at everything if it cost her no effort.

~Jostein Gaarder

The rearing of children is considered too important to be left to the individual and should be the responsibility of the state.

~Jostein Gaarder

All beauty that surrounds us must one day perish.

~Jostein Gaarder

The only thing we require to be good philosophers is the faculty of wonder.

~Jostein Gaarder

We can't own each other's past. The question is whether we have a future together.

~Jostein Gaarder

Life consists of a long chain of coincidences.

~Jostein Gaarder

Life is like a huge lottery in which only the winning tickets are visible.

~Jostein Gaarder

If we don't know where we are going, it can be helpful to know where we come from.

~Jostein Gaarder

We are the living planet!

~Jostein Gaarder

Philosophy is the opposite of fairy tales

~Jostein Gaarder

As long as we are children, we have the ability to experience things around us--but then we grow used to the world. To grow up is to get drunk on sensory experience.

~Jostein Gaarder

It takes billions of years to create a human being. And it takes only a few seconds to die.

~Jostein Gaarder

Then you have a big problem, because a human is a thinking animal. If

you don't think, you're not really a human.

~Jostein Gaarder

The stupidest thing she knew was for people to act like they knew all about the things they knew absolutely nothing about.

~Jostein Gaarder

...long before the child learns to talk properly-and long before it learns to think philosophically-the world will have become a habit. A pity, if you ask me.

~Jostein Gaarder

going only part of the way is not the same as going the wrong way

~Jostein Gaarder

I am really more interested in questions than in giving answers.

~Jostein Gaarder

Love, your own witch-daughter, Queen of the Mirror and the Highest Protector of Irony

~Jostein Gaarder

It was all too easy to make things up, it was like skating on thin ice, it was like doing dainty pirouettes on a brittle crust over water thousands of fathoms deep.

~Jostein Gaarder

I'm not just some butterfly for you to catch.

~Jostein Gaarder

Some are more equal than others.

~Jostein Gaarder

The truth is that I feel totally helpless, or totally inconsolable, to be more

honest. I'm not trying to hide it, but it's something you're not to worry about.

~Jostein Gaarder

Where both reason and experience fall short, there occurs a vacuum that can be filled by faith.

~Jostein Gaarder

the very best that can happen is to have energetic opponents. The more extreme they become, the more powerful the reaction they will have to face.

~Jostein Gaarder

The soul yearns to fly home on the wings of love to the world of ideas. It longs to be freed from the chains of the body.

~Jostein Gaarder

But she'd managed to find her way into our reality, perhaps because she had an important mission here, perhaps because she was here to save us from what people call the monotony of life.

~Jostein Gaarder

Many of the Nazis were convicted after the war, but they were not convicted for being 'unreasonable'. They were convicted for being gruesome murderers.

~Jostein Gaarder

To prove religious faith by human reason is rationalistic claptrap.

~Jostein Gaarder

I wrote Sophies World in three months, but I was only writing and sleeping. I work for 14 hours a day when Im working on a book.

~Jostein Gaarder

Moreover, nature's blocks had to be eternal-because nothing can come from nothing.

~Jostein Gaarder

I want to understand more about the world while Im still here.

~Jostein Gaarder

Let me put it more precisely: The ability to give birth is a natural characteristic. In the same way, everybody can grasp philosophical truths if they just use their innate reason.

~Jostein Gaarder

Perhaps the clock hands had become so tired of going in the same direction year after year that they had suddenly begun to go the opposite way instead.

~Jostein Gaarder

There is no order of things except in the human mind.

~Jostein Gaarder

What Plato was really asking was perhaps why a horse was a horse, and not, for example, a cross between a horse and a pig.

~Jostein Gaarder

I think about my editor when I write. She's a good friend, too.

~Jostein Gaarder

It is by no means certain that we advance our philosophical quest by reading Plato or Aristotle. It may increase our knowledge of history but not of the world.

~Jostein Gaarder

Dear Hilde, if the human brain was simple enough for us to understand, we would still be so stupid that we couldn't understand it. Love, Dad.

~Jostein Gaarder

You might say that the very best that can happen is to have energetic opponents.

~Jostein Gaarder

To wonder about life is not something we learn; it is something we forget.

~Jostein Gaarder

That fact that Athens could condemn its noblest citizen to death did more than make a profound impression on him. It was to shape the course of his entire philosophic endeavor.

~Jostein Gaarder

Maybe we can comprehend a flower or an insect, but we can never comprehend ourselves. Even less can we expect to comprehend the universe.

~Jostein Gaarder

Yes, we too are stardust.

~Jostein Gaarder

When we sense something, it is due to the movement of atoms in space. When I see the moon it is because "moon atoms" penetrate my eye.

~Jostein Gaarder

If an overgrown child draws something on a piece of paper, you can't ask the paper what the drawing is supposed to represent.

~Jostein Gaarder

For nature is good, an man is 'by nature' good; it is civilization which ruins him

~Jostein Gaarder

The universe is a great mystery.

~Jostein Gaarder

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