

Julian Baggini

Quotes

*Thinking, People, Philosophy, Believe, Philosophical, World, Trying, Mean, Self,
Real, Choices, Views, Book, Giving, Responsibility, Atheist, Powerful, Law,
Failing, Ideas*

Atheists have to live with the knowledge that there is no salvation, no redemption, no second chances. Lives can go terribly wrong in ways that can never be put right.

~Julian Baggini

Waiting is so unusual that many of us can't stand in a queue for 30 seconds without getting out our phones to check for messages or to Google something.

~Julian Baggini

The greatest moral failing is to condemn something as a moral failing: no vice is worse than being judgmental.

~Julian Baggini

I don't think anyone who genuinely embraced sincerity, charity and modesty could be intolerant or divisive.

~Julian Baggini

You don't choose what you believe moment to moment, but choices you have made do shape what you come to believe.

~Julian Baggini

Economics is uncertain because its fundamental subject matter is not money but human action. That's why economics is not the dismal science, it's no science at all.

~Julian Baggini

Being able and willing to complain is what makes us rational and moral animals, capable of seeing and articulating the difference between how things are and how they should be.

~Julian Baggini

Love is indeed at root the product of the firings of neurons and release of hormones.

~Julian Baggini

Dover's cliffs call to mind the Roman invasion; the Battle of Britain; our proximity to, yet difference from, mainland Europe; and international trade and exploration, both fair and exploitative.

~Julian Baggini

It may not have the virtuous ring of the golden rule, but the maxim "never say never" is one of the most important in ethics.

~Julian Baggini

Happiness is not the same as life satisfaction, while neither are identical to what we might call flourishing.

~Julian Baggini

Instead of showing strangers kindness and giving them the benefit of the doubt, we increasingly show them only fear, and that is bad for us and them.

~Julian Baggini

The idea that the mind can extend even beyond the body is an intriguing one, and is bound to become more pressing as we increasingly develop technologies that augment our natural abilities.

~Julian Baggini

We can't control whether we are rewarded for our endeavours, with cash or recognition. It is not up to us how much cash or time we get on Earth, but it is down to us how we spend it.

~Julian Baggini

No one who has understood even a fraction of what science has told us about the universe can fail to be in awe of both the cosmos and of science.

~Julian Baggini

Being virtuous is wonderful thing, but feeling virtuous is a shortcut to vice.

~Julian Baggini

From time to time, it is worth wandering around the fuzzy border regions of what you do, if only to remind yourself that no human activity is an island.

~Julian Baggini

Untested assumptions and lazy habits of thought can be shown up, once put in a spotlight of a different hue.

~Julian Baggini

Trying to keep up with health advice can feel like surfing the Net for weather forecasts: what you find is always changing, often contradictory and rarely encouraging.

~Julian Baggini

Morality is more than possible without God, it is entirely independent of him.

~Julian Baggini

No one has ever understood anything better by assuming that there is no reason for why it is the way it is.

~Julian Baggini

Accepting that the world is full of uncertainty and ambiguity does not and should not stop people from being pretty sure about a lot of things.

~Julian Baggini

Society needs both justice and compassion, a head and a heart, if it is to be civilised.

~Julian Baggini

It's not leftovers that are wasteful, but those who either don't know what to do with them or can't be bothered.

~Julian Baggini

Progress is more of a challenge for the cynic but also more important and urgent, since for the optimist things aren't that bad and are bound to get better anyway.

~Julian Baggini

Whatever your religious persuasion, if you believe that the universe is governed by benign forces, at some point you have to explain why there is so much suffering, misfortune and misery in the world.

~Julian Baggini

The truly humble feel the ground beneath their feet every day and do not only become aware of it when held aloft or pushed down to their knees.

~Julian Baggini

I am only me for practical purposes.

~Julian Baggini

We do wrong willfully when we fail to think hard about whether what we're doing is right.

~Julian Baggini

When you do the right thing, but not to any particular person, we instinctively feel that we have earned some sort of pay back. Since no-one will do that for us, we opt for self-service reciprocation.

~Julian Baggini

People should not expect the state to protect them from fraudsters. If we do, we get into the habit of neglecting our own powers of intellectual discernment.

~Julian Baggini

There is such a thing as fanaticism, it is always wrong, and if you disagree, you're wrong too.

~Julian Baggini

There are many things you shouldn't measure. Don't, for example, try to measure how much you love your wife!

~Julian Baggini

I don't feel proprietorial about the problems of philosophy. History has taught us that many philosophical issues can grow up, leave home and live elsewhere.

~Julian Baggini

Justice can only be dispensed when you have all the facts in front of you.

~Julian Baggini

The very act of questioning whether you exist proves you do, because you must be there for the doubt to be entertained in the first place.

~Julian Baggini

Stress means something different if it is the result of rewarding work rather than struggling to keep the family out of debt.

~Julian Baggini

In my experience, those who make the biggest fuss about not spending much at Christmas are generally the ones who buy what they want and eat where they want 12 months a year.

~Julian Baggini

To become a stoic is to endorse the truthfulness of its world view and accept its prescription for how you ought to live, not just to like how it

makes you feel.

~Julian Baggini

Wellbeing is a notion that entails our values about the good life, and questions of values are not ultimately scientific questions.

~Julian Baggini

Philosophy has to be enquiring; it can take nothing on faith, and its methods are based not on the blind acceptance of authority, but on establishing truths by reason and argument.

~Julian Baggini

Seek first what is true and of value, and then whatever happiness follows will be of the appropriate quantity and, more importantly, quality.

~Julian Baggini

Since Plato, we have been considering the nature of knowledge, the meaning of meaning and the status of the physical world.

~Julian Baggini

Believers are right when they say that to understand a religion properly you need to get under its skin. But to understand it fully, you cannot stay there: you have to take a more objective view, too.

~Julian Baggini

On social networking sites, we may expose ourselves, but we choose to do so. We are in control and, often wrongly, we do not feel we are giving away tradable data.

~Julian Baggini

The border between the natural and the supernatural, religion and philosophy, may not always be clear. But there are lines and we should know and accept which side of it we are on.

~Julian Baggini

The only good reason to embrace a philosophical position is that you are convinced it is true or at least makes sense of the world better than the alternatives.

~Julian Baggini

Most people believe, more or less, that the value of a human life is the same, irrespective of where on the planet it happens to find itself. But, of course, not every life has the same value for us.

~Julian Baggini

Indeed, without emotion it seems unlikely we can even have morality.

~Julian Baggini

Yesterday's news feeds our fear that our neighbours are more likely than not to be bad eggs: benefit fraudsters, bogus asylum seekers, paedophiles or jihadist terrorists.

~Julian Baggini

Cooking can be rewarding when it is a choice and no longer the onerous duty of the housewife, and when a dishwasher can lighten the load at the other end of the process.

~Julian Baggini

Constructive complaint requires only two things: that what you are complaining about should be different, and that it can be different. It sounds simple, but too often our protests fail this test.

~Julian Baggini

Big sporting events and spectacles might give the national morale a shot in the arm, but they are too transient and taste-specific to stand as robust symbols of nationhood.

~Julian Baggini

Right and wrong are not simply matters of evolutionary impacts and what is natural.

~Julian Baggini

"That which does not kill me makes me stronger" is not a law of the universe. What it can be, if we so choose, is a resolution.

~Julian Baggini

True virtue would never liken its rewards to points on a loyalty card, not because it is its own reward, but because it is not something we should practice to accrue future benefits.

~Julian Baggini

It is true that legality is not morality, and sticking to the law is necessary for good citizenship, but it is not sufficient.

~Julian Baggini

If we now find ourselves looking down on the cheap and convenient, it is only because we now have better things which are affordable.

~Julian Baggini

Too often, complaint is not about principled objection on moral grounds, but opportunistic objection on grounds of self-interest. To rectify this, we need to work on mastering the art of complaint.

~Julian Baggini

Atheists should point out that life without God can be meaningful, moral and happy.

~Julian Baggini

Life is full of what-ifs, many of which could easily have been realities, had just a few things been different.

~Julian Baggini

As a teenager, I increasingly had questions about religion to which I found no good answers.

~Julian Baggini

If you believe you are right, then you should believe that you can make the case that you're right. This requires you to deal with serious objections properly.

~Julian Baggini

Any celebration meal to which guests are invited, be they family or friends, should be an occasion for generous hospitality.

~Julian Baggini

Nature deals the cards without thought or care, and there is no point in blaming the dealer. All we can do is make the best of the hands we have been dealt.

~Julian Baggini

Being a good neighbour is about compassion, which is as warm-blooded as justice is cool-headed.

~Julian Baggini

If philosophy is to be a valuable part of life, we have to appreciate it for its own sake, and not just for what it's done for us lately.

~Julian Baggini

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