

Julian Jaynes

Quotes

Mind, Civilization, Consciousness, Space, Self, Understanding, Knows, Firsts, Moving, Language, Order, Men, Problem, Doe, Needs, Breakdown, Moral, Use, Forgotten, Justice

Subjective conscious mind is an analog of what is called the real world. It is built up with a vocabulary or lexical field whose terms are all metaphors or analogs of behavior in the physical world.

~Julian Jaynes

Poetry begins as the divine speech of the bicameral mind. Then, as the bicameral mind breaks down, there remain prophets.

~Julian Jaynes

Indeed, it is sometimes almost as if the problem had to be forgotten to be solved.

~Julian Jaynes

We can only know in the nervous system what we have known in behavior first.

~Julian Jaynes

Consciousness is always open to many possibilities because it involves play. It is always an adventure.

~Julian Jaynes

The mind is still haunted with its old unconscious ways; it broods on lost authorities; and the yearning, the deep and hollowing yearning for divine volition and service is with us still.

~Julian Jaynes

The importance of writing in the breakdown of the bicameral voices is tremendously important. What had to be spoken is now silent and carved upon a stone to be taken in visually.

~Julian Jaynes

I shall state my thesis plain. The first poets were gods. Poetry began with the bicameral mind.

~Julian Jaynes

The king dead is a living god.

~Julian Jaynes

Idolatry is still a socially cohesive force - its original function.

~Julian Jaynes

There is no such thing as a complete consciousness.

~Julian Jaynes

The very reason we need logic at all is because most reasoning is not conscious at all.

~Julian Jaynes

Civilization is the art of living in towns of such size the everyone does not know everyone else.

~Julian Jaynes

Poetry, from describing external events objectively, is becoming subjectified into a poetry of personal conscious expression.

~Julian Jaynes

The legend of the parting of the Red Sea probably refers to tidal changes in the Sea of Reeds related to the Thera eruption.

~Julian Jaynes

History does not move by leaps into unrelated novelty, but rather by the selective emphasis of aspects of its own immediate past.

~Julian Jaynes

Every god is a jealous god after the breakdown of the bicameral mind.

~Julian Jaynes

The language of men was involved with only one hemisphere in order to leave the other free for the language of the gods.

~Julian Jaynes

The vestiges of the bicameral mind do not exist in any empty psychological space.

~Julian Jaynes

Our search for certainty rests in our attempts at understanding the history of all individual selves and all civilizations. Beyond that, there is only awe.

~Julian Jaynes

The changes in the Catholic Church since Vatican II can certainly be scanned in terms of this long retreat from the sacred which has followed the inception of consciousness into the human species.

~Julian Jaynes

We are greatly in need of specific research in this area of schizophrenic experience to help us understand Mesolithic man.

~Julian Jaynes

Consciousness is a much smaller part of our mental life than we are conscious of, because we cannot be conscious of what we are not conscious of.

~Julian Jaynes

Abstract words are ancient coins whose concrete images in the give and take of talk have worn away with use.

~Julian Jaynes

We know too much to command ourselves very far.

~Julian Jaynes

Memory is the medium of the must-have-been.

~Julian Jaynes

Include the knower in the known.

~Julian Jaynes

One does one's thinking before one knows what one is to think about.

~Julian Jaynes

No one is moral among the god-controlled puppets of the *Iliad*. Good and evil do not exist.

~Julian Jaynes

It is by metaphor that language grows.

~Julian Jaynes

The bicameral mind with its controlling gods was evolved as a final stage of the evolution of language. And in this development lies the origin of civilization.

~Julian Jaynes

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