

Karl Kraus

Quotes

Literature, People, Men, Writing, Art, Education, Ideas, Lying, Reading, Mean, Doe, Life, Language, Children, Looks, World, Women, Beautiful, Sex, Morality

The streets of Vienna are paved with culture, the streets of other cities with asphalt.

~Karl Kraus

Someone who can write aphorisms should not fritter away his time in essays.

~Karl Kraus

Corruption is worse than prostitution. The latter might endanger the morals of an individual, the former invariably endangers the morals of the entire country.

~Karl Kraus

I had a terrible vision: I saw an encyclopedia walk up to a polymath and open him up.

~Karl Kraus

The sound principle of a topsy-turvy lifestyle in the framework of an upside-down world order has stood every test.

~Karl Kraus

An aphorism is never exactly true; it is either a half-truth or one-and-a-half truths.

~Karl Kraus

A writer is someone who can make a riddle out of an answer.

~Karl Kraus

Newspapers have roughly the same relationship to life as fortune-tellers to metaphysics.

~Karl Kraus

Christianity has enriched the erotic meal with the appetizer of curiosity and spoiled it with the dessert of remorse.

~Karl Kraus

The devil is an optimist if he thinks he can make people worse than they are.

~Karl Kraus

Journalist: a person without any ideas but with an ability to express them; a writer whose skill is improved by a deadline: the more time he has, the worse he writes.

~Karl Kraus

The secret of the demagogue is to make himself as stupid as his audience so they believe they are clever as he.

~Karl Kraus

Solitude would be ideal if you could pick the people to avoid.

~Karl Kraus

Anesthesia: wounds without pain. Neurasthenia: pain without wounds.

~Karl Kraus

Intercourse with a woman is sometimes a satisfactory substitute for masturbation. But it takes a lot of imagination to make it work.

~Karl Kraus

The pimp is the executive organ of immorality. The executive organ of morality is the blackmailer.

~Karl Kraus

Barbershop conversations are irrefutable proof that heads exist for the sake of hair.

~Karl Kraus

A weak man has doubts before a decision; a strong man has them

afterwards.

~Karl Kraus

No ideas and the ability to express them - that's a journalist.

~Karl Kraus

Chastity always takes its toll. In some it produces pimples; in others, sex laws.

~Karl Kraus

When a culture feels that its end has come, it sends for a priest.

~Karl Kraus

The world has become uglier since it began to look into a mirror every day; so let us settle for the mirror image and do without an inspection of the original.

~Karl Kraus

How is the world ruled and led to war? Diplomats lie to journalists and believe these lies when they see them in print.

~Karl Kraus

Experiences are savings which a miser puts aside. Wisdom is an inheritance which a wastrel cannot exhaust.

~Karl Kraus

Sexuality poorly repressed unsettles some families; well repressed, it unsettles the whole world.

~Karl Kraus

Morality is a venereal disease. Its primary stage is called virtue; its secondary stage, boredom; its tertiary stage, syphilis.

~Karl Kraus

To me all men are equal: there are jackasses everywhere, and I have the same contempt for them all.

~Karl Kraus

This is something that I cannot get over -- that a whole line could be written by half a man, that a work could be built on the quicksand of a character.

~Karl Kraus

Moral responsibility is what is lacking in a man when he demands it of a woman.

~Karl Kraus

Nationalism is the love which ties me to the blockheads of my country, to the insultors of my way of life, and to the desecrators of my language.

~Karl Kraus

The unattractive thing about chauvinism is not so much the aversion to other nations as the love of one's own.

~Karl Kraus

An illusion of depth often occurs if a blockhead is a muddlehead at the same time

~Karl Kraus

A woman occasionally is quite a serviceable substitute for masturbation.

~Karl Kraus

Language is the mother of thought, not its handmaiden.

~Karl Kraus

Democracy means the opportunity to be everyone's slave.

~Karl Kraus

Since the law prohibits the keeping of wild animals and I get no enjoyment from pets, I prefer to remain unmarried.

~Karl Kraus

My unconscious knows more about the consciousness of the psychologist than his consciousness knows about my unconscious.

~Karl Kraus

I and my public understand each other very well: it does not hear what I say, and I don't say what it wants to hear.

~Karl Kraus

When I want to go to sleep, I must first get a whole menagerie of voices to shut up. You wouldn't believe what a racket they make in my room.

~Karl Kraus

There is no more unfortunate creature under the sun than a fetishist who yearns for a woman's shoe and has to settle for the whole woman.

~Karl Kraus

How do wars start? Diplomats tell lies to journalists, then believe what they read.

~Karl Kraus

A white lie is always pardonable. But he who tells the truth without compulsion merits no leniency.

~Karl Kraus

Education is a crutch with which the foolish attack the wise to prove that they are not idiots.

~Karl Kraus

It is not true that one cannot live without a woman. It is simply that one cannot have lived without one.

~Karl Kraus

He who sleeps half a day has won half a life.

~Karl Kraus

I can say with pride that I have spent days and nights not reading anything, and that with unflagging energy I use every moment to acquire gradually an encyclopedic lack of education.

~Karl Kraus

In Berlin, things are serious but not hopeless. In Vienna, they are hopeless but not serious.

~Karl Kraus

My language is the common prostitute that I turn into a virgin.

~Karl Kraus

The mission of the press is to spread culture while destroying the attention span.

~Karl Kraus

Matrimony is the union of meanness and martyrdom.

~Karl Kraus

A healthy man is content with a woman. An erotic man is content with a stocking to get to a woman. A sick man is content with the stocking.

~Karl Kraus

The immorality of men triumphs over the amorality of women.

~Karl Kraus

One's need for loneliness is not satisfied if one sits at a table alone.

There must be empty chairs as well.

~Karl Kraus

Where do I find the time for not reading so many books?

~Karl Kraus

Immortality is the only thing which doesn't tolerate being postponed.

~Karl Kraus

To be sure, the dog is loyal. But why, on that account, should we take him as an example? He is loyal to man, not to other dogs.

~Karl Kraus

He who does without the praise of the crowd will not deny himself an opportunity to be his own adherent.

~Karl Kraus

The trouble with Germans is not that they fire shells, but that they engrave them with quotations from Kant.

~Karl Kraus

Democracy divides people into workers and loafers. It makes no provision for those who have no time to work.

~Karl Kraus

When a man is treated like a beast, he says, 'After all, I'm human.'
When he behaves like a beast, he says 'After all, I'm only human.'

~Karl Kraus

A philistine is habitually bored and looks for things that won't bore him.
An artist finds things boring, but is never bored.

~Karl Kraus

Stupidity gets up early; that is why events are accustomed to

happening in the morning.

~Karl Kraus

What are all the orgies of Bacchus when compared to the intoxication of someone who completely surrenders to continence!

~Karl Kraus

Virginity is the ideal of those who want to deflower.

~Karl Kraus

Scandal begins when the police put a stop to it.

~Karl Kraus

Sentimental irony is a dog that bays at the moon while pissing on graves.

~Karl Kraus

If the reporter has killed our imagination with his truth, he threatens our life with his lies.

~Karl Kraus

Sex education is legitimate in that girls cannot be taught soon enough how children don't come into the world.

~Karl Kraus

Stupidity is an elemental force for which no earthquake is a match.

~Karl Kraus

Jealousy is a dog's bark which attracts thieves.

~Karl Kraus

A comprehensive education is a well-stocked pharmacy: but we have no assurance that potassium cyanide will not be administered for a head cold.

~Karl Kraus

A woman who cannot be ugly is not beautiful.

~Karl Kraus

There are people who can never forgive a beggar for their not having given him anything.

~Karl Kraus

Many desire to kill me, and many wish to spend an hour chatting with me. The law protects me from the former.

~Karl Kraus

Penalties serve to deter those who are not inclined to commit any crimes.

~Karl Kraus

Science is spectral analysis. Art is light synthesis.

~Karl Kraus

A child learns to discard his ideals, whereas a grown-up never wears out his short pants.

~Karl Kraus

Culture is the tacit agreement to let the means of subsistence disappear behind the purpose of existence.

~Karl Kraus

Hate must make a man productive. Otherwise one might as well love.

~Karl Kraus

It is the style of idealism to console itself for the loss of something old with the ability to gape at something new.

~Karl Kraus

I and life: The case was settled chivalrously. The opponents parted without having made up.

~Karl Kraus

Curses on the law! Most of my fellow citizens are the sorry consequences of uncommitted abortions.

~Karl Kraus

An idea's birth is legitimate if one has the feeling that one is catching oneself plagiarizing oneself.

~Karl Kraus

Psychoanalysis is that mental illness for which it regards itself as therapy.

~Karl Kraus

So-called psychoanalysis is the occupation of lustful rationalists who trace everything in the world to sexual causes--with the exception of their occupation.

~Karl Kraus

War: first, one hopes to win; then one expects the enemy to lose; then, one is satisfied that he too is suffering; in the end, one is surprised that everyone has lost.

~Karl Kraus

Feminine passion is to masculine as an epic is to an epigram.

~Karl Kraus

Language is the only chimera whose illusory power is endless, the inexhaustibility which keeps life from being impoverished. Let men learn to serve language.

~Karl Kraus

I trim my opponents to fit my arrows.

~Karl Kraus

The world is a prison in which solitary confinement is preferable.

~Karl Kraus

Squeeze human nature into the straitjacket of criminal justice and crime will appear.

~Karl Kraus

"A cigar," said the altruist, "a cigar, my good man, I cannot give you. But any time you need a light, just come around; mine is always lit."

~Karl Kraus

Prussia: freedom of movement with a muzzle. Austria: an isolation cell in which screaming is allowed.

~Karl Kraus

Education is what most receive, many pass on, and few possess.

~Karl Kraus

Children play soldier. That makes sense. But why do soldiers play children?

~Karl Kraus

Christian morality prefers remorse to precede lust, and then lust not to follow.

~Karl Kraus

If children had been told that they could not blow their noses, this alone would make adults blush.

~Karl Kraus

Truth is a clumsy servant that breaks the dishes while washing them.

~Karl Kraus

I am already so popular that anyone who vilifies me becomes more popular than I am.

~Karl Kraus

When I don't make any progress, it is because I have bumped into the wall of language. Then I draw back with a bloody head. And would like to go on.

~Karl Kraus

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