

Loren Eiseley

Quotes

Men, Nature, Animal, Science, Philosophy, Night, Past, Stars, Dream, Eye, Journey, Thinking, Dark, Life, Shadow, Loneliness, Beach, Flower, Art, Lonely

If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.

~Loren Eiseley

When the human mind exists in the light of reason and no more than reason, we may say with absolute certainty that Man and all that made him will be in that instant gone.

~Loren Eiseley

It has been said repeatedly that one can never, try as he will, get around to the front of the universe. Man is destined to see only its far side, to realize nature only in retreat.

~Loren Eiseley

If it should turn out that we have mishandled our own lives as several civilizations before us have done, it seems a pity that we should involve the violet and the tree frog in our departure.

~Loren Eiseley

The great artist, whether he be musician, painter, or poet, is known for this absolute unexpectedness.

~Loren Eiseley

It is a commonplace of all religious thought, even the most primitive, that the man seeking visions and insight must go apart from his fellows and love for a time in the wilderness.

~Loren Eiseley

Each one of us is a statistical impossibility around which hover a million other lives that were never destined to be born.

~Loren Eiseley

The journey is difficult, immense. We will travel as far as we can, but we cannot in one lifetime see all that we would like to see or to learn all that we hunger to know.

~Loren Eiseley

We cannot pluck a flower without disturbing a star.

~Loren Eiseley

It is frequently the tragedy of the great artist, as it is of the great scientist, that he frightens the ordinary man.

~Loren Eiseley

We are one of many appearances of the thing called Life; we are not its perfect image, for it has no perfect image except Life, and life is multitudinous and emergent in the stream of time.

~Loren Eiseley

Man is always marveling at what he has blown apart, never at what the universe has put together, and this is his limitation.

~Loren Eiseley

I love forms beyond my own, and regret the borders between us

~Loren Eiseley

We think we learn from teachers, and we sometimes do. But the teachers are not always to be found in school or in great laboratories. Sometimes what we learn depends upon our own powers of insight.

~Loren Eiseley

As for men, those myriad little detached ponds with their own swarming corpuscular life, what were they but a way that water has of going about beyond the reach of rivers?

~Loren Eiseley

Each and all, we are riding into the dark. Even living, we cannot remember half the events of our own days.

~Loren Eiseley

In the desert, an old monk had once advised a traveler, the voices of God and the Devil are scarcely distinguishable.

~Loren Eiseley

What if I am, in some way, only a sophisticated fire that has acquired an ability to regulate its rate of combustion and to hoard its fuel in order to see and walk?

~Loren Eiseley

Without the gift of flowers and the infinite diversity of their fruits, man and bird, if they had continued to exist at all, would be today unrecognizable.

~Loren Eiseley

One does not meet oneself until one catches the reflection from an eye other than human.

~Loren Eiseley

Like the herd animals we are, we sniff warily at the strange one among us.

~Loren Eiseley

For the first time in four billion years a living creature had contemplated himself and heard with a sudden, unaccountable loneliness, the whisper of the wind in the night reeds.

~Loren Eiseley

It has been asserted that we are destined to know the dark beyond the stars before we comprehend the nature of our own journey.

~Loren Eiseley

Mind is locked in matter like the spirit Ariel in a cloven pine. Like Ariel, men struggle to escape the drag of the matter they inhabit, yet it is the spirit that they fear.

~Loren Eiseley

The plan is not what you think.

~Loren Eiseley

God knows how many things a man misses by becoming smug and assuming that matters will take their own course.

~Loren Eiseley

Primitives of our own species, even today are historically shallow in their knowledge of the past. Only the poet who writes speaks his message across the millennia to other hearts.

~Loren Eiseley

Life, unlike the inanimate, will take the long way round to circumvent barrenness. A kind of desperate will resides even in a root.

~Loren Eiseley

The creature called man has a strange history. He is not of one piece, nor was he born of a single moment in time. His elementary substance is stardust almost as old as the universe.

~Loren Eiseley

It was the failures who had always won, but by the time they won they had come to be called successes.

~Loren Eiseley

I am not nearly so interested in what monkey man was derived from as I am in what kind of monkey he is to become.

~Loren Eiseley

To have dragons one must have change; that is the first principle of dragon lore.

~Loren Eiseley

Man is dragged hither and thither, at one moment by the blind instincts of the forest, at the next by the strange intuitions of a higher self whose rationale he doubts and does not understand.

~Loren Eiseley

The freedom to create is somehow linked with facility of access to those obscure regions below the conscious mind.

~Loren Eiseley

When man becomes greater than nature, nature, which gave him birth, will respond.

~Loren Eiseley

I was a shadow among shadows brooding over the fate of other shadows that I alone strove to summon up out of the all-pervading dusk.

~Loren Eiseley

In the days of the frost seek an minor sun.

~Loren Eiseley

Subconsciously the genius is feared as an image breaker; frequently he does not accept the opinions of the mass, or man's opinion of himself.

~Loren Eiseley

Each man deciphers from the ancient alphabets of nature only those secrets that his own deeps possess the power to endow with meaning.

~Loren Eiseley

I am older now, and sleep less, and have seen most of what there is to see and am not very much impressed any more, I suppose, by anything.

~Loren Eiseley

Many of us who walk to and fro upon our usual tasks are prisoners drawing mental maps of escape.

~Loren Eiseley

I no longer cared about survival...I merely loved.

~Loren Eiseley

Every man contains within himself a ghost continent.

~Loren Eiseley

The future is neither ahead nor behind, on one side or another. Nor is it dark or light. It is contained within ourselves; its evil and good are perpetually within us.

~Loren Eiseley

The secret, if one may paraphrase a savage vocabulary, lies in the egg of night.

~Loren Eiseley

At the core of the universe, the face of God wears a smile

~Loren Eiseley

The iron did not remember the blood it had once moved within, the phosphorous had forgot the savage brain.

~Loren Eiseley

Tomorrow lurks in us, the latency to be all that was not achieved before.

~Loren Eiseley

There is nothing very 'normal' about nature.

~Loren Eiseley

Man inhabits a realm half in and half out of nature, his mind reaching

forever beyond the tool, the uniformity, the law, into some realm which is that of the mind alone.

~Loren Eiseley

You think that way as you begin to get grayer and you see pretty plainly that the game is not going to end as you planned.

~Loren Eiseley

Fire, as we have learned to our cost, has an insatiable hunger to be fed. It is a nonliving force that can even locomote itself.

~Loren Eiseley

Modern man lives increasingly in the future and neglects the present.

~Loren Eiseley

From the solitude of the wood, (Man) has passed to the more dreadful solitude of the heart.

~Loren Eiseley

I am what I am and cannot be otherwise because of the shadows.

~Loren Eiseley

Choices, more choices than we like afterward to believe, are made far backward in the innocence of childhood.

~Loren Eiseley

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