

Maimonides

Quotes

*Men, Evil, Body, Law, Existence, Believe, Astrology, Book, May, Ideas, Animal,
Reality, Hands, Food, Mean, Soul, Wise, Views, Doe, Purpose*

Truth does not become more true by virtue of the fact that the entire world agrees with it, nor less so even if the whole world disagrees with it.

~Maimonides

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.

~Maimonides

I will destroy my enemies by converting them to friends.

~Maimonides

There are eight levels of charity.... The highest is when you strengthen a man's hand until he need no longer be dependent upon others.

~Maimonides

Teach thy tongue to say 'I do not know,' and thou shalt progress.

~Maimonides

The physician should not treat the disease but the patient who is suffering from it

~Maimonides

There are eight rungs in charity. The highest is when you help a man to help himself.

~Maimonides

Let nothing which can be treated by diet be treated by other means.

~Maimonides

Do not consider it proof just because it is written in books, for a liar who will deceive with his tongue will not hesitate to do the same with his pen.

~Maimonides

God who preceded all existence is a refuge.

~Maimonides

Man's obsession to add to his wealth and honor is the chief source of his misery.

~Maimonides

No disease that can be treated by diet should be treated with any other means.

~Maimonides

The risk of a wrong decision is preferable to the terror of indecision.

~Maimonides

To the totality of purposes of the perfect Law there belong the abandonment, depreciation, and restraint of desires in so far as possible.

~Maimonides

What is lofty can be said in any language. What is mean should be said in none.

~Maimonides

God cannot be compared to anything. Note this.

~Maimonides

A truth does not become greater by repetition.

~Maimonides

It is man's duty to love and to fear God, even without hope of reward or fear of punishment.

~Maimonides

Anticipate charity by preventing poverty.

~Maimonides

In finances, be strict with yourself, generous with others.

~Maimonides

You must accept the truth from whatever source it comes.

~Maimonides

Silence is the maturation of wisdom.

~Maimonides

A small amount of wine such as three or four glasses is of benefit for the preservation of the health of human beings and an excellent remedy for most illnesses.

~Maimonides

The knowledge of God, the formation of ideas, the mastery of desire and passion, the distinction between that which is to be chosen and that which is to be rejected, all these man owes to his form.

~Maimonides

The goal of good health is to enable a person to acquire wisdom.

~Maimonides

Everyone entrusted with a mission is an angel.

~Maimonides

Lose with truth and right rather than gain with falsehood and wrong.

~Maimonides

Nobody is ever impoverished through the giving of charity.

~Maimonides

It is hard for a woman with whom an uncircumcised man has had

sexual intercourse to separate from him. In my opinion this is the strongest of the reasons for circumcision.

~Maimonides

He who does not understand that a dead lion is more alive than a living dog will remain a dog.

~Maimonides

That which is produced with intention has passed over from non-existence to existence.

~Maimonides

Astrology is not an art, it is a disease.

~Maimonides

We are obligated to be more scrupulous in fulfilling the commandment of charity than any other positive commandment because charity is the sign of a righteous man.

~Maimonides

In the beginning we must simplify the subject, thus unavoidably falsifying it, and later we must sophisticate away the falsely simple beginning.

~Maimonides

Contrast the experience with something worse and you cannot help feeling happy and grateful because... The change from trouble to comfort gives us more pleasure than uninterrupted comfort does.

~Maimonides

The soul is subject to health and disease, just as is the body. The health and disease of both . . . undoubtedly depend upon beliefs and customs, which are peculiar to mankind.

~Maimonides

Consequently he who wishes to attain to human perfection, must therefore first study Logic, next the various branches of Mathematics in their proper order, then Physics, and lastly Metaphysics.

~Maimonides

In the realm of Nature there is nothing purposeless, trivial, or unnecessary

~Maimonides

It is better and more satisfactory to acquit a thousand guilty persons than to put a single innocent one to death.

~Maimonides

A wise man is a greater asset to a nation than a king.

~Maimonides

He, however, who begins with Metaphysics, will not only become confused in matters of religion, but will fall into complete infidelity.

~Maimonides

Your purpose...should always be to know...the whole that was intended to be known.

~Maimonides

The more necessary a thing is for living beings, the more easily it is found and the cheaper it is; the less necessary it is, the rarer and dearer it is.

~Maimonides

Giving is most blessed and most acceptable when the donor remains completely anonymous.

~Maimonides

Work before eating, rest after eating. Eat not ravenously, filling the

mouth gulp after gulp without breathing space.

~Maimonides

Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

~Maimonides

Those who believe that... detailed rules originate in a certain cause, are as far from the truth as those who assume that the whole law is useless.

~Maimonides

There are four different theories concerning Divine Providence; they are all ancient, known from the time of the Prophets, when the true law was revealed to enlighten these dark regions.

~Maimonides

Transient bodies are only subject to destruction through their substance and not through their form, nor can the essence of their form be destroyed; in this respect they are permanent.

~Maimonides

Actions are divided as regards their object into four classes; they are either purposeless , unimportant , or vain , or good .

~Maimonides

Medical practice is not knitting and weaving and the labor of the hands, but it must be inspired with soul and be filled with understanding and equipped with the gift of keen observation . . .

~Maimonides

In so far as the soul is a force residing in the body; it has therefore been said that the properties of the soul depend of the condition of the body.

~Maimonides

Inspire me with love for my art and for thy creatures. In the sufferer let me see only the human being.

~Maimonides

The question, "What is the purpose thereof?" cannot be asked about anything which is not the product of an agent; therefore we cannot ask what is the purpose of the existence of God.

~Maimonides

Hold firmly to your word.

~Maimonides

Astrology is a sickness, not a science ... It is a tree under the shade of which all sorts of superstitions thrive.

~Maimonides

No form remains permanently in a substance; a constant change takes place, one form is taken off and another is put on.

~Maimonides

It is of great advantage that man should know his station, and not imagine that the whole universe exists only for him.

~Maimonides

I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name, is not a body, and that he is free from all accidents of matter, and that he has not any form whatsoever.

~Maimonides

You must consider, when reading this treatise, that mental perception, because connected with matter, is subject to conditions similar to those to which physical perception is subject.

~Maimonides

We suffer from the evils which we, by our own free will, inflict on ourselves and ascribe them to God, who is far from being connected with them!

~Maimonides

Do not imagine that these most difficult problems can be thoroughly understood by any one of us.

~Maimonides

Astrology is a disease, not a science.

~Maimonides

The philosophers likewise assume that in Nature there is nothing in vain, so that everything that is not the product of human industry serves a certain purpose, which may be known or unknown to us.

~Maimonides

For every force charged by God, may He be exalted, with some business is an angel put in charge.

~Maimonides

Hear the truth from whomever says it

~Maimonides

The great sickness and the grievous evil consist in this: that all the things that man finds written in books, he presumes to think of as true-and all the more so if the books are old.

~Maimonides

In accordance with the divine wisdom, genesis can only take place through destruction.

~Maimonides

All forces that reside in the body are angels.

~Maimonides

God is identical with His attributes, so that it may be said that He is the knowledge, the knower, and the known.

~Maimonides

Be convinced that, if man were able to reach the end without preparatory studies, such studies would not be preparatory but tiresome and utterly superfluous.

~Maimonides

All this is applicable to the intellectual faculties of man. There is a considerable difference between one person and another as regards these faculties, as is well known to philosophers.

~Maimonides

Now, we occupy a lowly position, both in space and rank in comparison with the heavenly sphere, and the Almighty is Most High not in space, but with respect to absolute existence, greatness and power.

~Maimonides

The whole object of the Prophets and the Sages was to declare that a limit is set to human reason where it must halt.

~Maimonides

The same is the case with those opinions of man to which he has been accustomed from his youth; he likes them, defends them, and shuns the opposite views.

~Maimonides

The key to the understanding and to the full comprehension of all that the Prophets have said is found in the knowledge of the figures, their general ideas, and the meaning of each word they contain.

~Maimonides

The true work of God is all good, since it is existence.

~Maimonides

Every man whose character traits all lie in the mean is called a wise man.

~Maimonides

Man's shortcomings and sins are all due to the substance of the body and not to its form; while all his merits are exclusively due to his form.

~Maimonides

Astrology is a disease, not a science... It is a tree under the shadow of which all sorts of superstitions thrive. ... Only fools and charlatans lend value to it.

~Maimonides

Those who grieve find comfort in weeping and in arousing their sorrow until the body is too tired to bear the inner emotions.

~Maimonides

Management [Providence], knowledge, and intention are not the same when ascribed to us and when ascribed to God.

~Maimonides

The first kind of evil is that which is caused to man by the circumstance that he is subject to genesis and destruction, or that he possesses a body.

~Maimonides

The being which has absolute existence, which has never been and will never be without existence, is not in need of an agent.

~Maimonides

For that which is without a beginning, a final cause need not be sought.

~Maimonides

If one avoids haughtiness to the utmost extent and is exceedingly humble, he is termed a saint, and this is the standard of saintliness.

~Maimonides

All attributes ascribed to God are attributes of His acts, and do not imply that God has any qualities.

~Maimonides

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