

# Mario Vargas Llosa

## Quotes

*Writing, Thinking, Men, Lying, Political, Real, Literature, Reading, Dream, Ideas,  
Pleasure, Artist, Novel, Character, Believe, States, Memories, Country,  
Sacrifice, People*

Memory is a snare, pure and simple; it alters, it subtly rearranges the past to fit the present.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Prosperity or egalitarianism -- you have to choose. I favor freedom -- you never achieve real equality anyway: you simply sacrifice prosperity for an illusion.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Like writing, reading is a protest against the insufficiencies of life.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Life is a shitstorm, in which art is our only umbrella." (spoken by character in a novel by Mario Vargas Llosa)

~Mario Vargas Llosa

The secret to a masterpiece is 10 percent inspiration and 90 percent perspiration.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

You cannot teach creativity - how to become a good writer. But you can help a young writer discover within himself what kind of writer he would like to be.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Its easy to know what you want to say, but not to say it

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Writers are the exorcists of their own demons.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

One can't fight with oneself, for this battle has only one loser.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

No matter how ephemeral it is, a novel is something, while despair is nothing.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Literature is a form of permanent insurrection. Its mission is to arouse, to disturb, to alarm, to keep men in a constant state of dissatisfaction with themselves.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

When I was young, when I started to write, we were totally convinced that literature was a kind of weapon.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

I convinced her that her first loyalty isn't to other people, but to her own feelings.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Revolution will free society of its afflictions, while science will free the individual of his.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

There is an incompatibility between literary creation and political activity.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Eroticism has its own moral justification because it says that pleasure is enough for me; it is a statement of the individual's sovereignty.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Maintain democracy or go to dictatorship: that is what is at stake in these elections.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Violence represents the worst kind of conformism.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

A good novel is a conjunction of many factors, the main of which is without a doubt, hard work.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Death isn't enough. It doesn't remove the stain. But a slap, a whiplash, square on the face, does. Because a man's face is as sacred as his mother or his wife.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

We must mistrust utopias: they usually end in holocausts.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

But what do I have? The things I'm told and the things I tell, that's all. And as far as I know, that never yet made anyone fly.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

The worst thing that can happen to an artist is to be subsidized by the state. It leads to an intellectual and artistic castration.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

It isn't true that convicts live like animals: animals have more room to move around.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Do the rhetorical quarrels of bourgeois political parties have anything to do with the interests of the humble and downtrodden?

~Mario Vargas Llosa

We were trained as writers with the idea that literature is something that can change reality, that it's not just a very sophisticated entertainment, but a way to act.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Science is still only a candle glimmering in a great pitch-dark cavern.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Writing a book is a very lonely business. You are totally cut off from the rest of the world, submerged in your obsessions and memories.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

If you are killed because you are a writer, that's the maximum expression of respect, you know.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Reading was such an enrichment of my life. And it was that pleasure that I had as a very young reader probably that is the origin of my vocation.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

A novel which persuades us of its truth is true however full of lies it may be

~Mario Vargas Llosa

There are many things behind a good novel, but in particular there is a lot of work - a lot of patience, a lot of stubbornness, and a critical spirit.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

I was very young and lived with my grandparents in a villa with white walls in the Calle Ocharan, in Miraflores.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

I have a chest full of all the insults, villainies, and infamies a man is capable of withstanding. . . . If you become famous, you will have to go through that.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

No democracy is born perfect, and none ever gets to be perfect. Yet

democracy is superior to authoritarian and totalitarian regimes because, unlike them, democracy is perfectible.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

It is rare and almost impossible for a novel to have only one narrator.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

The truths that seem most truthful, if you look at them from all sides, if you look at them close up, turn out to be either half truths or lies.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

I write because I'm unhappy. I write because it's a way of fighting unhappiness.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

I don't accept the idea that literature can be just entertainment and that there is no consequences of literature in the real world.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

North American society could not have reached its state of high development and modernity had it not been an open society.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Journalism is a way of voicing opinion, of participating in the political, social, or cultural debate.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

I have been always fascinated and seduced by history, which I think is very close, very close to literature.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

In general, I think my freedom of invention is not limited when I use historical characters.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

Liberty is inseparable from social justice, and those who dissociate them, sacrificing the first with the purpose of attaining the second more quickly, are the true barbarians of our time.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

writing fiction is the best thing there is because absolutely everything is possible!

~Mario Vargas Llosa

I think in a country like mine, violence is at the root of all human relations.

~Mario Vargas Llosa

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