

# Martha C. Nussbaum

## Quotes

*Thinking, Philosophy, People, Humanity, Media, Ideas, Children, Country,  
Stories, Imagination, Writing, Men, Focus, Want, World, Art, Academic  
Freedom, Important, Self, Cutting*

To be a good human being is to have a kind of openness to the world, an ability to trust uncertain things beyond your own control.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

Knowledge is no guarantee of good behavior, but ignorance is a virtual guarantee of bad behavior.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

Our emotional life maps our incompleteness: A creature without any needs would never have reasons for fear, or grief, or hope, or anger.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

Philosophers should be, as Seneca put it, 'lawyers for humanity'. Make what you think and feel count; the examined life has global dimensions.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

But the life that no longer trust another human being and no longer forms ties to the political community is not a human life any longer.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

You can't really change the heart without telling a story.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

Nudity quickly becomes unremarkable when generally practiced.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

As human beings, we ought to be vulnerable. We shouldn't try to say that we can be self-sufficient or do everything that's necessary for a good life on our own, because we need other people.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

Life is about more than earning a living, and if you're not in the habit of thinking about it, you can end up middle-aged or even older and

shocked to realize that your life seems empty.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

Business leaders love the humanities because they know that to innovate you need more than rote knowledge. You need a trained imagination.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

Choice matters. You might have the opportunity to eat a nutritious diet, though you might choose to eat a lousy diet. What matters is the opportunity.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

A person in torment is not going to give you anything.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

People have a deep need to be legislators, and the idea of autonomy has become very precious.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

People don't just want to feel satisfied. They actually want to act.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

I think the imagination helps us move out of the purely oppositional mentality and see the world in a richer and more variegated way.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

After all, the nation is not just an entity. It's a story. It's a story of what's salient, what brought us together, what we are willing to live and die for.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

Today, I think, the state of philosophizing about democracy is very healthy. It bridges political science and philosophy, as it should.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

Notice that all the traditional things philosophers do, looking for validity and soundness, promote civic friendship. That sounds pretty pie in the sky, yes, but I actually believe it.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

I think that's what we really need in America, for people to hear each other. And I think philosophy could do a little bit better on that.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

We have to change men's expectations, as they grow up, regarding their share of domestic work, of child care, but also of elder care, which is less pleasant and which men don't want to do.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

Economists get impatient with philosophy. They are often trained as skilled mathematicians. They don't like going back to ordinary language and first principles.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

I think we need government to play a part in having a health policy that makes nursing care available for the increasing numbers who are going to need it.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

I do think there's a lot of bad writing, and I worry about that in philosophy. I worry about it even more in literary studies, but I wouldn't blame it on any one methodology.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

When a profession is protected by academic freedom and tenure, it tends to turn inward. To a large extent that's good.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

You have to pay so much to see theater, even in Chicago. In the Greek theater, you didn't have to pay anything. You actually had to go, and you just sat there all day.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

TV has a lot of problems, but I think the Internet and social media have a lot more. Under the cover of anonymity people say the most vicious things.

~Martha C. Nussbaum

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