

Martin Buber

Quotes

*Men, World, Mean, Empathy, Thinking, Giving, Faces, Way, Atheism, Light,
Doe, Life, Tree, People, Real, Feelings, Encounters, Love, Unique, Able*

The real struggle is not between East and West, or capitalism and communism, but between education and propaganda.

~Martin Buber

When two people relate to each other authentically and humanly, God is the electricity that surges between them.

~Martin Buber

All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.

~Martin Buber

I think no human being can give more than this. Making life possible for the other, if only for a moment.

~Martin Buber

Everything depends on inner change; when this has taken place, then, and only then does the world change.

~Martin Buber

A human being becomes whole not in virtue of a relation to himself [only] but rather in virtue of an authentic relation to another human being(s).

~Martin Buber

The atheist staring from his attic window is often nearer to God than the believer caught up in his own false image of God.

~Martin Buber

Solitude is the place of purification.

~Martin Buber

Every person born in this world represents something new, something that never existed before, something original and unique.

~Martin Buber

An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language.

~Martin Buber

To love God truly, one must first love man. And if anyone tells you that he loves God and does not love his fellow-man, you will know that he is lying.

~Martin Buber

The true meaning of love one's neighbor is not that it is a command from God which we are to fulfill, but that through it and in it we meet God.

~Martin Buber

Human life and humanity come into being in genuine encounters. The hope for this hour depends upon the renewal of the immediacy of dialogue among human beings.

~Martin Buber

God made so many different kinds of people; why would God allow only one way to worship?

~Martin Buber

When a man has made peace within himself, he will be able to make peace in the whole world.

~Martin Buber

There is no room for God in him who is full of himself.

~Martin Buber

I don't like religion much, and I am glad that in the Bible the word is not to be found.

~Martin Buber

The world is not comprehensible, but it is embraceable: through the

embracing of one of its beings.

~Martin Buber

Our relationships live in the space between us which is sacred.

~Martin Buber

Everyone has in him something precious that is in no one else.

~Martin Buber

Eclipse of the light of heaven, eclipse of God - such indeed is the character of the historic hour through which the world is now passing

~Martin Buber

We can learn to be whole by saying what we mean and doing what we say.

~Martin Buber

Nothing so tends to mask the face of God as religion; it can be a substitute for God himself.

~Martin Buber

What has to be given up is not the I, as most mystics suppose: this I is indispensable for any relationship, including the highest, which always presupposes an I and You.

~Martin Buber

To be old can be glorious if one has not unlearned how to begin.

~Martin Buber

In the beginning was the relationship.

~Martin Buber

Everyone must come out of his Exile in his own way.

~Martin Buber

How would man exist if God did not need him, and how would you exist? You need God in order to be, and God needs you - for that is the meaning of your life.

~Martin Buber

Persons appear by entering into relation to other persons.

~Martin Buber

There is something that can be found in one place. It is a great treasure which may be called the fulfillment of existence. The place where this treasure can be found is the place where one stands

~Martin Buber

Let us, cautious in diction, And mighty in contradiction, Love powerfully.

~Martin Buber

Egos appear by setting themselves apart from other egos. Persons appear by entering into relation with other persons.

~Martin Buber

Before his death, Rabbi Zusya said "In the coming world, they will not ask me: 'Why were you not Moses?' They will ask me: 'Why were you not Zusya?'"

~Martin Buber

Mundus vult decipi: the world wants to be deceived.

~Martin Buber

We should stake our whole existence on our willingness to explore and experience.

~Martin Buber

He who loves brings God and the World together.

~Martin Buber

All real living is meeting.

~Martin Buber

The world is not divine sport, it is divine destiny. There is a divine meaning of the world, of man, of human persons, of you and me.

~Martin Buber

To begin with oneself but not to end with oneself. To start from oneself but not to aim at oneself.

~Martin Buber

When I meet a man, I am not concerned about his opinions. I am concerned about the man.

~Martin Buber

And if there were a devil it would not be one who decided against God, but one who, in eternity, came to no decision.

~Martin Buber

So long as you "have" yourself, have yourself as an object, your experience of man is only as of a thing among things.

~Martin Buber

God dwells wherever man lets Him in.

~Martin Buber

God is the "mysterium tremendum," that appears and overthrows, but he is also the mystery of the self-evident, nearer to me than my I.

~Martin Buber

We can be redeemed only to the extent to which we see ourselves.

~Martin Buber

Love is responsibility of an I for a You: in this consists what cannot consist in any feeling - the equality of all lovers.

~Martin Buber

The beating heart of the universe is holy joy.

~Martin Buber

Only men who are capable of saying Thou [an attitude of deep respect] to one another can truly say we with one another.

~Martin Buber

The future stands in need of you in order to be born.

~Martin Buber

You should carefully observe the way toward which your heart draws you, then choose this way with all your strength.

~Martin Buber

The tradition of the camp fire faces that of the pyramid.

~Martin Buber

Feeling one "has"; love occurs.

~Martin Buber

We may listen to our inner self-and still not know which ocean we hear roaring.

~Martin Buber

All actual life is encounter.

~Martin Buber

We should also pray for the wicked among the peoples of the world; we should love them too.

~Martin Buber

Everything is full of sacramental substance, everything. Each thing and each function is ever ready to light up into a sacrament.

~Martin Buber

A person cannot approach the divine by reaching beyond the human. To become human, is what this individual person, has been created for.

~Martin Buber

One cannot in the nature of things expect a little tree that has been turned into a club to put forth leaves.

~Martin Buber

Inscrutably involved, we live in the currents of universal reciprocity.

~Martin Buber

The I of the basic word I-Thou is different from that of the basic word I-It.

~Martin Buber

This is the sacrifice: the endless possibility that is offered up on the altar of the form.

~Martin Buber

If we had the power over the ends of the earth, it would not give us that fulfillment of existence which a quiet devoted relationship to nearby life can give us.

~Martin Buber

Power abdicates only under the stress of counter-power.

~Martin Buber

All names of God remain hallowed because they have been used not only to speak of God but also to speak to him.

~Martin Buber

Meet the world with the fullness of your being, and you shall meet God.
Of you wish to believe, love.

~Martin Buber

The perpetual enemy of faith in the true God is not atheism (the claim that there is no God), but rather Gnosticism (the claim that God is known).

~Martin Buber

One must be truly able to say I in order to know the mystery of the Thou in its whole truth.

~Martin Buber

To produce is to draw forth, to invent is to find, to shape is to discover.

~Martin Buber

It pains me to speak of God in the third person.

~Martin Buber

I'm not sure I can take your advice. You are dealing with English Gentlemen. We are dealing with monsters.

~Martin Buber

The work produced is a thing among things, able to be experienced and described as a sum of qualities. But from time to time it can face the receptive beholder in its whole embodied form.

~Martin Buber

No limits are set to the ascent of man, and to each and everyone the highest stands open. Here it is only your personal choice that decides.

~Martin Buber

Creation happens to us, burns into us, changes us, we tremble and swoon, we submit. Creation - we participate in it, we encounter the creator, offer ourselves to him, helpers and companions.

~Martin Buber

Play is the exultation of the possible.

~Martin Buber

Dialogic is not to be identified with love. But love without dialogic, without real outgoing to the other, reaching to the other, the love remaining with itself - this is called Lucifer.

~Martin Buber

Without being and remaining oneself, there is no love.

~Martin Buber

Through the Thou a person becomes I.

~Martin Buber

The law is not thrust upon man; it rests deep within him, to waken when the call comes.

~Martin Buber

It is usual to think of good and evil as two poles, two opposite directions, the antithesis of one another...We must begin by doing away with this convention.

~Martin Buber

This is the risk: the primary word can only be spoken with the whole being. He who gives himself to it may withhold nothing of himself.

~Martin Buber

I do, indeed, close my door at times and surrender myself to a book, but only because I can open the door again and see a human face

looking at me.

~Martin Buber

To him who knows how to read the legend, it conveys more truth than the chronicle.

~Martin Buber

For sin is just this, what man cannot by its very nature do with his whole being; it is possible to silence the conflict in the soul, but it is not possible to uproot it

~Martin Buber

The ones who count are those persons who - though they may be of little renown - respond to and are responsible for the continuation of the living spirit.

~Martin Buber

God wants man to fulfill his commands as a human being and with the quality peculiar to human beings.

~Martin Buber

The salvation of man does not lie in his holding himself far removed from the worldly, but in consecrating it to holy, to divine meaning.

~Martin Buber

The perfection of any matter, the highest or the lowest, touches on the divine.

~Martin Buber

One need ask only 'What for? What am I to unify my being for?' The reply is: Not for my own sake.

~Martin Buber

There are people of spirit and there are people of passion, both less

common than one might think. Rarer still are the people of spirit and passion. But rarest of all is a passionable spirit.

~Martin Buber

Freedom and destiny are solemnly promised to one another and linked together in meaning.

~Martin Buber

Read the Bible as though it were something entirely unfamiliar, as though it had not been set before you ready-made. Face the book with a new attitude as something new.

~Martin Buber

As I actualize, I uncover.

~Martin Buber

God cannot be seen, but He can listened to and spoken to!

~Martin Buber

All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveller is unaware.

~Martin Buber

Nothing can doom man but the belief in doom, for this prevents the movement of return.

~Martin Buber

It is not the nature of the task, but its consecration, that is the vital thing.

~Martin Buber

Creation is not a hurdle on the road to God, it is the road itself.

~Martin Buber

The prophet is appointed to oppose the kind, and even more: history.

~Martin Buber

To look away from the world, or to stare at it, does not help a man to reach God; but he who sees the world in Him stands in His presence.

~Martin Buber

As long as the firmament of the You is spread over me, the tempests of causality cower at my heels, and whirl of doom congeals.

~Martin Buber

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