

Michael Polanyi

Quotes

*Principles, Body, Belief, Physics, Topography, Knowledge, Use, Exercise, Light,
Men, Ideas, Responsibility, Achievement, Knows, Meaningful, Humans, Data,
Determined, Coherence, Possibility*

We know more than we can tell.

~Michael Polanyi

The process of philosophic and scientific enlightenment has shaken the stability of beliefs held explicitly as articles of faith.

~Michael Polanyi

We could not, for example, arrive at a principle like that of entropy without introducing some additional principle, such as randomness, to this topography.

~Michael Polanyi

The information in DNA could no more be reduced to the chemical than could the ideas in a book be reduced to the ink and paper: something beyond physics and chemistry encoded DNA.

~Michael Polanyi

I shall reconsider human knowledge by starting from the fact that we can know more than we can tell.

~Michael Polanyi

Discoveries are made by pursuing possibilities suggested by existing knowledge.

~Michael Polanyi

Theories of evolution must provide for the creative acts which brought such theories into existence.

~Michael Polanyi

Personal participation is the universal principle of knowing.

~Michael Polanyi

And the actual achievements of biology are explanations in terms of mechanisms founded on physics and chemistry, which is not the same

thing as explanations in terms of physics and chemistry.

~Michael Polanyi

But even physics cannot be defined from an atomic topography.

~Michael Polanyi

Human beings exercise responsibilities within a social setting and a framework of obligations which transcend the principle of intelligence.

~Michael Polanyi

No inanimate object is ever fully determined by the laws of physics and chemistry.

~Michael Polanyi

Of course language manifests a belief only if we use its words with the implied acceptance of their appositeness.

~Michael Polanyi

Admittedly, scientific authority is not distributed evenly throughout the body of scientists; some distinguished members of the profession predominate over others of a more junior standing.

~Michael Polanyi

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