

# Miguel de Unamuno

## Quotes

*Men, Believe, Science, Ideas, Love, Philosophy, People, Fall, Life, Lying,  
Giving, Faith, Doubt, Order, Art, God, May, Vanity, Atheism, Memories*

The only way to give finality to the world is to give it consciousness.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Fascism is cured by reading, and racism is cured by traveling

~Miguel de Unamuno

A lot of good arguments are spoiled by some fool who knows what he is talking about.

~Miguel de Unamuno

It is sad not to love, but it is much sadder not to be able to love.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Love is the child of illusion and the parent of disillusion.

~Miguel de Unamuno

The skeptic does not mean him who doubts, but him who investigates or researches, as opposed to him who asserts and thinks that he has found.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Only in solitude do we find ourselves; and in finding ourselves, we find in ourselves all our brothers in solitude.

~Miguel de Unamuno

We should try to be the parents of our future rather than the offspring of our past.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Suffering is the substance of life and the root of personality, for it is only suffering that makes us persons.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Only he who attempts the absurd is capable of achieving the

impossible.

~Miguel de Unamuno

The less we read, the more harmful it is what we read.

~Miguel de Unamuno

My aim is to agitate and disturb people. I'm not selling bread; I'm selling yeast.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Cure yourself of the affliction of caring how you appear to others. Concern yourself only with how you appear before God, concern yourself only with the idea that God may have of you.

~Miguel de Unamuno

To believe in God is to yearn for His existence and, furthermore, it is to act as if He did exist.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Faith which does not doubt is dead faith.

~Miguel de Unamuno

True science teaches, above all, to doubt and be ignorant.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Isolation is the worst possible counselor.

~Miguel de Unamuno

We need God, not in order to understand the why, but in order to feel and sustain the ultimate wherefore, to give a meaning to the universe.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Scholasticism, a concept which does not bear criticism, is a theological concept specifically designed to sustain faith in the immortality of the

soul.

~Miguel de Unamuno

To fall into a habit is to begin to cease to be.

~Miguel de Unamuno

That which the Fascists hate above all else, is intelligence.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Chemistry ought to be not for chemists alone.

~Miguel de Unamuno

What is vanity but the longing to survive?

~Miguel de Unamuno

A man does not die of love or his liver or even of old age; he dies of being a man.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Human beliefs, like all other natural growths, elude the barrier of systems.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Hell has been conceived as a police institution, to inspire fear in this world. But the worst of it all is that it no longer frightens anyone, and therefore it will have to be closed down.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Philosophy fulfills the need to create for ourselves a single and complete concept of the world and of life.

~Miguel de Unamuno

There are people who are so full of common sense that they haven't the slightest cranny left for their own sense.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Piensa el sentimiento, siente el pensamiento." (roughly translated, "Think about the emotional and feel the intellectual")

~Miguel de Unamuno

Men shout to avoid listening to one another.

~Miguel de Unamuno

It is truer to say that martyrs create faith more than faith creates martyrs.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Man dies of cold, not of darkness.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Life is doubt, and faith without doubt is nothing but death.

~Miguel de Unamuno

And killing time is perhaps the essence of comedy, just as the essence of tragedy is killing eternity.

~Miguel de Unamuno

What we believe to be the motives of our conduct are usually but the pretexts for it.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Science robs men of wisdom and usually converts them into phantom beings loaded up with facts.

~Miguel de Unamuno

The greatest height of heroism to which an individual, like a people, can attain is to know how to face ridicule.

~Miguel de Unamuno

My work...is to shatter the faith of men here, there, and everywhere, faith in affirmation, faith in negation, and faith in abstention from faith, and this for the sake of faith in faith itself.

~Miguel de Unamuno

If it is nothingness that awaits us, let us make an injustice of it, let us fight against destiny, even without hope of victory.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Anyone who in discussion relies upon authority uses, not his understanding, but rather his memory.

~Miguel de Unamuno

The supreme triumph of reason is to cast doubt upon its own validity.

~Miguel de Unamuno

None are so likely to believe too little as those who have begun by believing too much.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Art distills sensations and embodies it with enhanced meaning.

~Miguel de Unamuno

It is not the shilling I give you that counts, but the warmth that it carries with it from my hand.

~Miguel de Unamuno

It is not usually our ideas that make us optimistic or pessimistic, but it is our optimism or pessimism of physiological or pathological origin that makes our ideas.

~Miguel de Unamuno

The only reactionaries are those who find themselves at home in the present.

~Miguel de Unamuno

The mists remain of the false glory that erupts from history.

~Miguel de Unamuno

To love with the spirit is to pity, and he who pities most loves most.

~Miguel de Unamuno

We men do nothing but lie and make ourselves important. Speech was invented for the purpose of magnifying all of our sensations and impressions â€” perhaps so that we could believe in them.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Consciousness is a disease.

~Miguel de Unamuno

The moment love is equated with happiness, it is satisfied â€” and is no longer love. The satisfied, the happy ones, do not love; they fall asleep in habit, near neighbor to annihilation.

~Miguel de Unamuno

These terrible sociologists, who are the astrologers and alchemists of our twentieth century.

~Miguel de Unamuno

While men believe themselves to be seeking truth for its own sake, they are in fact seeking life in truth.

~Miguel de Unamuno

An idea does not pass from one language to another without change.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Your neighbor's vision is as true for him as your own vision is true for you.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Science is the most intimate school of resignation and humility, for it teaches us to bow before the seemingly most insignificant of facts.

~Miguel de Unamuno

My religion is to seek for truth in life and for life in truth, even knowing that I shall not find them while I live.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Cure yourself of the inclination to bother about how you look to other people. Be concerned only . . . with the idea God has of you.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Those faults we do not have, do not bother us.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Our life is a hope which is continually converting itself into memory and memory in its turn begets hope.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Science is a cemetery of dead ideas, even though life may issue from them.

~Miguel de Unamuno

There are pretenses which are very sincere, and marriage is their school.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Sometimes, to remain silent is to lie, since silence can be interpreted as assent.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Fear is the start of wisdom.



~Miguel de Unamuno

All knowledge has an ultimate goal. Knowledge for the sake of knowledge is, say what you will, nothing but a dismal begging of the question.

~Miguel de Unamuno

If a person never contradicts himself, it must be that he says nothing.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Everything that exalts and expands consciousness is good, while that which depresses and diminishes it is evil.

~Miguel de Unamuno

May God deny you peace but give you glory!

~Miguel de Unamuno

The truth is that reason is the enemy of life.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Science is a cemetery of dead ideas.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Science teaches us, in effect, to submit our reason to the truth and to know and judge of things as they are-that is to say, as they themselves choose to be and not as we would have them to be.

~Miguel de Unamuno

I would say that teleology is theology, and that God is not a "because," but rather an "in order to."

~Miguel de Unamuno

Knowledge for the sake of knowledge! Truth for truth's sake! This is inhuman.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Dream abides; it is the only things that abides; vision abides.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Was man made for science, or was science made for man?

~Miguel de Unamuno

Every peasant has a lawyer inside of him, just as every lawyer, no matter how urbane he may be, carries a peasant within himself.

~Miguel de Unamuno

The devil is an angel too.

~Miguel de Unamuno

And usually [the philosopher] philosophizes either in order to resign himself to life, or to seek some finality in it, or to distract himself and forget his griefs, or for pastime and amusement.

~Miguel de Unamuno

What is certain is that for thinking believers to-day, faith is, before all and above all, wishing that God may exist.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Use harms and even destroys beauty. The noblest function of an object is to be contemplated.

~Miguel de Unamuno

We never know, believe me, when we have succeeded best.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Martyrs create faith, faith does not create martyrs.

~Miguel de Unamuno

The pessimism that protests and defends itself cannot be truly said to be pessimism.

~Miguel de Unamuno

From the subterranean ore of memory we extract the jeweled visions of our future.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Man is perishing. That may be, and if it is nothingness that awaits us let us so act that it will be an unjust fate.

~Miguel de Unamuno

The tears of anguish irritate and excite; but those of repentance are the ones that wash.

~Miguel de Unamuno

If a philosopher is not a man, he is anything but a philosopher; he is above all a pedant, and a pedant is a caricature of a man.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Man habitually sacrifices his life to his purse, but he sacrifices his purse to his vanity.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Sow the living part of yourselves in the furrow of life.

~Miguel de Unamuno

My religion is searching for the truth in life and life in the truth, though knowing that I do not have to find it while I live; my religion is fighting incessantly and tirelessly with the unknown.

~Miguel de Unamuno

Love personalizes all that it loves. Only by personalizing it can we fall in love with an idea.

~Miguel de Unamuno

The chiefest sanctity of a temple is that it is a place to which men go to weep in common.

~Miguel de Unamuno

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