

# Mikhail Tal

## Quotes

*Chess, Games, Chess Game, Opponents, Play, Sacrifice, Thinking, Player, Psychology, Moving, Luck, Knights, Mistake, Giving, Long, Feelings, Art, Care, Bad Luck, Planning*

You must take your opponent into a deep dark forest where  $2+2=5$ , and the path leading out is only wide enough for one

~Mikhail Tal

In my games I have sometimes found a combination intuitively simply feeling that it must be there. Yet I was not able to translate my thought processes into normal human language.

~Mikhail Tal

If you wait for luck to turn up, life becomes very boring.

~Mikhail Tal

Just as one's imagination is stirred by a girl's smile, so is one's imagination stirred by the possibilities of chess.

~Mikhail Tal

There are two types of sacrifices: correct ones and mine

~Mikhail Tal

Later, I began to succeed in decisive games. Perhaps because I realized a very simple truth: not only was I worried, but also my opponent

~Mikhail Tal

To play for a draw (at any rate with White) is to some degree a crime against chess.

~Mikhail Tal

When I asked Fischer why he had not played a certain move in our game, he replied: 'Well, you laughed when I wrote it down!'

~Mikhail Tal

Of course, errors are not good for a chess game, but errors are unavoidable and in any case, a game without any errors, or as they say

'flawless game' is colorless.

~Mikhail Tal

Fischer is Fischer, but a knight is a knight!

~Mikhail Tal

Quiet moves often make a stronger impression than a wild combination with heavy sacrifices.

~Mikhail Tal

First, how to sac my queen, then rook, then bishop, then knight, then pawns.

~Mikhail Tal

Without technique it is impossible to reach the top in chess, and therefore we all try to borrow from Capablanca his wonderful, subtle technique.

~Mikhail Tal

Many Chess players were surprised when after the game, Fischer quietly explained: 'I had already analyzed this possibility' in a position which I thought was not possible to foresee from the opening

~Mikhail Tal

Fischer is the greatest genius to descend from the chess heavens.

~Mikhail Tal

The cherished dream of every chessplayer is to play a match with the World Champion. But here is the paradox: the closer you come to the realization of this goal, the less you think about it.

~Mikhail Tal

Some sacrifices are sound; the rest are mine

~Mikhail Tal

I like to grasp the initiative and not give my opponent peace of mind.

~Mikhail Tal

If (Black) is going for victory, he is practically forced to allow his opponent to get some kind of well-known positional advantage.

~Mikhail Tal

It is difficult to play against Einstein's theory -on his first loss to Fischer

~Mikhail Tal

I'd like to always be romantic in chess. Sadly, this doesn't always work like that.

~Mikhail Tal

I go over many games collections and pick up something from the style of each player.

~Mikhail Tal

For pleasure you can read the games collections of Andersson and Chigorin, but for benefit you should study Tarrasch, Keres and Bronstein.

~Mikhail Tal

I believe most definitely that one must not only grapple with the problems on the board, one must also make every effort to combat the thoughts and will of the opponent.

~Mikhail Tal

Planning anything is hopeless.

~Mikhail Tal

As long as my opponent has not yet castled, on each move I seek a pretext for an offensive. Even when I realize that the king is not in danger.

~Mikhail Tal

Naturally, the psychological susceptibility of a match participant is significantly higher than a participant in a tournament, since each game substantially changes the over-all position.

~Mikhail Tal

You can't avoid mistakes and bad luck.

~Mikhail Tal

I have always thought it a matter of honour for every chess player to deserve the smile of fortune.

~Mikhail Tal

Chess isn't football or hockey.

~Mikhail Tal

I can take care of myself! But the "external barriers", my opponents, do indeed concern me.

~Mikhail Tal

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