

# Morris Raphael Cohen

## Quotes

*Philosophy, Philosopher, Law, Idols, Attitude, Two, Firsts, Hygiene, Our World,  
Doubt, Self, Guarantees That, Science, Evil, Travel, Past, Textbooks, Court,  
World, Wisdom*

A creative element is surely present in all great systems, and it does not seem possible that all sympathy or fundamental attitudes of will can be entirely eliminated from any human philosophy.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

Cruel persecutions and intolerance are not accidents, but grow out of the very essence of religion, namely, its absolute claims.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

Law must be viewed as a formless mass of isolated decisions.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

Let philosophy resolutely aim to be as scientific as possible, but let her not forget her strong kinship with literature.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

Conservatism clings to what has been established, fearing that, once we begin to question the beliefs that we have inherited, all the values of life will be destroyed.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

Small groups or communities may be far more oppressive to the individual than larger ones. Men are in many ways freer in large cities than in small villages.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

Again, both literature and philosophy work by appealing to certain reigning idols.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

The picture which the philosopher draws of the world is surely not one in which every stroke is necessitated by pure logic.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

Lastly, literature and philosophy both allow past idols to be resurrected with a frequency which would be truly distressing to a sober scientist.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

Wisdom is not to be obtained from textbooks, but must be coined out of human experience in the flame of life.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

If a philosophic theory is once ruled out of court, no one can tell when it will appear again.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

To be sure, the vast majority of people who are untrained can accept the results of science only on authority.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

All logic texts are divided into two parts. In the first part, on deductible logic, the fallacies are explained; in the second part, on inductive logic, they are committed.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

If religion cannot restrain evil, it cannot claim effective power for good.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

The business of the philosopher is well done if he succeeds in raising genuine doubt.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

Inertia is the first law of history, as it is of physics.

~Morris Raphael Cohen

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