

Mortimer Adler

Quotes

*Book, Reading, Teacher, Mind, Men, Thinking, Heart, Angel, Understanding,
Teaching, Way, Philosophy, Wisdom, Giving, Love Is, Religious, Philosopher,
Life, Justice, Inspirational*

Not to engage in this pursuit of ideas is to live like ants instead of like men.

~Mortimer Adler

All genuine learning is active, not passive. It involves the use of the mind, not just the memory. It is a process of discovery, in which the student is the main agent, not the teacher.

~Mortimer Adler

Erotic or sexual love can truly be love if it is not selfishly sexual or lustful.

~Mortimer Adler

Freedom is the emancipation from the arbitrary rule of other men.

~Mortimer Adler

One of the embarrassing problems for the early nineteenth-century champions of the Christian faith was that not one of the first six Presidents of the United States was an orthodox Christian.

~Mortimer Adler

More consequences for thought and action follow the affirmation or denial of God than from answering any other basic question.

~Mortimer Adler

In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but how many can get through to you.

~Mortimer Adler

True freedom is impossible without a mind made free by discipline.

~Mortimer Adler

A good book can teach you about the world and about yourself. You learn more than how to read better; you also learn more about life. You

become wiser.

~Mortimer Adler

To agree without understanding is inane. To disagree without understanding is impudent.

~Mortimer Adler

The ultimate end of education is happiness or a good human life, a life enriched by the possession of every kind of good, by the enjoyment of every type of satisfaction.

~Mortimer Adler

Unless we love and are loved, each of us is alone, each of us is deeply lonely.

~Mortimer Adler

Conjugal love, or the friendship of spouses, persists after sexual desires have weakened, withered, and disappeared.

~Mortimer Adler

The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live.

~Mortimer Adler

You have to allow a certain amount of time in which you are doing nothing in order to have things occur to you, to let your mind think.

~Mortimer Adler

The truly great books are the few books that are over everybody's head all of the time.

~Mortimer Adler

Education is the sum total of one's experience, and the purpose of higher education is to widen our experiences beyond the circumscribed

existence or our own daily lives.

~Mortimer Adler

Wonder is the beginning of wisdom in learning from books as well as from nature.

~Mortimer Adler

Reading is a basic tool in the living of a good life.

~Mortimer Adler

If one wants another only for some self-satisfaction, usually in the form of sensual pleasure, that wrong desire takes the form of lust rather than love.

~Mortimer Adler

Too many facts are often as much of an obstacle to understanding as too few. There is a sense in which we moderns are inundated with facts to the detriment of understanding.

~Mortimer Adler

The person who says he knows what he thinks but cannot express it usually does not know what he thinks.

~Mortimer Adler

Love can be unselfish, in the sense of being benevolent and generous, without being selfless.

~Mortimer Adler

Only hidden and undetected oratory is really insidious. What reaches the heart without going through the mind is likely to bounce back and put the mind out of business.

~Mortimer Adler

Love without conversation is impossible.

~Mortimer Adler

In English we must use adjectives to distinguish the different kinds of love for which the ancients had distinct names.

~Mortimer Adler

The great authors were great readers, and one way to understand them is to read the books they read.

~Mortimer Adler

Books are absent teachers.

~Mortimer Adler

Ask others about themselves, at the same time, be on guard not to talk too much about yourself.

~Mortimer Adler

Work that is pure toil, done solely for the sake of the money it earns, is also sheer drudgery because it is stultifying rather than self improving.

~Mortimer Adler

All genuine learning is active, not passive.

~Mortimer Adler

Sometimes it feels like I'm thinking against the wind.

~Mortimer Adler

One of the aims of sexual union is procreation - the creation by reproduction of an image of itself, of the union.

~Mortimer Adler

Friendship is a very taxing and arduous form of leisure activity.

~Mortimer Adler

A lecture has been well described as the process whereby the notes of the teacher become the notes of the student without passing through the mind of either.

~Mortimer Adler

Philosophy is everybody's business.

~Mortimer Adler

The philosopher ought never to try to avoid the duty of making up his mind.

~Mortimer Adler

The dictionary also invites a playful reading. It challenges anyone to sit down with it in an idle moment. There are worse ways to kill time.

~Mortimer Adler

Men value things in three ways: as useful, as pleasant or sources of pleasure, and as excellent, or as intrinsically admirable or honorable.

~Mortimer Adler

Angels are able to know and understand better than the human intellect can, precisely because such knowledge and understanding comes to them by way of ideas infused in them by God.

~Mortimer Adler

There is no more irritating fellow than the man who tries to settle an argument about communism, or justice, or liberty, by quoting from Webster.

~Mortimer Adler

The teacher's role in discussion is to keep it going along fruitful lines - be moderating, guiding, correcting and arguing like one more students.

~Mortimer Adler

If you never ask yourself any questions about the meaning of a passage, you cannot expect the book to give you any insight you do not already possess.

~Mortimer Adler

Ultimately there can be no disagreement between history, science, philosophy, and theology. Where there is disagreement, there is either ignorance or error.

~Mortimer Adler

The telephone book is full of facts, but it doesn't contain a single idea.

~Mortimer Adler

Angels are not merely forms of extraterrestrial intelligence. They are forms of extra-cosmic intelligence.

~Mortimer Adler

I wonder if most people ever ask themselves why love is connected with reproduction. And if they do ask themselves about this, I wonder what answer they give.

~Mortimer Adler

It's not how many books you get through, it's how many books get through you.

~Mortimer Adler

I suspect that most of the individuals who have religious faith are content with blind faith

~Mortimer Adler

Love wishes to perpetuate itself. Love wishes for immortality.

~Mortimer Adler

All books will become light in proportion as you find light in them.

~Mortimer Adler

We love even when our love is not requited.

~Mortimer Adler

Think how different human societies would be if they were based on love rather than justice. But no such societies have ever existed on earth.

~Mortimer Adler

The love which moves the world, according to common Christian belief, is God's love and the love of God.

~Mortimer Adler

The complexities of adult life get in the way of the truth.

~Mortimer Adler

Aristotle uses a mother's love for her child as the prime example of love or friendship.

~Mortimer Adler

Theories of love are found in the works of scientists, philosophers, and theologians.

~Mortimer Adler

One reader is better than another in proportion as he is able of a greater range of activity in reading and exerts more effort.

~Mortimer Adler

I find the selectivity of erotic love - the choice of this man or this woman - much more intelligible if liking the person is the origin of sexual interest, rather than the other way.

~Mortimer Adler

We are selfish when we are exclusively or predominantly concerned with the good for ourselves. We are altruistic when we are exclusively or predominantly concerned with the good of others.

~Mortimer Adler

... always keep in mind that an article of faith is not something that the faithful assume. Faith, for those who have it, is the most certain form of knowledge, not a tentative opinion.

~Mortimer Adler

The tragedy of being both rational and animal seems to consist in having to choose between duty and desire rather than in making any particular choice

~Mortimer Adler

Imaginative literature primarily pleases rather than teaches. It is much easier to be pleased than taught, but much harder to know why one is pleased. Beauty is harder to analyze than truth.

~Mortimer Adler

The materialist assumption that spiritual substances do not exist is as much an act of faith as the religious belief in the reality of angels.

~Mortimer Adler

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