

# Murray Gell-Mann

## Quotes

*Thinking, Science, Believe, Physics, World, Nature, Simple, Diversity, Running, Special, Ifs, Night, Jobs, Beautiful, Facts, Quantum, Results, Fundamentals, Mean, Writing*

Enthusiasm is followed by disappointment and even depression, and then by renewed enthusiasm.

~Murray Gell-Mann

Modern education is like being taken to the world's greatest restaurant & being forced to eat the menu.

~Murray Gell-Mann

The world of the quark has everything to do with a jaguar circling in the night.

~Murray Gell-Mann

If someone says that he can think or talk about quantum physics without becoming dizzy, that shows only that he has not understood anything whatever about it.

~Murray Gell-Mann

Sustainability is living on nature's income rather than living on its capital.

~Murray Gell-Mann

Everything that is not forbidden is compulsory.

~Murray Gell-Mann

Niels Bohr brainwashed a whole generation of theorists into thinking that the job (interpreting quantum theory) was done 50 years ago.

~Murray Gell-Mann

You know, there was a time, just before I started to study physical science, when astronomers thought that systems such as we have here in the solar system required a rare triple collision of stars

~Murray Gell-Mann

Both biological and cultural diversity are now severely threatened and

working for their preservation is a critical task.

~Murray Gell-Mann

I would recommend that skeptics devote even more effort than they do now to understanding the reasons why so many people want or need to believe.

~Murray Gell-Mann

What is especially striking and remarkable is that in fundamental physics a beautiful or elegant theory is more likely to be right than a theory that is inelegant.

~Murray Gell-Mann

The chaos can act as a magnifier of quantum fluctuations so that they can produce sizable effects in the world around us. But we know that that can happen often

~Murray Gell-Mann

If I have seen further than others, it is because I am surrounded by dwarfs.

~Murray Gell-Mann

We are driven by the usual insatiable curiosity of the scientist, and our work is a delightful game.

~Murray Gell-Mann

In fact any experiment that measures a quantum effect is one in which the quantum effect is aligned with the behavior of some heavy, macroscopic object; that's how we measure it

~Murray Gell-Mann

I have been interested in phenomena involving complexity, diversity and evolution since I was a young boy.

~Murray Gell-Mann

But when researchers at Bell Labs discovered that static tends to come from particular places in the sky, the whole field of radio astronomy opened up.

~Murray Gell-Mann

Planets are too dim to be detected with existing equipment, far away, except in these very special circumstances where they're seen by their gravitational effect

~Murray Gell-Mann

I think also of my colleagues in elementary particle theory in many lands, and feel that in some measure I am here as a representative of our small, informal, international fraternity.

~Murray Gell-Mann

If we look at the way the universe behaves, quantum mechanics gives us fundamental, unavoidable indeterminacy, so that alternative histories of the universe can be assigned probability.

~Murray Gell-Mann

I do not keep up with the details of particle physics.

~Murray Gell-Mann

When you think you're listening to several conversations at once, they tell me, you may really simply be time sharing - that is, listening a little bit to this one, a little bit to that one

~Murray Gell-Mann

Superstitions typically involve seeing order where in fact there is none, and denial amounts to rejecting evidence of regularities, sometimes even ones that are staring us in the face.

~Murray Gell-Mann

As a theoretical physicist, I feel at once proud and humble at the

thought of the illustrious figures that have preceded me here to receive the greatest of all honors in science, the Nobel prize.

~Murray Gell-Mann

I am frequently astonished that it so often results in correct predictions of experimental results.

~Murray Gell-Mann

If you know the wavefunction of the universe, why aren't you rich?

~Murray Gell-Mann

The persistence of erroneous beliefs exacerbates the widespread anachronistic failure to recognize the urgent problems that face humanity on this planet.

~Murray Gell-Mann

Sometimes the probabilities are very close to certainties, but they're never really certainties

~Murray Gell-Mann

Think how hard physics would be if particles could think

~Murray Gell-Mann

Our planet doesn't seem to be the result of anything very special

~Murray Gell-Mann

Bush is a nice fellow who gives very good parties. I just wish someone would find him a better job than running the country.

~Murray Gell-Mann

Just because things get a little dingy at the subatomic level doesn't mean all bets are off.

~Murray Gell-Mann

But I don't actually adopt the point of view that our subjective impression of free will, which is a kind of indeterminacy behavior, comes from quantum mechanical indeterminacy.

~Murray Gell-Mann

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