

Niels Bohr Quotes

*Science, Thinking, Opposites, Inspirational, Physics, Ideas, Truth, Firsts,
Believe, Mechanic, Quantum, Life, Difficult, Wall, Serious, Predictions, Simple,
Crazy, Spiritual, Clarity*

A physicist is just an atom's way of looking at itself.

~Niels Bohr

Everything we call real is made of things that cannot be regarded as real.

~Niels Bohr

If quantum mechanics hasn't profoundly shocked you, you haven't understood it yet.

~Niels Bohr

An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes which can be made, in a narrow field.

~Niels Bohr

When we measure something we are forcing an undetermined, undefined world to assume an experimental value. We are not measuring the world, we are creating it.

~Niels Bohr

I go into the Upanishads to ask questions.

~Niels Bohr

There are some things so serious you have to laugh at them.

~Niels Bohr

The best weapon of a dictatorship is secrecy, but the best weapon of a democracy should be the weapon of openness.

~Niels Bohr

Nothing exists until it is measured.

~Niels Bohr

No, no, you're not thinking; you're just being logical.

~Niels Bohr

Your theory is crazy, but it's not crazy enough to be true.

~Niels Bohr

Einstein, stop telling God what to do!

~Niels Bohr

Every great and deep difficulty bears in itself its own solution. It forces us to change our thinking in order to find it.

~Niels Bohr

A deep truth is a truth so deep that not only is it true but its exact opposite is also true.

~Niels Bohr

Address to Albert Einstein: You are not thinking. You are merely being logical.

~Niels Bohr

If anybody says he can think about quantum physics without getting giddy, that only shows he has not understood the first thing about them.

~Niels Bohr

Opposites are not contradictory but complementary.

~Niels Bohr

If an idea does not appear bizarre, there is no hope for it.

~Niels Bohr

How wonderful that we have met with a paradox. Now we have some hope of making progress.

~Niels Bohr

The measurement we get when we measure something is not a property of the thing measured.

~Niels Bohr

When searching for harmony in life one must never forget that in the drama of existence we are ourselves both actors and spectators.

~Niels Bohr

It is the hallmark of any deep truth that its negation is also a deep truth.

~Niels Bohr

Never express yourself more clearly than you are able to think.

~Niels Bohr

Sometimes the child in one behaves a certain way and the rest of oneself follows behind, slowly shaking its head.

~Niels Bohr

In the great drama of existence we are audience and actors at the same time.

~Niels Bohr

It is wrong to think that the task of physics is to find out how nature is. Physics concerns what we say about nature.

~Niels Bohr

Prediction is very difficult, especially if it's about the future.

~Niels Bohr

Every valuable human being must be a radical and a rebel, for what he must aim at is to make things better than they are.

~Niels Bohr

The meaning of life consists in the fact that it makes no sense to say

that life has no meaning.

~Niels Bohr

What is that we human beings ultimately depend on? We depend on our words. We are suspended in language. Our task is to communicate experience and ideas to others.

~Niels Bohr

There are trivial truths and the great truths. The opposite of a trivial truth is plainly false. The opposite of a great truth is also true.

~Niels Bohr

We are trapped by language to such a degree that every attempt to formulate insight is a play on words.

~Niels Bohr

If we couldn't laugh at ourselves, that would be the end of everything.

~Niels Bohr

Accuracy and clarity of statement are mutually exclusive.

~Niels Bohr

No paradox, no progress.

~Niels Bohr

If you think you understand it, that only shows that you don't know the first thing about it.

~Niels Bohr

Physics is the belief that a simple and consistent description of nature is possible.

~Niels Bohr

When it comes to atoms, language can be used only as in poetry. The

poet, too, is not nearly so concerned with describing facts as with creating images and establishing mental connections.

~Niels Bohr

One must always do what one really cannot.

~Niels Bohr

The opposite of a fact is falsehood, but the opposite of one profound truth may very well be another profound truth.

~Niels Bohr

When it comes to atoms, language can be used only as in poetry.

~Niels Bohr

There is no hope for any speculation that does not look absurd at first glance.

~Niels Bohr

We are all agreed that your theory is crazy. The question which divides us is whether it is crazy enough to have a chance of being correct. My own feeling is that it is not crazy enough.

~Niels Bohr

Every sentence I utter must be understood not as an affirmation, but as a question.

~Niels Bohr

Our task is not to penetrate the essence of things, the meaning of which we do not know anyway, but rather to develop concepts which allow us to talk in a productive way about phenomena in nature

~Niels Bohr

You must come to Copenhagen to work with us. We like people who can actually perform thought experiments!

~Niels Bohr

Isolated material particles are abstractions, their properties being definable and observable only through their interaction with other systems .

~Niels Bohr

Some subjects are so serious that one can only joke about them.

~Niels Bohr

Those who are not shocked when they first come across quantum theory cannot possibly have understood it.

~Niels Bohr

Anyone not shocked by quantum mechanics has not yet understood it.

~Niels Bohr

It is a great pity that human beings cannot find all of their satisfaction in scientific contemplativeness.

~Niels Bohr

It is not enough to be wrong, one must also be polite.

~Niels Bohr

The opposite of every great idea is another great idea.

~Niels Bohr

There are two sorts of truth: trivialities, where opposites are clearly absurd, and profound truths, recognised by the fact that the opposite is also a profound truth

~Niels Bohr

Truth and clarity are complementary.

~Niels Bohr

Truth is something that we can attempt to doubt, and then perhaps, after much exertion, discover that part of the doubt is not justified.

~Niels Bohr

Of course I don't believe in it [pointing to horseshoe on his office wall]. But I understand that it brings you luck whether you believe in it or not.

~Niels Bohr

Prediction is difficult, especially the future.

~Niels Bohr

It is very difficult to make an accurate prediction, especially about the future.

~Niels Bohr

Oh what idiots we have all been, this is just as it must be

~Niels Bohr

All rising curves that show unwelcome trends in human affairs will approach infinity if extended far enough, but it is we who dictate the curve and not vice versa.

~Niels Bohr

If you aren't confused by quantum mechanics, you haven't really understood it.

~Niels Bohr

You can recognize a small truth because its opposite is a falsehood. The opposite of a great truth is another truth.

~Niels Bohr

An independant reality in the ordinary physical sense can neither be ascribed to the phenomenon nor to the agencies of observation.

~Niels Bohr

Prediction is risky, especially of the future.

~Niels Bohr

Some things are so serious, they can only be joked about.

~Niels Bohr

A person who wasn't outraged on first hearing about quantum theory didn't understand what had been said.

~Niels Bohr

We all know your idea is crazy. The question is whether it is crazy enough.

~Niels Bohr

Anyone who can contemplate quantum mechanics without getting dizzy hasn't understood it.

~Niels Bohr

It is difficult to predict, especially the future.

~Niels Bohr

Predictions are hard, especially about the future.

~Niels Bohr

Anybody who is not shocked by this subject has failed to understand it.
[of quantum mechanics]

~Niels Bohr

And anyone who thinks they can talk about quantum theory without feeling dizzy hasn't yet understood the first thing about it.

~Niels Bohr

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