

# Paul Valery

## Quotes

*Men, Art, Mean, Mind, People, Giving, Ideas, Thinking, Poetry, World, Science,  
Photography, Inspirational, Simple, Writing, Order, Reality, Hands, Moments,*

*Two*

The best way to make your dreams come true is to wake up.

~Paul Valery

Books have the same enemies as people: fire, humidity, animals, weather, and their own content.

~Paul Valery

Man's great misfortune is that he has no organ, no kind of eyelid or brake, to mask or block a thought, or all thought, when he wants to.

~Paul Valery

War: a massacre of people who don't know each other for the profit of people who know each other but don't massacre each other.

~Paul Valery

A poem is never finished, only abandoned.

~Paul Valery

Nothing beautiful can be summarized.

~Paul Valery

The universe is built on a plan the profound symmetry of which is somehow present in the inner structure of our intellect.

~Paul Valery

A great man is one who leaves others at a loss after he is gone.

~Paul Valery

Love is being stupid together.

~Paul Valery

The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be.

~Paul Valery

Let us enrich ourselves with our mutual differences.

~Paul Valery

Sometimes I think, sometimes I am .

~Paul Valery

An intelligent woman is a woman with whom one can be as stupid as one wants.

~Paul Valery

A difficulty is a light. An insurmountable difficulty is a sun.

~Paul Valery

We hope vaguely but dread precisely.

~Paul Valery

Serious people have few ideas. People with ideas are never serious.

~Paul Valery

Politics is the art of preventing people from busying themselves with what is their own business.

~Paul Valery

A man who is 'of sound mind' is one who keeps the inner madman under lock and key.

~Paul Valery

If the Ego is hateful, Love your neighbor as yourself becomes a cruel irony.

~Paul Valery

The purpose of psychology is to give us a completely different idea of the things we know best.

~Paul Valery

Follow the path of your aroused thought, and you will soon meet this infernal inscription: There is nothing so beautiful as that which does not exist.

~Paul Valery

The advantage of the incomprehensible is that it never loses its freshness.

~Paul Valery

We are enriched by our reciprocate differences.

~Paul Valery

A businessman is a hybrid of a dancer and a calculator.

~Paul Valery

A man's true secrets are more secret to himself than they are to others.

~Paul Valery

An artist never really finishes his work, he merely abandons it.

~Paul Valery

God created man and, finding him not sufficiently alone, gave him a companion to make him feel his solitude more keenly.

~Paul Valery

All nations have present, or past, or future reasons for thinking themselves incomparable.

~Paul Valery

It would be impossible to "love" anyone or anything one knew completely. Love is directed towards what lies hidden in its object.

~Paul Valery

[Beauty is] that which makes us despair.

~Paul Valery

Oh, hasten not this loving act, Rapture where self and not-self meet: My life has been the awaiting you, Your footfall was my own heart's beat.

~Paul Valery

A man is infinitely more complicated than his thoughts.

~Paul Valery

The world acquires value only through its extremes and endures only through moderation; extremists make the world great, the moderates give it stability.

~Paul Valery

What is simple is wrong, and what is complicated cannot be understood.

~Paul Valery

If the state is strong, it crushes us. If it is weak, we perish.

~Paul Valery

Long years must pass before the truths we have made for ourselves become our very flesh.

~Paul Valery

To hit someone means to adopt his point of view.

~Paul Valery

Having precise ideas often leads to a man doing nothing.

~Paul Valery

Two dangers constantly threaten the world: order and disorder.

~Paul Valery

Fidelity to meaning alone in translation is a kind of betrayal.

~Paul Valery

To see is to forget the name of the thing one sees.

~Paul Valery

Politeness is organized indifference.

~Paul Valery

Our judgments judge us, and nothing reveals us, exposes our weaknesses, more ingeniously than the attitude of pronouncing upon our fellows.

~Paul Valery

Our most important thoughts are those that contradict our emotions.

~Paul Valery

Breath, dreams, silence, invincible calm, you triumph.

~Paul Valery

Every social system is more or less against nature, and at every moment nature is at work to reclaim her rights.

~Paul Valery

At times I think and at times I am.

~Paul Valery

A real writer can be recognized by the fact he doesn't find words. Therefore he must search for them and while doing that, he finds better ones.

~Paul Valery

If what has happened in the one person were communicated directly to the other, all art would collapse, all the effects of art would disappear.

~Paul Valery

Order always weighs on the individual. Disorder makes him wish for the police or for death. These are two extreme circumstances in which human nature is not at ease.

~Paul Valery

Man is only man at the surface. Remove the skin, dissect, and immediately you come to machinery.

~Paul Valery

God made everything out of nothing. But the nothingness shows through.

~Paul Valery

Talent without genius isn't much, but genius without talent is nothing whatsoever.

~Paul Valery

Poetry is to prose as dancing is to walking.

~Paul Valery

I thought it necessary to study history, even to study it deeply, in order to obtain a clear meaning of our immediate time.

~Paul Valery

The history of thought may be summed up in these words: it is absurd by what it seeks and great by what it finds.

~Paul Valery

The folly of mistaking a paradox for a discovery, a metaphor for a proof, a torrent of verbiage for a spring of capital truths, and oneself for an oracle, is inborn in us.

~Paul Valery

To enter into your own mind you need to be armed to the teeth.

~Paul Valery

To write regular verses destroys an infinite number of fine possibilities, but at the same time it suggests a multitude of distant and totally unexpected thoughts.

~Paul Valery

What is simple is false and what is not is useless.

~Paul Valery

If disorder is the rule with you, you will be penalized for installing order.

~Paul Valery

Peace is a virtual, mute, sustained victory of potential powers against probable greeds

~Paul Valery

The dog has made man their God, if the dog was an atheist, it would be perfect.

~Paul Valery

Every beginning is a consequence - every beginning ends some thing.

~Paul Valery

My poems mean what people take them to mean.

~Paul Valery

History is the science of what never happens twice.

~Paul Valery

Science means simply the aggregate of all the recipes that are always successful. All the rest is literature.

~Paul Valery



Whatever we succeed in doing is a transformation of something we have failed to do. Thus, when we fail, it is only because we have given up.

~Paul Valery

To penetrate one's being, one must go armed to the teeth.

~Paul Valery

One had to be a Newton to notice that the moon is falling, when everyone sees that it doesn't fall.

~Paul Valery

There is a difference if we see something with a pencil in our hand or without one.

~Paul Valery

Conscience reigns but it does not govern.

~Paul Valery

A man is a poet if difficulties inherent in his art provide him with ideas; he is not a poet if they deprive him of ideas.

~Paul Valery

Power without abuse loses its charm.

~Paul Valery

It seems to me that the soul, when alone with itself and speaking to itself, uses only a small number of words, none of them extraordinary.

~Paul Valery

Sometimes I think and other times I am.

~Paul Valery

Great things are accomplished by those who do not feel the impotence

of man. This is a precious gift.

~Paul Valery

Thought must be hidden in the verse like nutritional virtue in a fruit.

~Paul Valery

Poems are never finished - just abandoned

~Paul Valery

The only treaties that ought to count are those which would effect a settlement between ulterior motives.

~Paul Valery

Poe is the only impeccable writer. He was never mistaken.

~Paul Valery

The great virtues of the German people have created more evils than idleness ever did vices

~Paul Valery

We must always apologize for talking painting.

~Paul Valery

In the physical world, one cannot increase the size or quantity of anything without changing its quality. Similar figures exist only in pure geometry.

~Paul Valery

Growing nations should remember that, in nature, no tree, though placed in the best conditions of light, soil, and plot, can continue to grow and spread indefinitely.

~Paul Valery

That which has always been accepted by everyone, everywhere, is

almost certain to be false.

~Paul Valery

What one wrote playfully, another reads with tension and passion; what one wrote with tension and passion, another reads playfully.

~Paul Valery

A limited vocabulary, but one with which you can make numerous combinations, is better than thirty thousand words that only hamper the action of the mind.

~Paul Valery

That which has been believed by everyone, always and everywhere, has every chance of being false.

~Paul Valery

One should be light like a bird, and not like a feather.

~Paul Valery

Do you not realise that dance is the pure act of metamorphosis?

~Paul Valery

Thanks to photography, the eye grew accustomed to anticipate what it should see and to see it; and it learned not to see nonexistent things which, hitherto, it had seen so clearly.

~Paul Valery

What golden hour of life, what glittering moment will ever equal the pain its loss can cause?

~Paul Valery

It is a sign of the times, and not a very good sign, that these days it is necessary - and not only necessary but urgent - to interest minds in the fate of Mind, that is to say, in their own fate.

~Paul Valery

Every man expects some miracle " either from his mind or from his body or from someone else or from events.

~Paul Valery

to live means to lack something at every moment

~Paul Valery

No work of art is ever completed, it is only abandoned.

~Paul Valery

Though completely armed with knowledge and endowed with power, we are blind and impotent in a world we have equipped and organized-a world of which we now fear the inextricable complexity.

~Paul Valery

The only truths which are universal are those gross enough to be thought so.

~Paul Valery

To be sincere means to be the same person when one is with oneself; that is to say, alone - but that is all it means.

~Paul Valery

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