

Penn Jillette

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Believe, Atheist, Mean, Magic, Art, Stupid, Real, Want, Way,
Government, Needs, Differences, Kids, Gun, Technology, Reality, Religious,
Christian*

One of the things that Teller and I are obsessed with, one of the reasons that we're in magic, is the difference between fantasy and reality.

~Penn Jillette

Channeling is just bad ventriloquism. You use another voice, but people can see your lips moving.

~Penn Jillette

You get no moral credit for forcing other people to do what you think is right.

~Penn Jillette

If you are doing something for reward or punishment, you do not have morality.

~Penn Jillette

In music, if you hit a wrong note, people forgive you. In magic when something goes wrong, the entire art is destroyed.

~Penn Jillette

Atheism is the absence of religion. We don't really need atheism. We just need to get rid of religion.

~Penn Jillette

I think voting for the lesser of two evils in game theory always leads to more evil.

~Penn Jillette

Religion cannot and should not be replaced by atheism. Religion needs to go away and not be replaced by anything. Atheism is not a religion. It's the absence of religion, and that's a wonderful thing.

~Penn Jillette

Much better than the feeling of having things is the feeling of having earned things.

~Penn Jillette

Better to be uneducated than educated by your government.

~Penn Jillette

Behaving morally because of a hope of reward or a fear of punishment is not morality.

~Penn Jillette

Every time something really bad happens, people cry out for safety, and the government answers by taking rights away from good people

~Penn Jillette

We are only here for a little while, and our bodies belong to ourselves and no one else.

~Penn Jillette

I believe that the best way to become an atheist is to read the bible

~Penn Jillette

If you believe that there's a heaven and hell . . . how much do you have to hate somebody to believe that everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?

~Penn Jillette

I'm a hardcore libertarian - I want everything legal - but I also believe that you have the right to free association.

~Penn Jillette

God works in mysterious, inefficient, and breathtakingly cruel ways

~Penn Jillette

One of the strongest feelings you can get in life--one of the most rewarding feelings--is the feeling of an "Aha, I finally understand."

~Penn Jillette

I had e-mail in 1984! I had an e-mail address then, which means that all you could write to was Steve Jobs and Bill Gates. There were three of us, writing to each other.

~Penn Jillette

Only Atheists have morals, the religious have reward and punishment. That's not morality, that's sucking up.

~Penn Jillette

We need a president who realizes that there's no government business in show business.

~Penn Jillette

Everyday is an atheist holiday.

~Penn Jillette

That whole 99% thing, they are all in the 1% of the world. Every one of them pays a cellphone bill that is the yearly income for a family in much of the rest of the world.

~Penn Jillette

My favorite thing about the Internet is that you get to go into the private world of real creeps without having to smell them.

~Penn Jillette

As I'm fond of saying, if you want to find utopia, take a sharp right on money and a sharp left on sex and it's straight ahead.

~Penn Jillette

How much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize?

~Penn Jillette

The medium is not the message - the message is the message.

~Penn Jillette

Comedy is taken care of by a free market.

~Penn Jillette

TV networks are dying. The death throes of religion give us jihads. The death throes of television give us reality shows.

~Penn Jillette

Tolerance is you saying something crazy and me smiling and saying, 'That's nice.'

~Penn Jillette

If entertainment ran grocery stores, we'd NEVER get oil cured olives or blue cheese, it would be JUST Coke.

~Penn Jillette

Modern American magic, late 20th century magic, is tremendously disrespectful of the audience.

~Penn Jillette

You have to be careful as a libertarian because you can sound very Republican.

~Penn Jillette

You don't have to be brave or a saint, a martyr, or even very smart to be an atheist. All you have to be able to say is 'I don't know'.

~Penn Jillette

Whereas you have someone like Houdini, who works really, really hard to get really, really famous, and then has actual intellectual ideas that

he puts into the culture that stay there.

~Penn Jillette

If I go out to dinner with you and you order wine, I leave. I won't be around drugs and alcohol at all.

~Penn Jillette

You don't have freedom unless you have the freedom to do stupid self-destructive things.

~Penn Jillette

I am a huge fan of proselytizing. I am a huge fan of speaking your mind. The only way we can share the universe... is by talking very strongly about what we believe.

~Penn Jillette

Technology is run by sex, because it's very important to people, both technology and sex.

~Penn Jillette

Having a Hummer is stupid. It's stupid to waste that much gas. It's stupid to waste that much money on gas. It's stupid to parade your insecurities on public roads. Hummers are stupid-looking.

~Penn Jillette

The definition of a stupid thing is something that if you do everything right, you still get hurt. Fire-eating and love are stupid things.

~Penn Jillette

Fear is the politicians dance partner.

~Penn Jillette

The characters and events depicted in the damn bible are fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

~Penn Jillette

If I had to imagine omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent power in the universe that chose to make my mother suffer, I don't know how I would make that make sense in the universe.

~Penn Jillette

Everybody prefers to see a nut - they're more fascinating.

~Penn Jillette

We have to fight for the freedom to be stupid, and smoking is one of the best ways to fight for your freedom, to be just as stupid as you can be.

~Penn Jillette

A lot of people, to attack an outspoken atheist, one of the things they'll do is say, 'You are as bad as the fundamentalist Christians.' And my answer is always, 'I hope so.'

~Penn Jillette

I think that I am willing to risk my life in order to have more freedom.

~Penn Jillette

The best way to fight the terrorists is to have the freest country on earth. You should be able to get on an airplane, and people - that will not possibly happen again.

~Penn Jillette

The whole world is pretending the breakthrough is in technology. The bottleneck is really in art.

~Penn Jillette

Bacon is so good by itself that to put it in any other food is an admission of failure. You're basically saying, 'I can't make this other food taste good, so I'll throw in bacon.'

~Penn Jillette

World War II proves there's no God.

~Penn Jillette

It's fair to say that the Bible contains equal amounts of fact, history, and pizza.

~Penn Jillette

If there's something you really want to believe, that's what you should question the most.

~Penn Jillette

I'm not bothered by the idea of getting old, or I guess you could say by having arrived at old. I was 10 when my mom turned 55. For 1955, she was a very old mom.

~Penn Jillette

The skills that we have are the actual magic skills - not the performing skills. We have to separate those. But the actual skills that make the tricks work, we don't get to use again.

~Penn Jillette

Poker has the feeling of a sport, but you don't have to do push-ups.

~Penn Jillette

Before you can read, you know the difference between a story and reality. And, of course, by the time you're old enough to do any real damage with an Uzi, you've learned that difference.

~Penn Jillette

Behaving morally because of a hope of reward or a fear of punishment is not morality. Morality is not bribery or threats. Religion is bribery and threats. Humans have morality. We don't need religion.

~Penn Jillette

The only place we were really told to tone it down - where other people would use the word censorship, but I wouldn't - was when we did MTV right after the Beavis and Butt-head thing.

~Penn Jillette

Teller and I worked Renaissance Festivals and street performing - actually more real, no kidding around, Philadelphia street performing than we did Renaissance Festivals.

~Penn Jillette

The purpose of art is to collide the intellectual and visceral together at the highest speed possible.

~Penn Jillette

Barack Obama is way smarter than Bush - so way, way smarter than me. Obama is way more charismatic than me.

~Penn Jillette

You can't believe how pro gay and pro freedom of speech I am. I'm way out beyond anyone on the Left.

~Penn Jillette

This I believe: I believe there is no God.

~Penn Jillette

When someone is trying to interpret something for you, they always have an agenda.

~Penn Jillette

Love and respect all people. Hate and destroy all faith.

~Penn Jillette

Every day, TV, newspapers, and the Internet bombard us with a message that we're destroying the earth. Ice caps are melting, rivers are dying, polar bears are drowning, and trees are doing something.

~Penn Jillette

Democracy without respect for individual rights sucks. It's just ganging up against the weird kid, and I'm always the weird kid.

~Penn Jillette

If you've gotten yourself into a situation when Clay Aiken is going to talk about his feelings with you, it's time to kill yourself.

~Penn Jillette

Every nut who kills people has a Bible lying around.

~Penn Jillette

I intend to do the Penn & Teller show until they pry my cheesy magic wand from my cold dead fingers.

~Penn Jillette

I'm a big fan of huge populations of people, so you'd think with 300 million people in the country, you don't even have to please 1% to be phenomenally successful.

~Penn Jillette

People like Bill Maher, who brags about being a cynic, it sickens me. I am the least cynical person I know, and I am very, very skeptical.

~Penn Jillette

We aren't people who believe that just because we're performers our opinions on everything need to be known.

~Penn Jillette

I never wanted to be a magician. I never wanted to be a comedian. I

never wanted to be onstage.

~Penn Jillette

We knew that we were kind of odd and creeps, and we wanted to do odd, creepy stuff for people who wanted to see that.

~Penn Jillette

I've never had a drink of alcohol or any drug in my life.

~Penn Jillette

If I were trying to avoid embarrassment, I wouldn't have stumbled my way through 'Dancing with the Stars.'

~Penn Jillette

In my private life, I'm not around any drugs or alcohol.

~Penn Jillette

My parents were teetotalers and my grandparents were - it's all the way back. It's New English puritanical tradition.

~Penn Jillette

I have no evidence that libertarianism leads to a better life. I just think it is morally right.

~Penn Jillette

Every poker player is smarter than me.

~Penn Jillette

I've never revved my car at a light for an attractive woman or an auto-rival, not even as a joke.

~Penn Jillette

There never was a God. 'God is dead' is a halfway measure I won't go with.

~Penn Jillette

I don't believe the majority always knows what's best for everyone.

~Penn Jillette

I believe in individual rights so much that I don't like any sort of 'what's good for the cause'-type questions.

~Penn Jillette

Exploration of space is worth it because humans need to explore. Knowledge is always good, and it's a really cool thing to see.

~Penn Jillette

I love the idea that horror and fear is a celebration of health and life.

~Penn Jillette

The vast majority of the world knows there's no reason to circumcise. Someone should tell the doctors.

~Penn Jillette

Part of the experience of being entertained is sitting back and plugging into someone else's vision.

~Penn Jillette

Luck is statistics taken personally.

~Penn Jillette

The end never justifies the means because there is no end; there are only means.

~Penn Jillette

Freedom means the right to be stupid.

~Penn Jillette

America was founded on Christians not trusting each other, and they sometimes seemed more willing to reach out to the godless than to someone from another sect.

~Penn Jillette

I love nuts. I'm for nuts. I am nuts.

~Penn Jillette

Penn & Teller don't know jack about global warming.

~Penn Jillette

For the most part, any serious magic show is not using very much technology newer than theatrical lights.

~Penn Jillette

Direct confrontation, direct conversation is real respect. And it's amazing how many people get that.

~Penn Jillette

There is no reason for the government to limit political speech.

~Penn Jillette

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