

Quentin S. Crisp

Quotes

Thinking, Buddhism, Writing, People, Philosophy, Creativity, Ideas, Strong, Innocence, Buddhist, Hands, Space, Mean, Seventies, Who I Am, Children, World, Years, Country, Interesting

I grew up with tarot cards and the reading of tea leaves.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I have a bit of a struggle with some aspects of or forms of Buddhism, but Zen I find to be mainly congenial.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I think the natural is, for many people, the gateway to something supernatural or otherworldly.

~Quentin S. Crisp

It's interesting, the sense of pastoral utopia that exists in so much fantasy - in [Edward] Dunsany, [John R.R.] Tolkien and so on.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I associate my childhood with two things, mainly: the North Devon countryside and a sense of connection to another world.

~Quentin S. Crisp

We all know about the car breaking down on a deserted road scenario. That's cliché. I'm thinking more of Cider with Rosie, as in, the dark side.

~Quentin S. Crisp

Lots of things were there [in the seventies], in the social experience, but not quite named, lurking like a stranger on the edge of the playground.

~Quentin S. Crisp

The peculiar thing is that, in focusing only on the here and now, Buddhism seems to despise the world.

~Quentin S. Crisp

It's true that Eastern philosophy and religion were not unknown to me as a child, since my father has explored much in that area, and written

books more or less in that area, too.

~Quentin S. Crisp

You might call this innocence. I had a sense of another world that had not been spoken of to me.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I do not think that my spiritual apprehensions are as dogmatically cultural as those of many people who have been brought up strictly in a particular tradition.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I did not understand the differences between Catholic and Protestant until I was an adult.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I never went to church as a child. I did not .

~Quentin S. Crisp

The cultural products of America from this period [fifties and sixties] are like a vision of paradise or something. I find it utterly intoxicating.

~Quentin S. Crisp

Speaking of [Philip] Larkin, in his poem about the First World War he wrote something like, "Never such innocence, before or since, that turned itself to past without a word".

~Quentin S. Crisp

To me the seventies represent normality, and, of course, it is a normality that is now anachronistic.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I do have a muse. I am not sure how to describe her. She can be very elusive. She was born in England but has Mediterranean ancestry.

~Quentin S. Crisp

People may wish to say that the thing that is in conflict with my creativity is not Buddhism - that's fine.

~Quentin S. Crisp

In terms of what is expressed, antinatalism is a strong presence, not always explicit, in what I write.

~Quentin S. Crisp

It would be hard to say that exactly, but antinatalism is a reality in my life, not just an interesting idea. I can feel it in the chilled and weary marrow of my bones.

~Quentin S. Crisp

Anyway, to cut off one's biological dreams seems to me the most fundamental form of psychic castration that you could imagine.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I went for a walk in the rain. Recently, whenever it rains, I feel like I want to go for a walk.

~Quentin S. Crisp

Some Buddhists, however, never seem to get past the void, and I suppose I view this as a kind of Buddhist 'Old Testament' that I don't especially like.

~Quentin S. Crisp

If we do overcome linear time, I would hope this means dwelling more directly in the fertility of the imagination rather than denying it, as some aspects of Buddhism seem to.

~Quentin S. Crisp

If we do want to do that [colonise space to survive,], then vacuous

materialism is not going to be enough for us.

~Quentin S. Crisp

If there is innocence on Earth again, I tend to imagine it in more [Henry David]Thoreau sort of terms.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I think I'm probably too close to the seventies to be able to analyse them (it?) effectively.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I seem to be less depressed but also less hopeful now in my thirties. My widow's peak bothers me. I think a lot about the end of the human race. And so on.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I've drifted in and out of vegetarianism for years.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I don't believe in sexual love.

~Quentin S. Crisp

In the meditation, of course, the question is repeated and repeated until you run out of answers - or so I hear.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I would say that, apart from being a writer, I have also always been very conscious of the idea of a 'world elsewhere'.

~Quentin S. Crisp

This strong sense of who I am that I've always had, since I was very young, is what makes me write.

~Quentin S. Crisp

The quality of that 'who I am', is what I hope comes out in the writing.

~Quentin S. Crisp

We're all more or less interested in the 'swinging sixties', of course, but that's not what I mean. I'm interested in the particular naive glamour that clings to the post-war and pre-Hendrix era.

~Quentin S. Crisp

On the other hand, the seventies were drab. That is, I am utterly fascinated by the fifties and sixties.

~Quentin S. Crisp

My favourite tea is lapsang souchong.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I'm more a dog person than a cat person.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I've never been baptised.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I grew up in North Devon, by the sea, and feel a special affinity for the landscape there, despite a lack of actual ancestry.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I was born in the seventies, age of bad haircuts and grainy colour photos.

~Quentin S. Crisp

[My muse] is, in fact, a woman of the world, and precisely because of this, hopes that a diversity of cultures will endure, and that one bland monoculture does not swamp everything.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I think the seventies caught the last red rays of the dying sun of this innocence, but were already a little cold and drab.

~Quentin S. Crisp

1977 was also, of course, the year that Derek Jarman made his iconoclastic film Jubilee, which was so much part of the punk movement.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I suppose I could say that to be interested in innocence already suggests a remove from innocence, perhaps a longing for something that is lost.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I seemed to recall some words from an old Zen master, something like, "My Zen cuts down mountains." My rejection of Buddhism was a cutting down of mountains; that is precisely how it felt to me.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I feel that Nagai Kafu was a writer who could stitch together apparently meaningless moments like these into a lyrical whole, and has enhanced my ability to do the same with my own life.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I'm not claiming anything like sainthood - merely a native perception.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I suppose what I can say is that I do feel I have a natural spiritual sensibility.

~Quentin S. Crisp

There's a strong aspect of Buddhism which is geared towards ending all fertility.

~Quentin S. Crisp

The imagination is fertile. From seeds of the imagination, much is made manifest.

~Quentin S. Crisp

People didn't talk about paedophiles in the seventies, I don't think.

~Quentin S. Crisp

I really think [William] Burroughs was onto something here, when he said, "Dreams are a biologic necessity and your lifeline into space."

~Quentin S. Crisp

[My muse] feels nostalgic for Japan, and, perhaps strangely, for the pioneer days of America.

~Quentin S. Crisp

Non-pantheist models for god seem almost completely untenable to me, though not without interest.

~Quentin S. Crisp

Zen is influenced by Daoism, which is not so much a nature-religion in the animistic sense as a nature-philosophy in a cosmic sense.

~Quentin S. Crisp

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