

# Rebecca Goldstein

## Quotes

*Philosophy, Thinking, Philosophical, Children, Plato, People, Progress,  
Answers, Reality, Philosopher, Play, Religious, Views, Humanity, Believe, Mind,  
Trying, Soul, Important, Attitude*

What was tortuously secured by complex argument becomes widely shared intuition, so obvious that we forget its provenance. We don't see it, because we see with it.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Answers? Forget answers. The spectacle is all in the questions.

~Rebecca Goldstein

We become more worthy the more we bend our minds to the impersonal. We become better as we take in the universe, thinking more about the largeness that it is and laugh about the smallness that is us.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Plato worried that philosophical writing would take the place of living conversations for which, in philosophy, there is no substitute.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Having your husband at a party is like adding anchovies to a salad. I love anchovies, but you can't taste anything else.

~Rebecca Goldstein

It is an essential feature of the just state that the wealthy be kept away from political power and that the politically powerful be kept away from wealth.

~Rebecca Goldstein

To matter, to mind. ... What we mind is in our power, but whether we matter may not be - and there's the tragedy. ... Can anyone truthfully say, I don't matter and I don't mind?

~Rebecca Goldstein

Those who share my heroes are, in the deepest sense, of my own kind.

~Rebecca Goldstein

We need science. We need empirical evidence. We can't just use mathematical reasoning to deduce the nature of the world.

~Rebecca Goldstein

I was raised in an Orthodox Jewish household and I wouldn't say so much it's informed my views, but it's informed my interest, so I think as a child I was often very baffled by knowledge claims.

~Rebecca Goldstein

If we look at our attitudes consistently and work out the logical implications we're on the road to moral progress, moral understanding.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Plato's concern is not just an intellectual issue, but it is knitted with emotional life as well.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Less money spent on billboards that just make us feel good about ourselves and more on soup kitchens and organized visits to the sick and dying.

~Rebecca Goldstein

The good polis is made by the good person, his moral character intact, and the good polis, in turn, helps turn out good persons, their moral character intact.

~Rebecca Goldstein

In order to refute a conclusion, you have to put forth the best possible argument for it.

~Rebecca Goldstein

What is it precisely, that they are doing when they are doing science.

Are they refining their instruments for observation or discovering new aspects of reality?

~Rebecca Goldstein

What is play and delightful one kind of child is coercion and torture for another, and will not take no matter how much coercion is applied.

~Rebecca Goldstein

The sum and substance of education is the right training that effectually leads the soul of the child at play on to the love of the calling in its adult life.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Almost everybody thinks about philosophy, even if they don't realize it's philosophy and even if they have no sense of the difficulty of the problems, the array of possible answers.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Because of the failure of religion to offer satisfying answers to an increasing number of people, it's time for philosophy to address forcefully these questions that everybody is wondering about.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Philosophy addresses, in a systematic and progress-making way, questions of deep concern to everyone.

~Rebecca Goldstein

It's something that's very often said that philosophy, as opposed to science, never makes any progress.

~Rebecca Goldstein

How can those who possess all knowledge, which must include knowledge of life that is worth living, be interested in using knowledge only for the insignificant aim of making money?

~Rebecca Goldstein

I don't think I can write the story of my life, but I can write the story of my hair.

~Rebecca Goldstein

The philosophers talk across the centuries exclusively to one another, hermetically sealed from any influences derived from non-philosophical discourse.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Plato conceived of philosophy as necessarily gregarious rather than solitary. The exposure of presumptions is best done in company, the more argumentative the better.

~Rebecca Goldstein

This is the pedagogical paradox. The person and the teacher is required precisely because the knowledge itself is nontransferable from teacher to student.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Youth is not an essential, but rather an accidental property. Nobody is in essence young. One either ceases to be or ceases to be young.

~Rebecca Goldstein

'Mother' is not an identity one can just try on for size.

~Rebecca Goldstein

In fact, it's the very impersonality of impersonal knowledge that renders such knowledge the most ethically potent of all.

~Rebecca Goldstein

And what is it, according to Plato, that philosophy is supposed to do? Nothing less than to render violence to our sense of ourselves and our

world, our sense of ourselves in the world.

~Rebecca Goldstein

If you don't exert yourself, or if your exertions don't amount to much of anything, then you might as well not have bothered to have shown up for your existence at all.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Paraphrasing Plato's Republic: "Only people who have allowed themselves to be reformed by reality have it in themselves to reform their polis for the better."

~Rebecca Goldstein

A child's natural form of behavior is play, and in our aim to educate, play should be honored and preserved for as long past childhood as can be.

~Rebecca Goldstein

What one tries to force into a child against its own nature will never come to good.

~Rebecca Goldstein

From the beginning philosophy sought for The order behind the disorder Thales sipped cheap wine And in this did divine: "Why it's nothing at all but pure water!"

~Rebecca Goldstein

Philosophical thinking that doesn't do violence to one's settled mind is no philosophical thinking at all.

~Rebecca Goldstein

The will to matter is at least as important as the will to believe.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Everybody makes excuses for themselves they wouldn't be prepared to make for other people.

~Rebecca Goldstein

I've got access to your mysterious body but not your mysterious soul. Souls seem to me the loneliest possibility of all.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Plato dramatically puts the detachment of the philosopher from his time this way: to philosophize is to prepare to die.

~Rebecca Goldstein

That's one of the compensations for being mediocre. One doesn't have to worry about becoming mediocre.

~Rebecca Goldstein

We may not need God to tell us where the world came from, but we need God to be able to live moral lives and for there to be morality in the first place.

~Rebecca Goldstein

I have a Greek-American friend who named her daughter "Nike" and is often asked why she chose to name her offspring after a sneaker.

~Rebecca Goldstein

Thinking is the soul speaking to itself.

~Rebecca Goldstein

If we don't understand our tools, then there is a danger we will become the tool of our tools. We think of ourselves as Google's customers, but really we're its products.

~Rebecca Goldstein

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