

Rene Descartes

Quotes

*Thinking, Mind, Math, Science, Dream, Men, Believe, World, Desire, Errors,
Philosophical, Common Sense, Body, Passion, Doubt, Discovery, Might,
Inspirational, Life, May*

We do not describe the world we see, we see the world we can describe.

~Rene Descartes

Whenever anyone has offended me, I try to raise my soul so high that the offense cannot reach it.

~Rene Descartes

It is not enough to have a good mind. The main thing is to use it well.

~Rene Descartes

If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things.

~Rene Descartes

De omnibus dubitandum

~Rene Descartes

Divide each difficulty into as many parts as is feasible and necessary to resolve it.

~Rene Descartes

Conquer yourself rather than the world.

~Rene Descartes

The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries.

~Rene Descartes

The chief cause of human errors is to be found in the prejudices picked up in childhood.

~Rene Descartes

Doubt is the origin of wisdom

~Rene Descartes

An optimist may see a light where there is none, but why must the pessimist always run to blow it out?

~Rene Descartes

The only thing we have power over in the universe is our own thoughts.

~Rene Descartes

How can you be certain that your whole life is not a dream?

~Rene Descartes

Omnia apud me mathematica fiunt.

~Rene Descartes

The greatest minds are capable of the greatest vices as well as of the greatest virtues.

~Rene Descartes

You just keep pushing. You just keep pushing. I made every mistake that could be made. But I just kept pushing.

~Rene Descartes

The only thing that I know, is that I know nothing

~Rene Descartes

I know that I exist; the question is, What is this 'I' that 'I' know.

~Rene Descartes

Except our own thoughts, there is nothing absolutely in our power.

~Rene Descartes

It is possible that I am dreaming right now and that all of my

perceptions are false.

~Rene Descartes

Mathematics is a more powerful instrument of knowledge than any other that has been bequeathed to us by human agency.

~Rene Descartes

Each problem that I solved became a rule, which served afterwards to solve other problems.

~Rene Descartes

I think; therefore I am.

~Rene Descartes

For I found myself embarrassed with so many doubts and errors that it seemed to me that the effort to instruct myself had no effect other than the increasing discovery of my own ignorance

~Rene Descartes

The only secure knowledge is that I exist.

~Rene Descartes

Nothing is more fairly distributed than common sense: no one thinks he needs more of it than he already has.

~Rene Descartes

A state is better governed which has few laws, and those laws strictly observed.

~Rene Descartes

Truths are more likely to be discovered by one man than by a nation

~Rene Descartes

I was convinced that our beliefs are based much more on custom and

example than on any certain knowledge.

~Rene Descartes

He who hid well, lived well.

~Rene Descartes

Perfect numbers like perfect men are very rare.

~Rene Descartes

Reason is nothing without imagination.

~Rene Descartes

God alone is the author of all the motions in the world.

~Rene Descartes

Wonder is the first of all the passions.

~Rene Descartes

But possibly I am something more than I suppose myself to be.

~Rene Descartes

It is best not to go on for great quest for truth , it will only make you miserable

~Rene Descartes

Illusory joy is often worth more than genuine sorrow.

~Rene Descartes

...it is certain that I am really distinct from my body, and can exist without it.

~Rene Descartes

All is to be doubted.

~Rene Descartes

When I consider this carefully, I find not a single property which with certainty separates the waking state from the dream. How can you be certain that your whole life is not a dream?

~Rene Descartes

The senses deceive from time to time, and it is prudent never to trust wholly those who have deceived us even once.

~Rene Descartes

To live without philosophizing is in truth the same as keeping the eyes closed without attempting to open them.

~Rene Descartes

I desire to live in peace and to continue the life I have begun under the motto 'to live well you must live unseen

~Rene Descartes

Intuitive knowledge is an illumination of the soul, whereby it beholds in the light of God those things which it pleases Him to reveal to us by a direct impression of divine clearness.

~Rene Descartes

Nothing comes out of nothing.

~Rene Descartes

We never understand a thing so well, and make it our own, as when we have discovered it for ourselves.

~Rene Descartes

Common sense is the most widely shared commodity in the world, for every man is convinced that he is well supplied with it.

~Rene Descartes

It's the familiar love-hate syndrome of seduction: "I don't really care

what it is I say, I care only that you like it."

~Rene Descartes

He lives well who is well hidden.

~Rene Descartes

If ... it is not in my power to arrive at the knowledge of any truth, I may at least do what is in my power, namely, suspend judgement.

~Rene Descartes

The two operations of our understanding, intuition and deduction, on which alone we have said we must rely in the acquisition of knowledge.

~Rene Descartes

The principal effect of the passions is that they incite and persuade the mind to will the events for which they prepared the body.

~Rene Descartes

And as it is the most generous souls who have most gratitude, it is those who have most pride, and who are most base and infirm, who most allow themselves to be carried away by anger and hatred.

~Rene Descartes

Variant: When it is not in our power to follow what is true, we ought to follow what is most probable.

~Rene Descartes

I can doubt everything, except one thing, and that is the very fact that I doubt. Simply put - I think, therefore I am

~Rene Descartes

Science is practical philosophy.

~Rene Descartes

Everything is self-evident.

~Rene Descartes

Desire awakens only to things that are thought possible.

~Rene Descartes

There is nothing so far removed from us as to be beyond our reach, or so hidden that we cannot discover it.

~Rene Descartes

Every man is indeed bound to do what he can to promote the good of others, and a man who is of no use to anyone is strictly worthless.

~Rene Descartes

If I simply refrain from making a judgment in cases where I do not perceive the truth with sufficient clarity and distinctness, then it is clear that I am behaving correctly and avoiding error.

~Rene Descartes

Few look for truth; many prowl about for a reputation of profundity by arrogantly challenging whichever arguments are the best.

~Rene Descartes

So far, I have been a spectator in this theater which is the world, but I am now about to mount the stage, and I come forward masked.

~Rene Descartes

In order to improve the mind, we ought less to learn, than to contemplate.

~Rene Descartes

Common sense is the best distributed thing in the world, for we all think we possess a good share of it.

~Rene Descartes

There is nothing more ancient than the truth.

~Rene Descartes

For to be possessed of a vigorous mind is not enough; the prime requisite is rightly to apply it.

~Rene Descartes

At last I will devote myself sincerely and without reservation to the general demolition of my opinions.

~Rene Descartes

Intuition is the undoubting conception of a pure and attentive mind, which arises from the light of reason alone, and is more certain than deduction.

~Rene Descartes

I am accustomed to sleep and in my dreams to imagine the same things that lunatics imagine when awake.

~Rene Descartes

The mind effortlessly and automatically takes in new ideas, which remain in limbo until verified or rejected by conscious, rational analysis.

~Rene Descartes

With me, everything turns into mathematics.

~Rene Descartes

Let whoever can do so deceive me, he will never bring it about that I am nothing, so long as I continue to think I am something.

~Rene Descartes

How do we know that anything really exists, that anything is really the way it seems to us through our senses?

~Rene Descartes

The first precept was never to accept a thing as true until I knew it as such without a single doubt.

~Rene Descartes

Divide each difficulty at hand into as many pieces as possible and as could be required to better solve them.

~Rene Descartes

There is a little gland in the brain in which the soul exercises its functions in a more particular way than in the other parts.

~Rene Descartes

Your joy is your sorrow unmasked. And the self-same well from which your laughter rises was often-times filled with your tears.

~Rene Descartes

Sensations are nothing but confused modes of thinking.

~Rene Descartes

Neither divine grace nor natural knowledge ever diminishes freedom.

~Rene Descartes

Give me extension and motion and I will construct the universe.

~Rene Descartes

But in my opinion, all things in nature occur mathematically.

~Rene Descartes

Even if I were to suppose that I was dreaming and whatever I saw or imagined was false, yet I could not deny that ideas were truly in my mind.

~Rene Descartes

It is to the body alone that we should attribute everything that can be

observed in us to oppose our reason.

~Rene Descartes

Because reason...is the only thing that makes us men, and distinguishes us from the beasts, I would prefer to believe that it exists, in its entirety, in each of us.

~Rene Descartes

And I shall always hold myself more obliged to those by whose favour I enjoy uninterrupted leisure than to any who might offer me the most honourable positions in the world.

~Rene Descartes

In the matter of a difficult question it is more likely that the truth should have been discovered by the few than by the many.

~Rene Descartes

Travelling is almost like talking with those of other centuries.

~Rene Descartes

For each of us there is a set limit to our intellectual powers which we cannot pass.

~Rene Descartes

And thereby make ourselves, as it were, the lords and masters of nature.

~Rene Descartes

Everybody thinks himself so well supplied with common sense that even those most difficult to please. . . never desire more of it than they already have.

~Rene Descartes

There is a great difference between mind and body insomuch as body

is by nature always divisible, and the mind is entirely indivisible.

~Rene Descartes

The object of music is a Sound. The end; to delight, and move various Affections in us.

~Rene Descartes

I am indeed amazed when I consider how weak my mind is and how prone to error.

~Rene Descartes

Even those who have the weakest souls could acquire absolute mastery over all their passions if we employed sufficient ingenuity in training and guiding them.

~Rene Descartes

I should consider that I know nothing about physics if I were able to explain only how things might be, and were unable to demonstrate that they could not be otherwise.

~Rene Descartes

I accept no principles of physics which are not also accepted in mathematics.

~Rene Descartes

There is nothing so strange and so unbelievable that it has not been said by one philosopher or another.

~Rene Descartes

I hope that posterity will judge me kindly, not only as to the things which I have explained, but also to those which I have intentionally omitted so as to leave to others the pleasure of discovery.

~Rene Descartes

Bad books engender bad habits, but bad habits engender good books.

~Rene Descartes

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