

# Richard Leakey

## Quotes

*Needs, Culture, People, Long, Fossils, Atheism, Apes, World, Believe, Elephants, Numbers, Father, Important, Would Be, Language, Men, Years, Giving, Evolution, Kenya*

The problem is that during the 1980s, a decade of heavy poaching, the elephants retreated to safer areas. And now people have moved into the corridors once used by the elephants.

~Richard Leakey

Along the borders to Ethiopia and Somalia, anarchy reigns, the police and military have retreated quite some distance.

~Richard Leakey

To have arrived on this earth as a product of a biological accident, only to depart through human arrogance, would be the ultimate irony.

~Richard Leakey

To me it's a question of being able to look backward and give the present a root... To give meaning to where we are today, we need to look at where we have come from.

~Richard Leakey

Humans become human through intense learning not just of survival skills but of customs and social mores, kinship and social laws-that is, culture.

~Richard Leakey

In the area of species protection, we should concern ourselves with what is right as opposed to what might be easier, or popular in the short term.

~Richard Leakey

The greatest problem we face is the growing number of people living in poverty. The related sense of hopelessness has to be impacting on every part of environmental management.

~Richard Leakey

Primates need good nutrition, to begin with. Not only fruits and plants,

but insects as well.

~Richard Leakey

It's the next annihilation of vast numbers of species. It is happening now, and we, the human race, are its cause

~Richard Leakey

The world's five thousand extant languages are products of our shared ability, but the five thousand cultures they create are separate from each other.

~Richard Leakey

Ritual disposal of the dead speaks clearly of an awareness of death, and thus an awareness of self.

~Richard Leakey

Scientific innovations continually provide us with new means of analyzing the finds.

~Richard Leakey

Sadly, I am not able to take part in the fieldwork myself so much anymore, as both of my legs were amputated following an airplane crash twelve years ago.

~Richard Leakey

Climate change: We have never faced a more critical time on our planet

~Richard Leakey

It is virtually impossible to control Northern Kenya, which is populated chiefly by migrant nomads.

~Richard Leakey

The elephants were being slaughtered in masses. Some were even

killed in the vicinity of big tourist hotels.

~Richard Leakey

It occurred to me that if I did not handle the crash correctly, there would be no survivors.

~Richard Leakey

When out fossil hunting, it is very easy to forget that rather than telling you how the creatures lived, the remains you find indicate only where they became fossilized.

~Richard Leakey

Paleoanthropology is not a science that ends with the discovery of a bone. One has to have the original to work with. It is a life-long task.

~Richard Leakey

We hope to find more pieces of the puzzle which will shed light on the connection between this upright, walking ape, our early ancestor, and modern man.

~Richard Leakey

The problem of the apes is not a shortage of money, it is a shortage of strategy. Let us devote our minds... the one thing we have more of than other apes... and let's secure their future.

~Richard Leakey

To investigate the history of man's development, the most important finds are, of course, hominid fossils.

~Richard Leakey

My father used to say that, through culture, humans effectively domesticated themselves.

~Richard Leakey

We are bipedal apes, and it should not be surprising to see that fact reflected in the way our ancestors lived.

~Richard Leakey

Whether or not all this came to pass in an East African ditch, I wouldn't like to say. Perhaps it happened in North Africa or further west, but Africa was definitely the place.

~Richard Leakey

Culture represents a novelty in the world of nature, and it could have added an effective, unifying edge to the forces of natural selection.

~Richard Leakey

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