

Richard Rorty

Quotes

*World, Truth Is, Country, Philosophical, Ideas, Thinking, Philosophy, Relation,
Way, Moral, Self, Religious, Talking, Intellectual, Civilization, Law, Plato, Belief,
Causes, Moving*

Always strive to excel, but only on weekends.

~Richard Rorty

The usual picture of Socrates is of an ugly little plebeian who inspired a handsome young nobleman to write long dialogues on large topics.

~Richard Rorty

Truth is a property of sentences, since sentences are dependent for their existence upon vocabularies, and since vocabularies are made by human beings, so are truths.

~Richard Rorty

There is nothing deep down inside us except what we have put there ourselves.

~Richard Rorty

Truth is what your contemporaries let you get away with.

~Richard Rorty

"True" resembles... a compliment paid to sentences that seem to be paying their way and that fit in with other sentences which are doing so.

~Richard Rorty

The world is out there, but descriptions of the world are not.

~Richard Rorty

The most important advance that the West has yet made is to develop a secularist moral tradition

~Richard Rorty

A talent for speaking differently, rather than for arguing well is the chief instrument of cultural change.

~Richard Rorty

All human relations untouched by love take place in the dark

~Richard Rorty

What counts as rational argumentation is as historically determined and as context-dependent, as what counts as good French.

~Richard Rorty

At 12, I knew that the point of being human was to spend one's life fighting social injustice.

~Richard Rorty

My sense of the holy is bound up with the hope that some day my remote descendants will live in a global civilization in which love is pretty much the only law.

~Richard Rorty

National pride is to countries what self-respect is to individuals: a necessary condition for self-improvement.

~Richard Rorty

Philosophy makes progress not by becoming more rigorous but by becoming more imaginative.

~Richard Rorty

My principal motive is the belief that we can still make admirable sense of our lives even if we cease to have... an ambition of transcendence.

~Richard Rorty

Truth [is] what is better for us to believe.

~Richard Rorty

If I had to lay bets, my bet would be that everything is going to go to hell, but, you know, what else have we got except hope?

~Richard Rorty

What sort of world can we prepare for our great grandchildren?

~Richard Rorty

Had there been no Plato, the Christians would have had a harder time selling the idea that all God really wanted from us was fraternal love.

~Richard Rorty

Academic disciplines are subject to being overtaken by attacks of "knowingness"- a state of mind and soul that prevents shudders of awe and makes one immune to enthusiasm.

~Richard Rorty

Freedom is the recognition of contingency.

~Richard Rorty

The difference between people and ideas is... only superficial.

~Richard Rorty

Every government, left or right, always engages in moral crusades. What else are they supposed to do? Especially when they make war; any war has to be a moral crusade.

~Richard Rorty

We are equal inhabitants of a paradise of individuals in which everybody has the right to be understood.

~Richard Rorty

If the body had been easier to understand, nobody would have thought that we had a mind.

~Richard Rorty

I think of an intellectual as just being bookish, being interested in history books, utopian ideas, that kind of thing.

~Richard Rorty

To abjure the notion of the truly human is to abjure the attempt to divinize the self as a replacement for a divinized world.

~Richard Rorty

Truthfulness under oath is, by now, a matter of our civic religion, our relation to our fellow citizens rather than our relation to a nonhuman power.

~Richard Rorty

I think you can have a Left that isn't culturally conservative talking about lunch-bucket issues.

~Richard Rorty

I think that a good Left is a party that always thinks about the future and doesn't care much about our past sins.

~Richard Rorty

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