

Salman Rushdie

Quotes

People, Thinking, Book, Writing, World, Stories, Believe, Children, Real, Men, Country, Ideas, Art, Religious, Want, Trying, Islam, Reading, Dream, Giving

There are things you break that can't be put back together again. And Kashmir may be one of them.

~Salman Rushdie

Rock and roll music - the music of freedom frightens people and unleashes all manner of conservative defense mechanisms.

~Salman Rushdie

What is freedom of expression? Without the freedom to offend, it ceases to exist.

~Salman Rushdie

One of the extraordinary things about human events is that the unthinkable becomes thinkable.

~Salman Rushdie

Language is courage: the ability to conceive a thought, to speak it, and by doing so to make it true.

~Salman Rushdie

â€œ'Respect for religion' has become a code phrase meaning â€œ'fear of religion.' Religions, like all other ideas, deserve criticism, satire, and, yes, our fearless disrespect.

~Salman Rushdie

In the cookie of life, friends are the chocolate chips.

~Salman Rushdie

Language upon a silvered tongue affords enchantment enough.

~Salman Rushdie

The whole story of migration and what that has done in interconnecting the planet is obviously something I've written about a lot.

~Salman Rushdie

It matters, it always matters, to name rubbish as rubbish; that to do otherwise is to legitimize it.

~Salman Rushdie

faith without doubt is addiction

~Salman Rushdie

No, I don't think it's fair to label Islam 'violent.' But I will say that to my knowledge, no writer has ever gone into hiding for criticizing the Amish.

~Salman Rushdie

One of the strange things about violent and authoritarian regimes is they don't like the glare of negative publicity.

~Salman Rushdie

The moment you declare a set of ideas to be immune from criticism, satire, derision, or contempt, freedom of thought becomes impossible.

~Salman Rushdie

Two things form the bedrock of any open society - freedom of expression and rule of law. If you don't have those things, you don't have a free country.

~Salman Rushdie

From the beginning men used God to justify the unjustifiable.

~Salman Rushdie

I stand with Charlie Hebdo, as we all must, to defend the art of satire.

~Salman Rushdie

Free speech is the whole thing, the whole ball game. Free speech is life itself.

~Salman Rushdie

Reality is a question of perspective.

~Salman Rushdie

A poet's work is to name the unnameable, to point at frauds, to take sides, start arguments, shape the world, and stop it going to sleep.

~Salman Rushdie

Stories in families are colossally important. Every family has stories: some funny, some proud, some embarrassing, some shameful. Knowing them is proof of belonging to the family.

~Salman Rushdie

Our lives, our stories, flowed into one another's, were no longer our own, individual, discrete.

~Salman Rushdie

Masks beneath masks until suddenly the bare bloodless skull.

~Salman Rushdie

Literature is the one place in any society where, within the secrecy of our own heads, we can hear voices talking about everything in every possible way.

~Salman Rushdie

An attack upon our ability to tell stories is not just censorship - it is a crime against our nature as human beings.

~Salman Rushdie

Where there is no belief, there is no blasphemy.

~Salman Rushdie

Good advice is rarer than rubies.

~Salman Rushdie

We were language's magpies by nature, stealing whatever sounded bright and shiny.

~Salman Rushdie

Between the adored and the adorer falls the shadow.

~Salman Rushdie

The lessons one learns at school are not always the ones the school thinks it's teaching.

~Salman Rushdie

When thought becomes excessively painful, action is the finest remedy.

~Salman Rushdie

We must conclude that it is not only a particular political ideology that has failed, but the idea that men and women could ever define themselves in terms that exclude their spiritual needs.

~Salman Rushdie

I stand with Charlie Hebdo, as we all must, to defend the art of satire, which has always been a force for liberty and against tyranny, dishonesty and stupidity.

~Salman Rushdie

So India's problem turns out to be the world's problem. What happened in India has happened in God's name. The problem's name is God.

~Salman Rushdie

A figure of speech is a shifty thing; it can be twisted or it can be straight.

~Salman Rushdie

The mistake of the West was to put the Saudis on the throne of Saudi

Arabia and give them control of the world's oil fortune, which they then used to propagate Wahhabi Islam.

~Salman Rushdie

What one writer can make in the solitude of one room is something no power can easily destroy.

~Salman Rushdie

How do you defeat terrorism? Don't be terrorized.

~Salman Rushdie

When you have children, your perspective on the parent-child relationship alters.

~Salman Rushdie

I think it's a very important function of art to challenge accepted reality, especially when that reality is created by powerful interest groups.

~Salman Rushdie

I hate admitting that my enemies have a point.

~Salman Rushdie

Perhaps the story you finish is never the one you begin.

~Salman Rushdie

Free speech is not just free speech for people you admire. It's also for people who you think of as reprehensible.

~Salman Rushdie

To understand just one life you have to swallow the world ... do you wonder, then, that I was a heavy child?

~Salman Rushdie

Until you know who you are you can't write.

~Salman Rushdie

Science fiction is always a vehicle for ideas. It's the form which allows either movies or books to be an exploration of how we should live.

~Salman Rushdie

A book is a version of the world. If you do not like it, ignore it; or offer your own version in return.

~Salman Rushdie

I write books I'd enjoy reading, I'm the reader standing behind my shoulder.

~Salman Rushdie

Religion is responsible for a lot of the problems in the history of the world and it's not something that I practice or recommend, but to each his own.

~Salman Rushdie

Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin? The Blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

~Salman Rushdie

The only people who see the whole picture,' he murmured, 'are the ones who step out of the frame.

~Salman Rushdie

Free societies are societies in motion, and with motion comes friction.

~Salman Rushdie

We are the storytelling animal.

~Salman Rushdie

In the waking dreams our societies permit, in our myths, our arts, our

songs, we celebrate the nonbelongers, the different ones, the outlaws, the freaks.

~Salman Rushdie

The problem's name is God.

~Salman Rushdie

Sometimes legends make reality, and become more useful than the facts.

~Salman Rushdie

Too many people spouting too many words, and in the end those words will turn to bullets and stones.

~Salman Rushdie

For every snake, there is a ladder; for every ladder, a snake

~Salman Rushdie

If somebody's trying to shut you up, sing louder, and if possible, better.

~Salman Rushdie

Our lives teach us who we are.

~Salman Rushdie

Once you put a thought into the world, it can be disagreed with, but it can't be unthought.

~Salman Rushdie

Names, once they are in common use, quickly become mere sounds, their etymology being buried, like so many of the earth's marvels, beneath the dust of habit.

~Salman Rushdie

Human beings understand themselves and shape their futures by

arguing and challenging and questioning and saying the un-sayable, not by bowing the knee whether to gods or to men.

~Salman Rushdie

Now I know what a ghost is. Unfinished business, that's what.

~Salman Rushdie

What distinguishes a great artist from a weak one is first their sensibility and tenderness; second, their imagination, and third, their industry.

~Salman Rushdie

One of the characteristics of mudslinging is that mud sticks if it's thrown with enough force for long enough.

~Salman Rushdie

We are described into corners, and then we must describe ourselves out of corners.

~Salman Rushdie

Friendships are the family we make - not the one we inherit. I've always been someone to whom friendship, elective affinities, is as important as family.

~Salman Rushdie

What kind of Christmas present would Jesus ask Santa for?

~Salman Rushdie

One of the things a writer is for is to say the unsayable, speak the unspeakable and ask difficult questions.

~Salman Rushdie

Prophet Mohammed would have no objection to The Satanic Verses.

~Salman Rushdie

He knew what he knew: that the real world was full of magic, so magical worlds could easily be real.

~Salman Rushdie

I don't dictate to anyone what to believe and what not to. And I don't want that to be dictated to me either.

~Salman Rushdie

You can't have modern states based on ideas which have been out of date for a thousand years.

~Salman Rushdie

Happy endings must come at the end of something,' the Walrus pointed out. 'If they happen in the middle of a story, or an adventure, or the like, all they do is cheer things up for awhile.

~Salman Rushdie

A man who invents himself needs someone to believe in him... Not only the need to be believed in, but the need to believe in another. You've got it: Love.

~Salman Rushdie

Many men start being friendly with women because they are trying to seduce them. I'm not trying to seduce them. I just like hanging out with them.

~Salman Rushdie

It is very, very easy not to be offended by a book. You just have to shut it.

~Salman Rushdie

I would argue that religion comes from a desire to get to the questions of, 'Where do we come from?' and 'How shall we live?' And I would say I don't need religion to answer those questions.

~Salman Rushdie

We crave permission openly to become our secret selves.

~Salman Rushdie

What's the use of stories that aren't even true?

~Salman Rushdie

A book is not completed till it's read.

~Salman Rushdie

When you throw everything up in the air anything becomes possible.

~Salman Rushdie

Without water we are nothing", the traveler thought. "Even an emperor, denied water, would swiftly turn to dust. Water is the real monarch and we are all its slaves.

~Salman Rushdie

Go for broke. Always try and do too much. Dispense with safety nets. Take a deep breath before you begin.

~Salman Rushdie

You can find shame in every house, burning in an ashtray, hanging framed upon a wall, covering a bed. But nobody notices it any more.

~Salman Rushdie

I think the book is less emotional than the film. With the film, the emotions are much more raw and in front. In the book, they are kind of ironized and seen through comedy.

~Salman Rushdie

We cannot allow religious hooligans to place limiting points on thought.

~Salman Rushdie

Sometimes great, banned works defy the censor's description and impose themselves on the world - 'Ulysses,' 'Lolita,' the 'Arabian Nights.'

~Salman Rushdie

Throughout human history, the apostles of purity, those who have claimed to possess a total explanation, have wrought havoc among mere mixed-up human beings.

~Salman Rushdie

The idea of the sacred is quite simply one of the most conservative notions in any culture, because it seeks to turn other ideas - uncertainty, progress, change - into crimes.

~Salman Rushdie

I do not need the idea of God to explain the world I live in.

~Salman Rushdie

Even when things are at their worst, there's a little voice in your head saying, 'Good story!'

~Salman Rushdie

Most of what matters in your life takes place in your absence.

~Salman Rushdie

Liberate yourself, because no one else is going to liberate you

~Salman Rushdie

Free societies...are societies in motion, and with motion comes tension, dissent, friction. Free people strike sparks, and those sparks are the best evidence of freedom's existence.

~Salman Rushdie

I do think that there is such a thing as human nature, and that the

things that we have in common are perhaps greater than the things that divide us.

~Salman Rushdie

People are always telling me that they've seen people reading my books on the subway, or the beach, or whenever.

~Salman Rushdie

Nothing comes from nothing, Thieflet; no story comes from nowhere; new stories are born from old--it is the new combinations that make them new.

~Salman Rushdie

Music, love, death. Certainly a triangle of sorts; maybe even an eternal one. "The only people who can see the whole picture," he murmured, "are the ones who step out of the frame."

~Salman Rushdie

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