

# Saul Bellow

## Quotes

*People, Men, Art, Heart, Writing, Soul, Thinking, Book, Mean, Real, Inspirational, Age, Love, America, Life, Character, Country, May, Firsts, Self*

Humankind struggles with collective powers for its freedom, the individual struggles with dehumanization for the possession of his soul.

~Saul Bellow

A great deal of intelligence can be invested in ignorance when the need for illusion is deep.

~Saul Bellow

There are evils that have the ability to survive identification and go on for ever... money, for instance, or war.

~Saul Bellow

Associate with the noblest people you can find; read the best books; live with the mighty; but learn to be happy alone.

~Saul Bellow

I am a phoenix who runs after arsonists.

~Saul Bellow

You can spend the entire second half of your life recovering from the mistakes of the first half.

~Saul Bellow

Everybody needs his memories. They keep the wolf of insignificance from the door.

~Saul Bellow

A man is only as good as what he loves.

~Saul Bellow

When we ask for advice, we are usually looking for an accomplice.

~Saul Bellow

Whoever wants to reach a distant goal must take small steps.

~Saul Bellow

It's usually the selfish people who are loved the most. They do what you deny yourself, and you love them for it. You give them your heart.

~Saul Bellow

You never have to change anything you got up in the middle of the night to write.

~Saul Bellow

A fool can throw a stone in a pond that 100 wise men can not get out.

~Saul Bellow

In an age of madness, to expect to be untouched by madness is a form of madness. But the pursuit of sanity can be a form of madness, too

~Saul Bellow

Strict seriousness was far more dangerous than any joke.

~Saul Bellow

If I had a child of school age, I would send him to one of the Waldorf Schools.

~Saul Bellow

Unexpected intrusions of beauty. This is what life is.

~Saul Bellow

People can lose their lives in libraries. They ought to be warned.

~Saul Bellow

Everybody knows there is no fineness or accuracy of suppression; if you hold down one thing, you hold down the adjoining.

~Saul Bellow

Readiness to answer all questions is the infallible sign of stupidity.

~Saul Bellow

Happiness can only be found if you can free yourself of all other distractions.

~Saul Bellow

There was a disturbance in my heart, a voice that spoke there and said, I want, I want, I want! It happened every afternoon, and when I tried to suppress it it got even stronger.

~Saul Bellow

The life of every citizen is becoming a business. This, it seems to me, is one of the worst interpretations of the meaning of human life history has ever seen. Man's life is not a business.

~Saul Bellow

Take our politicians: they're a bunch of yo-yos. The presidency is now a cross between a popularity contest and a high school debate, with an encyclopedia of cliches.

~Saul Bellow

In Los Angeles all the loose objects in the country were collected, as if America had been tilted and everything that wasn't tightly screwed down had slid into Southern California.

~Saul Bellow

I'm glad I haven't lived in vain.

~Saul Bellow

With one long breath, caught and held in his chest, he fought his sadness over his solitary life. Don't cry, you idiot! Live or die, but don't poison everything.

~Saul Bellow

We mustn't forget how quickly the visions of genius become the canned goods of intellectuals.

~Saul Bellow

The secret motive of the absent-minded is to be innocent while guilty. Absent-mindedness is spurious innocence.

~Saul Bellow

A novel is balanced between a few true impressions and the multitude of false ones that make up most of what we call life.

~Saul Bellow

I've never turned over a fig leaf yet that didn't have a price tag on the other side.

~Saul Bellow

Goodness is achieved not in a vacuum, but in the company of other men, attended by love.

~Saul Bellow

A plan relieves you of the torment of choice.

~Saul Bellow

Some people, if they didn't make it hard for themselves, might fall asleep.

~Saul Bellow

The first undressing of two lovers is a most special event.

~Saul Bellow

The late philosopher Morris R. Cohen of CCNY was asked by a student in the metaphysics course, Professor Cohen, how do I know that I exist? The keen old prof replied, And who is asking?

~Saul Bellow

We are funny creatures. We don't see the stars as they are, so why do we love them? They are not small gold objects, but endless fire.

~Saul Bellow

I think that art has something to do with an arrest of attention in the midst of distraction.

~Saul Bellow

Our society, like decadent Rome, has turned into an amusement society, with writers chief among the court jesters

~Saul Bellow

The main reason for rewriting is not to achieve a smooth surface, but to discover the inner truth of your characters.

~Saul Bellow

A man should be able to hear, and to bear, the worst that could be said of him.

~Saul Bellow

People don't realize how much they are in the grip of ideas. We live among ideas much more than we live in nature.

~Saul Bellow

There is only one way to defeat the enemy, and that is to write as well as one can. The best argument is an undeniably good book.

~Saul Bellow

California is like an artificial limb the rest of the country doesn't really need. You can quote me on that.

~Saul Bellow

We are always looking for the book it is necessary to read next.

~Saul Bellow

All a writer has to do to get a woman is to say he's a writer. It's an aphrodisiac.

~Saul Bellow

Anxiety destroys scale, and suffering makes us lose perspective.

~Saul Bellow

Fidelity is for phonographs

~Saul Bellow

With a novelist, like a surgeon, you have to get a feeling that you've fallen into good hands - someone from whom you can accept the anesthetic with confidence.

~Saul Bellow

One thought-murder a day keeps the psychiatrist away.

~Saul Bellow

The stillness in art characterizes prayer, and the eye of the storm.

~Saul Bellow

... an era of turmoil and ideological confusion, the principal phenomenon of the present age.

~Saul Bellow

I've discovered that rejections are not altogether a bad thing. They teach a writer to rely on his own judgment and to say in his heart of hearts, 'To hell with you.'

~Saul Bellow

Human character is smaller now, people don't have durable passions; they've replaced passions with excitement.

~Saul Bellow

There is an immense, painful longing for a broader, more flexible, fuller, more coherent, more comprehensive account of what we human beings are, who we are and what this life is for.

~Saul Bellow

She was what we used to call a suicide blonde - dyed by her own hand.

~Saul Bellow

Erotic practices have become diversified. Sex used to be a single-crop farming, like cotton or wheat; now people raise all kinds of things.

~Saul Bellow

Also, he was smoking a cigar, and when a man is smoking a cigar, wearing a hat, he has an advantage; it is harder to find out how he feels.

~Saul Bellow

A writer is in the broadest sense a spokesman of his community. Through him that community comes to know its heart. Without such knowledge, how long can it survive?

~Saul Bellow

A human soul devoid of longing was a soul deformed, deprived of its highest good, sick unto death.

~Saul Bellow

Live or die but don't poison everything.

~Saul Bellow

The body, she says, is subject to the force of gravity. But the soul is ruled by levity, pure.

~Saul Bellow



Boredom is the conviction that you can't change ... the shriek of unused capacities.

~Saul Bellow

No realistic, sane person goes around Chicago without protection.

~Saul Bellow

A man must have limits and cannot give in to the wild desires to be everything and everyone and everything to everyone.

~Saul Bellow

Alternatives, and particularly desirable alternatives, grow only on imaginary trees.

~Saul Bellow

Death is the dark backing a mirror needs if we are to see anything

~Saul Bellow

I have begun in old age to understand...that we seldom if ever realize how generous we are to ourselves, and just how stingy with others.

~Saul Bellow

...chaos doesn't run the whole show.

~Saul Bellow

Unless you're completely exploded, there's always something to be grateful for.

~Saul Bellow

In expressing love we belong among the undeveloped countries.

~Saul Bellow

A person either creates or destroys. There is no neutrality.

~Saul Bellow

(Socrates) said there were only two possibilities. Either the soul is immortal or, after death, things would be again as blank as they were before we were born.

~Saul Bellow

"What do women want?" "They eat green salad and drink human blood."

~Saul Bellow

Retirement is an illusion. Not a reward but a mantrap. The bankrupt underside of success. A shortcut to death. Golf courses are too much like cemeteries.

~Saul Bellow

It wasn't that he was specially ungenerous but that he put things off to give his generosity a longer and more significant route.

~Saul Bellow

When the striving ceases, there is life waiting as a gift.

~Saul Bellow

Conquered people tend to be witty.

~Saul Bellow

The best and purest human beings, from the beginning of time, have understood that life is sacred.

~Saul Bellow

...is the carbon molecule lined with thought?

~Saul Bellow

Any artist should be grateful for a naive grace which puts him beyond the need to reason elaborately.

~Saul Bellow

I think that New York is not the cultural centre of America, but the business and administrative centre of American culture.

~Saul Bellow

Death deserves dignity.

~Saul Bellow

It's not up to me ... to make the world consistent.

~Saul Bellow

For the first time in history, the human species as a whole has gone into politics. Everyone is in the act, and there is no telling what may come of it.

~Saul Bellow

There is much to be said for exotic marriages. If your husband is a bore, it takes years longer to discover.

~Saul Bellow

Unfortunately for the betterment of mankind it is not always the fair-minded who are in the right.

~Saul Bellow

There is simply too much to think about.

~Saul Bellow

It's no disgrace to be a private, you know. Socrates was a plain foot soldier, a hoplite.

~Saul Bellow

One of the booby traps of freedom - which is bordered on all sides by isolation - is that we think so well of ourselves. I now see that I have helped myself to the best cuts at life's banquet.

~Saul Bellow

It's goodbye to reality when love sets in.

~Saul Bellow

I love solitude, but I prize it most when plenty of company is available.

~Saul Bellow

...there is no old age of the soul.

~Saul Bellow

She's very pretty but she's honey from the icebox, if you know what I mean. Cold sweets won't spread.

~Saul Bellow

My face too blind, my mind too limited, my instincts too narrow. But this intensity, doesn't it mean anything?

~Saul Bellow

Myself is thus and so, and will continue thus and so. And why fight it? My balance comes from instability.

~Saul Bellow

The writer cannot make the seas of distraction stand still, but he [or she] can at times come between the madly distracted and the distractions.

~Saul Bellow

If women are expected to do the same work as men, we must teach them the same things.

~Saul Bellow

The best argument is an undeniably good book.

~Saul Bellow

What Homo sapien imagines, he may slowly convert himself to.

~Saul Bellow

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