

# Simon Blackburn

## Quotes

*Doe, World, Absolutism, Philosophical, Memories, May, Should, Believe,  
Responsibility, Law, Voice, Way, Men, Religious, Gone, Reflection, Michigan,  
Leaving, Shows, Window*

Myself, I have never seen a bumper sticker saying " Hate if you Love Jesus ", but I sometimes wonder why not. It would be a good slogan for the religious Right.

~Simon Blackburn

Chance is as relentless as necessity.

~Simon Blackburn

The absolutist trumpets his plain vision; the relativist sees only someone who is unaware of his own spectacles.

~Simon Blackburn

The absolutist takes himself to read nature in her very own language, but the relativist insists that nature does not speak, and we hear only what we have elected to hear.

~Simon Blackburn

A god that created the world and then walked off the site leaving it to its own devices is not a fit object of worship, nor a source of moral authority.

~Simon Blackburn

Nobody ever inferred from the multiple infirmities of Windows that Bill Gates was infinitely benevolent, omniscient, and able to fix everything.

~Simon Blackburn

Perhaps to restore human freedom we should deny determinism ?

~Simon Blackburn

It can seem an amazing fact that laws of nature keep on holding, that the frame of nature does not fall apart.

~Simon Blackburn

The word " philosophy " carries unfortunate connotations: impractical,

unworldly, weird.

~Simon Blackburn

The fantasist in whom the reality barrier has broken down is unreliable, believing things when he should not, and telling things as true when they are not.

~Simon Blackburn

The absolutist parades his good solid grounding in observation, reason, objectivity, truth and fact; the relativist sees only fetishes.

~Simon Blackburn

Respect, of course is a tricky term. I may respect your gardening by just letting you get on with it. Or, I may respect it by admiring it and regarding it as a superior way to garden.

~Simon Blackburn

If our best efforts come to nothing often enough, we need consolation, and thoughts of unfolding, infinite destiny, or karma , are sometimes consoling.

~Simon Blackburn

The absolutist takes himself to speak to the ages, with the tongue of angels, but the relativist hears only one version among others, the subjectivity of the here and now.

~Simon Blackburn

When the hoary old question of nature versus nurture comes around, sides form quickly.

~Simon Blackburn

Why should thinkers mock the simple pieties of the people?

~Simon Blackburn

The scientific world is to be less threatening than was feared. It is to be made safe for human beings. And the way to make it safe is to reflect on the foundation of knowledge.

~Simon Blackburn

In Michigan recently a man won a lawsuit for substantial damages because, he claimed, a rear-end collision in his car had made him a homosexual.

~Simon Blackburn

Induction is the process of taking things within our experience to be representative of the world outside our experience. It is a process of projection or extrapolation.

~Simon Blackburn

Finding a mechanism does not bypass the problem of induction.

~Simon Blackburn

Contemporary culture is not very good on responsibility.

~Simon Blackburn

We can grieve over lost powers and memories, or rejoice over gained knowledge and maturity, according to taste.

~Simon Blackburn

Thoughts are strange things. they have 'representational' powers: a thought typically represents the world as being one way or another. A sensation, by contrast, seems to just sit there.

~Simon Blackburn

Since there is no telling in advance where it may lead, reflection can be seen as dangerous .

~Simon Blackburn

Paradigms can be asked to show their worth, and some of them do not stand up.

~Simon Blackburn

An ethic gone wrong is an essential preliminary to the sweat shop or the concentration camp and the death march.

~Simon Blackburn

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