

Stanislaw Lem

Quotes

Men, Humorous, Believe, Dream, Lying, World, War, Two, Mean, Doe, Age, Book, Ideas, Purpose, Writing, Philosophical, Order, Children, Thinking, Space

Cannibals prefer those who have no spines.

~Stanislaw Lem

We have no need of other worlds. We need mirrors. We don't know what to do with other worlds. A single world, our own, suffices us; but we can't accept it for what it is.

~Stanislaw Lem

I hadn't known there were so many idiots in the world until I started using the Internet.

~Stanislaw Lem

Man does not create gods, in spite of appearances. The times, the age, impose them on him.

~Stanislaw Lem

A dream will always triumph over reality, once it is given the chance.

~Stanislaw Lem

Science explains the world, but only Art can reconcile us to it.

~Stanislaw Lem

If a man who can't count finds a four leaf clover, is he lucky?

~Stanislaw Lem

Behind every glorious facade there is always hidden something ugly.

~Stanislaw Lem

Faith is, at one and the same time, absolutely necessary and altogether impossible.

~Stanislaw Lem

The whole plan hinged upon the natural curiosity of potatoes.

~Stanislaw Lem

Good books tell the truth, even when they're about things that never have been and never will be. They're truthful in a different way

~Stanislaw Lem

Seduced, shaggy Samson snored. She scissored short. Sorely shorn, Soon shackled slave, Samson sighed, Silently scheming, Sightlessly seeking Some savage, spectacular suicide.

~Stanislaw Lem

If man had more of a sense of humor, things might have turned out differently.

~Stanislaw Lem

He who has had, has been, but he who hasn't been, has been had.

~Stanislaw Lem

We are like snails, each stuck to his own leaf.

~Stanislaw Lem

You climb to reach the summit, but once there, discover that all roads lead down.

~Stanislaw Lem

Genius is not so much a light as it is a constant awareness of the surrounding gloom.

~Stanislaw Lem

A smart machine will first consider which is more worth its while: to perform the given task or, instead, to figure some way out of it.

~Stanislaw Lem

A man who for an entire week does nothing but hit himself over the head has little reason to be proud.

~Stanislaw Lem

There are no answers, only choices.

~Stanislaw Lem

I don't resist progress, but I have a growing feeling that mankind uses it mostly for disgraceful purposes.

~Stanislaw Lem

You believe by doubting and you doubt by believing; yet this state too is not the final one.

~Stanislaw Lem

Where do consequences lead? Depends on the escort.

~Stanislaw Lem

Every stink that fights the ventilator thinks it is Don Quixote.

~Stanislaw Lem

The demand for absolute purity of genres is becoming nowadays an anachronism in literature.

~Stanislaw Lem

Our ability to adapt and therefore to accept everything is one of our greatest dangers. Creatures that are completely flexible, changeable, can have no fixed morality.

~Stanislaw Lem

Do not trust people. They are capable of greatness.

~Stanislaw Lem

How do you expect to communicate with the ocean, when you can't even understand one another?

~Stanislaw Lem

A candidate is a person who gets money from the rich and votes from

the poor to protect them from each other.

~Stanislaw Lem

No one reads; if someone does read, he doesn't understand; if he understands, he immediately forgets.

~Stanislaw Lem

The first 90% of the job takes 90% of the time. The remaining 10% of the job requires another 90% of the time. The first condition of immortality is death.

~Stanislaw Lem

...it is easy not to believe in monsters, considerably more difficult to escape their dread and loathsome clutches.

~Stanislaw Lem

I never loved totalitarianism and all the ideas of making mankind happy always seemed crazy to me.

~Stanislaw Lem

I never read to kill time. Killing time is like killing someone's wife or a child. There is nothing more precious for me than time.

~Stanislaw Lem

People make filthy things with the freedom they regained.

~Stanislaw Lem

That human existence should repeat itself, well and good, but that it should repeat itself like a hackneyed tune, or a record a drunkard keeps playing as he feeds coins into the jukebox...

~Stanislaw Lem

I have to admit that he was not bad at combinatorial analysis - a branch, however, that even then I considered to be dried up.

~Stanislaw Lem

A specialist is a barbarian whose ignorance is not well-rounded.

~Stanislaw Lem

To torture a man you have to know his pleasures.

~Stanislaw Lem

The night stared me in the face, amorphous, blind, infinite, without frontiers. Not a single star relieved the darkness behind the glass.

~Stanislaw Lem

The number of one's possible fantasies is inversely proportional to the amount of one's liquid assets. For him who has everything dreams are no longer possible.

~Stanislaw Lem

A writer should not run around with a mirror for his countrymen; he should tell his society and his times things no one ever thought before.

~Stanislaw Lem

I believe in no final solutions.

~Stanislaw Lem

It has no meaning, what do you use to write, the only thing that is important is: what do you write. A machine to write a book instead of a writer is not invented yet, and probably will never be.

~Stanislaw Lem

Not only does God play dice with the world He does not let us see what He has rolled.

~Stanislaw Lem

Practically all SF is trash.

~Stanislaw Lem

Burn with that consuming fire of objectivity that forces a man to renew efforts that are doomed to failure.

~Stanislaw Lem

Everything is explicable in the terms of the behavior of a small child.

~Stanislaw Lem

Cancel me not - for what then shall remain? Abscissas, some mantissas, modules, modes, A root or two, a torus and a node: The inverse of my verse, a null domain.

~Stanislaw Lem

I'll grant the random access to my heart, Thoul't tell me all the constants of thy love; And so we two shall all love's lemmas prove And in our bound partition never part.

~Stanislaw Lem

The horse respects and obeys man because its large eyes magnify everything, so man appears much larger than the horse itself.

~Stanislaw Lem

Even a fool could see that one didn't need a war, nuclear or otherwise, to destroy oneself; the rising cost of weaponry could do that quite nicely.

~Stanislaw Lem

I do not like the way people use the more and more magnificent fruits of technology to their filthy deeds.

~Stanislaw Lem

I felt myself being invaded through and through, I crumbled, disintegrated, and only emptiness remained.

~Stanislaw Lem

Is a mountain only a huge stone? Is a planet an enormous mountain?

~Stanislaw Lem

Come, every frustum longs to be a cone, And every vector dreams of matrices. Hark to the gentle gradient of the breeze: It whispers of a more ergodic zone.

~Stanislaw Lem

And yet we knew, for a certainty, that when first emissaries of Earth went walking among the planets, Earth's other sons would be dreaming not about such expeditions but about a piece of bread.

~Stanislaw Lem

We don't want to conquer the cosmos, we simply want to extend the boundaries of Earth to the frontiers of the cosmos.

~Stanislaw Lem

The age-old faith of lovers and poets in the power of love, stronger than death, that *Finis vitae sed non amoris*, is a lie, useless and not even funny.

~Stanislaw Lem

Plentitude, when too plentitudinous, was worst than destitution, for obviously what could one do, if there was nothing one could not?

~Stanislaw Lem

I see a poem as a multi-coloured strip behind peeling plaster, in separate, shining fragments.

~Stanislaw Lem

Come, let us hasten to a higher plane, Where dyads tread the fairy fields of Venn, Their indices bedecked from one to ∞ , Commingled in

an endless Markov chain!

~Stanislaw Lem

In Riemann, Hilbert or in Banach space Let superscripts and subscripts go their ways. Our symptotes no longer out of phase, We shall encounter, counting, face to face.

~Stanislaw Lem

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