

# Vernor Vinge

## Quotes

*Years, People, World, Natural, Understanding, Technology, Writing, Science,  
Possibility, Trying, Problem, Talent, Research, Evil, Ideas, Mind, Hurt,  
Manipulation, Passing, Lying*

The problem is not simply that the Singularity represents the passing of humankind from center stage, but that it contradicts our most deeply held notions of being.

~Vernor Vinge

Within thirty years, we will have the technological means to create superhuman intelligence. Shortly after, the human era will be ended.

~Vernor Vinge

In fact, there was general agreement that minds can exist on nonbiological substrates and that algorithms are of central importance to the existence of minds.

~Vernor Vinge

Even the largest avalanche is triggered by small things.

~Vernor Vinge

Intelligence is the handmaiden of flexibility and change.

~Vernor Vinge

How will the approach of the Singularity spread across the human world view?

~Vernor Vinge

The dilemma felt by science fiction writers will be perceived in other creative endeavors.

~Vernor Vinge

But if the technological Singularity can happen, it will.

~Vernor Vinge

We humans have millions of years of evolutionary baggage that makes us regard competition in a deadly light.

~Vernor Vinge

But every time our ability to access information and to communicate it to others is improved, in some sense we have achieved an increase over natural intelligence.

~Vernor Vinge

I have argued above that we cannot prevent the Singularity, that its coming is an inevitable consequence of the humans natural competitiveness and the possibilities inherent in technology.

~Vernor Vinge

I never guessed I could cry so hard my face hurt.

~Vernor Vinge

Another symptom of progress toward the Singularity: ideas themselves should spread ever faster, and even the most radical will quickly become commonplace.

~Vernor Vinge

What we have is a data glut.

~Vernor Vinge

I say, let's learn more and then speculate.

~Vernor Vinge

So much technology, so little talent.

~Vernor Vinge

Animals can adapt to problems and make inventions, but often no faster than natural selection can do its work - the world acts as its own simulator in the case of natural selection.

~Vernor Vinge

I argue in this paper that we are on the edge of change comparable to the rise of human life on Earth.

~Vernor Vinge

The work that is truly productive is the domain of a steadily smaller and more elite fraction of humanity.

~Vernor Vinge

And for all my rampant technological optimism, sometimes I think I'd be more comfortable if I were regarding these transcendental events from one thousand years remove... instead of twenty.

~Vernor Vinge

The voice was gentle, like a scalpel petting the short hairs of your throat.

~Vernor Vinge

I am suggesting that we recognize that in network and interface research there is something as profound (and potential wild) as Artificial Intelligence.

~Vernor Vinge

IA is something that is proceeding very naturally, in most cases not even recognized by its developers for what it is.

~Vernor Vinge

Pham Nuwen plunked himself down, stretching indolently.

~Vernor Vinge

Technical people don't make good slaves. Without their wholehearted cooperation, things fall apart.

~Vernor Vinge

The physical extinction of the human race is one possibility.

~Vernor Vinge

We're endangered by our own success.

~Vernor Vinge

Effective translation of natural languages comes awfully close to requiring a sentient translator program.

~Vernor Vinge

One of his greatest talents was empathy; no sadist can aspire to perfection without that diagnostic ability.

~Vernor Vinge

Once upon a time I was such a good liar; I could talk the fish right into my mouths.

~Vernor Vinge

Sometimes terror and pain are not the best levers; deception, when it works, is the most elegant and the least expensive manipulation of all.

~Vernor Vinge

Politics may come and go, but Greed goes on forever.

~Vernor Vinge

It was not called the Net of a Million Lies for nothing.

~Vernor Vinge

Poor humans; they will all die. ""Poor us; we will not.

~Vernor Vinge

All evil and good is petty before Nature. Personally, we take comfort from this, that there is a universe to admire that cannot be twisted to villainy or good, but which simply is.

~Vernor Vinge

If there be only hours, at least learn what there is time to learn.

~Vernor Vinge

We're long on high principles and short on simple human understanding.

~Vernor Vinge

He was guided by what he saw rather than by what he wanted to believe.

~Vernor Vinge

Sometimes the biggest disasters aren't noticed at all - no one's around to write horror stories.

~Vernor Vinge

Note that I am not proposing that AI research be ignored or less funded.

~Vernor Vinge

When people speak of creating superhumanly intelligent beings, they are usually imagining an AI project.

~Vernor Vinge

Little fish risking everything for a piece of godhood...and not knowing heaven from hell, even when they find it.

~Vernor Vinge

How to explain? How to describe? Even the omniscient viewpoint quails.

~Vernor Vinge

Peregrine Wickwrackrum was of two minds about evil: when enough rules get broken, sometimes there is good amid the carnage.

~Vernor Vinge

Well, what do you know," Pham said. "Butterflies in jackboots.

~Vernor Vinge

The illusion of self-awareness. Happy automatons, running on trivial programs. I'll bet you never guess. From the inside, how can you?

~Vernor Vinge

Peregrine Wickwrackscar was flying. A pilgrim with legends that went back almost a thousand years-and not one of them could come near to this!

~Vernor Vinge

He claimed that nearby gun thunder cleared the mind - but most everybody else agreed it made you daft.

~Vernor Vinge

I have come to kill you."The death's heads shrugged. "You have come to try.

~Vernor Vinge

The heart of manipulation is to empathize without being touched.

~Vernor Vinge

All his life he had lived by the law. Often his job had been to stop acts of revenge....And now revenge was all that life had left for him.

~Vernor Vinge

Life is a green madness just now, trying to squeeze the last bit of warmth from the season.

~Vernor Vinge

**Related Links:**

- Years Quotes
- People Quotes
- World Quotes
- Natural Quotes
- Understanding Quotes
- Technology Quotes
- Writing Quotes
- Science Quotes
- Possibility Quotes
- Trying Quotes
- Problem Quotes
- Talent Quotes
- Research Quotes
- Evil Quotes
- Ideas Quotes
- Mind Quotes
- Hurt Quotes
- Manipulation Quotes
- Passing Quotes
- Lying Quotes