

# William Irwin Thompson

## Quotes

*Reality, Chaos, Imagination, Purpose, Moving, World, Change, Knowing,  
Thinking, Unity, Process, Order, Years, Past, Culture, Science, Artist, Genius,  
Generations, Earth*

In the domain of cops and robbers, an interdiction serves to structure a black market and a shadow economy.

~William Irwin Thompson

Idealistic reformers are dangerous because their idealism has no roots in love, but is simply a hysterical and unbalanced rage for order amidst their own chaos.

~William Irwin Thompson

The conscious purpose of science is control of Nature; its unconscious effect is disruption and chaos.

~William Irwin Thompson

Hominid and human evolution took place over millions and not billions of years, but with the emergence of language there was a further acceleration of time and the rate of change.

~William Irwin Thompson

One way to find food for thought is to use the fork in the road, the bifurcation that marks the place of emergence in which a new line of development begins to branch off.

~William Irwin Thompson

If you do not create your destiny, you will have your fate inflicted upon you.

~William Irwin Thompson

Science is the storytelling of our time.

~William Irwin Thompson

The future is beyond knowing, but the present is beyond belief.

~William Irwin Thompson

In a world in which men write thousands of books and one million

scientific papers a year, the mythic bricoleur is the man who plays with all that information and hears a music inside the noise.

~William Irwin Thompson

The conscious process is reflected in the imagination; the unconscious process is expressed as karma, the generation of actions divorced from thinking and alienated from feeling.

~William Irwin Thompson

Catastrophes are often stimulated by the failure to feel the emergence of a domain, and so what cannot be felt in the imagination is experienced as embodied sensation in the catastrophe.

~William Irwin Thompson

That shoreline where the island of knowing meets the unfathomable sea of our own being is the landscape of myth.

~William Irwin Thompson

The more chaos there is, the more science holds on to abstract systems of control, and the more chaos is engendered.

~William Irwin Thompson

A World is not an ideology nor a scientific institution, nor is it even a system of ideologies; rather, it is a structure of unconscious relations and symbiotic processes.

~William Irwin Thompson

Unconscious Politics emerge independent of conscious purpose.

~William Irwin Thompson

Ideologies do not map the complete living processes of a World.

~William Irwin Thompson

Not all intelligence can be artificial now, so if we make a mistake, the

consequences are no longer simply located within an institution or a national culture.

~William Irwin Thompson

The teacher of history's work should be, ideally, not simply a description of past cultures, but a performance of the culture in which we live and are increasingly taking our being.

~William Irwin Thompson

When we come to an edge we come to a frontier that tells us that we are now about to become more than we have been before.

~William Irwin Thompson

We are the climactic generation of human cultural evolution, and in the microcosm of our lives the macrocosm of the evolution of the human race is playing itself out.

~William Irwin Thompson

Fairy tales and myths are forms of cultural storage for the natural history of life.

~William Irwin Thompson

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