

William Ralph Inge

Quotes

*Men, Age, World, Animal, Thinking, Philosophy, Half, Civilization, God, Average,
People, Spiritual, Originality, Happiness, Soul, Believe, Grace, Religion,
Beautiful, Wise*

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it comes due.

~William Ralph Inge

Theater is, of course, a reflection of life. Maybe we have to improve life before we can hope to improve theater.

~William Ralph Inge

The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values.

~William Ralph Inge

A cat can be trusted to purr when she is pleased, which is more than can be said for human beings.

~William Ralph Inge

The happy people are those who are producing something.

~William Ralph Inge

The happiest people seem to be those who have no particular cause for being happy except that they are so.

~William Ralph Inge

What is originality? Undetected plagiarism.

~William Ralph Inge

A nation is a society united by a delusion about its ancestry and by common hatred of its neighbours.

~William Ralph Inge

Experience proves that none is so cruel as the disillusioned sentimentalist.

~William Ralph Inge

Take away fear, and the battle of Freedom is half won.

~William Ralph Inge

Democracy is only an experiment in government, and it has the obvious disadvantage of merely counting votes instead of weighing them.

~William Ralph Inge

It is useless for the sheep to pass resolutions in favor of vegetarianism, while the wolf remains of a different opinion.

~William Ralph Inge

Originality is undetected plagiarism.

~William Ralph Inge

The wealth of a soul is measured by how much it can feel; its poverty by how little.

~William Ralph Inge

It is astonishing with how little wisdom mankind can be governed, when that little wisdom is its own.

~William Ralph Inge

Events in the past may be roughly divided into those which probably never happened and those which do not matter.

~William Ralph Inge

Nobody is bored when he is trying to make something that is beautiful or to discover something that is true.

~William Ralph Inge

A man may build himself a throne of bayonets, but he cannot sit on it.

~William Ralph Inge

Don't break the silence unless you can improve on it.

~William Ralph Inge

There is no limit to the noble aspirations which the words "my country"

may evoke.

~William Ralph Inge

Faith is an act of self-consecration, in which the will, the intellect, and the affections all have their place.

~William Ralph Inge

The command, 'Be fruitful and multiply', was promulgated, according to our authorities, when the population of the world consisted of two persons.

~William Ralph Inge

Prayer gives a man the opportunity of getting to know a gentleman he hardly ever meets. I do not mean his maker, but himself.

~William Ralph Inge

Gambling is a disease of barbarians superficially civilized.

~William Ralph Inge

The greatest obstacle to progress is not man's inherited pugnacity, but his incorrigible tendency to parasitism.

~William Ralph Inge

Patriotism varies, from a noble devotion to a moral lunacy.

~William Ralph Inge

The wisdom of the wise is an uncommon degree of common sense.

~William Ralph Inge

The enemies of freedom do not argue; they shout and they shoot.

~William Ralph Inge

Whoever marries the spirit of this age will find himself a widower in the next.

~William Ralph Inge

Let us remember, when we are inclined to be disheartened, that the private soldier is a poor judge of the fortunes of a great battle.

~William Ralph Inge

I think middle-age is the best time, if we can escape the fatty degeneration of the conscience which often sets in at about fifty.

~William Ralph Inge

The world belongs to those who think and act with it, who keep a finger on its pulse.

~William Ralph Inge

In dealing with Englishmen you can be sure of one thing only, that the logical solution will not be adopted.

~William Ralph Inge

The statistics of suicide show that, for non-combatants at least, life is more interesting in war than in peace.

~William Ralph Inge

Public opinion, a vulgar, impertinent, anonymous tyrant who deliberately makes life unpleasant for anyone who is not content to the average person.

~William Ralph Inge

I have never understood why it should be considered derogatory to the Creator to suppose that he has a sense of humour.

~William Ralph Inge

When our first parents were driven out of Paradise, Adam is believed to have remarked to Eve, "My dear, we live in an age of transition."

~William Ralph Inge

Faith begins as an experiment, and ends as an experience.

~William Ralph Inge

The happy people are those who are producing something; the bored people are those who are consuming much and producing nothing.

~William Ralph Inge

Bereavement is the sharpest challenge to our trust in God; if faith can overcome this, there is no mountain which it cannot remove.

~William Ralph Inge

The whole of nature, as has been said, is a conjugation of the verb to eat, in the active and in the passive.

~William Ralph Inge

Consciousness is a phase of mental life which arises in connection with the formation of new habits. When habit is formed, consciousness only interferes to spoil our performance.

~William Ralph Inge

The proper time to influence the character of a child is about a hundred years before he is born.

~William Ralph Inge

Admiration for ourselves and our institutions is too often measured by our contempt and dislike for foreigners.

~William Ralph Inge

Beneath the dingy uniformity of international fashions in dress, man remains what he has always been; a splendid fighting animal, a self-sacrificing hero, and a blood thirsty savage.

~William Ralph Inge

Many people believe that they are attracted by God, or by Nature, when

they are only repelled by man.

~William Ralph Inge

I have no fear that the candle lighted in Palestine years ago will ever be put out.

~William Ralph Inge

Every institution not only carries within it the seeds of its own dissolution, but prepares the way for its most hated rival.

~William Ralph Inge

Love remembered and consecrated by grief belongs, more clearly than the happy intercourse of friends, to the eternal world; it has proved itself stronger than death.

~William Ralph Inge

Don't get up from the feast of life without paying for your share of it.

~William Ralph Inge

Deliberate cruelty to our defenceless and beautiful little cousins is surely one of the meanest and most detestable vices of which a human being can be guilty.

~William Ralph Inge

The right use of leisure is no doubt a harder problem than the right use of our working hours. The soul is dyed the color of its leisure thoughts.

~William Ralph Inge

Let none of us delude himself by supposing that honesty is always the best policy. It is not.

~William Ralph Inge

Civilization is being poisoned by its own waste products.

~William Ralph Inge

Faith is an act of rational choice, which determines us to act as if certain things were true, and in the confident expectation that they will prove to be true.

~William Ralph Inge

Bereavement is the deepest initiation into the mysteries of human life, an initiation more searching and profound than even happy love.

~William Ralph Inge

No Christian can be a pessimist, for Christianity is a system of radical optimism.

~William Ralph Inge

Nature takes away any faculty that is not used.

~William Ralph Inge

The church is only a secular institution in which the half-educated speak to the half-converted.

~William Ralph Inge

Joy is the triumph of life; it is the sign that we are living our true life as spiritual beings.

~William Ralph Inge

Man, as we know him, is a poor creature; he is halfway between an ape and a god and he is travelling in the right direction.

~William Ralph Inge

My dear, we live in an age of transition.

~William Ralph Inge

We tolerate shapes in human beings that would horrify us if we saw them in a horse.

~William Ralph Inge

Literature flourishes best when it is half a trade and half an art.

~William Ralph Inge

Faith always contains an element of risk, of venture; and we are impelled to make the venture by the affinity and attraction which we feel in ourselves.

~William Ralph Inge

We must cut our coat according to our cloth, and adapt ourselves to changing circumstances.

~William Ralph Inge

Experience is a good teacher, but her fees are very high.

~William Ralph Inge

There are no rewards or punishments - only consequences.

~William Ralph Inge

Religion is caught, not taught.

~William Ralph Inge

God does not always punish a nation by sending it adversity. More often He gives the oppressors their hearts' desire, and sends leanness withal into their soul.

~William Ralph Inge

Our test is infallible. Whatever view of reality deepens our sense of the tremendous issues of life in the world wherein we move, is for us nearer the truth than any view which diminishes that sense.

~William Ralph Inge

Lutheranism is essentially German... It worships a God who is neither just nor merciful.

~William Ralph Inge

The wise man is he who knows the relative value of things.

~William Ralph Inge

Philosophy means thinking things out for oneself. Ultimately, there can be only one true philosophy, since reason is one and we all live in the same world.

~William Ralph Inge

To become a popular religion, it is only necessary for a superstition to enslave a philosophy.

~William Ralph Inge

Christianity promises to make men free; it never promises to make them independent.

~William Ralph Inge

We should think of the church as an orchestra in which the different churches play on different instruments while a Divine Conductor calls the tune.

~William Ralph Inge

To marry is to get a binocular view of life.

~William Ralph Inge

They who will live for others shall have great troubles, but they shall seem to them small. Those who will live for themselves shall have small troubles, but they shall seem to them great.

~William Ralph Inge

No healthy civilization can ever be reared on a foundation of devitalized work.

~William Ralph Inge

The fruit of the tree of knowledge always drives man from some

paradise or other; and even the paradise of fools is not an unpleasant abode while it is habitable.

~William Ralph Inge

Over-population is a phenomenon connected with the survival of the unfit, and it is a mechanism which has created conditions favourable to the survival of the unfit and the elimination of the fit.

~William Ralph Inge

For better or worse, man is the tool-using animal, and as such he has become the lord of creation. When he is lord also of himself, he will deserve his self-chosen title homo sapiens.

~William Ralph Inge

The soul is dyed by the color of its leisure hours.

~William Ralph Inge

Action is the normal completion of the act of will which begins as prayer. That action is not always external, but it is always some kind of effective energy.

~William Ralph Inge

"This is old, therefore it is good"; the other says, "This is new, therefore it is better."

~William Ralph Inge

The Devil deserves zero tolerance.

~William Ralph Inge

The vulgar mind always mistakes the exceptional for the important.

~William Ralph Inge

The modern world belongs to the half-educated, a rather difficult class, because they do not realize how little they know.

~William Ralph Inge

True faith is belief in the reality of absolute values.

~William Ralph Inge

A monarch frequently represents his subjects better than an elected assembly; and if he is a good judge of character he is likely to have more capable and loyal advisers.

~William Ralph Inge

The church that is married to the spirit of this age, becomes a widow in the next.

~William Ralph Inge

The game of life is worth playing, but the struggle is the prize.

~William Ralph Inge

The object of studying philosophy is to know one's own mind, not other peoples.

~William Ralph Inge

In praising science, it does not follow that we must adopt the very poor philosophies which scientific men have constructed. In philosophy they have much more to learn than to teach.

~William Ralph Inge

All human love is a holy thing, the holiest thing in our experience.

~William Ralph Inge

All faith consists essentially in the recognition of a world of spiritual values behind, yet not apart from, the world of natural phenomena.

~William Ralph Inge

The whole of creation, with all of its laws, is a revelation of God.

~William Ralph Inge

Even the paradise of fools is not an unpleasant abode while it is inhabitable.

~William Ralph Inge

Civilization is a disease which is almost invariably fatal.

~William Ralph Inge

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