

Quotes

Personal quotes

Misc

- Read enough news and you stop being surprised about anyone doing anything. No matter how good/evil, selfish/selfless, brilliant/stupid, if it can be done, someone somewhere will do it.
- Legitimate authority should come from knowledge, wisdom, and trust; not from power.
- Imagine if non-humans wrote fiction with humans and gave them names like Longrun, Griphands, or Flatface.
- Evidence consists of facts which justify a statement. If a set of facts has multiple potential explanations then it's not evidence *for* any of them, it's merely consistent with them.
- An anecdote doesn't constitute good evidence. You need a certain degree of scientific literacy to understand what makes for good evidence. An anecdote isn't good evidence because it's one data point or event and you can't generalize from that. Any single event could have a random unknown cause, so you have to have something repeatable under controlled conditions to provide actual evidence. And it needs to be peer reviewed by relevant experts to check for mistakes or other issues.
- Tradition has its place, but when you overvalue tradition, you undervalue progress.

Ethics

- You can't judge the ethics of a situation without *considering the situation*.
- Morals and ethics are about deciding how to behave or act when there are other beings to consider, because your actions may affect each other. The greatest results come from maximizing good and minimizing evil, where good is well-being and evil is harm, and both are about physical, mental, financial and environmental health.
- Principles can turn a slippery slope for others into a stable position.
- All consent is informed consent or it's not actually consent. If you consent to A and get B, even if it's just slightly different from A, one can't reasonably say you consented to B.
- Fairness isn't always right or desirable. An eye for an eye is fair, but not right. Leaving an entire group of people to die when you can only save some of them is fair, but not right.

From others

Misc

- Truth isn't a popularity contest. --Unknown
- A fool doesn't learn even from a wise person, but a wise person learns even from a fool.
--unknown, paraphrasing Cato?
Wise men learn more from fools than fools from the wise. --Cato the Elder
- Change is inevitable. Growth is optional. --John C. Maxwell
- Eldritch horrors are notoriously naive and can be lured with promises of ritual sacrifice and candy. -[Madisi](#)
- Failure to prepare is preparing to fail.
- Curiosity is one of the great secrets of happiness. --Bryant H. McGill
- The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity. --Ellen Parr
- Curiosity and questions will get you further than confidence and answers. --Maxime Lagacé
- Intelligence follows curiosity. --James Clear
- I can guide you to the path, but only you can walk it.
- Choice of attention - to pay attention to this and to ignore that - is to the inner life what choice of action is to the outer. --W.H. Auden
- Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.
--Lao-Tze
- Try a thing you haven't done three times. Once, to get over the fear of doing it. Twice, to learn how to do it. And a third time, to figure out whether you like it or not. --Virgil Garnett Thomson
- Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going. --Jim Ryun
- If you have an apple, and I have an apple, and we exchange the apples, then you and I will still each have one apple. But if you have an idea, and I have an idea, and we exchange these ideas, then each of us will have two ideas. --George Bernard Shaw
- A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step. --Lao-tsu

- Not all those who wander are lost. --J.R.R. Tolkien
- For a man with a hammer, everything looks like a nail. --Tony Jewels
- I used to think the brain was the most important organ in the body, until I realized who was telling me that. --Emo Phillips
- I haven't failed. I've found 10,000 ways that don't work. --Thomas Edison
- My country is the world... and my religion is to do good. --Thomas Paine
- Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people. --Eleanor Roosevelt
- Games are the most elevated form of investigation. --Albert Einstein
- We suffer more often in imagination than in reality. --Seneca
- If it's going smoothly, it's going to hurt when it's jammed in the rest of the way.
- You pray for rain, you gotta deal with the mud too. --Denzel Washington

Ethics

- Ignorance: the root of all evil. --Plato
- Where might is master, justice is servant. --German proverb
- Strength without justice is tyranny. --Vince Flynn
- The strong can be wrong. --Unknown
- Just because you can doesn't mean you should. --Unknown

Politics

- Peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the ability to handle conflict by peaceful means. --Ronald Reagan
- Poverty exists not because we cannot feed the poor but because we cannot satisfy the rich. --anonymous
- I also believe that there's this pernicious sentiment, both in the US and globally, that democracy is only functional when we agree. In fact, what democracy requires of us is to continually live with our differences and manage those differences for the collective good. We won't always have consensus, but we will always need to productively manage our differences. --Yordanos Eyoel
- The society that separates its scholars from its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools. --Unknown
- We've arranged a civilization in which most crucial elements profoundly depend on science and technology. We have also arranged things so that almost no one understands science and technology. This is a prescription for disaster. We might get away with it for a while, but sooner or later this combustible mixture of ignorance and power is going to blow up in our faces. --Carl Sagan
- It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society. --J. Krishnamurti

Rationality

- Everyone who believes in telekinesis, raise my hand. --James Randi
- It's bad luck to be superstitious. --Andrew W. Mathis
- It's good to have an open mind... just not so open your brain falls out. --Unknown
- Never attribute to malice what can be explained by stupidity. Don't assign to stupidity what might be ignorance. And try not to assume your opponent is the ignorant one - until you can show it isn't you. --M. N. Plano
- The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt --Bertrand Russell
- If you're against criticism, you're against learning. --Jeff Green