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Luigi Gobbi

QUOTATIONS

The quotations are divided in 5 sections: Class A, Class B, Phrases of Bertrand Russell, Probability and Originals.

More or less, for every section the quotations are inserted in the chronological order of their finding. More or less, class A is for quotations important or hammy (from a personal or a general point of view); class B is for quotations less important or less hammy (from a personal or a general point of view).

My original phrases are not necessarily believed true, but they all can be the starting point for interesting reflections.

©: completely original phrase.

©/2: original phrase, but that got hint from another author's phrase.

CLASS A

Money makes a man rich, but manners make him a gentleman. (Author Unknown)

Good manners do not always pay, but bad manners never pay. (Giuseppina Baldazzi)

Love thy neighbor as thyself. (Moses citing God. *Torah Leviticus*. 1500 BC)

Do not do unto others what you would not have them do unto you. (Analects of Confucius. 500 BC)

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. (Jesus. *Matthew's and Luke's Gospels*)

Love thy neighbour as yourself, but choose your neighbourhood. (Louise Beal)

On what does not exist everything can be said. (Umberto Marconi)

You don't love if you don't take the beloved's faults for virtues. (Johann Wolfgang Goethe)

In love, if you really care you don't dare, and if you dare you don't really care. (Niccolò Tommaseo)

If the foundations are not solid, sooner or later the construction will fall down. (Author Unknown)

Knowing the problem is already a good start for getting to solve it. (Giorgio Riviaccio)

There does not exist the easy and the difficult: there exist things that you know and the things that you don't know. (A passeggero of train)

I am convinced that purely mathematical construction enables us to find those concepts and those lawlike connections between them that provide the key to the understanding of natural phenomena. (Albert Einstein)

I want to know God's thought, the rest are details. (Albert Einstein)

I want to know how God created this world. (Albert Einstein)

If you can't explain something to a first year student, then you haven't really understood it.
(Richard Phillips Feynman)

Physics is like sex. Sure, it may give some practical results, but that's not why we do it. (Richard Phillips Feynman)

He who is unable to live in society, or who has no need because he is sufficient for himself, must be either a beast or a god. (Aristotle)

The greatest love is the one that was not reciprocated. (Author Unknown)

All I loved I loved alone. (Edgar Allan Poe)

Suppose experiments in real life, physical world can be explained more economically in terms of one particular version of geometry than in terms of any other. Then it might make sense to say that that geometry is "true". From the point of view of a physicist who wants to use the "correct" geometry, then it makes some sense to distinguish between the "true" geometry, and other geometries. But this cannot be taken too simplistically. Physicists are always dealing with approximations and idealizations of situations. [...] One can see this kind of thing over and over again in physics, where a physicist uses a "nonreal" situation to learn about deeply hidden features of reality. (Douglas R. Hofstadter)

The more the universe seems comprehensible, the more it also seems pointless. (Steven Weinberg)

Everything and anything with a sufficient reason to exist will exist. (Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz)

Everything has a natural explanation. The moon is not a god, but a great rock, and the sun a hot rock. (Anaxagoras)

All science proceeds on the assumption that nature is ordered in a rational and intelligible way. You couldn't be a scientist if you thought the universe was a meaningless jumble of odds and ends haphazardly juxtaposed. (Paul Davies)

What I'm really interested in is whether God could have made the world in a different way: that is, whether the necessity of logical simplicity leaves any freedom at all. (Albert Einstein)

We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.
(Albert Einstein)

Natura non facit saltus. (Titus Lucretius Carus)

The trouble with facts is that there are so many of them. (Samuel McChord Crothers)

Our will is autonomous and independent and to it we can attribute praise or disapproval. Thus, in order to keep our freedom, it would have been better to remain attached to the belief in gods rather than being slaves to the fate of the physicists: the former gives us the hope of winning the benevolence of deities through promise and sacrifices; the latter, on the contrary, brings with it an inviolable necessity. (Epicurus)

It seems that if one is working from the point of view of getting beauty in one's equations, and if one has really a sound insight, one is on a sure line of progress. If there is not complete agreement between the results of one's work and experiment, one should not allow oneself to be too discouraged, because the discrepancy may well be due to minor features that are not properly taken into account and that will get cleared up with further development of the theory. (Paul A.M. Dirac)

Without mathematics we cannot penetrate deeply into philosophy. Without philosophy we cannot penetrate deeply into mathematics. Without both we cannot penetrate deeply into anything. (Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz)

Philosophy without history is empty and history without philosophy is blind. (Immanuel Kant)

We do science for the pleasure of discovery. (Richard P. Feynman)

A theory is a system of mathematical propositions deduced from a small number of principles, which aim to represent as simply, as completely, and as exactly as possible, a set of experimental laws. Its aim in other words is economy of thought by schematically representing and logically organizing experimental laws. (Pierre Duhem)

Which is more likely... that something happened outside the laws of nature, or that a man might tell a lie? (Thomas Paine)

The great question that has never been answered, and which I have not yet been able to answer, despite my thirty years of research into the feminine soul, is 'What does a woman want?' (Sigmund Freud)

Whoever loves becomes humble. Those who love have, so to speak, pawned a part of their narcissism. (Sigmund Freud)

America is the most grandiose experiment the world has seen, but, I am afraid, it is not going to be a success. (Sigmund Freud)

One is very crazy when in love. (Sigmund Freud)

In QED, as in other quantum field theories, we can use the little pictures invented by my colleague Richard Feynman, which are supposed to give the illusion of understanding what is going on in quantum field theory. (Murray Gell-Mann)

Anticipatory plagiarism occurs when someone steals your original idea and publishes it a hundred years before you were born. (Robert Merton)

There is no more common error than to assume that, because prolonged and accurate mathematical calculations have been made, the application of the result to some fact of nature is absolutely certain. (Alfred North Whitehead)

Although to penetrate into the intimate mysteries of nature and thence to learn the true causes of phenomena is not allowed to us, nevertheless it can happen that a certain fictive hypothesis may suffice for explaining many phenomena. (Leonhard Euler)

The profound study of nature is the most fertile source of mathematical discoveries. (Joseph Fourier)

All the effects of nature are only mathematical results of a small number of immutable laws. (Pierre-Simon Laplace)

I am so in favor of the actual infinite that instead of admitting that Nature abhors it, as is commonly said, I hold that Nature makes frequent use of it everywhere, in order to show more effectively the perfections of its Author. (Gottfried Willhelm Leibniz)

No wonder physics is so hard to learn. As it is usually taught to students, Newton's physics doesn't make complete sense, for they are almost never told the whole story. Position, velocity, and acceleration are usually introduced as if they have simple and obvious meanings, but they do not. Even more difficult are the concepts of force and mass; the definitions given of them in textbooks are almost always circular. The students are seldom told that if they are puzzled it may be for good reason, or that the things that confuse them have debated for centuries. Some figure it out for themselves. Many go away with an unjustified sense that they cannot learn science. (Lee Smolin)

Every law of physics is provisional and relative because it is approximate. (Pierre Duhem)

An experiment in physics can never condemn an isolated hypothesis but only a whole theoretical group. The experimentum crucis is impossible in physics. (Pierre Duhem)

The agreement with experience is, for a physical theory, the only criterion of truth. (Pierre Duhem)

Philosophy is not needed for eating. (Patient of a psychiatric hospital)

To be ethical means to make an alliance with the strongest. (Emanuele Severino)

Civilization began when people began to retire for mating. (Giambattista Vico)

Rationality does not tell us how to solve a problem rationally if it is possible to prove that the problem does not have an irrational solution. (László Méré)

It is rational that human thinking is not rational. (László Méré)

.. but it took a lot of talent to get on in years without becoming adult. (Franco Battiato)

.. in the obsessing rhythms the key of the tribal rites. Reigns of shamans and rebellious gypsy players. (Franco Battiato)

Tertium non datur. (rephrased from Aristotle)

Nothing is more unfathomable than the woman's shallowness. (Karl Kraus)

Women's rights are men's duties. (Karl Kraus)

The quarrel of lovers is the renewal of love. (English proverb)

Res, non verba. (Giovanni Vianini)

The streets of Vienna are paved with culture, in other cities they are paved with asphalt. (Karl Kraus)

For example according to Catholic dogma the all-benevolent God created most people – namely, all except the good Catholics, which even of the Catholics are only a fraction – expressly for the purpose of sending them to Hell for all eternity. (Kurt Gödel)

In mathematics there is no ignorabimus. (David Hilbert)

That whose existence is necessary must necessarily be one essence. (Avicenna)

A cunt, nothing more than a cunt, but if it gives you a boner, it is still worth the effort. (Jean-Charles Gervaise de Latouche)

The greatest gesture of friendship from a man toward a woman is to be a male, to see her waddle and to try to fuck her, without distancing himself from all this. To not bereave her of that masculine alterity which will make her suffer, but also feel delighted, and which will fertilize her. And I accept to be fertilized by nothing but a male. (Marina Terragni)

Men are aggressive and have the sense of hierarchy. Women, on the contrary, are protective and collaborative. (Andrea Biavardi)

I'm hacked off by giving assent to women, or else you're taken as a male chauvinist. I'm hacked off also by women that want kind, well-mannered and understanding men, but then, they lose their heads over the baker's boy, in white singlet, who shoves them against the wall and who knows "how to handle them." (Andrea Biavardi)

He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever. (Chinese proverb)

Est modus in rebus; sunt certi denique fines, quos ultra citraque nequit consistere rectum. (Horace)

All such explanations and the like do not conflict with any clear evidence, if only in such details we hold fast to what is possible, and can bring each of these explanations into accord with the facts, unmoved by the servile artifices of the astronomers. (Epicurus. *Letter to Pythocles*)

It is through the arse that life's greatest mysteries can be fathomed. (Salvador Dali)

Living together with a woman who fakes love is better than with a woman who does not love you at all. (Author Unknown)

Freedom is a matter of the thickness of one's own wallet. (Lech Wałęsa)

After Bach there is God. And then, Bach again. (Author Unknown)

Notwithstanding my infinitesimal calculus, I admit no true infinite number, though I confess that the multitude of things surpasses every finite number, or rather every number. (Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz)

Space is something continuous but ideal. (Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz)

Think globally, act locally. (David Brower)

Do you think it's possible to be with one person in your whole life? (from the movie *When the Party Is Over*)

In the Plato's *Phaedrus*, Socrates said that the writing is a threat to culture because you can't ask a book questions. Socrates lacked internet. (Luciano De Crescenzo)

There is no pleasure in having nothing to do; the fun is in having lots to do and not doing it. (Mary Wilson Little)

Try! (Davide Cassi)

Philosophy is best approached through its problems and puzzles. (Alexander Bird. *Philosophy of Science*)

Politeness is one half good nature and the other half good lying. (Mary Wilson Little)

Every generation laughs at the old fashions, but follows religiously the new. (Henry David Thoreau)

If they all love you, you're in trouble. (Calvin Orlando Smith)

I'm seventeen and I'm crazy. My uncle says the two always go together. When people ask your age, he said, always say seventeen and insane. (Ray Bradbury)

I think I can safely say that no one understands quantum mechanics. (Richard Phillips Feynman)

Philosophers say a great deal about what is absolutely necessary for science, and it is always, so far as one can see, rather naive, and probably wrong. (Richard Phillips Feynman)

The people get the government they deserve. (Alexis de Tocqueville)

I deduce laws of mechanics from laws of God. (Isaac Newton)

I haven't spoken to my wife in years. I didn't want to interrupt her. (Rodney Dangerfield)

An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes which can be made in a very narrow field. (Niels Bohr)

No amount of experimentation can ever prove me right; a single experiment can prove me wrong. (Albert Einstein)

Women don't want to hear what you think. They want to hear what they think, in a deeper voice. (Bill Cosby)

Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance. (Confucius)

I love you for I need to love, not for I need you. (Zuccherò Sugar Fornaciari)

However, no physical theory can express, per se, conception according to which the world is objective in a certain way rather than another one. (Massimo Pauri)

Science aims to give us theories which are empirically adequate; and acceptance of a theory involves as belief only that is empirically adequate. This is the statement of the anti-realist position I advocate; I shall call it constructive empiricism. (Bas C. van Fraassen. *The Scientific Image*)

Seeing is believing, but believing is unreliable. (Brian Hurwitz)

Some things have to be believed to be seen. (Ralph Hodgson)

Kill as few patients as possible. (Oscar London)

Firefighter: 'Why aren't you wearin' your pants Joe?'

Lance: 'I tripped and ah then I had to take them off to run faster out of the flames'. (from the movie Orange County)

Life is short, science is long; opportunity is elusive, experiment is dangerous, judgement is difficult. (Hippocrates)

Cats are intended to teach us that not everything in nature has a function. (Author Unknown)

There is no logical path leading to [the highly universal laws of science]. They can only be reached by intuition, based upon something like an intellectual love of the objects of experience. (Albert Einstein)

If there is only empty space, with no suns nor planets in it, then space loses its substantiality. (Buddha)

Reality alone exists – and that we are. All the rest is only a dream, a dream of the One Mind, which is our mind without the 'our'. Is it so hard to accept? Is it so difficult to assimilate and to live? (Wei Wu Wei. *Why Lazarus Laughed*)

But if you do not find an intelligent companion, a wise and well-behaved person going the same way as yourself, then go on your way alone, like a king abandoning a conquered kingdom, or like a great elephant in the deep forest. (Buddha)

There is no more common error than to assume that, because prolonged and accurate mathematical calculations have been made, the application of the result to some fact of nature is absolutely certain. (Alfred North Whitehead)

I never know how much of what I say is true. (Bette Midler)

Mathematics is common sense. (Errett Bishop)

Do not ask whether a statement is true until you know what it means. (Errett Bishop)

A proof is any completely convincing argument. (Errett Bishop)

One proof is based on the notion of God. First, from the highest perfection of God, we infer the possibility of the creation of the transfinite, then, from his all-grace and splendor, we infer the necessity that the creation of the transfinite in fact has happened. (Georg Cantor)

Classical mathematics concerns itself with operations that can be carried out by God.. Mathematics belongs to man, not to God... When a man proves a positive integer to exist, he should show how to find it. If God has mathematics of his own that needs to be done, let him do it himself. (Errett Bishop.)

Even God can determine something mathematical only by mathematics. Even for him the mere rule of expansion cannot decide anything that it does not decide for us. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

Mathematics is the language in which the gods talk to people. (Plato)

If your experiment needs statistics, you ought to have done a better experiment. (Ernest Rutherford)

I have hardly ever known a mathematician who was capable of reasoning. (Plato)

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler. (Albert Einstein)

Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe. (Albert Einstein)

Mathematics is not a deductive science - that is a cliché. When you try to prove a theorem, you don't just list the hypotheses, and then start to reason. What you do is trial and error, experimentation, guesswork. (Paul Halmos)

Infinite totalities do not exist in any sense of the word (i.e., either really or ideally). More precisely, any mention, or purported mention, of infinite totalities is, literally, meaningless. (Abraham Robinson)

Medicine makes people ill, mathematics makes them sad, and theology makes them sinful. (Martin Luther)

Practical application is found by not looking for it, and one can say that the whole progress of civilization rests on that principle. (Jacques Hadamard)

Mathematics is a game played according to certain simple rules with meaningless marks on paper. (David Hilbert)

There are no non-experienced mathematical truths. (Luitzen Egbertus Jan Brouwer)

Pure mathematics is on the whole distinctly more useful than applied. For what is useful above all is technique, and mathematical technique is taught mainly through pure mathematics. (Godfrey Harold Hardy)

Computers are useless, they can only give you answers. (Pablo Picasso)

I detest life-insurance agents; they always argue that I shall some day die, which is not so. (Stephen Leacock)

Tell me what company you keep and I'll tell you what you are. (Miguel de Cervantes)

Verum ipsum factum. (Giambattista Vico)

Don't worry, I know you'll never understand it. (Ludwig Wittgenstein, said to Moore and Russell at the end of his PhD viva)

Live in New York City once, but leave before it makes you hard. Live in Northern California once, but leave before it makes you soft. (from the movie Big Kahuna)

When a man steals your wife, there is no better revenge than to let him keep her. (Sacha Guitry)

The measure of all things is man. (Protagoras)

The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age. (Lucille Ball)

Knowledge is true opinion. (Plato)

Better starve free than be a fat slave. (Aesop)

All the choir of heaven and furniture of the earth, in a word all those bodies which compose the mighty frame of the world, have not any subsistence without a mind. (George Berkeley)

The meaning of a proposition is the method of its verification. (Moritz Schlick)

A philosopher who is not taking part in discussions is like a boxer who never goes into the ring. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

If we spoke a different language, we would perceive a somewhat different world. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

The limits of my language means the limits of my world. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

I am not handsome, but when women hear me play, they come crawling to my feet. (Niccolò Paganini)

Among the great men who have philosophized about [the action of the tides], the one who surprised me most is Kepler. He was a person of independent genius, [but he] became interested in the action of the moon on the water, and in other occult phenomena, and similar childishness. (Galileo Galilei)

Holding onto anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned. (Buddha)

Gratitude is merely the secret hope of further favors. (Francois de La Rochefoucauld)

I teach that the multitudinousness of objects have no reality in themselves but are only seen of the mind and, therefore, are of the nature of maya and a dream. ...It is true that in one sense they are seen and discriminated by the senses as individualized objects; but in another sense, because of the absence of any characteristic marks of self-nature, they are not seen but are only imagined. In one sense they are graspable, but in another sense, they are not graspable. (Buddha)

Here I feel good because I am within an environment where the others are idiot more or less like me. (Bruno Carazza)

Here is one hand, and here is another; therefore I know at least two external things exist. (George Edward Moore)

It's a funny thing that when a man hasn't anything on earth to worry about, he goes off and gets married. (Robert Frost)

Don't do logic with women. You won't get one. (Kweku Egyin)

The sad truth is that excellence makes people nervous. (Shana Alexander)

No one can earn a million dollars honestly. (William Jennings Bryan)

Those who know that they are profound strive for clarity. Those who would like to seem profound strive for obscurity. (Friedrich Nietzsche. *The Gay Science*)

Half of good philosophy is good grammar. (Author Unknown)

God is a geometrician. (Plato)

In the end, everything is a gag. (Charlie Chaplin)

Appearances can be deceiving. (Aesop)

All generalizations are false – including this one. (Mark Twain)

My toughest fight was with my first wife. (Muhammad Ali)

Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake. (Napoleon Bonaparte)

Just because something doesn't do what you planned it to do doesn't mean it's useless. (Thomas A. Edison)

Fathers send their sons to college either because they went to college or because they didn't. (Linville L. Hendren)

When angry, count to four; when very angry, swear. (Mark Twain)

Work is a necessary evil to be avoided. (Mark Twain)

Wit is educated insolence. (Aristotle)

A conservative is a man who believes that nothing should be done for the first time. (Alfred E. Wiggam)

I have not explained that the world is eternal or not eternal. I have not explained that the world is finite or infinite. (Buddha)

When you are courting a nice girl an hour seems like a second. When you sit on a red-hot cinder a second seems like an hour. That's relativity. (Albert Einstein)

The big difference between sex for money and sex for free is that sex for money usually costs a lot less. (Brendan Behan)

Bride: a woman with a fine prospect of happiness behind her.

Love: a temporary insanity curable by marriage.

Marriage: the state or condition of a community consisting of a master, a mistress, and two slaves, making in all, two. (Ambrose Bierce)

It destroys one's nerves to be amiable every day to the same human being. (Benjamin Disraeli)

Do you know what it means to come home at night to a woman who'll give you a little love, a little affection, a little tenderness? It means you're in the wrong house, that's what it means. (Henry Youngman)

The secret of a happy marriage remains a secret. (Henry Youngman)

I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life. (Rita Rudner)

Strike an average between what a woman thinks of her husband a month before she marries him and what she thinks of him a year afterward, and you will have the truth about him. (Henry Louis Mencken)

If I ever marry, it will be on a sudden impulse – as a man shoots himself. (Henry Louis Mencken)

Opera in English is, in the main, just about as sensible as baseball in Italian. (Henry Louis Mencken)

No married man is genuinely happy if he has to drink worse whisky than he used to drink when he was single. (Henry Louis Mencken)

A man may be a fool and not know it, but not if he is married. (Henry Louis Mencken)

Men have a much better time of it than women. For one thing, they marry later; for another thing, they die earlier. (Henry Louis Mencken)

Bachelors know more about women than married men; if they didn't they'd be married too. (Henry Louis Mencken)

The flute is not an instrument with a good moral effect. It is too exciting. (Aristotle)

We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit. (Aristotle)

Turn your mind away from things which are not permanent. (Buddha)

It's easy to play any musical instrument: all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time and the instrument will play itself. (Johann Sebastian Bach)

Now there is music from which a man can learn something. (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, on hearing Johann Sebastian Bach motets in Leipzig)

The immortal god of harmony. (Ludwig Van Beethoven, about Johann Sebastian Bach)

Music is a higher revelation than philosophy. (Ludwig Van Beethoven)

Everything is real, and not real,
Both real and not real,
Neither real nor not real.
This is Lord Buddha's teaching. (Bodhisattva Nagarjuna)

I know nothing about sex because I was always married. (Zsa Zsa Gabor)

Your constant utilization of thought to give continuity to your separate self is 'you'. There is nothing there inside you other than that. (Uppaluri Gopala Krishnamurti)

Never face facts; if you do, you'll never get up in the morning. (Marlo Thomas)

Those are my principles, and if you don't like them... well, I have others. (Groucho Marx)

I prefer the company of peasants because they have not been educated sufficiently to reason incorrectly. (Michel de Montaigne)

Philosophy is a battle against the bewitchment of our intelligence by means of language. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

Every woman knows all about everything. (Rudyard Kipling)

A person who trusts no one can't be trusted. (Jerome Blattner)

A man's only as old as the woman he feels. (Groucho Marx)

Anyone who says he can see through women is missing a lot. (Groucho Marx)

I don't care to belong to a club that accepts people like me as members. (Groucho Marx)

Marriage is a wonderful institution, but who wants to live in an institution? (Groucho Marx)

I have had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it. (Groucho Marx)

Eighty percent of success is showing up. (Woody Allen)

I tended to place my wife under a pedestal. (Woody Allen)

I think being funny is not anyone's first choice. (Woody Allen)

I took a speed-reading course and read War and Peace in twenty minutes. It involves Russia. (Woody Allen)

I'm such a good lover because I practice a lot on my own. (Woody Allen)

If only God would give me some clear sign! Like making a large deposit in my name at a Swiss bank. (Woody Allen)

If you're not failing every now and again, it's a sign you're not doing anything very innovative. (Woody Allen)

Is sex dirty? Only if it's done right. (Woody Allen)

Man consists of two parts, his mind and his body, only the body has more fun. (Woody Allen)

Marriage is the death of hope. (Woody Allen)

Sex is the most fun you can have without laughing. (Woody Allen)

Sex is like having dinner: sometimes you joke about the dishes, sometimes you take the meal seriously. (Woody Allen)

The baby is fine, the only problem is that he looks like Edward G. Robinson. (Woody Allen)

There are worse things in life than death. Have you ever spent an evening with an insurance salesman? (Woody Allen)

Sex without love is an empty experience, but as empty experiences go it's one of the best. (Woody Allen)

The prime purpose of eloquence is to keep other people from talking. (Louis Vermeil)

The trouble about arguments is, they ain't nothing but theories, after all, and theories don't prove nothing. (Mark Twain)

Happiness depends upon ourselves. (Aristotle)

Many a man who falls in love with a dimple make the mistake of marrying the whole girl. (Evan Esar)

What we cannot speak about we must pass over in silence. (Ludwig Wittgenstein. *Tractatus Logico Philosophicus*)

In inventing a model we may assume what we wish, but should avoid impossibilities. (Aristotle)

Although I am one of those who have done much work on mathematics, I have constantly meditated on philosophy from my youth up, for it has always seemed to me that in philosophy there was a way of establishing something solid by means of clear proofs. (Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz)

I think a life in music is a life beautifully spent and this is what I have devoted my life to. (Luciano Pavarotti)

Only fools are positive. (Moe Howard)

If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything. (Mark Twain)

Only exceptionally rational men can afford to be absurd. (Allan Goldfein)

Science is facts; just as houses are made of stones, so is science made of facts; but a pile of stones is not a house and a collection of facts is not necessarily science. (Henri Poincaré)

We can have facts without thinking but we cannot have thinking without facts. (John Dewey)

I don't deserve this award, but I have arthritis and I don't deserve that either. (Jack Benny)

The gods too are fond of a joke. (Aristotle)

If God lived on earth, people would break his windows. (Jewish proverb)

The conventional view serves to protect us from the painful job of thinking. (John Kenneth Galbraith)

Each problem that I solved became a rule which served afterwards to solve other problems. (René Descartes)

There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot. (Steven Wright)

Ask yourself whether you are happy and you cease to be so. (John Stuart Mill)

O Lord, help me to be pure, but not yet. (Saint Augustine)

In order to get something you've never had, you need to be willing to do something you've never done. (Mark Hart)

If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change the way you think about it. (Mary Engelbreit)

Some people trample your foot and apologize you. Others trample your heart and don't even realize. (Author Unknown)

Love. Love wildly. Love as much as you can. And if they tell you it is a sin, then love your sin, and you will be innocent. (Author Unknown)

The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax. (Albert Einstein)

Sex sells. (Seiriol Morgan)

When a diplomat says *yes*, he means 'perhaps';
When he says *perhaps*, he means 'no';
When he says *no*, he is not a diplomat.
When a lady says *no*, she means 'perhaps';
When she says *perhaps*, she means 'yes';
When she says *yes*, she is not a lady. (François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire)

The difference between the possible and the impossible lies in a person's determination. (Tommy Lasorda)

Truth is beautiful, without doubt; but so are lies. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something. (Plato)

Public speaking is the art of diluting a two-minute idea with a two-hour vocabulary. (Evan Esar)

It is hard to still believe in ideals. But by an adequate remuneration it can be done. (Fabio di Iorio)

In the years 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 BC it could be guessed that something was going to happen. (Fabio di Iorio)

People who never laugh are not serious people. (Frederic Chopin)

A man in love is incomplete until he is married. Then he's finished. (Zsa Zsa Gabor)

I want a man who's kind and understanding. Is that too much to ask of a millionaire? (Zsa Zsa Gabor)

I never hated a man enough to give him his diamonds back. (Zsa Zsa Gabor)

It's very difficult to make one's own husband happy; it's much easier to make another woman's husband happy. (Zsa Zsa Gabor)

The end justifies the means. (Ovid)

I have come to believe that the whole world is an enigma, a harmless enigma that is made terrible by our own mad attempt to interpret it as though it had an underlying truth. (Umberto Eco)

All that we are is the result of what we have thought. (Siddhārtha Gautama)

Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions. (Albert Einstein)

An intellectual is a person who has discovered something more interesting than sex. (Aldous Huxley)

All paid jobs absorb and degrade the mind. (Aristotle)

All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them. (Galileo Galilei)

Religion is the opiate of the masses. (Karl Marx)

A wise girl kisses but doesn't love, listens but doesn't believe, and leaves before she is left. (Marilyn Monroe)

There is no statement so absurd that no philosopher has said it. (Marcus Tullius Cicero)

There is nothing general except names. (John Stuart Mill)

Love is something, marriage is something else. The former keeps you young, the latter may cause you problems. (Ornella Muti)

To achieve the impossible dream, try going to sleep. (Joan Klempner)

Thought: Why does man kill? He kills for food. And not only food: frequently there must be a beverage. (Woody Allen)

Without music, life would be a mistake. (Friedrich Nietzsche)

Heresies are experiments in man's unsatisfied search for truth. (Herbert George Wells)

Never criticize your wife's lack on intelligence: just that could have prevented her from finding a better husband. (Author Unknown)

You are what you eat. (Author Unknown)

If fun is good, truth is still better, and love best of all. (William Makepeace Thackeray)

Veritas est adaequatio rei et intellectus. (Saint Thomas Aquinas)

All that is gold does not glitter. (English proverb)

He that is rich is wise. (Daniel Defoe)

Failure is not the only punishment for laziness; there is also the success of others. (Jules Renard)

Everything that can be invented has been invented. (Charles Duell, Commissioner of US Patent Office, 1899)

As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality. (Albert Einstein)

Yes, we can. (Barack Hussein Obama II)

De gustibus non disputandum est. (Latin proverb)

Love is the delusion that one woman differs from another. (Henry Louis Mencken)

The prime purpose of eloquence is to keep other people from talking. (Louis Vermeil)

I am always doing that which I can not do, in order that I may learn how to do it. (Pablo Picasso)

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it. (Aristotle)

The word 'politics' is derived from the word 'poly', meaning 'many', and the word 'ticks', meaning 'blood sucking parasites'. (Larry Hardiman)

The creator of the universe works in mysterious ways. But he uses a base ten counting system and likes round numbers. (Scott Adams)

With or without religion, you would have good people doing good things and evil people doing evil things. But for good people to do evil things, that takes religion. (Steven Weinberg)

The brick walls are there for a reason. The brick walls are not there to keep us out, the brickwalls are there to give us a chance to show how badly we want something. Because the brick walls are there to stop the people who don't want it badly enough. They are there to stop the other people. (Randy Pausch)

A judge is a law student who marks his own examination papers. (Henry Louis Mencken)

To err is human—and to blame it on a computer is even more so. (Robert Orben)

The truth is always a compound of two half- truths, and you never reach it, because there is always something more to say. (Tom Stoppard)

Your true value depends entirely on what you are compared with. (Bob Wells)

Quid est veritas? (Saint Thomas Aquinas. *De Veritate*)

The power goes to the head. (Italian proverb)

It's impossible to hold and remember all things in the brain, brain is not made of gum. (Ilona Berg)

Experiment is the sole source of truth. It alone can teach us something new; it alone can give us certainty. (Henri Poincaré)

Even a stopped clock gives a right time twice a day. (Hermann Hesse)

Hypotheses non fingo. (Isaac Newton)

No pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage ground of truth. (Francis Bacon)

History is the version of past events that people have decided to agree upon. (Napoleon Bonaparte)

A philosophical problem has the form: 'I don't know my way about.' (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

The aim of epistemology is the formulation of a method for the justification of knowledge. Epistemology must specify how an ostensible piece of knowledge can be justified, that is, how it can be shown that it is authentic knowledge. Such a justification, however, is not absolute but relative; the content of a certain cognition is justified by relating it to the contents of other cognitions which are presumed to be valid. Hence, one content is "reduced" to another, or "epistemologically analyzed." (Rudolf Carnap. *Scheinprobleme in der Philosophie*)

If it wobbles and quacks, it's a duck. It doesn't matter what it says to be. (John P. Mayberry)

There are two kinds of truth, small truth and great truth. You can recognize a small truth because its opposite is a falsehood. The opposite of a great truth is another truth. (Neils Bohr)

If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things. (René Descartes)

The Postulates of Mathematics Were Not on the Stone Tablets that Moses Brought Down from Mt. Sinai. (Richard Hamming)

The object of the superior man is truth. (Confucius)

Truth is power. (Romano Guardini)

I think that a free discussion of the subject on my part would in any case be more useful than a polemic attempt at rebutting these criticisms in detail. [...] This is like stopping a river by planting a stick in the middle of its bed. (William James)

Science is a continuation of common sense, and it continues the common-sense expedient of swelling ontology to simplify theory. (Willard Van Ormond Quine)

A universe with a God would look quite different from a universe without one. A physics, a biology where there is a God is bound to look different. So the most basic claims of religion are scientific. Religion is a scientific theory. (Richard Dawkins)

If there's someone who owes everything to Bach, it's God. Without Bach, God would be a third-rate character. (Emil Cioran)

Bach's music is the only argument proving the creation of the Universe can not be regarded a complete failure. (Emil Cioran)

Listening to Bach, one sees God come into being. His music generates divinity.

After a Bach's oratorio, cantata, or passion, one feels that God *must* be. Otherwise, Bach's music would be only heartrending illusion.

Theologians and philosophers wasted so many days and nights searching for proofs of his existence, ignoring the only valid one: Bach. (Emil Cioran)

Why waste money on psychotherapy when you can listen to the B Minor Mass? (Michael Torke)

Bach opens a vista to the universe. After experiencing him, people feel there is meaning to life after all. (Helmut Walcha)

Who fights can lose, who doesn't fight has already lost. (Bertolt Brecht)

Woman who does not scream during night, screams during day. (Tana Timofejeva)

Lord, help me never to use my reason against the truth. (Jewish prayer)

Not everyone can see the truth, but everyone can be the truth. (Franz Kafka)

Love is the center of human life. (Dalai Lama)

From the viewpoint of absolute truth, what we feel and experience in our ordinary daily life is all delusion. (Dalai Lama)

Where there's a will, there's a way. (English proverb)

The best way to predict your future is to create it. (Abraham Lincoln)

A poem is no place for an idea. (Edgar Watson Howe)

Ad astra per aspera. (Lucius Annaeus Seneca)

Impossible is nothing. (Adidas)

There are no whole truths; all truths are half-truths. It is trying to treat them as whole truths that plays the devil. (Alfred North Whitehead)

We must become the change we want to see. (Mahatma Gandhi)

An orgasm a day keeps the doctor away. (English National Health Service)

The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it. (Flannery O'Connor)

If you tried to doubt everything you would not get as far as doubting anything. The game of doubting itself presupposes certainty. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

There is no such thing as absolute certainty, but there is assurance sufficient for the purposes of human life. (John Stuart Mill)

CLASS B

Stop talking. The words spoil the beauty of the thoughts, like the beauty of a butterfly is spoiled when it is between hands. (Author Unknown)

‘In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.’ (Genesis 1,1).
But nobody was there to watch. (Steven Weinberg)

In the beginning there was nothing. God said, ‘Let there be light!’ And there was light. There was still nothing, but you could see it a whole lot better. (Ellen DeGeneres)

We are survival machines – robot vehicles blindly programmed to preserve the selfish molecules known as genes. (Richard Dawkins)

By getting to smaller and smaller units, we do not come to fundamental units, or indivisible units, but we do come to a point where division has no meaning. (Werner Heisenberg)

I’m neither God nor an idiot. (Michael Schumacher)

What we know is not much. What we do not know is immense. (Pierre Simon de Laplace)

I have no need of this hypothesis. (Pierre Simon de Laplace)

My advice to you is get married: if you find a good wife you’ll be happy; if not, you’ll become a philosopher. (Socrates)

It seemed to me a superlative thing— to know the explanation of everything, why it comes to be, why it perishes, why it is. (Socrates)

Dear reader, you have before you a Theory of Natural Philosophy deduced from a single law of Forces. (Roger Joseph Boscovich)

God gave us the integers. Everything else is the work of man. (Leopold Kronecker)

By employing mathematics as a language, science can describe situations which are completely beyond the power of human beings to imagine. (Paul Davies)

The quantum principle shows that there is a sense in which ... observer will do in the future defines what happens in the past—even in a past so remote that life did not then exist. (John Wheeler)

You don't get anything clean without getting something else dirty. (Cecil Baxter)

Sooner or later you discover that what seemed simple turns out to be less easy than it seemed. (Marcello Cresti)

But the search for truth is only possible if we speak clearly and simply and avoid unnecessary technicalities and complications. In my view, aiming at simplicity and lucidity is a moral duty of all intellectuals: lack of clarity is a sin, and pretentiousness is a crime. (Karl Popper)

Our intuition is the précis of the sensorial experience we've done. (Marcello Cresti)

If we make the right questions, nature answers us usually. We may not like the answers, but those are what nature gives us and we must keep them. (Marcello Cresti)

Ex falso sequitur quod libet. (John Duns Scotus, but rephrased from Philo of Megara)

The Stoics indeed contemn, and pretend to banish pleasure; but this is only a dissembling trick, and a putting the vulgar out of conceit with it, that they may more quietly engross it to themselves. (Erasmus of Rotterdam)

Though yet in this he was not altogether a fool, that he refused the appellation of wise. (Erasmus of Rotterdam)

...however life is short... it's made of choices... (Giuseppe Mambriani)

...and the rationale is always.. our ignorance. (Giuseppe Mambriani)

What then is time? If no one asks me, I know what it is. If I wish to explain it to him who asks, I do not know. (Saint Augustine)

It is reasonable to submit the reason to the experience. (Author Unknown)

...a work of art cannot be a revenge, otherwise it is a work of art no longer. (from a French movie)

One is in love when starts acting against one's own interest. (from a French movie)

I should live like a hermit to feel I'm necessary. (Blue Vertigo)

As you make your bed, so you must lie in it. (English proverb)

Love me, love my dog. (English proverb)

You will reap what you sow. (English proverb)

Slow and steady wins the race. (English proverb)

Enough is as good as a feast. (English proverb)

There's no accounting for tastes. (English proverb)

East, west, home's best. (English proverb)

The most expensive is the cheapest. (English proverb)

First come, first served. (English proverb)

Time will tell. (Author Unknown)

What doesn't kill you makes you stronger. (Author Unknown)

The theorems of mathematics motivate the definitions as much as the definitions motivate the theorems. A good definition is 'justified' by the theorem that can be proved with it, just as the proof of the theorem is 'justified' by appealing to a previously given definition. There is, thus, a hidden circularity in formal mathematical exposition. The theorems are proved starting with definitions; but the definitions themselves are motivated by the theorems that we have previously decided ought to be correct. (Gian-Carlo Rota)

Actually there's nothing on which the scientist can be sure from the beginning. He can just make hypothesis, try to guess: it would be not very scientific to not do so. (Author Unknown)

Because no measurement can determine the true value of any continuous variable (a length, at time, etc.), whether the true value of such a quantity exists is not even clear. Nevertheless, I will make the convenient assumption that every physical quantity does have a true value.

We can think of the true value of a quantity as that value to which one approaches closer and closer as increasing numbers of measurements are made with increasing care. As such, the true value is an idealization similar to the mathematician's point with no size or line with no width; like the point or line, it is a useful idealization. (John R. Taylor)

Inasmuch as we have the duty to prevent abuse from whites to blacks, we should intervene to protect the animals' right to life and therefore we should intervene so that an animal won't abuse or kill another animal ... So should we spend all our life to separate the cats from the mice? And how to justify then the fact that sheep are killed for feeding wolves? (Civiltà Cattolica)

If it is wrong to take the life of a baby who is abandoned and seriously encephalopathic, it must be equally wrong to kill a dog or a pig that have a similar mental level. (Civiltà Cattolica)

What is science? The word is usually used to mean one of three things, or a mixture of them. I do not think we need to be precise—it is not always a good idea to be too precise. Science means, sometimes, a special method of finding things out. Sometimes it means the body of knowledge arising from the things found out. It may also mean the new things you can do when you have found something out, or the actual doing of new things. (Richard P. Feynman)

That it's impossible that everything that is possible is happening. And there is too much variety, so most likely anything that you think of that is possible isn't true. In fact that's a general principle in physics theories: no matter what a guy thinks of, it's almost always false. So there have been five or ten theories that have been right in the history of physics, and those are the ones we want. But that doesn't mean everything is false. We'll find out. (Richard P. Feynman)

It is difficult for me to remember people's opinions (even my very own). What I remember are concepts and facts, the invariants of experience, not the ephemera of human opinion, taste, and styles. Such trivia are not to be considered by serious people, except as intellectual recreation. (Heinz R. Pagels)

Sometimes I think the surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that none of it has tried to contact us. (Bill Watterson)

By luck Leopardi died young! (Author Unknown)

God exists since mathematics is consistent, and the Devil exists since we cannot prove it. (André Weil)

It is a safe rule to apply that, when a mathematical or philosophical author writes with a misty profundity, he is talking nonsense. (Alfred North Whitehead)

How many bodies are required before we have a problem?

G.E. Brown points out that this can be answered by a look at history. In eighteenth-century Newtonian mechanics, the three-body problem was insoluble. With the birth of relativity the two and one body problems became insoluble. And within modern quantum field theory, the problem of zero bodies (vacuum) is insoluble. So if we are out after exact solutions, no bodies at all are already too many! (Richard D. Mattuck)

Analogy is perhaps the physicist's most powerful conceptual tool for understanding new phenomena or opening new areas of investigation. Early in this century, for example, Ernest Rutherford and Niels Bohr conceived the atom as a miniature solar system in which electrons circle the nucleus as planets circle the sun. Unfortunately, nuclear physics has not profited as much from analogy as has atomic physics. The reason seems to be that the nucleus is in the domain of new and unfamiliar forces, for which men have not yet developed intuitive feelings. (Valentine L. Telegdi)

I sometimes ask myself how it came about that I was the one to develop the theory of relativity. The reason, I think, is that a normal adult never stops to think about problems of space and time. These are things which he has thought of as a child. But my intellectual development was retarded, as a result of which I began to wonder about space and time only when I had already grown up. (Albert Einstein)

The great Arthur Eddington gave a lecture about his alleged derivation of the fine structure constant from fundamental theory. Goudsmit and Kramers were both in the audience. Goudsmit understood little but recognized it as far fetched nonsense. After the discussion, Goudsmit went to his friend and mentor Kramers and asked him, 'Do all physicists go off on crazy tangents when they grow old? I am afraid.' Kramers answered, 'No Sam, you don't have to be scared. A genius like Eddington may perhaps go nuts but a fellow like you just gets dumber and dumber.' (Max Dresden)

The search for a universal law of matter, a search in which physics has been engaged throughout this century, is actually the search for a trivializing principle, for a universal “nothing but”. (Gian-Carlo Rota)

No science can be founded upon observation alone. We would know neither what we were observing nor how our observations are biased by a propensity to gather some types of evidence more readily than others. (John D. Barrow)

For example, the standard model of particle physics is relational in its use of the gauge principle, but atomistic in its description of the elementary particles. (Lee Smolin)

I can't define my wife, but I can recognize her. (Edwin Atlee Jackson)

We all know that Art is not truth. Art is a lie that makes us realize the truth, at least the truth that is given to us to understand. (Pablo Picasso)

An experiment in physics is the precise observation of phenomena accompanied by an interpretation of these phenomena; this interpretation substitutes for the concrete data really gathered by observation abstract and symbolic representations which correspond to them by virtue of the theories admitted by the observer. (Pierre Duhem)

A physical law is a symbolic relation whose application to concrete reality requires that a whole group of laws be known and accepted. (Pierre Duhem)

Only cultured people like learning; ignoramuses prefer to teach. (Author Unknown)

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great ones make you feel that you, too, can become great. (Mark Twain)

In a word, the physicist is compelled to recognize that it would be unreasonable to work for the progress of physical theory if this theory were not the increasingly better defined and more precise reflection of a metaphysics; the belief in an order transcending physics is the sole justification of physical theory. (Pierre Duhem)

Thus, the propositions which Euler regarded as axioms whose self-evidence is overwhelming and on the basis of which he wished to establish a dynamics not only true but necessary are in reality propositions which dynamics alone has taught us and very slowly and painfully substituted for the false evidence of common sense. (Pierre Duhem)

We can account for a thing in two different ways. The first way consists in establishing by a sufficient demonstration that a principle from which the thing follows is correct. Thus, in physics we supply a reason which is sufficient to prove the uniformity of the motion of the heavens. The second way of accounting for a thing consists, not in demonstrating its principles by a sufficient proof, but in showing which effects agree with a principle laid down beforehand. Thus, in astronomy we account for eccentrics and epicycles by the fact that we can save the sensible appearances of the heavenly motions by this hypothesis. But this is not really a probative reason, since the apparent motion can be saved by means of some other hypothesis. (Saint Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologica*)

The assumptions of the astronomers are not necessarily true. Although these hypotheses appear to save the phenomena, one ought not affirm that they are true, for one might be able to explain the apparent motions of the stars in some other way. (Saint Thomas Aquinas. *De Caelo*)

The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is comprehensible. (Albert Einstein)

It is the essence of scientific intuition that when a scientist is thinking intuitively, he or she feels every moment that if the conclusion is correct, then it will be possible to express it in purely rational terms. (László Méré)

If man could, he would do without fucking willingly. (Massimo Fini)

Women would rather be right than reasonable. (Ogden Nash)

In discussions women have that something special, for they agree with all your arguments, one by one, but still, they escape your conclusion. (Author Unknown)

Alas, women-kind are so addicted to folly, that they will not at all listen to the courtship of a wise suitor. (Erasmus of Rotterdam)

The poet understands the woman better than anyone else. Perhaps because he invents her. (Author Unknown)

Women's virtue is man's greatest invention. (Otis Skinner)

God created woman. And boredom did indeed cease from that moment – but many other things ceased as well. Woman was God's second mistake. (Friedrich Nietzsche)

The perfect woman is a higher type of human than the perfect man, and also something much more rare. The natural science of animals offers a means to demonstrate the probability of this tenet. (Friedrich Nietzsche)

Disguise our bondage as we will, 'tis woman, woman, rules us still. (Thomas More)

A man falls in love through his eyes, a woman through her ears. (Thomas More)

If you knew how much I love you, you wouldn't try to say words – which mean "I do not love you". What is sad is that you don't know it. (Franco Battiato)

After having been my student, he became my colleague in 1960, and he is now one of my successors at the London School of Economics. It is for this very reason that I feel, unfortunately, obliged to warn the reader that Professor Lakatos has, nevertheless, misunderstood my theory of science; and that the series of long papers in which, in recent years, he has tried to act as a guide to my writings and the history of my ideas is, I am sorry to say, unreliable and misleading. (Karl Popper)

As a rule, I begin my lectures on Scientific Method by telling my students that scientific method does not exist. I add that I ought to know, having been, for a time at least, the one and only professor of this non-existent subject within the British Commonwealth. (Karl Popper)

You can tell your real friends just in moments of fortune, contrary to the cliché that ‘adversity does teach who your real friends are’. In misfortune just the misery guts ring to show you their solidarity. But right those who endure when you are powerful are the real friends. They can surmount the envy and the suffering from seeing you have more money, more success, more acknowledgements.
(Vittorio Sgarbi)

Bruno Latour and Steve Woolgar (1979) put themselves up to study the construction of a scientific fact within a laboratory (for instance of biology), as an anthropologist studies an unknown tribe. In order to establish a fact, various experiments are carried out day by day, the results are expressed in graphs and equations, which in turn are registered in more or less official reports: these reports are discussed until the community of researchers of the laboratory comes to a consensus; the final product is an article published in a scientific review where the fact is described as acquired, practically evident, and it is described as a natural fact that has been “discovered”. The more the constructive process is dissimulated, the more perfect the outcome of the construction is, until the constructive process literally disappears in the scientific community: the result of the persuasion is that the interested parties are convinced of not having being convinced. (Giulio Giorello)

I know why the young people use drug. I’ve understood why the young people use drug.
Because when they’re kids they go on the swing! That’s the real reason!

Follow me, follow me.

They are four years old, they go on the swing for the first time, and the same night, after the whole day on the swing, they understand they want stronger emotions.

Because it’s the human nature! Isn’t it?

First the swing, then the bumper cars at the fair, then the roller coaster, then the pirate, then the masturbation, then the school trips with the first kisses, then the alcohol (around thirteen years old), then the light drugs, the sex, the extreme sex, the heroine, the cocaine, the ecstasy, the bungee jumping and, in less time than it takes to say it, they get to punch their willy by a Black&Decker.
So, the next time a child ask you a push on the swing, reply NO. (Daniele Luttazzi)

A lawyer asks Mr. Smith, ‘You said you saw the accident, despite it was midnight and despite the accident was three hundred meters far from you!’.

‘Yes sir’, Mr. Smith replies.

‘Just how far can you see at night?’, the lawyer inquires.

Mr. Smith answers, ‘At least three hundred kilometers.’

‘It’s impossible’, the lawyer retorts.

‘Impossible?’, says Mr. Smith ‘And then how can I see the moon every night?’ (Author Unknown)

A wise man once said
that love is only
an ancient instinct
for reproduction... (Author Unknown)

It’s easier to leave than to be left behind. (Author Unknown)

Watching a sunset, if the male remembers that he left the car’s light on, while the female is enchanted by the colors, we can be certain that the former is accused of insensitivity while the latter of irresponsibility. (Author Unknown)

Technical skill is mastery of complexity while creativity is mastery of simplicity. (Christopher Zeeman)

Poor is the man whose pleasures depend on the permission of another. (Madonna Louise Ciccone)

Every man who takes this medicine for a few months will have his life extended by one month. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

This is how it works. You're young until you're not. You love until you don't. You try until you can't. You laugh until you cry. You cry until you laugh. And everyone must breathe. Until their dying breath. (Regina Spektor)

It ain't over 'till it's over. (Yogi Berra)

During this century's wars, there were some 38 million battle deaths, but almost four times more people – at least 170 million – were killed by governments for ethnic, racial, tribal, religious, or political reasons. I call this phenomenon democide, and it means that authoritarian and totalitarian governments are more deadly than war. (Rudolph J. Rummel)

I may not agree with what you say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it. (François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire)

Love is a canvas furnished by nature and embroidered by imagination. (François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire)

The Opera is nothing but a public gathering place where we assemble on certain days without precisely knowing why. (François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire)

The critic has to educate the public; the artist has to educate the critic. (Oscar Wilde)

It is better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than to open it and remove all doubt. (Mark Twain)

The difference between fiction and reality is that fiction has to make sense. (Tom Clancy)

If you make people think they're thinking, they'll love you; but if you really make them think, they'll hate you. (Author Unknown)

In China we can question Darwin but we can't question the government; in America, you can question the government but you can't question Darwin. (Chinese scientist)

Wishing without work is like fishing without bait. (Frank Tyger)

Program testing can be used to show the presence of bugs, but never to show their absence! (Edsger Dijkstra)

This most elegant system of the sun, planets, and comets could not have arisen without the design and dominion of an intelligent and powerful being. (Sir Isaac Newton. *The Principia*)

Overwhelmingly strong proofs of intelligent and benevolent design lie around us ... the atheistic idea is so nonsensical that I cannot put it into words. (Lord Kelvin)

If there were no God, it would be necessary to invent him. (François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire)

In a world of deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act. (George Orwell)

Although it is developed in the crude English style, this [On the Origin of Species] is the book which contains the basis in natural history for our view. (Karl Marx)

Wise men learn more from fools than fools from wise men. (Marcus Porcius Cato)

Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the gift of God? (Thomas Jefferson)

The heaviest blow that ever struck humanity was the coming of Christianity. Bolshevism is Christianity's illegitimate child. Both are inventions of the Jew. (Adolph Hitler)

What luck for rulers that men do not think. (Adolf Hitler)

If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it people will eventually come to believe it. (Joseph Göbbels)

Computer science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes. (Edsger W. Dijkstra)

We are living in a world today where lemonade is made from artificial flavors, and furniture polish is made from real lemons. (Alfred E. Neuman)

If the human brain were so simple that we could understand it, we would be so simple that we couldn't. (Author Unknown)

Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word, equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude. (Alexis de Tocqueville)

Age is a case of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter. (Stachel Paige)

An intellectual is a person who has discovered something more interesting than sex. (Aldous Huxley)

There are two ways of constructing a software design. One way is to make it so simple that there are obviously no deficiencies. And the other is to make it so complicated that there are no obvious deficiencies. (Tony Hoare. *1980 ACM Turing Award Lecture*)

For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple, and wrong. (Henry Louis Mencken)

It is the dull man who is always sure, and the sure man who is always dull. (Henry Louis Mencken)

It is impossible to imagine Goethe or Beethoven being good at billiards or golf. (Henry Louis Mencken)

Criticism is prejudice made plausible. (Henry Louis Mencken)

After twelve years of therapy my psychiatrist said something that brought tears to my eyes. He said, 'No hablo ingles.' (Ronnie Shakes)

My psychiatrist told me I was crazy, and I said I want a second opinion. He said okay, you're ugly too. (Rodney Dangerfield)

No endeavor that is worthwhile is simple in prospect; if it is right, it will be simple in retrospect. (Edward Teller)

The man with a new idea is a crank, until the idea succeeds. (Mark Twain)

But perhaps the being upon whom I am dependent is not God, and I have been produced either by my parents, or by some causes less perfect than Deity, ... This cannot be: for, as I before said, it is perfectly evident that there must at least be as much reality in the cause as in its effect; and accordingly, since I am a thinking thing and possess in myself an idea of God, whatever in the end be the cause of my existence, it must of necessity be admitted that it is likewise a thinking being, and that it possesses in itself the idea and all the perfections I attribute to Deity. (René Descartes)

In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual. (Galileo Galilei)

The mere formulation of a problem is far more often essential than its solution, which may be merely a matter of mathematical or experimental skill. To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle requires creative imagination and marks real advances in science. (Albert Einstein)

Better to have loved and lost, than to have never loved at all. (Saint Augustine)

In any non-trivial axiomatic system, there are true theorems which cannot be proven. (Kurt Gödel)

I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer. (Jim Carrey)

Knowledge is power. (Francis Bacon)

If quantum mechanics hasn't profoundly shocked you, you haven't understood it yet. (Niels Bohr)

If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it? (Albert Einstein)

Research is what I do when I don't know what I'm doing. (Werner von Braun)

Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats. (Howard Aiken)

The multitude of books is making us ignorant. (François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire)

Anything too stupid to be said is sung. (François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire)

Baseball is ninety percent mental, and the other half is physical. (Yogi Berra)

The trouble with our times is that the future is not what it used to be. (Paul Valéry)

A witty saying proves nothing. (François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire)

In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But, in practice, there is. (Jan L.A. van de Snepscheut)

Communism doesn't work because people like to own stuff. (Frank Zappa)

It's not that I'm afraid to die, I just don't want to be there when it happens. (Woody Allen)

God is dead. (Nietzsche)

Nietzsche is dead. (God)

(Author Unknown)

Judge a man by his questions rather than by his answers. (François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire)

Never try to tell everything you know. It may take too short a time. (Norman Ford)

Some people are so terribly alone and they pretend they can love only one person exclusively. (from the movie Two girls and a guy)

The National Rifle Association says, 'Guns don't kill people. People do'. But I think the gun helps. (Eddie Izzard)

Don't stay in bed, unless you can make money in bed. (George Burns)

The secret of eternal youth is arrested development. (Alice Roosevelt Longworth)

I'm just a person trapped inside a woman's body. (Elayne Boosler)

My students are dismayed when I say to them 'Half of what you are thought as medical students will in 10 years have been shown to be wrong. And the trouble is, none of your teachers knows which half.' (Dr. Sydney Burdell, Dean of Harvard Medical School)

The greatest of faults, I should say, is to be conscious of none. (Thomas Carlyle)

Adventure is just bad planning. (Roald Amundsen)

There was far more imagination in the head of Archimedes than in that of Homer. (François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire)

If a proof convinces you that there is a root of an equation (without giving you any idea *where*) - how do you know that you understand the proposition that there is a root? (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

In mathematics you don't understand things. You just get used to them. (John von Neumann)

I take my wife everywhere, but she keeps finding her way back. (Henny Youngman)

The male is a domestic animal which, if treated with firmness, can be trained to do most things. (Jilly Cooper)

'Do you know the difference between a sandwich and a blow job?'

'No'

'Then make me a sandwich.' (Gianpietro Cutrino)

The time to stop talking is when the other person nods his head affirmatively but says nothing. (Henry S. Haskins)

You must first have a lot of patience to learn to have patience. (Stanislaw Jerzy Lec)

Everybody lies, but it doesn't matter because nobody listens. (Nick Diamos)

Reports that say that something hasn't happened are always interesting to me, because as we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns – the ones we don't know we don't know. And if one looks throughout the history of our country and other free countries, it is the latter category that tend to be the difficult ones. (Donald H. Rumsfeld)

A word to the wise ain't necessary – it's the stupid ones that need the advice. (Bill Cosby)

Sometimes I worry about being a success in a mediocre world. (Lily Tomlin)

I write music with an exclamation point! (Richard Wagner)

Imagination creates reality. (Richard Wagner)

Joy is not in things; it is in us. (Richard Wagner)

Wagner's music is better than it sounds. (Edgar Wilson Nye)

As soon as there is language, generality has entered the scene. (Jacques Derrida)

Every discourse, even a poetic or oracular sentence, carries with it a system of rules for producing analogous things and thus an outline of methodology. (Jacques Derrida)

Reason itself is fallible, and this fallibility must find a place in our logic. (Nicola Abbagnano)

There is no law governing all things. (Giordano Bruno)

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. (Author Unknown)

It is beyond a doubt that all our knowledge that begins with experience. (Immanuel Kant)

It really is a nice theory. The only defect I think it has is probably common to all philosophical theories. It's wrong. (Saul Kripke)

Necessity... the mother of invention. (Plato)

Science is nothing but perception. (Plato)

The measure of a man is what he does with power. (Plato)

The world does not speak. Only we do. The world can, once we have programmed ourselves with a language, cause us to hold beliefs. But it cannot propose a language for us to speak. Only other human beings can do that. (Richard Rorty)

What's on your mind, if you will allow the overstatement? (Fred Allen)

The answer is within you ..but it is wrong! (Quelo)

The possibility that empathy resides in parts of the brain so ancient that we share them with rats should give pause to anyone comparing politicians with those poor, underestimated creatures. (Frans de Waal)

When men stop believing in God, it isn't that they then believe in nothing: they believe in everything. (Umberto Eco)

It is a good rule in life never to apologize. The right sort of people do not want apologies, and the wrong sort take a mean advantage of them. (Pelham Grenville Wodehouse)

I gotta work out. I keep saying it all the time. I keep saying I gotta start working out. It's been about two months since I've worked out. And I just don't have the time. Which uh..is odd. Because I have the time to go out to dinner. And uh..and watch tv. And get a bone density test. And uh.. try to figure out what my phone number spells in words. (Ellen DeGeneres)

I intend to live forever. So far, so good. (Steven Wright)

There is only one thing a philosopher can be relied upon to do, and that is to contradict other philosophers. (William James)

Only the mediocre are always at their best. (Jean Giraudoux)

Is sloppiness in speech caused by ignorance or apathy? I don't know and I don't care. (William Safire)

More than any other time in history, mankind faces a crossroads. One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness. The other, to total extinction. Let us pray we have the wisdom to choose correctly. (Woody Allen)

To find out what one is fitted to do, and to secure an opportunity to do it, is the key of happiness. (John Dewey)

I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it through not dying. (Woody Allen)

It may be that when the angels go about their task praising God, they play only Bach. I am sure, however, that when they are together en famille they play Mozart. (Karl Barth)

Perfectly and painfully encapsulating in reality this conundrum, today I am punished for yesterday's pleasure with a significant amount of sunburn, which could have been avoided so easily. I have tried to atone by spending spectacular amounts of money on aloe lotions. It is clear to one and all from my vivid face that I am a beach novice who fell into the stupidest of traps, and so this morning

I put on my Johann Sebastian Bach T-shirt as a way of explaining. “You see, everybody, I’m really a classical musician and I think about Bach a lot and that’s why I forgot to put on sunscreen.” Perhaps though people won’t read so deeply into the shirt as I imagine, and they will just see a sunburned fool. (Jeremy Denk)

We protest against unjust criticism, but we accept unearned applause. (Jose Narosky)

Pay no attention to what the critics say; there has never been a statue set up in honor of a critic. (Jean Sibelius)

Criticism is easy, and art is difficult. (Phillipe V. Destouches)

There are painters who transform the sun to a yellow spot, but there are others who with the help of their art and their intelligence, transform a yellow spot into the sun. (Pablo Picasso)

Life isn’t fair. It’s just fairer than death, that’s all. (William Goldman)

Cats are smarter than dogs. You can’t get eight cats to pull a sled through snow. (Jeff Valdez)

God is not dead but alive and well and working on a much less ambitious project. (Anonymous)

America believes in education: the average professor earns more money in a year than a professional athlete earns in a whole week. (Evan Esar)

It is impossible to enjoy idling thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do. (Jerome K. Jerome)

He knows all about art, but he doesn’t know what he likes. (James Thurber)

It is not enough to succeed. Others must fail. (Gore Vidal)

Seriousness is the only refuge of the shallow. (Oscar Wilde)

Union gives strength. (Aesop)

Suppose that there be a machine, the structure of which produces thinking, feeling, and perceiving; imagine this machine enlarged but preserving the same proportions, so you could enter it as if it were a mill. This being supposed, you might visit inside; but what would you observe there? Nothing but parts which push and move each other, and never anything that could explain perception. (Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz)

I have only made this letter rather long because I have not had time to make it shorter. (Blaise Pascal. *Lettres provinciales*, 16, Dec. 14, 1656)

It isn’t that they can’t see the solution. It is that they can’t see the problem. (Gilbert Chesterton)

Bach is, for me, the touchstone that keeps my playing honest. Keeping the intonation pure in double stops, bringing out the various voices where the phrasing requires it, crossing the strings so that there are not inadvertent accents, presenting the structure in such a way that it’s clear to the listener without being pedantic - one can’t fake things in Bach, and if one gets all of them to work, the music sings in the most wonderful way. (Hilary Hahn)

A poet more than thirty years old is simply an overgrown child. (Henry Louis Mencken)

Fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn't. (Mark Twain)

Truth is more of a stranger than fiction. (Mark Twain)

I hate quotations. Tell me what you know. (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Facts are the enemy of truth. (Miguel de Cervantes)

For the skeptic there remains only one consolation: if there should be such a thing as superhuman law it is administered with subhuman inefficiency. (Eric Ambler)

Everybody likes a kidder, but nobody lends him money. (Arthur Miller)

It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper. (Jerry Seinfeld)

An atheist is a man who has no invisible means of support. (John Buchan)

When I was kidnapped, my parents snapped into action. They rented out my room. (Woody Allen)

Gods make the war! And even if there is God, I don't care what they say. I'm not slave of them. (Haruka Shindo)

Music with dinner is an insult both to the cook and the violinist. (Gilbert Keith Chesterton)

God is not dead but alive and well and working on a much less ambitious project. (Anonymous)

If you cannot convince them, confuse them. (Harry S. Truman)

The greatest minds are capable of the greatest vices as well as of the greatest virtues. (René Descartes)

Time is an illusion. Lunchtime doubtly so. (Douglas Adams)

In science, 'fact' can only mean 'confirmed to such a degree that it would be perverse to withhold provisional assent.' I suppose that apples might start to rise tomorrow, but the possibility does not merit equal time in physics classrooms. (Stephen Jay Gould)

Cogito cogito ergo cogito sum (I think that I think, therefore I think that I am.) (Ambrose Bierce)

The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well. (Joe Ancis)

It is a good rule in life never to apologize. The right sort of people do not want apologies, and the wrong sort take a mean advantage of them. (Pelham Grenville Wodehouse)

The art of medicine consists in amusing the patient while nature cures the disease. (François-Marie Arouet de Voltaire)

There is no abstract art. You must always start with something. Afterward you can remove all traces of reality. (Pablo Picasso)

Philosophical problems arise when language goes on holiday. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

‘Why didn’t the European Union protest at the violonces of the fundamentalists?’

‘Well, I thank you for this question, to which we must answer by giving a precise historical survey. The cooling of the Earth’s crust did set up the atmosphere. So the invertebrates appeared, which started to go round a little everywhere.’ (from Sputnik Mediaset)

The soul of the pleasure is in the search of the pleasure itself. (Blaise Pascal)

So how can anyone really say they’re in love with a specific person, for example? They’re only in love with the anticipation of the emotions they’re addicted to because the same person could fall out of favor the next week by not complying. (from the movie What the bleep do we know)

Nothing is as simple as we hope it will be. (Jim Horning)

If the human mind was simple enough to understand, we’d be too simple to understand it. (Emerson Pugh)

The penalty for success is to be bored by the people who used to snub you. (Nancy Astor)

[...] the classic stages of a theory’s career. First, you know, a new theory is attacked as absurd; then it is admitted to be true, but obvious and insignificant; finally it is seen to be so important that its adversaries claim that they themselves discovered it. (Michael P. Lynch)

When a thing ceases to be a subject of controversy, it ceases to be a subject of interest. (William Hazlitt)

It is important to recognize the power of our emotions—and to take responsibility for them by creating a light and positive atmosphere around ourselves. This attitude of joy that we create helps alleviate states of hopelessness, loneliness, and despair. Our relationships with others thus naturally improve, and little by little the whole of society becomes more positive and balanced. (Tarthang Tulku)

My definition of an expert in any field is a person who knows enough about what’s really going on to be scared. (Peter J. Plauger)

And then there was this classic misunderstanding about my wife being murdered. (from the movie Heartbreak kid)

There is no reciprocity. Men love women, women love children, children love hamsters. (Alice Thomas Ellis)

That which has always been accepted by everyone, everywhere, is almost certain to be false. (Paul Valery)

When you can’t see into someone’s soul, try going away, and then come back. (Boris Pasternak)

The trouble with fighting for human freedom is that one spends most of one's time defending scoundrels. For it is against scoundrels that oppressive laws are first aimed, and oppression must be stopped at the beginning if it is to be stopped at all. (Henry Louis Mencken)

I often quote myself. It adds spice to my conversation. (George Bernard Shaw)

Nothing is too wonderful to be true, if it be consistent with the laws of nature, and in such things as these, experiment is the best test of such consistency. (Julian Schwinger)

I understand the difference between Milan, New York and Paris. Italy, anyhow, always launches the elegance. This is beautiful. I mean, to understand how the elegance will save the world. Because it's the female elegance and the femininity which everyone refers to eventually, not only for the fashion of clothes, but also as a life style. Therefore certainly a lot of art, very artistic. Then the clothes are some kind of collage of graffiti, rather than young artists' too, modernists', futurists'. And this is very beautiful because we wear also a thought, a vision, positive visions. And then a lot of optimism, a lot of color, optimism, joy. (Jo Squillo)

The nice part about being a pessimist is that you are constantly being either proven right or pleasantly surprised. (George F. Will)

We can have facts without thinking but we cannot have thinking without facts. (John Dewey)

I write down everything I want to remember. That way, instead of spending a lot of time trying to remember what it is I wrote down, I spend the time looking for the paper I wrote it down on. (Beryl Pfizer)

My parents only had one argument in forty-five years. It lasted forty-three years. (Cathy Ladman)

I don't know anyone now who isn't a drug-taker, in recovery from drugs, or on prescription drugs. (Lily Allen)

I'm not gonna say I'm never gonna do drugs again. I just know I'm not a good person on drugs. (Lily Allen)

I got drunk and said, 'I've lost my keys and I can't wake my mum. Can I stay on your sofa?' He went to brush his teeth. I took my clothes off and jumped in his bed. It's the only way I can ever get together with people. (Lily Allen)

I shall never be ashamed of citing a bad author if the line is good. (Seneca)

A little inaccuracy sometimes saves tons of explanation. (Hector Munro)

The least of learning is done in the classrooms. (Thomas Merton)

The beginning of knowledge is the discovery of something we do not understand. (Frank Herbert)

If there is anything the nonconformist hates worse than a conformist, it's another nonconformist who doesn't conform to the prevailing standard of nonconformity. (Bill Vaughan)

Get the facts, or the facts will get you. And when you get them, get them right, or they will get you wrong. (Thomas Fuller)

Platitude: an idea (a) that is admitted to be true by everyone, and (b) that is not true. (Henry Louis Mencken)

Sex relieves tension — love causes it. (Woody Allen)

Any woman who thinks the way to a man's heart is through his stomach is aiming about 10 inches too high. (Adrienne E. Gusoff)

There is always a well-known solution to every human problem—neat, plausible, and wrong. (Henry Louis Mencken)

Any great truth can — and eventually will — be expressed as a cliché — a cliché is a sure and certain way to dilute an idea. For instance, my grandmother used to say, 'The black cat is always the last one off the fence.' I have no idea what she meant, but at one time, it was undoubtedly true. (Solomon Short)

If you hate a person, you hate something in him that is part of yourself. What isn't part of ourselves doesn't disturb us. (Hermann Hesse)

From time to time ... I have tried to read current work on the philosophy of science. Some of it I found to be written in a jargon so impenetrable that I can only think that it aimed at impressing those who confound obscurity with profundity. ... only rarely did it seem to me to have anything to do with the work of science as I knew it. ... I am not alone in this; I know of no one who has participated actively in the advance of physics in the post-war period whose research has been significantly helped by the work of philosophers. (Steven Weinberg. *Dreams of a final theory*, 1993)

The Philosophy of Science ...[is] arid and repulsive. To read the latest symposium volume on this topic is to be reminded of the Talmud, or of the theological disputes of Byzantium. (John Ziman. *Public Knowledge*, 1968).

My propositions serve as elucidations in the following way: anyone who understands me eventually recognizes them as nonsensical, when he has used them—as steps—to climb up beyond them. (He must, so to speak, throw away the ladder after he has climbed up it.) He must transcend these propositions, and then he will see the world aright. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

There's no secret about success. Did you ever know a successful man who didn't tell you about it? (Kin Hubbard)

Physicists like to think that all you have to do is say, these are the conditions, now what happens next? (Richard Feynman)

Every generation imagines itself to be more intelligent than the one that went before it, and wiser than the one that comes after it. (George Orwell)

The government consists of a gang of men exactly like you and me. They have, taking one with another, no special talent for the business of government; they have only a talent for getting and holding office. (Henry Louis Mencken)

Today's scientists have substituted mathematics for experiments, and they wander off through equation after equation, and eventually build a structure which has no relation to reality. (Nikola Tesla)

No man is exempt from saying silly things; the mischief is to say them deliberately. (Michel de Montaigne)

I'm not a vegetarian because I love animals. I'm a vegetarian because I hate plants. (Alan Whitney Brown)

Philosophy when superficially studied, excites doubt, when thoroughly explored, it dispels it. (Francis Bacon)

A celebrity is one who is known to many persons he is glad he doesn't know. (Henry Louis Mencken)

Here's something to think about: How come you never see a headline like 'Psychic Wins Lottery'? (Jay Leno)

If the only tool you have is a hammer, you tend to see every problem as a nail. (Abraham Maslow)

The only thing I was fit for was to be a writer, and this notion rested solely on my suspicion that I would never be fit for real work, and that writing didn't require any. (Russell Baker)

No formal logical theory can serve as a foundational theory for natural number arithmetic or set theory. To attempt to use a formal logical theory for such a purpose is to reason in a circle. (John P. Mayberry)

Never explain. Your friends do not need it and your enemies will not believe it anyway. (Elbert Hubbard)

You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you mad. (Aldous Huxley)

No one is entitled to the truth. (E. Howard Hunt)

It is always the best policy to speak the truth, unless, of course, you are an exceptionally good liar. (Jerome K. Jerome)

A lie told often enough becomes truth. (Vladimir Ulyanov Lenin)

It is hard to believe that a man is telling the truth when you know that you would lie if you were in his place. (Henry Louis Mencken)

The discovery of truth is prevented more effectively, not by the false appearance things present and which mislead into error, not directly by weakness of the reasoning powers, but by preconceived opinion, by prejudice. (Arthur Schopenhauer)

All great truths begin as blasphemies. (George Bernard Shaw)

We do not err because truth is difficult to see. It is visible at a glance. We err because this is more comfortable. (Alexandr Solzhenitsyn)

Religious ideas are optimal compromise between the interesting and the expected. (Andy Thomson)

The traditional disputes of philosophers are, for the most part, as unwarranted as they are unfruitful. The surest way to end them is to establish beyond question what should be the purpose and method of a philosophical inquiry. (Alfred Jules Ayer)

But philosophy is not poetry. It is the clarification of meanings through logical analysis; and picture language has no place in it. (Hans Reichenbach. *The Rise of Scientific Philosophy*)

A country producing almost 360 different types of cheese cannot die. (Winston Churchill)

The average Ph.D. thesis is nothing but a transference of bones from one graveyard to another. (James Frank Dobie)

The future will be better tomorrow. (Dan Quayle)

He who can, does. He who cannot, teaches. (George Bernard Shaw)

Education is a method whereby one acquires a higher grade of prejudices. (Laurence J. Peter)

I believe that all government is evil, and that trying to improve it is largely a waste of time. (Henry Louis Mencken)

Just as a diamond can only be polished by another diamond, it is only through genuine, all-out engagement with others that people can polish their character, and help each other to reach greater heights. (Daisaku Ikeda)

Since I believe that the pussy is reconstituent, if a man shags well, he governs well. (Vittorio Sbarbi)

I write down everything I want to remember. That way, instead of spending a lot of time trying to remember what it is I wrote. down, I spend the time looking for the paper I wrote it down on. (Beryl Pfizer)

There can be no ugly women, there can only be not enough vodka. (Russian Proverb)

If Galileo had said in verse that the world moved, the inquisition might have let him alone. (Thomas Hardy)

Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to an understanding of ourselves. (Carl Jung)

The skill of writing is to create a context in which other people can think. (Edwin Schlossberg)

Humor is just another defense against the universe. (Mel Brooks)

No one is super-partes. (Silvio Berlusconi)

There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics. (Benjamin Disraeli)

Muslims have to realize that they have only two choices: to change or to be crushed. (Wafa Sultan)

It is even harder for the average ape to believe that he has descended from man. (Henry Louis Mencken)

I love you not because of who you are, but because of who I am when I am with you. (Roy Croft)

I believe that gender is something between your ears not between your legs. (Chaz Bono)

In science, 'fact' can only mean 'confirmed to such a degree that it would be perverse to withhold provisional assent.' I suppose that apples might start to rise tomorrow, but the possibility does not merit equal time in physics classrooms. (Stephen Jay Gould)

Russell's books should be bound in two colours, those dealing with mathematical logic in red — and all students of philosophy should read them; those dealing with ethics and politics in blue — and no one should be allowed to read them. (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

PHRASES OF BERTRAND RUSSELL

The value of philosophy is, in fact, to be sought largely in its very uncertainty. The man who has no tincture of philosophy goes through life imprisoned in the prejudices derived from common sense, from the habitual beliefs of his age or his nation, and from convictions which have grown up in his mind without the co-operation or consent of his deliberate reason. To such a man the world tends to become definite, finite, obvious; common objects rouse no questions, and unfamiliar possibilities are contemptuously rejected. (Bertrand Russell)

We know very little, and yet it is astonishing that we know so much, and still more astonishing that so little knowledge can give us so much power. (Bertrand Russell)

The supreme maxim in scientific philosophizing is this: Wherever possible, logical constructions are to be substituted for inferred entities. (Bertrand Russell)

The philosophy which I wish to advocate may be called logical atomism or absolute pluralism, because, while maintaining that there are many things, it denies that there is a whole composed of those things. (Bertrand Russell)

Anything you're good at contributes to happiness. (Bertrand Russell)

Thus mathematics may be defined as the subject in which we never know what we are talking about, nor whether what we are saying is true. (Bertrand Russell)

What philosophy should dissipate is certainty, whether of knowledge or of ignorance. (Bertrand Russell)

Love is something far more than desire for sexual intercourse; it is the principal means of escape from the loneliness which afflicts most men and women throughout the greater part of their lives. (Bertrand Russell)

To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already three parts dead. (Bertrand Russell)

In science there are many matters about which people are agreed; in philosophy there are none. Therefore, although each proposition in a science may be false, and it is practically certain that there are some that are false, yet we shall be wise to build our philosophy upon science, because the risk of error in philosophy is pretty sure to be greater than in science. (Bertrand Russell. *Logical Atomism*)

This possibility of successive approximations to the truth is, more than anything else, the source of the triumphs of science, and to transfer this possibility to philosophy is to ensure a progress in method whose importance it would be almost impossible to exaggerate. (Bertrand Russell. *Mysticism and Logic*)

Not to be absolutely certain is, I think, one of the essential things in rationality. (Bertrand Russell. *Am I An Atheist Or An Agnostic?*)

When one admits that nothing is certain one must, I think, also admit that some things are much more nearly certain than others. It is much more nearly certain that we are assembled here tonight than it is that this or that political party is in the right. Certainly there are degrees of certainty, and one should be very careful to emphasize that fact, because otherwise one is landed in an utter skepticism, and complete skepticism would, of course, be totally barren and completely useless. (Bertrand Russell. *Am I An Atheist Or An Agnostic?*)

But it has gradually appeared, by the increase of non-Euclidean systems, that Geometry throws no more light upon the nature of space than Arithmetic throws upon the population of the United States. (Bertrand Russell)

Curiosity is the primary impulse out of which the whole edifice of scientific knowledge has grown. (Bertrand Russell)

Men are born ignorant, not stupid. They are made stupid by education. (Bertrand Russell)

It has been said that man is a rational animal. All my life I have been searching for evidence which could support this. (Bertrand Russell)

Most of the unconscious consists of what were once highly emotional conscious thoughts, which have now become buried. It is possible to do this process of burying deliberately, and in this way the unconscious can be led to do a lot of useful work. I have found, for example, that if I have to write upon some rather difficult topic the best plan is to think about it with very great intensity – the greatest intensity of which I am capable – for a few hours or days, and at the end of that time give orders, so to speak, that the work is to proceed underground. After some months I return consciously to the topic and find that the work has been done. (Bertrand Russell)

Science is what you know, philosophy is what you don't know. (Bertrand Russell)

I believe in using words, not fists. I believe in my outrage knowing people are living in boxes on the street. I believe in honesty. I believe in a good time. I believe in good food. I believe in sex. (Bertrand Russell)

For it is not enough to recognize that all our knowledge is, in a greater or less degree, uncertain and vague; it is necessary, at the same time, to learn to act upon the best hypothesis without dogmatically believing it. (Bertrand Russell)

The point of philosophy is to start with something so simple as not to seem worth stating, and to end with something so paradoxical that no one will believe it. (Bertrand Russell)

All movements go too far. (Bertrand Russell)

Conventional people are roused to fury by departure from convention, largely because they regard such departure as a criticism of themselves. (Bertrand Russell)

I used to go to [Einstein's] house, once a week to discuss with him and Gödel and Pauli. These discussions were in some ways disappointing, for, although all three of them were Jews and exiles and, in intention, cosmopolitans, I found that they all had German bias toward metaphysics... Gödel turned out to be an *unadulterated* Platonist, and apparently believed that an eternal 'not' was laid up in heaven, where virtuous logicians might hope to meet it hereafter. (Bertrand Russell)

Freedom in general may be defined as the absence of obstacles to the realization of desires. (Bertrand Russell)

The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time. (Bertrand Russell)

As a philosopher, if I were speaking to a purely philosophic audience I should say that I ought to describe myself as an Agnostic, because I do not think that there is a conclusive argument by which one prove that there is not a God. On the other hand, if I am to convey the right impression to the ordinary man in the street I think that I ought to say that I am an Atheist, because, when I say that I cannot prove that there is not a God, I ought to add equally that I cannot prove that there are not the Homeric gods. (Bertrand Russell)

The degree of one's emotions varies inversely with one's knowledge of the facts. (Bertrand Russell)

One of the symptoms of an approaching nervous breakdown is the belief that one's work is terribly important. (Bertrand Russell)

I think mathematics has the advantage of teaching you the habit of thinking without passion. That seems to me the great merit of mathematics. You learn to use your mind primarily upon material where passion can't come in, and having trained it that way you can then use it passionately upon matters about which you feel passionately. Then you're much more likely to come to true conclusions. (Bertrand Russell)

If a man is offered a fact which goes against his instincts, he will scrutinize it closely, and unless the evidence is overwhelming, he will refuse to believe it. If, on the other hand, he is offered something which affords a reason for acting in accordance to his instincts, he will accept it even on the slightest evidence. The origin of myths is explained in this way. (Bertrand Russell)

By a religion I mean a set of beliefs held as dogmas, dominating the conduct of life, going beyond or contrary to evidence, and inculcated by methods which are emotional or authoritarian instead of intellectual. (Bertrand Russell)

Reason is a harmonizing, controlling force rather than a creative one. Even in the most purely logical realm, it is insight that first arrives at what is new. (Bertrand Russell)

The man who expects to be ill-treated will be, while the man who approaches his fellows in fearless friendliness will find this attitude justified by results. (Bertrand Russell)

Sin is geographical. (Bertrand Russell)

War does not determine who is right – only who is left. (Bertrand Russell)

The observer, when he seems to himself to be observing a stone, is really, if physics is to be believed, observing the effects of the stone upon himself. (Bertrand Russell)

The most obvious and easy things in mathematics are not those that come at the beginning; they are things that, from the point of view of logical deduction, come somewhere in the middle. (Bertrand Russell)

People are said to believe in God, or to disbelieve in Adam and Eve. But in such cases what is believed or disbelieved is that there is an entity answering a certain description. This, which can be believed or disbelieved is quite different from the actual entity (if any) which does answer the description. Thus the matter of belief is, in all cases, different in kind from the matter of sensation or presentation, and error is in no way analogous to hallucination. A hallucination is a fact, not an error; what is erroneous is a judgment based upon it. (Bertrand Russell)

Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric. (Bertrand Russell)

Man is a credulous animal, and must believe something; in the absence of good grounds for belief, he will be satisfied with bad ones. (Bertrand Russell)

There is no logical impossibility in the hypothesis that the world sprang into being five minutes ago, exactly as it then was, with a population that “remembered” a wholly unreal past. There is no logically necessary connection between events at different times; therefore nothing that is happening now or will happen in the future can disprove the hypothesis that the world began five minutes ago. (Bertrand Russell)

I say quite deliberately that the Christian religion, as organized in its churches, has been and still is the principal enemy of moral progress in the world. (Bertrand Russell)

Science seems to be at war with itself.... Naive realism leads to physics, and physics, if true, shows naive realism to be false. Therefore naive realism, if true, is false; therefore it is false. (Bertrand Russell)

Religion is based, I think, primarily and mainly upon fear. It is partly the terror of the unknown and partly, as I have said, the wish to feel that you have a kind of elder brother who will stand by you in all your troubles and disputes... A good world needs knowledge, kindness, and courage; it does not need a regretful hankering after the past or a fettering of the free intelligence by the words uttered long ago by ignorant men. (Bertrand Russell)

Everything is vague to a degree you do not realize till you have tried to make it precise. (Bertrand Russell)

Mathematics may be defined as the subject in which we never know what we are talking about, nor whether what we are saying is true. (Bertrand Russell)

Hence “the least integer not nameable in fewer than nineteen syllables” must denote a definite integer; in fact, it denotes 111, 777. But “the least integer not nameable in fewer than nineteen syllables” is itself a name consisting of eighteen syllables; hence the least integer not nameable in fewer than nineteen syllables can be named in eighteen syllables, which is a contradiction. This contradiction was suggested to us by Mr. G. G. Berry of the Bodleian Library. (Bertrand Russell)

I think we ought always to entertain our opinions with some measure of doubt. I shouldn't wish people dogmatically to believe any philosophy, not even mine. (Bertrand Russell)

If a man is offered a fact which goes against his instincts, he will scrutinize it closely, and unless the evidence is overwhelming, he will refuse to believe it. If, on the other hand, he is offered something which affords a reason for acting in accordance to his instincts, he will accept it even on the slightest evidence. The origin of myths is explained in this way. (Bertrand Russell)

It is a waste of energy to be angry with a man who behaves badly, just as it is to be angry with a car that won't go. (Bertrand Russell)

Life is nothing but a competition to be the criminal rather than the victim. (Bertrand Russell)

Science may set limits to knowledge, but should not set limits to imagination. (Bertrand Russell)

No one gossips about other people's secret virtues. (Bertrand Russell)

So far as I can remember, there is not one word in the Gospels in praise of intelligence. (Bertrand Russell)

Our great democracies still tend to think that a stupid man is more likely to be honest than a clever man. (Bertrand Russell)

The good life, as I conceive it, is a happy life. I do not mean that if you are good you will be happy – I mean that if you are happy you will be good. (Bertrand Russell)

The greatest challenge to any thinker is stating the problem in a way that will allow a solution. (Bertrand Russell)

Mathematics takes us still further from what is human, into the region of absolute necessity, to which not only the world, but every possible world, must conform. (Bertrand Russell)

It has been said that man is a rational animal. All my life I have been searching for evidence which could support this. (Bertrand Russell)

A stupid man's report of what a clever man says can never be accurate, because he unconsciously translates what he hears into something he can understand. (Bertrand Russell)

I would never die for my beliefs because I might be wrong. (Bertrand Russell)

There are two motives for reading a book: one, that you enjoy it; the other, that you can boast about it. (Bertrand Russell)

A stupid man's report of what a clever man says can never be accurate, because he unconsciously translates what he hears into something he can understand. (Bertrand Russell)

The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, but wiser people so full of doubts. (Bertrand Russell)

This is one of those views which are so absolutely absurd that only very learned men could possibly adopt them. (Bertrand Russell)

This is patently absurd; but whoever wishes to become a philosopher must learn not to be frightened by absurdities. (Bertrand Russell)

To be without some of the things you want is an indispensable part of happiness. (Bertrand Russell)

To be able to fill leisure intelligently is the last product of civilization, and at present very few people have reached this level. (Bertrand Russell)

I am looking forward very much to getting back to Cambridge, and being able to say what I think and not to mean what I say: two things which at home are impossible. Cambridge is one of the few places where one can talk unlimited nonsense and generalities without anyone pulling one up or confronting one with them when one says just the opposite the next day. (Bertrand Russell)

Against my will, in the course of my travels, the belief that everything worth knowing was known at Cambridge gradually wore off. In this respect my travels were very useful to me. (Bertrand Russell)

Aristotle maintained that women have fewer teeth than men; although he was twice married, it never occurred to him to verify this statement by examining his wives' mouths. (Bertrand Russell)

The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt. (Bertrand Russell)

Every man, wherever he goes, is encompassed by a cloud of comforting convictions, which move with him like flies on a summer day. (Bertrand Russell)

Italy, and the spring and first love all together should suffice to make the gloomiest person happy. (Bertrand Russell)

The most savage controversies are those about matters as to which there is no good evidence either way. (Bertrand Russell)

The central problem of our age is how to act decisively in the absence of certainty. (Bertrand Russell)

Not enough evidence God! Not enough evidence! (Bertrand Russell, upon being asked what he would reply if, after dying, he were brought into the presence of God and asked why he had not been a believer)

'Logical positivism' is a name for a method, not for a certain kind of result. A philosopher is a logical positivist if he holds that there is no special way of knowing that is peculiar to philosophy, but that questions of fact can only be decided by the empirical methods of science, while questions that can be decided without appeal to experience are either mathematical or linguistic. (Bertrand Russell)

PROBABILITY

Probability is the most important concept in modern science, especially as nobody has the slightest notion what it means. (Bertrand Russell)

We may regard the present state of the universe as the effect of its past and the cause of its future. An intellect which at a certain moment would know all forces that set nature in motion, and all positions of all items of which nature is composed, if this intellect were also vast enough to submit these data to analysis, it would embrace in a single formula the movements of the greatest bodies of the universe and those of the tiniest atom; for such an intellect nothing would be uncertain and the future just like the past would be present before its eyes. (Pierre Simon de Laplace. *A Philosophical Essay on Probabilities*)

It is truth very certain that, when it is not in our power to determine what is true, we ought to follow what is most probable. (René Descartes. *Discourse on the Method, III, 4*)

The actual science of logic is conversant at present only with things either certain, impossible, or entirely doubtful, none of which (fortunately) we have to reason on. Therefore the true logic for this world is the calculus of Probabilities, which takes account of the magnitude of the probability which is, or ought to be, in a reasonable man's mind. (James Clerk Maxwell)

It is remarkable that a science which began with the consideration of games of chance should have become the most important object of human knowledge. (Pierre Simon de Laplace. *Théorie Analytique des Probabilités*)

The most important questions of life are indeed, for the most part, really only problems of probability. (Pierre Simon de Laplace. *Théorie Analytique des Probabilités*)

The unlimited extension of the validity of the exact sciences was a characteristic feature of the exaggerated rationalism of the eighteenth century. (Richard von Mises, in reference to Laplace)

Probabilitas enim est gradus certitudinis, et ab hac differt ut pars a toto. (Jakob Bernoulli. *Ars Conjectandi*)

Probabilitas est gradus possibilitas. (Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz)

This delicate calculus extends to the most important questions of life, which are in effect, for the most part, only some problems of probability. (Pierre Simon de Laplace. *A Philosophical Essay on Probabilities*)

The theory of probability is at bottom nothing but common sense reduced to calculus. (Pierre Simon de Laplace. *A Philosophical Essay on Probabilities*)

If scientific reasoning were limited to the logical processes of arithmetic, we should not get very far in our understanding of the physical world. One might as well attempt to grasp the game of poker entirely by the use of the mathematics of probability. (Vannevar Bush)

Chapter I

Definition of probability

It is not possible to give a satisfactory definition of the concept of probability.

[...]

It [the normal law of errors] is not obtained by rigorous deductions. [...] However all the world believes it, Lippmann told me once, because the experimenters imagine that it is a mathematical theorem, and the mathematicians that it is an experimental fact. (Henri Poincaré. *Calcul des Probabilités*)

Fortuna Imperatrix Mundi

O Fortuna, velut luna, statu variabilis

[...]

Fortune rota volvitur [...] (Carmina Burana)

Nothing is so uncertain as a cast of dice and yet there is no one who plays often who does not sometimes make a Venus-throw [when each dice landed on a different side in the cast of 4-sided rectangular dice] and occasionally twice or thrice in succession. Then are we, like fools, to prefer to say that it happened by direction of Venus rather than by chance? (Cicero, *De divinatione*)

Statistical thinking will one day be as necessary for efficient citizenship as the ability to read and write. (Herbert George Wells)

Anatole France. Chance is perhaps the pseudonym of God when he did not want to sign. (Anatole France)

It is possible to ask whether there is still concealed behind the statistical universe of perception a 'true' universe in which the law of causality would be valid. But such speculation seems to us to be without value and meaningless, for physics must confine itself to the description of the relationship between perceptions. (Werner Heisenberg)

A characteristic of the probability calculus is that often some mathematical theorems result automatically demonstrated inasmuch as their probabilistic interpretation is evident. (Bruno de Finetti)

Though we give the preference to that which has been found most usual, and believe that this effect will exist, we must not overlook at the other effects, but must assign to each of them a particular weight and authority, in proportion as we have found it to be more or less frequent. (David Hume. *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*)

[...] as regards the End (or aim of life) we differ from the New Academy; for whereas the men who profess to conform to its doctrine use probability as the very guide of life, we live in an undogmatic way [...] (Marcus Tullius Cicero)

[...] nothing which is the possible object of knowledge, whether past, present, or future, can be probable to an infinite intelligence; since it cannot be discerned absolutely as it is in itself, certainly true, or certainly false. But to Us, probability is the very guide of life. (Joseph Butler)

76.4% of all statistics are meaningless. (Author Unknown)

The new always happens against the overwhelming odds of statistical laws and their probability, which for all practical, everyday purposes amounts to certainty; the new therefore always appears in the guise of a miracle. (Hannah Arendt)

Life is a school of probability. (Walter Bagehot)

Probability is expectation founded upon partial knowledge. A perfect acquaintance with all the circumstances affecting the occurrence of an event would change expectation into certainty, and leave nether room nor demand for a theory of probabilities. (George Boole)

If scientific reasoning were limited to the logical processes of arithmetic, we should not get very far in our understanding of the physical world. One might as well attempt to grasp the game of poker entirely by the use of the mathematics of probability. (Vannevar Bush)

I don't believe in providence and fate, as a technologist I am used to reckoning with the formulae of probability. (Max Frisch)

Fourth Law of Thermodynamics: If the probability of success is not almost one, then it is damn near zero. (David Ellis)

The laws of probability, so true in general, so fallacious in particular. (Edward Gibbon)

The scientific imagination always restrains itself within the limits of probability. (Thomas Huxley)

The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just. (Abraham Lincoln)

If we look at the way the universe behaves, quantum mechanics gives us fundamental, unavoidable indeterminacy, so that alternative histories of the universe can be assigned probability. (Murray Gell-Mann)

The fact that we don't keep repeating tests in the same arena is not because the probability of the hypothesis showing its falsity in other arenas goes up after it has passed tests in one arena. (Robert Nozick)

Medicine is a science of uncertainty and an art of probability. (William Osler)

The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong. (Andy Rooney)

Information: the negative reciprocal value of probability. (Claude Shannon)

From principles is derived probability, but truth or certainty is obtained only from facts. (Tom Stoppard)

Psychology helps to measure the probability that an aim is attainable. (Edward Thorndike)

The probable is what usually happens. (Aristotle)

How dare we speak of the laws of chance? Is not chance the antithesis of all law? (Joseph Bertrand)

Chance, too, which seems to rush along with slack reins, is bridled and governed by law. (Boethius)

The conception of chance enters in the very first steps of scientific activity in virtue of the fact that no observation is absolutely correct. I think chance is a more fundamental conception than causality; for whether in a concrete case, a cause-effect relation holds or not can only be judged by applying the laws of chance to the observation. (Max Born)

Fate laughs at probabilities. (Lytton E.G. Bulwer)

Iacta alea est. (Julius Caesar)

I can see looming ahead one of those terrible exercises in probability where six men have white hats and six men have black hats and you have to work it out by mathematics how likely it is that the hats will get mixed up and in what proportion. If you start thinking about things like that, you would go round the bend. Let me assure you of that! (Agatha Christie)

Everything existing in the universe is the fruit of chance. (Democritus)

I will never believe that god plays dice with the universe. (Albert Einstein)

The theory of probability as a mathematical discipline can and should be developed from axioms in exactly the same way as geometry and algebra. (Andrei Kolmogorov)

Nothing occurs at random, but everything for a reason and by necessity. (Leucippus)

Chance governs all. (John Milton)

The excitement that a gambler feels when making a bet is equal to the amount he might win times the probability of winning it. (Blaise Pascal)

Chance favors the prepared mind. (Louis Pasteur)

Suam habet fortuna rationem. (Petronius)

This branch of mathematics [Probability] is the only one, I believe, in which good writers frequently get results which are entirely erroneous. (Charles S. Pierce)

I know too well that these arguments from probabilities are imposters, and unless great caution is observed in the use of them, they are apt to be deceptive. (Plato)

I graduated from Douglass College without distinction. I was in the top 98% of my class and damn glad to be there. I slept in the library and daydreamed my way through history lecture. I failed math twice, never fully grasping probability theory. I mean, first off, who cares if you pick a black ball or a white ball out of the bag? And second, if you're bent over about the color, don't leave it to chance. Look in the damn bag and pick the color you want. (Stephanie Plum)

Anyone who considers arithmetic methods of producing random digits is, of course, in a state of sin. (John von Neumann)

It has been pointed out already that no knowledge of probabilities, less in degree than certainty, helps us to know what conclusions are true, and that there is no direct relation between the truth of a proposition and its probability. Probability begins and ends with probability. (John Maynard Keynes)

Always be a little improbable. (Oscar Wilde)

I've done the calculation and your chances of winning the lottery are identical whether you play or not. (Fran Lebowitz)

Anything you do is a gamble! (Antoine Arnauld. *Port-Royal Logic*. 1662)

The laws of probability are laws of consistency, an extension to partial beliefs of formal logic, the logic of consistency. (Frank Plumpton Ramsey)

If scientific reasoning were limited to the logical processes of arithmetic, we should not get very far in our understanding of the physical world. One might as well attempt to grasp the game of poker entirely by the use of the mathematics of probability. (Vannevar Bush)

Nothing is impossible. Some things are just less likely than others. (Jonathan Winters)

The trouble with weather forecasting is that it's right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it. (Patrick Young)

...When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth. (Arthur Conan Doyle)

Faith may be defined briefly as an illogical belief in the occurrence of the improbable. (Henry Louis Mencken)

It is scientific only to say what's more likely or less likely, and not to be proving all the time what's possible or impossible. (Richard Feynman)

Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future. (Niels Bohr)

ORIGINALS

A priori you can say that you cannot say what there is a priori. (©)

Engineers are revealed by experimental physicists, experimental physicists are revealed by theoretical physicists, theoretical physicists are revealed by God, God is revealed by me. (©/2)

One can care little for man, but we need a friend. (Chinese proverb)

One can care little for man, but he needs a girlfriend. (©/2)

Physics is passion. (©)

To derive everything from the least number possible of assertions, this is of interest to me. (©)

If it is not like this, then nature will have to conform. (©/2)

Does God know why he exists? (©)

The whole universe is explained by explaining the scattering of two particles. (©)

Physicists often follow criteria of aesthetics or of simplicity; and, eventually, if simplicity is beautiful, just aesthetic criteria. (©/2)

I've taken up studies in physics because I'm in search of the absolute. (©)

There does not exist a thing which is worth dying for. (©)

Purpose of the physicist is perhaps to construct a world moved by the lowest number possible of categories of angels. (©/2)

If you believe you have some particular gifts of luck then play the lottery.

If you win you might be right, then play again.

If you don't win, then stop playing.

When everybody will have followed your example, then get back to play. (©)

When I was young I examined a stone to verify if stones were some kind of animals.

I lost hours and hours to see whether a stone moved (as all animals do).

The stone didn't seem to not move, but it could have done it imperceptibly.

Recently, though, all my doubts have vanished since I verified that there are no stones enrolled in the faculty of engineering. (©/2)

As long as there are laboratory animals, there will be anti-vivisectionists.

As long as there are anti-vivisectionists, there will be laboratory animals (the anti-vivisectionists).

(©)

Discovering by oneself is immensely more beautiful than verifying the correctness of a ready-made theory. (©)

People prefer when from bad you become good, more than when from good you become bad. (©)

Even the mads eat – despite being mad. (©)

Maybe it makes no sense to say 'maybe'. (©)

Do study also what you're not fond of, for this will serve you in future to understand all the arguments that you are fond of. (©)

Dog is man's best friend, because it's not a man. (©)

To be God needs to be not human. (©)

We live in a big golden cage called universe. (©)

There are no truths nor falsehoods in the world (and this sentence is true or false). (©)

Rationality comes out of a-rationality. The foundations of the rational thought are a-rational. (©)

All rationalizations are approximations in modeling the a-rational.

But the a-rational too can make mistakes in "explaining" the phenomenology. (©)

Physicists have the tacit credence that the whole nature obeys to a few, simple and discoverable laws. (©/2)

The existence of a perfect being that created the world is unconceivable, as we can find the woman in it. (©)

Hug me tight for no night is never-ending. (©/2)

The theoretical physics gives a sense of dizziness for its essential feature of being suspended between an unquestionable mathematical routine and the uncomfortable lack of a meta-theoretical foundation. (©)

I believe in miracles.

Miracles are the proof of the “non” existence of God. In fact, it seems rather irreconcilable that a Christian has the miracle of the Virgin Mary and a Muslim has the miracle of Allah. (©)

..Here some mathematical proofs are lacking, but it’s not important: if we find that those proofs don’t support our conclusions, it means that probably there is a mistake in the former. (©)

Mathematics is an instrument that serves to formalize the explanations of the a-rational. If a formalization is not good in that respect, we must have the courage to forsake it in favour of another one. (©)

The majority of people suffers from their lack of talent. (Author Unknown)
Moreover, they are vindictive towards who is talented. (©)

Being an Italian abroad is like being woman among men, for one can enjoy all privileges owned by who is considered silly. (©)

Studying ruins. (©)

I dance alone. (Title of the movie of Bernardo Bertolucci)

Dance as if you were alone. (©/2)

When you’re alone get trained to dance as if people are staring at you. (©/2)

This sentence may become false tomorrow. (©)

The true one is the most generally verified by evidence. Most generally means most exhaustively. (©)

The foundations of science can’t be qualitatively different from the foundations of any other human activity. (©)

I’m necessarily alone in the world of that woman who is no longer here. (©/2)

What is the difference between erotism and perversion?

Erotism is to take the woman to orgasm by a feather.

Perversion is when the chicken is still attached to the feather. (Ezio Greggio)

What is the difference between erotism and perversion?

Erotism is to take the woman to orgasm by a feather of chicken.

Perversion is when the woman is chicken-brained. (©/2)

What is the difference between erotism and perversion?

None: whatever erotism is, in either case it is matter of a pervers sex with a chicken-brained. (©/2)

From 0 to 25 years old I specialized in the drama of my life. (©)

Freud was a sexual pervert. (©)

‘Why did man appear on Earth?’

‘Because can you imagine the man to be appeared on the Sun?’ (©/2)

‘Philosophy is fruitless.’

‘Then don’t make philosophical claims!’ (©)

‘Philosophy is too misty.’

‘Then contribute to make it clear!’ (©)

The writers of novels don’t have clear good arguments for what they believe in. Therefore they use rhetorical instruments in order to persuade a greater number of people. In this way they can receive admiration and improve their self-esteem. (©)

Wanting to solve the problem of induction or all problems of epistemology, without analyzing the concept of probability thoroughly, is like wanting to cook an exquisite dinner without having the necessary ingredients. (©)

A genius’ gaze is turned off, with a very far focus. Also mads have it. In fact mads are nothing but geniuses come out badly.

Also some stupids have this gaze. In fact those stupids are nothing but geniuses discouraged by the real stupids. (©)

Ok, do you want to know if I think I am a genius? I’m not a genius. Einstein was a genius! I am much much more than Einstein. (©/2)

I’m not here to do history of philosophy, but to do the future of philosophy. (©)

The male and the female must be different from each other, without hiding, without stopping to wish the complementarity, maintaining the polarity well tense. The uniqueness of one shows therefore the uniqueness of the other one, and renders both mutually necessary. (©/2)

It’s a wretched world because just philosophers accept theories that are completely against the intuition, whereas they should have understood the right usefulness of the common-sense intuitions more deeply than others and endorsed them even more. (©)

I don’t like dying and I’m still here. (©)

For every level of knowledge there exists a single distribution of probability, given the same set of testing theories. (©)

The most representative information on the true random variable is the last experimental random variable. But to understand how representative it is, we’d better know how much experiment has been done. (©)

When I was young I used to have erotic dreams. After I knew women I don't have erotic dreams anymore. (©)

The more I know women, the less I have fantasies and wish for masturbating. (©)

I do what I like most. (©)

I do what gives me the most pleasure. (©)

The more verified, the more probable. (©)

Fallibilism is true, therefore it is fallible. (©)

Knowledge is true belief: justified belief is the belief that its value of chance is from a right inferential system; true just means that the value of chance is justified conclusively, therefore if it is true it must be justified as well.

Likewise, truth cannot be by accident: any conclusive justification cannot be an accident. (©)

The concept of universality of some positive ethical values (like the one of universal human rights) is rather self-contradicting because it implies non-tolerance.

Most of past and present wars are carried on in the name of some presumed universal objective good.

Individuals with such convictions are also very lucky for being born in the precise time and in the precise society that shares their own "universal" values. (©)

Maybe I can't live without a woman, but for sure I can't live without internet. (©)

Most of philosophers are very good at thinking, but not independently... ..but, maybe, they are very good at it just because they are not good at thinking independently. (©)

Production of artificiality is natural. (©)

Pre-contemporary philosophy has always made very complicated systems in order to try to remedy its lack of a good concept of probability. (©)

Behind every great man there is a great woman. (Author Unknown)

Behind every great man there is a multi-orgasmic woman. (©/2)

Behind every successful man is a woman, behind her is his wife. (Groucho Marx)

If the scientific method exists, the philosophers must inform the scientists. (©)

Music fools me. (©)

I don't like reading what I write because it shows me I make mistakes. (©)

If I want to work hard, I need to sleep most of the time. (©)

It's not possible to spend your youth at solving specific problems of applied philosophy and then, at a mature age, to extract a general picture for the foundations of philosophy: you would deny too many of your previous conclusions. (©)

I'm always late because I try to be early for the next things. (©)

I believe that real love happens just once a life. But I also think that every morning is a new life.
(©)

Rather than having to play the role of the silly just to get a pussy (for nothing more is in the woman)
I wank all life long. (©)

Fictional work does not represent the reality, but how we like to imagine it. (©)

My wife is stupid ..but I'm not much smarter as I married her. (©)

Who ranks as the highest? One who does not harm anything. One who never retaliates. One who is
always at peace regardless of the other person's disposition. (Buddha)

Who ranks the highest? One who does not harm anything. One who never retaliates. One who is
always at peace regardless of the other person's disposition. (©/2)

There's no intelligent life in the universe, not even on Earth. (©)

Sometimes I have the feeling of doing everything I do for nothing but giving my body some food,
some rest, and possibly, some sex. (©)

The more realistic you are, the more likely you are to get real pleasure. (©)

Philosophers are often well considered when they manage to confuse. But they manage to confuse
well when they themselves are not clear. (©)

Women are very stressful; if they had the same mind we have, they would do many of the bad
things that we would do if we could do, and they could easily do those things; if they didn't have
our same mind, we wouldn't understand why they are like that.
Therefore, for every relationship, we have to accept to stay either with a woman who cheats on us
very easily, or with a woman who we don't understand, or both. (©)

Whatever (..you like being either right or true). (©)

Philosophers are not stupid, but crazy and tremendously arrogant: unlike the scientists, they never
cared to respect the empirical answers of nature. (©)

The works of philosophy have a tiny rate of practical output. (©)

The more supported by evidence, the truer. (©)

Descriptive truth is whatever you like to be true.

Prescriptive truth is pragmatically-exhaustive verification by evidence. True iff exhaustively
verified. (©)

I smoke fish, it's great. (©)

One of the biggest mistake committed by philosophers is having been intimidated and fascinated by
the apparent rigor of the logicians and mathematicians such as Frege or Cantor. The reason is
simple: rigor gives an impression of objectivity and this is what philosophers have always aimed at,
naïvely. (©)

God is the cause for the traditional orthodox view of philosophy in holding truth as evidence-transcendent and eternal. (©)

The difference between me and the standard philosopher is that I don't like talking in vain. (©)

The art of philosophers is to convince others even if they themselves are not really convinced.
The art of scientists is to not convince others unless they themselves are really convinced.
But do philosophers really try to convince others even if they can't be sure of what they say?
Yes: they can't be sure as they don't look at evidence much. (©)

If philosophers are not too stupid, they should have understood that all their complex arguing is totally useless in "real" life. But then, they must have understood that all their prattle is to earn one's bread merely. (©)

Truth of theories depends (ought to depend) on the evidence only, therefore it is contextual and subjective verification, when it is taken to be conclusive. (©)

The philosophers are very good at engaging in various positions they don't really accept.
The scientists think of not having time for that game – done by who have lost the hope in one's own capability of reaching something really useful.
Many philosophers say that not engaging in others' positions is not scientific. I've seen very few scientific papers engaging in others' positions, apart from the empirical experience's position. (©)

Most philosophers like being non dogmatic, but they are dogmatic against who is dogmatic. (©)

Philosophers have traditionally pretended to aim at objectivity and absolute truth. This is why those essays, which want to appeal to a common-sense subjectivism or relativism, traditionally receive a grade of failure. It follows that philosophers must think that the majority of people is wrong, probably because the majority of people has not thought as deep as they have (but, they rarely weigh the fact that it's very difficult to find two professional philosophers of the same view). Nevertheless philosophers say that students can endorse a subjectivist view too, so long as it is well argued. However it is not so easy: for subjectivism a student should write infinite arguments in order to make it palatable to the philosopher, but essays appealing to any kind of alleged objective principle don't find many problems to pass. (©)

Fallibility of knowledge doesn't amount to anti-realism, it just amounts to the methodological fallibility of truth: to the only anti-realism about truth. (©)

The biggest mistake of philosophy has been to not have understood that truth is fallible, as it is given by justification. This mistake is in every book of philosophy. It has been caused by the people's need of infallible truths in a world of ignorance and by the philosophers' wish of being infallible.

This mistake could have been avoided by understanding that truth depends on evidence; such position was not desirable in the harsh and mysterious appearances of the past, but science could now help us to open up our eyes finally. (©)

Possibility and fallibility are not sufficient for truth and falsehood, but are only necessary. Evidence does the rest. (©)

Once the tooth is out, it's hard to get it back in. (©/2)

Fallibilism implies that we could never access to a world that is free from our possibility of having mistaken its description. Therefore the possibility of ultimately knowing how the world is metaphysically is a myth. (©)

If in Japan you ask directions, many Japanese will respond your question even if they don't know the correct answer, because it would be otherwise. I think that similar things happen when scientists are asked their metaphysical positions. (©)

Evidence=Knowledge=Truth. (©)

Experience shows that not every method for ascribing probabilities is equally satisfactory. Experience shows that not every method for ascribing truths is equally satisfactory. Experience shows that not every method for taking decisions is equally satisfactory. Experience shows that science uses methods that are much better than others. There must be a method that is much better than the others, a method for solving problems in the best way. This method is not philosophy because the scientists do not know any philosophy, but they somehow know a method by which to proceed. The same method can then be used also for solving philosophical problems. The same method is not used by philosophy because philosophy does not solve anything. This method consists fundamentally in being based on evidence. (©)

Here's the method. The rest is just application. (©)

Bach exists. (©)

Common sense is not philosophy. Common sense has always been useful, philosophy never. (©)

Is the rejection of metaphysics a metaphysical position? It is not, so long as common sense is not philosophy. (©)

If truth is some sort of justification by evidence, then there are no metaphysical truths, there are no metaphysical entities (because no evidence would ever suffice to prove it infallibly), there is no metaphysical existence, and there are no metaphysical worlds. (©)

Notwithstanding the objects of the philosophical inquiry are available to everybody, philosophers are sure that everybody cannot understand them correctly, unless they deeply studied philosophy. (©)

The cultural descriptive implies the cultural prescriptive – evolutionary theory applied to culture against cultural relativism: if most people will go for it, then most people will be happy about it, therefore it is the good thing that people ought to do. (©)

The present world we live in is better than all the past ones. (©)

If philosophy wants to become scientific – and therefore useful – it has to start thinking by the sense of quantity, giving quantitative accounts of the philosophical objects used by people in the real world, leaving aside the concerns about magic metaphysical exceptions, and looking for a response out in the nature. (©)

I am fluent in no language. (©/2)

Aim of philosophy is finding the least number of posits that best fit the common sense and extend it. Similarly to science, but for the a priori domain. (©)

Appearances are real as they belong to reality. (©)

99% of papers of philosophy are forgotten after 30 years.

99% of the papers that are forgotten are about mere philosophizing.

Publishing papers is highest aim of the teaching to students.

Students are taught how to philosophize and not how to really solve philosophical problems.

Professors are the students of the past.

Professors know how to philosophize and not how to really solve philosophical problems. (©)

The study of what objects and laws must be postulated are is very different between science and philosophy: in the first case it is extremely useful, in the second case it is extremely useless.

The relation between the two cases is something that belongs to philosophy merely and therefore is useless. (©)