

Quotations: Carl Jung

- All the works of man have their origin in creative fantasy. What right have we then to depreciate imagination?
- An understanding heart is everything in a teacher, and cannot be esteemed highly enough. One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feeling. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.
- As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being. Carl Jung, "Memories, Dreams, Reflections", 1962
- Creative powers can just as easily turn out to be destructive. It rests solely with the moral personality whether they apply themselves to good things or to bad. And if this is lacking, no teacher can supply it or take its place
- Every form of addiction is bad, no matter whether the narcotic be alcohol, morphine or idealism.
- Everything that irritates us about others can lead us to a better understanding of ourselves.
- Great talents are the most lovely and often the most dangerous fruits on the tree of humanity. They hang upon the most slender twigs that are easily snapped off.
- I could not say I believe. I know! I have had the experience of being gripped by something that is stronger than myself, something that people call God.
- I have always been impressed by the fact that there are a surprising number of individuals who never use their minds if they can avoid it, and an equal number who do use their minds, but in an amazingly stupid way.
- If one does not understand a person, one tends to regard him as a fool.
- If there is anything we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could better be changed in ourselves.
- In studying the history of the human mind one is impressed again and again by the fact that the growth of the mind is the widening of the range of consciousness, and that each step forward has been a most painful and laborious achievement. One could almost say that nothing is more hateful to man than to give up even a particle of his unconsciousness. Ask those who have tried to introduce a new idea!
- It all depends on how we look at things, and not on how they are themselves.
- It is a fact that cannot be denied: the wickedness of others becomes our own wickedness because it kindles something evil in our own hearts.
- Knowledge rests not upon truth alone, but upon error also.
- Man needs difficulties; they are necessary for health.
- Masses are always breeding grounds of psychic epidemics.
- Nobody, as long as he moves about among the chaotic currents of life, is without trouble.

- Nothing has a stronger influence psychologically on their environment and especially on their children than the un-lived life of the parent.
- Observance of customs and laws can very easily be a cloak for a lie so subtle that our fellow human beings are unable to detect it. It may help us to escape all criticism, we may even be able to deceive ourselves in the belief of our obvious righteousness. But deep down, below the surface of the average man's conscience, he hears a voice whispering, "There is something not right," no matter how much his rightness is supported by public opinion or by the moral code.
- Our heart glows, and secret unrest gnaws at the root of our being.
- Religion is a defense against the experience of God.
- Show me a sane man, and I will cure him for you.
- Sometimes, indeed, there is such a discrepancy between the genius and his human qualities that one has to ask oneself whether a little less talent might not have been better.
- The Christian missionary may preach the gospel to the poor naked heathen, but the spiritual heathen who populate Europe have as yet heard nothing of Christianity.
- The creation of something new is not accomplished by the intellect but by the play instinct acting from inner necessity. The creative mind plays with the objects it loves.
- The debt we owe to the play of imagination is incalculable.
- The dream is the small hidden door in the deepest and most intimate sanctum of the soul, which opens to that primeval cosmic night that was soul long before there was conscious ego and will be soul far beyond what a conscious ego could ever reach.
- The fact that artistic, scientific, and religious propensities still slumber peacefully together in the small child, or that with primitives the beginnings of art, science, and religion coalesce in the undifferentiated chaos of the magical mentality, or that no trace of 'mind' can be found in the natural instincts of animals - all this does nothing to prove the existence of a unifying principle which alone would justify a reduction of the one to the other. For if we go so far back into the history of the mind that the distinctions between its various fields of activity become altogether invisible, we do not reach an underlying principle of their unity, but merely an earlier, undifferentiated state in which no separate activities yet exist. But the elementary state is not an explanatory principle that would allow us to draw conclusions as to the nature of the later, more highly developed states, even though they must necessarily derive from it. A scientific attitude will always tend to overlook the peculiar nature of these more differentiated states in favour of their causal derivation, and will endeavor to subordinate them to a general but more elementary principle.
- The greatest and most important problems of life are all fundamentally insoluble. They can never be solved but only outgrown.
- The least of things with a meaning is worth more in life than the greatest of things without it.
- The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances: if there is any reaction, both are transformed.
- The pendulum of the mind alternates between sense and nonsense, not between right and wrong.

- The shoe that fits one person pinches another; there is no recipe for living that suits all cases.
- The teacher pretended that algebra was a perfectly natural affair, to be taken for granted, whereas I didn't even know what numbers were. Mathematics classes became sheer terror and torture to me. I was so intimidated by my incomprehension that I did not dare to ask any questions.
- The word "belief" is a difficult thing for me. I don't believe. I must have a reason for a certain hypothesis. Either I know a thing, and then I know it - I don't need to believe it.
- The word "happiness" would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness.
- There can be no transforming of darkness into light and of apathy into movement without emotion.
- To me dreams are part of nature, which harbors no intention to deceive but expresses something as best it can.
- Understanding does not cure evil, but it is a definite help, inasmuch as one can cope with a comprehensible darkness.
- We cannot change anything unless we accept it. Condemnation does not liberate, it oppresses.
- We should not pretend to understand the world only by the intellect. The judgment of the intellect is only part of the truth.
- Where love rules, there is no will to power, and where power predominates, love is lacking. The one is the shadow of the other.
- Who has fully realized that history is not contained in thick books but lives in our very blood?
- Your vision will become clear only when you can look into your own heart. Who looks outside, dreams; who looks inside, awakes.