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Quotes by Da Vinci, Leonardo

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Leonardo da Vinci (April 15, 1452 May 2, 1519) was an Italian Renaissance architect, musician, anatomist, inventor, engineer, sculptor, geometer, and painter. He has been described as the archetype of the "Renaissance man" and as a universal genius, a man both infinitely curious and infinitely inventive.

I have offended God and mankind because my work didn't reach the quality it should have.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Experience does not err. Only your judgments err by expecting from her what is not in her power.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Just as courage imperils life; fear protects it.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Men of lofty genius when they are doing the least work are most active.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

[Three classes of people]: Those who see. Those who see when they are shown. Those who do not see.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Just as iron rusts from disuse, even so does inaction spoil the intellect.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Our life is made by the death of others.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Iron rusts from disuse, stagnant water loses its purity and in cold weather becomes frozen; even so does inaction sap the vigors of the mind.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

As every divided kingdom falls, so every mind divided between many studies confounds and saps itself.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

A good painter is to paint two main things, men and the working of man's mind.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Patience serves as a protection against wrongs as clothes do against cold. For if you put on more clothes as the cold increases, it will have no power to hurt you. So in like manner

you must grow in patience when you meet with great wrongs, and they will be powerless to vex your mind.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Anyone who in discussion relies upon authority uses, not his understanding, but rather his memory.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Every now and then go away, have a little relaxation, for when you come back to your work your judgment will be surer. Go some distance away because then the work appears smaller and more of it can be taken in at a glance and a lack of harmony and proportion is more readily seen.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

The function of muscle is to pull and not to push, except in the case of the genitals and the tongue.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

I roamed the countryside searching for answers to things I did not understand. Why thunder lasts longer than that which causes it, and why immediately on its creation the lightning becomes visible to the eye while thunder requires time to travel. How the various circles of water form around the spot which has been struck by a stone and why a bird sustains itself in the air. These questions and other strange phenomena engaged my thought throughout my life.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Time stays long enough for those who use it.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Nothing can be love or hated unless it is first known.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

The noblest pleasure is the joy of understanding.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Common Sense is that which judges the things given to it by other senses.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well spent brings happy death.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

And Wisdom be the Daughter of Experience

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been and there you will always long to return.

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

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