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Quotes about Genius

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A genius is one who can do anything except make a living.

- Adams, Joey Lauren

Genius is sorrow's child.

- Adams, John

It takes people a long time to learn the difference between talent and genius, especially ambitious young men and women.

- Alcott, Louisa May

Doing easily what others find difficult is talent; doing what is impossible for talent is genius.

- Amiel, Henri Frederic

To do easily what is difficult for others is the mark of talent. To do what is impossible for talent is the mark of genius.

- Amiel, Henri Frederic

We know that the nature of genius is to provide idiots with ideas twenty years later.

- Aragon, Louis

There is no great genius without a mixture of madness.

- Aristotle

There are big men, men of intellect, intellectual men, men of talent and men of action; but the great man is difficult to find, and it needs --apart from discernment --a certain greatness to find him.

- Asquith, Margot

Geniuses are the luckiest of mortals because what they must do is the same as what they most want to do.

- Auden, W. H.

Genius is no more than childhood recaptured at will, childhood equipped now with man's physical means to express itself, and with the analytical mind that enables it to bring order into the sum of experience, involuntarily amassed.

- Baudelaire, Charles

Genius is childhood recaptured.

- Baudrillard, Jean

One is not born a genius, one becomes a genius.

- Beauvoir, Simone De

Genius unexerted is no more genius than a bushel of acorns is a forest of oaks.

- Beecher, Henry Ward

Men of genius are not quick judges of character. Deep thinking and high imagining blunt that trivial instinct by which you and I size people up.

- Beerbohm, Sir Max

Genius is the gold in the mine; talent is the miner who works and brings it out.

- Blessington, Marguerite Gardiner, Countess of

Genius makes its observations in short-hand; talent writes them out at length.

- Bovee, Christian Nevell

What is genius but the power of expressing a new individuality?

- Browning, Elizabeth Barrett

Since when was genius found respectable?

- Browning, Elizabeth Barrett

Genius is nothing but a great capacity for patience.

- Buffon, Georges-Louis Leclerc

Every man who observes vigilantly and resolves steadfastly grows unconsciously into genius.

- Bulwer-Lytton, Edward G.

A genius can never expect to have a good time anywhere, if he is a genuine article, but America is about the last place in which life will be endurable at all for an inspired writer of any kind.

- Butler, Samuel

I really cannot know whether I am or am not the Genius you are pleased to call me, but I am very willing to put up with the mistake, if it be one. It is a title dearly enough bought by most men, to render it endurable, even when not quite clearly made out, which it never can be till the Posterity, whose decisions are merely dreams to ourselves, has sanctioned or denied it, while it can touch us no further.

- Byron, Lord

What Romantic terminology called genius or talent or inspiration is nothing other than finding the right road empirically, following one's nose, taking shortcuts.

- Calvino, Italo

Genius is an infinite capacity for taking pains.

- Carlyle, Thomas

Genius is the ability to reduce the complicated to the simple.

- Ceran, C. W.

Passion holds up the bottom of the universe and genius paints up its roof.

- Chao Chang

The eye of genius has always a plaintive expression, and its natural language is pathos.

- Child, Lydia M.

Genius is independent of situation.

- Churchill, Charles

True genius resides in the capacity for evaluation of uncertain, hazardous, and conflicting information.

- Churchill, Winston

As it must not, so genius cannot be lawless; for it is even that constitutes its genius -- the power of acting creatively under laws of its own origination.

- Coleridge, Samuel Taylor

The drafts which true genius draws upon posterity, although they may not always be honored so soon as they are due, are sure to be paid with compound interest in the end.

- Colton, Charles Caleb

When human power becomes so great and original that we can account for it only as a kind of divine imagination, we call it genius.

- Crashaw, William

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

- Da Vinci, Leonardo

Genius, like truth, has a shabby and neglected mien.

- Dahlberg, Edward

Few people can see genius in someone who has offended them.

- Davies, Robertson

What makes men of genius, or rather, what they make, is not new ideas, it is that idea -- possessing them -- that what has been said has still not been said enough.

- Delacroix, Eugene

Genius is present in every age, but the men carrying it within them remain benumbed unless extraordinary events occur to heat up and melt the mass so that it flows forth.

- Diderot, Denis

Patience is a necessary ingredient of genius.

- Disraeli, Benjamin

Genius, when young, is divine.

- Disraeli, Benjamin

Fortune has rarely condescended to be the companion of genius.

- Disraeli, Isaac

Genius must be born, and never can be taught.

- Dryden, John

Great wits are sure to madness near allied, and thin partitions do their bounds divide.

- Dryden, John

Time, place, and action may with pains be wrought, but genius must be born; and never can be taught.

- Dryden, John

His genius he was quite content in one brief sentence to define; Of inspiration one percent, of perspiration, ninety nine.

- Edison, Thomas A.

Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.

- Edison, Thomas A.

Genius at first is little more than a great capacity for receiving discipline.

- Eliot, George

Only an inventor knows how to borrow, and every man is or should be an inventor.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

The greatest genius is the most indebted person.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

The hearing ear is always found close to the speaking tongue; and no genius can long or often utter anything which is not invited and gladly entertained by men around him.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

To believe your own thought, to believe that what is true for you in your private heart is true for all men -- that is genius.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

When Nature has work to be done, she creates a genius to do it.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

In every work of genius we recognize our own rejected thoughts; they come back to us with a certain alienated majesty.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Coffee is good for talent, but genius wants prayer.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Accept your genius and say what you think.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

A man of genius is privileged only as far as he is genius. His dullness is as insupportable as any other dullness.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Everybody hates a prodigy, detests an old head on young shoulders.

- Erasmus, Desiderius

Genius is entitled to respect only when it promotes the peace and improves the happiness of mankind.

- Essex, Lord

Genius without education is like silver in the mine.

- Franklin, Benjamin

Hide not your talents. They for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade.

- Franklin, Benjamin

I'm not a genius. I'm just a tremendous bundle of experience.

- Fuller, Buckminster

It is not because the touch of genius has roused genius to production, but because the admiration of genius has made talent ambitious, that the harvest is still so abundant.

- Fuller, Margaret

Better beware of notions like genius and inspiration; they are a sort of magic wand and should be used sparingly by anybody who wants to see things clearly.

- Gasset, Jose Ortega Y

The first and last thing required of genius is, love of the truth.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

The greatest genius will never be worth much if he pretends to draw exclusively from his own resources.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

Men give me credit for some genius. All the genius I have is this. When I have a subject in

mind. I study it profoundly. Day and night it is before me. My mind becomes pervaded with it... the effort which I have made is what people are pleased to call the fruit of genius. It is the fruit of labor and thought.

- Hamilton, Alexander

Nothing is so envied as genius, nothing so hopeless of attainment by labor alone. Though labor always accompanies the greatest genius, without the intellectual gift labor alone will do little.

- Hayden, B. R.

The definition of genius is that it acts unconsciously; and those who have produced immortal works, have done so without knowing how or why. The greatest power operates unseen.

- Hazlitt, William

Talent is a faculty that is highly developed, but genius commands all the faculties.

- Hedge, Francis Herbert

Great genius takes shape by contact with another great genius, but, less by assimilation than by fiction.

- Heine, Heinrich

Nature is the master of talents; genius is the master of nature.

- Holland, Josiah Gilbert

The world is always ready to receive talent with open arms. Very often it does not know what to do with genius.

- Holmes, Oliver Wendell

Unpretending mediocrity is good, and genius is glorious; but a weak flavor of genius in an essentially common person is detestable. It spoils the grand neutrality of a commonplace character, as the rinsings of an unwashed wine-glass spoil a draught of fair water.

- Holmes, Oliver Wendell

Genius is the ability to act rightly without precedent -- the power to do the right thing the first time.

- Hubbard, Elbert

Genius is a promontory jutting out into the infinite.

- Hugo, Victor

The richest genius, like the most fertile soil, when uncultivated, shoots up into the rankest weeds.

- Hume, David

We are all geniuses up to the age of ten.

- Huxley, Aldous

Rising genius always shoots out its rays from among the clouds, but these will gradually roll away and disappear as it ascends to its steady luster.

- Irving, Washington

Genius... means little more than the faculty of perceiving in an inhabitual way.

- James, William

Saying that a great genius is mad, while at the same time recognizing his artistic worth, is like saying that he had rheumatism or suffered from diabetes. Madness, in fact, is a medical term that can claim no more notice from the objective critic than he grants the charge of heresy raised by the theologian, or the charge of immorality raised by the police.

- Joyce, James

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.

- Jung, Carl

Genius sits in a glass house -- but in an unbreakable one --conceiving ideas. After giving birth, it falls into madness. Stretches out its hand through the window toward the first person happening by. The demon's claw rips, the iron fist grips. Before, you were a model, mocks the ironic voice between serrated teeth, for me, you are raw material to work on. I throw you against the glass wall, so that you remain stuck there, projected and

stuck. (Then come the lovers of art and contemplate the bleeding work from outside. Then come the photographers. New art, it says in the newspaper the following day. The learned journals give it a name that ends in ism.)

- Klee, Paul

All of us, you, your children, your neighbors and their children are everyday geniuses, even though the fact is unnoticed and unremembered by everyone. That's probably because school hasn't encouraged us to notice what's hidden inside us waiting for the right environment to express itself.

- Kline, Peter

The principal mark of genius is not perfection but originality, the opening of new frontiers.

- Koestler, Arthur

To see things in the seed is genius.

- Lao-Tzu

Who in the same given time can produce more than others has vigor; who can produce more and better, has talents; who can produce what none else can, has genius.

- Lavater, Johann Kaspar

Genius always gives its best at first; prudence, at last.

- Lavater, Johann Kaspar

The real people of genius were resolute workers not idle dreamers.

- Lewes, George Henry

What I do not like about our definitions of genius is that there is in them nothing of the day of judgment, nothing of resounding through eternity and nothing of the footsteps of the Almighty.

- Lichtenberg, Georg C.

Everyone is a genius at least once a year; a real genius has his original ideas closer together.

- Lichtenberg, Georg C.

Towering genius disdains a beaten path.

- Lincoln, Abraham

All the means of action -- the shapeless masses -- the materials -- lie everywhere about us. What we need is the celestial fire to change the flint into the transparent crystal, bright and clear. That fire is genius.

- Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth

It is the privilege of genius that life never grows common place, as it does for the rest of us.

- Lowell, James Russell

Every person of genius is considerably helped by being dead.

- Lund, Robert S.

Genius is eternal patience.

- Michelangelo

There is no genius in life like the genius of energy and industry.

- Mitchell, Don G.

Genius without religion is only a lamp on the outer gate of a palace; it may serve to cast a gleam of light on those that are without, while the inhabitant sits in darkness.

- More, Hannah

Genius is an African who dreams up snow.

- Nabokov, Vladimir

Geniuses themselves don't talk about the gift of genius, they just talk about hard work and long hours.

- Penney, J. C. (James Cash)

The genius of Einstein leads to Hiroshima.

- Picasso, Pablo

It is personality with a penny's worth of talent. Error which chances to rise above the commonplace.

- Picasso, Pablo

A man of genius has a right to any mode of expression.

- Pound, Ezra

One of the satisfactions of a genius is his will-power and obstinacy.

- Ray, Man

The lamp of genius burns quicker than the lamp of life.

- Schiller, Johann Friedrich Von

Genius is, to be sure, not a matter of arbitrariness, but rather of freedom, just as wit, love, and faith, which once shall become arts and disciplines. We should demand genius from everybody, without, however, expecting it.

- Schlegel, Friedrich

Great minds are related to the brief span of time during which they live as great buildings are to a little square in which they stand: you cannot see them in all their magnitude because you are standing too close to them.

- Schopenhauer, Arthur

Genius is essentially creative; it bears the stamp of the individual who possesses it.

- Stael, Germaine De

It takes a lot of time to be a genius. You have to sit around so much doing nothing, really doing nothing.

- Stein, Gertrude

When a true genius appears in this world, you may know him by this sign, that the dunces are all in confederacy against him.

- Swift, Jonathan

True genius sees with the eyes of a child and thinks with the brain of a genius.

- Thomajan, Puzant Kevork

Every man is a potential genius until he does something.

- Tree, Sir Herbert Beerbohm

The function of genius is not to give new answers, but to pose new questions which time and mediocrity can resolve.

- Trevor-Roper, H. R.

Thousands of geniuses live and die undiscovered -- either by themselves or by others.

- Twain, Mark

So few people think. When we find one who really does, we call him a genius

- Unknown, Source

There is one subtle but important difference between genius and stupidity and that is that genius has its limits. You'll see yourself clearest in the eyes of your friends.

- Unknown, Source

Genius goes around the world in its youth incessantly apologizing for having large feet. What wonder that later in life it should be inclined to raise those feet too swiftly to fools and bores.

- Unknown, Source

Genius is nothing more than inflamed enthusiasm.

- Unknown, Source

The divine egoism hat is genius.

- Webb, Mary

Real genius is nothing else but the supernatural virtue of humility in the domain of thought.

- Weil, Simone

Everybody denies I am a genius --but nobody ever called me one!

- Welles, Orson

I put all my genius into my life; I put only my talent into my works.

- Wilde, Oscar

Genius lasts longer than Beauty. That accounts for the fact that we all take such pains to over-educate ourselves.

- Wilde, Oscar

The public is wonderfully tolerant. It forgives everything except genius.

- Wilde, Oscar

I have nothing to declare except my genius.

- Wilde, Oscar

Talent is a flame. Genius is a fire.

- Williams, Bern

Masterpieces are not single and solitary births; they are the outcome of many years of thinking in common, of thinking by the body of the people, so that the experience of the

mass is behind the single voice.

- Woolf, Virginia

Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The trouble-makers. The round heads in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status-quo. You can quote them. Disagree with them. Glorify, or vilify them. But the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world

Are the ones who do.

- Apple Computer

Einstein said that genius begins where rules end. He did however help invent nuclear weapons inadvertently and we've plunged toward a new world order since then as a result. One world or none - it seems the path cannot change. I'd go with Robert Frost on taking the path not traveled.

- Dye, James



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