

# 200 Quotations from ApatheticAgnostic.com Volume 4

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*"I hate quotations, tell me what you know."* Ralph Waldo Emerson.

But some people do like quotations and think they can be useful in succinctly communicating an opinion. This is a selection of quotations published on the Apathetic Agnostic web site.

1. Is intelligence a liability nowadays? I think we can answer that with one word: *Duh*. Dennis Miller
2. The existence of a world without God seems to me less absurd than the presence of a God, existing in all his perfection, creating an imperfect man in order to make him run the risk of Hell. Armand Salacrou
3. I reverse the phrase of Voltaire, and say that if God really existed, it would be necessary to abolish him. Mikhail Bakunin
4. Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence. Richard Dawkins
5. There is nothing more impressive than a miracle, except the credulity that can take it at par. Mark Twain
6. I do not pretend to be able to prove that there is no God. I equally cannot prove that Satan is a fiction. The Christian god may exist; so may the gods of Olympus, or of ancient Egypt, or of Babylon. But no one of these hypotheses is more probable than any other: they lie outside the region of even probable knowledge, and therefore there is no reason to consider any of them. Bertrand Russell
7. Shake off all the fears of servile prejudices, under which weak minds are servilely crouched. Fix reason firmly in her seat, and call on her tribunal for every fact, every opinion. Question with boldness even the existence of a God; because, if there be one, he must more approve of the homage of reason than that of blindfolded fear. Thomas Jefferson
8. Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, & the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opium of the people. Karl Marx

9. This crime called blasphemy was invented by priests for the purpose of defending doctrines not able to take care of themselves. Robert Ingersoll
10. It would be very nice if there were a God who created the world and was a benevolent providence, and if there were a moral order in the universe and an after-life; but it is a very striking fact that all this is exactly as we are bound to wish it to be. Sigmund Freud
11. I am a deeply religious nonbeliever.... This is a somewhat new kind of religion. Albert Einstein
12. Nearly all peoples have developed their own creation myth, and the Genesis story is just the one that happened to have been adopted by one particular tribe of Middle Eastern herders. It has no more special status than the belief of a particular West African tribe that the world was created from the excrement of ants. Richard Dawkins
13. If the Bible is mistaken in telling us where we came from, how can we trust it to tell us where we're going? Justin Brown
14. God, so atrocious in the Old Testament, so attractive in the New -- the Jekyll and Hyde of sacred romance. Mark Twain
15. Few nations have been so poor as to have but one god. Gods were made so easily, and the raw material cost so little, that generally the god market was fairly glutted, and heaven crammed with these phantoms. Robert Ingersoll
16. The existentialist... thinks it very distressing that God does not exist, because all possibility of finding values in a heaven of ideas disappears along with Him; there can no longer be an a priori Good, since there is no infinite and perfect consciousness to think it. Nowhere is it written that the Good exists, that we must be honest, that we must not lie; because the fact is we are on a plane where there are only men. Dostoevsky said, 'If God didn't exist, everything would be possible.' That is the very starting point of existentialism. Indeed, everything is permissible if God does not exist, and as a result man is forlorn, because neither within him nor without does he find anything to cling to. He can't start making excuses for himself. Jean-Paul Sartre
17. The foolish reject what they see and not what they think; the wise reject what they think and not what they see. Huang Po
18. In sober truth, nearly all the things which men are hanged or imprisoned for doing to one another are nature's everyday performances. Killing, the most criminal act recognized by human laws, nature does once to every being that lives, and in a large proportion of cases after protracted tortures such as only the greatest monsters whom we read of ever purposely inflicted on their living fellow creatures. John Stuart Mill
19. It is wrong always, everywhere, and for anyone, to believe anything upon insufficient evidence. William K Clifford

20. It is not as in the Bible, that God created man in his own image. But, on the contrary, man created God in his own image. Ludwig Feuerbach
21. To mistrust science and deny the validity of the scientific method is to resign your job as a human. You'd better go look for work as a plant or animal. P. J. O'Rourke
22. There is no reason whatever to believe that the order of nature has any greater bias in favour of man than it had in favour of the ichthyosaur or the pterodactyl. H. G. Wells
23. Miss Erickson looked even more peculiar this morning. Is her spiritualism getting worse?  
Noel Coward
24. There can be no incompatibility between the Christian faith and proven facts concerning geology, biology, and astronomy. There is no need to teach that stars can fall out of the sky and land on a flat earth in order to defend our religious faith. Jimmy Carter
25. Adam was but human--this explains it all. He did not want the apple for the apple's sake, he wanted it only because it was forbidden. The mistake was in not forbidding the serpent; then he would have eaten the serpent.  
Mark Twain
26. The way to see by faith is to shut the eye of reason. Benjamin Franklin
27. After the Rapture, can I have your car?  
seen on a bumpersticker
28. Evidence carefully sifted can be enlisted to support practically any supposition as long as the preponderance of contrary clues are ignored and the rules of sound scientific practice are suspended.  
Dennis R. Trumble
29. We are all atheists about most of the gods that humanity has ever believed in. Some of us just go one god further.  
Richard Dawkins
30. I have no special regard for Satan; but, I can at least claim that I have no prejudice against him. It may even be that I lean a little his way, on account of his not having a fair show. All religions issue bibles against him, and say the most injurious things about him, but we never hear his side. We have none but the evidence for the prosecution, and yet we have rendered the verdict. To my mind, this is irregular. Mark Twain
31. No testimony is sufficient to establish a miracle, unless the testimony be of such a kind that its falsehood would be more miraculous than the fact which it endeavours to establish.  
David Hume
32. The world is proof that God is a committee. Bob Stokes
33. Jesus died too soon. If he had lived to my age, he would have repudiated his doctrine. Friedrich Nietzsche

34. Hands that help are far better than lips that pray. Robert Ingersoll
35. True irreverence is disrespect for another man's god. Mark Twain
36. The first requisite for the happiness of the people is the abolition of religion. Karl Marx
37. When we talk to God, we're praying. When God talks to us, we're schizophrenic Lily Tomlin
38. My theology, briefly, is that the universe was dictated but not signed. Christopher Morley
39. The myriad approaches adopted by creation "scientists" in their attempts to undermine evolutionary theory are indeed quite creative, but hardly scientific. Dennis R. Trumble
40. The spirit of wrath -- not the words -- is the sin; and the spirit of wrath is cursing. We begin to swear before we can talk. Mark Twain
41. We are built as gene machines and cultured as meme machines, but we have the power to turn against our creators. We, alone on earth, can rebel against the tyranny of the selfish replicators. Richard Dawkins
42. What is absurd is not the teachings of the founders of religion, it's what followers subsequently make of it. John Cleese
43. You don't want no pie  
In the sky when you die,  
You want something  
Here on the ground  
While you're still around.  
  
Muhammed Ali
44. Why attack God? He may be as miserable as we are. Erik Satie
45. In science it often happens that scientists say, "You know, that's a really good argument; my position is mistaken," and then they really change their minds and you never hear that old view from them again. It happens every day, but I cannot recall the last time that happened in politics or religion. Carl Sagan
46. We are here on earth to do good to others. What the others are here for, I don't know. W. H. Auden
47. How much reverence can you have for a Supreme Being who finds it necessary to include such phenomena as phlegm and tooth decay in His divine system of creation? Joseph Heller (*Catch 22*)
48. It is not best to use our morals weekdays, it gets them out of repair for Sunday. Mark Twain
49. In six days the Lord created the heavens and the Earth and all the wonders therein. There are some of us who feel He might just have taken a little more time. Kinky Friedman

50. It's not the world that has got so much worse but the news coverage that's got so much better. G.K. Chesterton
51. What people do behind closed doors is certainly not my concern unless I'm there with them. Dolly Parton
52. Every day, people are straying away from the church and going back to God. Lenny Bruce
53. I have never made but one prayer to God, a very short one: 'O, Lord, make my enemies ridiculous.' And God granted it. Voltaire
54. What you cannot enforce, do not command. Sophocles
55. I don't know. I don't care, and it doesn't make any difference. Jack Kerouac
56. Reserve your right to think, for even to think wrongly is better than not to think at all. Hypatia
57. The ethical argument regarding abortion hinges on the question of when life begins. Some believe life begins at forty. Kevin Nealon
58. To know that we know what we know and to know that we do not know what we do not know, that is true knowledge. Copernicus
59. What God lacks is convictions -- stability of character. He ought to be a Presbyterian or a Catholic or something -- not try to be everything. Mark Twain
60. The universe is neither benign nor hostile - merely indifferent. Carl Sagan
61. It is not the oath that makes us believe the man, but the man the oath. Aeschylus
62. God is dead, but forty thousand social workers have risen to take his place. J. D. McCaughey
63. If we long to believe that the stars rise and set for us, that we are the reason there is a universe, does science do us a disservice in deflating our beliefs? Carl Sagan
64. There ain't no answer. There ain't going to be an answer. There never has been an answer. That's the answer. Gertrude Stein
65. The essence of Christianity is told to us in the Garden of Eden history. The fruit that was forbidden was on the Tree of Knowledge. The subtext is, All the suffering you have is because you wanted to find out what was going on. You could be in the Garden of Eden if you had just kept your f\*\*king mouth shut and hadn't asked any questions Frank Zappa
66. What is there to do in life but find what you're good for and do it the best you can? Anthony Boucher (*Q.U.R.*)
67. Pleasure is by no means an infallible guide, but it is the least fallible. W. H. Auden

68. Man was predestined to have free will.  
Hal Lee Luyah
69. The point which I would first understand is whether the pious or holy is beloved by the gods because it is holy, or holy because it is beloved by the gods. Socrates
70. If an entirely new scientific theory with more explanatory power is formulated, then Neo-Darwinism will have to be swept aside just as Lamarckism was. Creationism and Intelligent Design don't qualify as competing scientific theories because they're not scientific. They don't offer natural explanations for biological phenomena, but rather supernatural explanations which cannot be tested scientifically. Neo-Darwinism offers a natural explanation to account for the facts of evolution, and rejects supernatural explanations.  
Charles Sullivan and  
Cameron Mcpherson Smith
71. The biggest conspiracy has always been the fact that there is no conspiracy. Nobody's out to get you. Nobody cares whether you live or die. There, you feel better now? Dennis Miller
72. God's noblest work? Man. Who found it out? Man. Mark Twain
73. I am a fortunate man. Whenever I make a mistake, other people are sure to notice it. Confucius
74. It is a bad plan that cannot be changed.  
Publilius Syrus
75. Of all the sexual aberrations, the most peculiar is chastity. Remy de Gourmont
76. Tell a devout Christian that his wife is cheating on him, or that frozen yogurt can make a man invisible, and he is likely to require as much evidence as anyone else, and to be persuaded only to the extent that you give it. Tell him that the book he keeps by his bed was written by an invisible deity who will punish him with fire for eternity if he fails to accept its every incredible claim about the universe, and he seems to require no evidence whatsoever.  
Sam Harris
77. The Vatican is against surrogate mothers. Good thing they did not have that rule when Jesus was born.  
Elayne Boosler
78. Children today are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers.  
Socrates
79. Do television evangelists do more than lay people? Stanley Ralph Ross
80. We become just by performing just actions, temperate by performing temperate actions, brave by performing brave actions. Aristotle
81. All gods are better than their conduct.  
Mark Twain
82. Scientific creationism may be poor science, but it is powerful politics. And politically, it may succeed.  
Laurie Godfrey

83. The gift of truth excels all other gifts  
Buddha
84. Scientists believe in proof without certainty: most people believe in certainty without proof.  
Ashley Montagu
85. He is a barbarian, and thinks that the customs of his tribe and island are the laws of nature. George Bernard Shaw
86. Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being ruled by those who are dumber. Plato
87. Theology is the effort to explain the unknowable in terms of the not worth knowing. H.L. Mencken
88. Religion is an illusion and it derives its strength from its readiness to fit in with our instinctual wishful impulses.  
Sigmund Freud
89. Blake expressed some doubt as to whether God had made the tiger. But the tiger is in many ways an admirable animal. We have now to ask if God made the tapeworm. And it is questionable whether an affirmative answer fits in either with what we know about the process of evolution or what many of us believe about the moral perfection of God. JBS Haldane
90. Doubt everything or believe everything: these are two equally convenient strategies. With either we dispense with the need for reflection. Henri Poincare
91. It has been my experience that folks who have no vices have very few virtues. Abraham Lincoln
92. I want you to have all the academic freedom you want as long as you wind up saying the bible account (of creation) is true and all others are not.  
Jerry Falwell
93. You are not able even to serve man. How can you serve the spirits? You do not even understand even life. How can you understand death?  
Confucious
94. The god who is reputed to have created fleas to keep dogs from moping over their situation must also have created fundamentalists to keep rationalists from getting flabby. Let us be thankful for our blessings. Garret Hardin
95. We're all worm bait waiting to happen. It's what you do while you wait that matters. Kinky Friedman
96. Creationists use facts the same way a drunk uses a lightpost: for support instead of illumination.  
Robert G Ingersoll
97. It has often and confidently been asserted, that man's origin can never be known; but ignorance more frequently begets confidence than does knowledge; it is those who know little, and not those who know much, who so positively assert that this or that problem will never be solved by science. Charles Darwin

98. Astrology is Taurus. F. W. Dederer
99. However much the creationist leaders might hammer away at their scientific and philosophical points, they would be helpless and a laughing-stock if that were all they had. It is religion that recruits their squadrons. Tens of millions of Americans, who neither know nor understand the actual arguments for - of even against - evolution, march in the army of the night, their Bibles held high. And they are a strong and frightening force, impervious to, and immunized against, the feeble lance of mere reason.  
Isaac Asimov
100. Writers always sound insufferably smug when they sit back and assert that their job is only to ask questions and not to answer them. But, in good part, it is true. And once you become committed to one particular answer, your freedom to ask new questions is seriously impaired. David Hare
101. You don't protect any of your individual liberties by lying down and going to sleep. John Scopes
102. God's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn.  
Mark Twain
103. The main conclusion arrived at in my work, namely, that man is descended from some lowly organized form, will, I regret to think, be highly distasteful to many. But there can hardly be a doubt that we are descended from barbarians.  
Charles Darwin
104. If the Bible and the microscope do not agree, the microscope is wrong.  
William Jennings Bryan
105. Look friends, the only possible way to enjoy life is not to be afraid to die. A zest for living requires a willingness to die, you cannot have the first without the second. Robert A. Heinlein
106. If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it? Albert Einstein
107. In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual.  
Galileo Galilei
108. The most erroneous stories are those we think we know best -- and therefore never scrutinize or question.  
Stephen Jay Gould
109. Well did God make man in a breath of holy fire  
Or did he crawl on up out of the muck and mire  
Well the man on the street believes what the bible tells him so  
Well you can ask me, mister, because I know  
Tell them soul-suckin' preachers to come on down and see  
Part man, part monkey, baby that's me.  
  
Bruce Springsteen  
*(Part Man, Part Monkey)*
110. One always begins with the simple, then comes the complex, and by superior enlightenment one often reverts in the end to the simple. Such is the course of human intelligence.  
Voltaire

111. The radical invents the views. When he has worn them out the conservative adopts them. Mark Twain
112. A danger sign of the lapse from true skepticism into dogmatism is an inability to respect those who disagree. In philosophical discussion, the merest hint of dogmatic certainty as to finality of statement is an exhibition of folly. Alfred North Whitehead
113. There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance--that principle is contempt prior to investigation. Herbert Spencer
114. We have long since lost the true names of things. It is precisely because squandering the goods of others is called generosity and recklessness in wrongdoing is called courage, that the republic is reduced to ruins. Cato the Younger
115. As long as we do science, some things will always remain unexplained. Fritjof Capra
116. The beginning of knowledge is the discovery of something we do not understand. Frank Herbert
117. Let the mind be enlarged... to the grandeur of the mysteries, and not the mysteries contracted to the narrowness of the mind. Francis Bacon
118. The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function. F. Scott Fitzgerald
119. The high-minded man must care more for the truth than for what people think. Aristotle
120. Science for me is very close to art. Scientific discovery is an irrational act. It's an intuition which turns out to be reality at the end of it --and I see no difference between a scientist developing a marvellous discovery and an artist making a painting. Carlo Rubbia
121. It is through science that we prove, but through intuition that we discover. Henri Poincare
122. Human models are more vivid and more persuasive than explicit moral commands. Daniel Boorstin.
123. When we remember that we are all mad, the mysteries disappear and life stands explained. Mark Twain
124. All of our religions but the Judaic and the Greek think more of us dead than alive. Joseph Heller
125. One thing I have learned in a long life: that all our science, measured against reality, is primitive and childlike - and yet it is the most precious thing we have. Albert Einstein

126. If you think that your belief is based upon reason, you will support it by argument, rather than by persecution, and will abandon it if the argument goes against you. But if your belief is based on faith, you will realize that argument is useless, and will therefore resort to force either in the form of persecution or by stunting and distorting the minds of the young in what is called education. This last is peculiarly dastardly since it takes advantage of the defenselessness of immature minds. Unfortunately it is practiced in a greater or less degree in the schools of every civilized country. Bertrand Russell
127. A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it. Max Planck
128. We must believe in free will. We have no choice. Isaac B. Singer
129. The common idea that scientists reject a theory as soon as it leads to a contradiction is just not so. When they get something that works at all they plunge ahead with it and ignore its weak spots... scientists are just as bad as the rest of the public in following fads and being influenced by mass enthusiasm. Vannevar Bush
130. It is impossible for a man to begin to learn what he thinks he knows. Epictetus
131. School is an institution built on the axiom that learning is the result of teaching. And institutional wisdom continues to accept this axiom, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Ivan Illich
132. One could not be a successful scientist without realizing that, in contrast to the popular conception supported by newspapers and mothers of scientists, a goodly number of scientists are not only narrow-minded and dull, but also just stupid. James D. Watson
133. Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are that good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats. Howard Aiken
134. One person's blasphemy is another's orthodoxy. One person's orthodoxy is another's blasphemy. John Tyrrell
135. A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices. William James
136. If you make people think they're thinking, they'll love you; but if you really make them think they'll hate you. Don Marquis
137. The only means of strengthening one's intellect is to make up one's mind about nothing -- to let the mind be a thoroughfare for all thoughts. Not a select party. John Keats
138. A witty saying proves nothing. Voltaire

139. Never attribute to conspiracy that which is adequately explained by stupidity. Robert A Heinlein
140. Never ascribe to malice that which can be explained by incompetence.  
Napoleon Bonaparte
141. From men motivated by moral certitude, history teaches, no lasting good ever comes. Joseph Heller
142. It is far better to grasp the Universe as it really is than to persist in delusion, however satisfying and reassuring.  
Carl Sagan
143. The cross everywhere is a dagger in the heart of liberty. Lemuel K Washburn
144. There is nothing so absurd that it cannot be believed as truth if repeated often enough. William James
145. Our predicament is not the difficulty of attaining happiness, but the difficulty of avoiding the misery to which the pursuit of happiness exposes us.  
Michael Oakeshott
146. Co-operation, like other difficult things, can be learned only by practice: and to be capable of it in great things, a people must be gradually trained to it in small. Now the whole course of advancing civilization is a series of such training. John Stuart Mill
147. Age doesn't always bring wisdom, but it certainly makes it easier to fake.  
Matthew McLachlan
148. It is not altogether true that persuasion is one thing and force is another. Many forms of persuasion, even many of which everybody approves, are really a kind of force. Consider what we do to our children. We do not say to them: Some people think the earth is round, and others think it flat; when you grow up, you can, if you like, examine the evidence and form your own conclusion. Instead of this we say: The earth is round. By the time our children are old enough to examine the evidence, our propaganda has closed their minds, and the most persuasive arguments of the Flat Earth Society make no impression. The same applies to the moral precepts that we consider really important, such as don't pick your nose or don't eat peas with a knife., There may, for ought I know, be admirable reasons for eating peas with a knife, but the hypnotic effect of early persuasion has made me completely incapable of appreciating them.  
Bertrand Russell
149. History has shown us that we have good people who do good things, and we have evil people who do evil things, but to get a good person to do evil things takes religion. Tony Matthews
150. We all do no end of feeling and we mistake it for thinking. And out of it we get an aggregation which we consider a boon. Its name is public opinion. It is held in reverence. It settles everything. Some think it is the voice of God.  
Mark Twain

151. Orgel's Second Rule: Evolution is cleverer than you are. Francis Crick
152. The Creator, if He exists, has an inordinate fondness for beetles. JBS Haldane
153. 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
154. For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for Nature cannot be fooled. Richard P. Feynman
155. He who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever. Chinese Proverb
156. There lives more faith in honest doubt, believe me, than in half the creeds. Alfred Tennyson
157. Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought. Albert Szent-Gyorgi
158. The world is continuous flux and is impermanent. Buddha
159. Man's greatest asset is the unsettled mind. Isaac Asimov
160. A cult is a religion with no political power. Thomas Jefferson
161. In these matters the only certainty is that nothing is certain. Pliny the Elder
162. The only thing that makes life possible is permanent, intolerable uncertainty; not knowing what comes next. Ursula K. LeGuin
163. Ridding oneself of this feeling that the universe has a personal grudge against one is the first and most difficult task in growing to adulthood. Colin Wilson
164. If I were going to construct a God I would furnish him with some ways and qualities and characteristics which the Present One lacks... He would spend some of His eternities in trying to forgive Himself for making man unhappy when He could have made him happy with the same effort and He would spend the rest of them in studying astronomy. Mark Twain
165. Everyone is entitled to his own opinion but not his own facts. Daniel Patrick Moynihan
166. Everything written, if it has anything in it, will offend someone, and if the mere taking of offence was to amount to a licence to kill the offender, well the world would be sadly underpopulated of novelists, columnists, bloggers, and the writers of editorials. Rex Murphy
167. I would defend the liberty of consenting adult creationists to practise whatever intellectual perversions they like in the privacy of their own homes; but it is also necessary to protect the young and innocent. Arthur C. Clarke

168. You can discover what your enemy fears most by observing the means he uses to frighten you. Eric Hoffer
169. Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored. Aldous Huxley
170. If you shut your door to all errors, truth will be shut out.  
Rabindranath Tagore
171. Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous.  
Confucius
172. A desire not to butt into other people's business is at least eighty percent of all human wisdom... and the other twenty percent isn't very important. Robert A. Heinlein
173. Wisdom outweighs any wealth.  
Sophocles
174. Not by age but by capacity is wisdom acquired. Titus Maccius Plautus
175. A wise man can see more from the bottom of a well than a fool can from a mountain top Unknown
176. Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure. William Saroyan
177. The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.  
William Shakespeare
178. The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom. George Santayana
179. The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible.  
Matthew Arnold
180. The date of the creation of the world (according to the orthodox view) can be inferred from the genealogies in Genesis, which tell how old each patriarch was when his oldest son was born. Some margin of controversy was permissible, owing to certain ambiguities and to differences between the Septuagint and the Hebrew text; but in the end Protestant Christendom generally accepted the date 4004 B.C., fixed by Archbishop Usher. Dr. Lightfoot, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, who accepted this date for the Creation, thought that a careful study of Genesis made even greater precision possible; the creation of man, according to him, took place at 9.00 A.M. on October 23rd. This, however, has never been an article of faith; you might believe, without risk of heresy, that Adam and Eve came into existence on October 16th or October 30th, provided your reasons were derived from Genesis. The day of the week was, of course, known to have been Friday, since God rested on the Saturday. Bertrand Russell
181. We make simple moral judgments, remain unconscious of the self-interest which colors them, support them with an enthusiasm which derives from our waning but still influential evangelical piety, and are surprised that our contemporaries will not accept us as saviours of the world. Reinhold Niebuhr

182. Back when I was still a recovering Catholic, the story of Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden used to infuriate me beyond belief. It seemed incredibly unfair that every human born since those two would come into the world indelibly stained with Original Sin just because Adam and Eve disobeyed the Almighty and ate the apple. Under this scenario, we're all born with three strikes against us; we don't even get a chance to screw up. Nick Welsh
183. No man is wise enough by himself.  
Titus Maccius Plautus
184. Not to be absolutely certain is, I think, one of the essential things in rationality.  
Bertrand Russell
185. To acquire knowledge, one must study; but to acquire wisdom, one must observe. Marcel Proust
186. When it comes to God's existence, I'm not an atheist and I'm not an agnostic. I'm an acrostic. The whole thing puzzles me. George Carlin
187. In religion and politics people's beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second-hand, and without examination, from authorities who have not themselves examined the questions at issue but have taken them at second-hand from other non-examiners, whose opinions about them were not worth a brass farthing. Mark Twain
188. Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities. Virgil
189. Don't bury the life you have been given in this world in fantasies of the next; don't betray yourself with impossible dreams. David Horowitz
190. Now please state the scientific theory of creationism. Dr. Pepper
191. The suppression of uncomfortable ideas may be common in religion or in politics, but it is not the path to knowledge, and there's no place for it in the endeavor of science. We do not know beforehand where fundamental insights will arise from about our mysterious and lovely solar system. The history of our study of our solar system shows us clearly that accepted and conventional ideas are often wrong, and that fundamental insights can arise from the most unexpected sources.  
Carl Sagan
192. Rhetoric is useful because the true and the just are naturally superior to their opposites, so that, if decisions are improperly made, they must owe their defeat to their own advocates; which is reprehensible. Further, in dealing with certain persons, even if we possessed the most accurate scientific knowledge, we should not find it easy to persuade them by the employment of such knowledge. For scientific discourse is concerned with instruction, but in the case of such persons instruction is impossible. Aristotle
193. Death is nothing to us, since when we are, death has not come, and when death has come, we are not.  
Edith Sitwell

194. I don't believe in an afterlife, so I don't have to spend my whole life fearing hell, or fearing heaven even more. For whatever the tortures of hell, I think the boredom of heaven would be even worse. Isaac Asimov
195. Man masters nature not by force but by understanding. This is why science has succeeded where magic failed: because it has looked for no spell to cast on nature. Jacob Bronowski
196. Life isn't fair. It's just fairer than death, that's all. Wally 'Famous' Amos
197. The fact that a believer is happier than a skeptic is no more to the point than the fact that a drunken man is happier than a sober one.  
Georg Christoph Lichtenberg
198. Such evil deeds could religion prompt.  
Jane Austen
199. 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. Peter Ustinov
200. Agnosticism is not properly described as a negative creed, nor indeed as a creed of any kind, except in so far as it expresses absolute faith in the validity of a principle, which is as much ethical as intellectual. This principle may be stated in various ways, but they all amount to this: that it is wrong for a man to say that he is certain of the objective truth of any proposition unless he can produce evidence which logically justifies that certainty.  
Thomas Henry Huxley