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# Quotes by Bachelard, Gaston

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Gaston Bachelard (June 27, 1884 – October 16, 1962) was a French philosopher and poet who rose to some of the most prestigious positions in the French academy despite his humble origins. He mainly taught philosophy of science, inventing the concept of epistemological block and the epistemological break (the word itself is almost never used by Bachelard, but became famous with Althusser). He influenced many French philosophers, among whom Michel Foucault.

Man is a creation of desire, not a creation of need.

- Bachelard, Gaston

Reverie is not a mind vacuum. It is rather the gift of an hour which knows the plenitude of the soul.

- Bachelard, Gaston

If I were asked to name the chief benefit of the house, I should say: the house shelters day-dreaming, the house protects the dreamer, the house allows one to dream in peace.

- Bachelard, Gaston

Ideas are invented only as correctives to the past. Through repeated rectification of this kind one may hope to disengage an idea that is valid.

- Bachelard, Gaston

Ideas are refined and multiplied in the commerce of minds. In their splendor, images effect a very simple communion of souls.

- Bachelard, Gaston

Man is an imagining being.

- Bachelard, Gaston

A special kind of beauty exists which is born in language, of language, and for language.

- Bachelard, Gaston

To live life well is to express life poorly; if one expresses life too well, one is living it no longer.

- Bachelard, Gaston

Literary imagination is an aesthetic object offered by a writer to a lover of books.

- Bachelard, Gaston

Two half philosophers will probably never a whole metaphysician make.

- Bachelard, Gaston

There is no original truth, only original error.

- Bachelard, Gaston

One must always maintain one's connection to the past and yet ceaselessly pull away from it. To remain in touch with the past requires a love of memory. To remain in touch with the past requires a constant imaginative effort.

- Bachelard, Gaston

The characteristic of scientific progress is our knowing that we did not know.

- Bachelard, Gaston

The repose of sleep refreshes only the body. It rarely sets the soul at rest. The repose of the night does not belong to us. It is not the possession of our being. Sleep opens within us an inn for phantoms. In the morning we must sweep out the shadows.

- Bachelard, Gaston

To feel most beautifully alive means to be reading something beautiful, ready always to apprehend in the flow of language the sudden flash of poetry.

- Bachelard, Gaston

Even a minor event in the life of a child is an event of that child's world and thus a world event.

- Bachelard, Gaston

I am a dreamer of words, of written words. I think I am reading; a word stops me. I leave the page. The syllables of the word begin to move around. Stressed accents begin to invert. The word abandons its meaning like an overload which is too heavy and prevents dreaming. Then words take on other meanings as if they had the right to be young. And the words wander away, looking in the nooks and crannies of vocabulary for new company, bad company.

- Bachelard, Gaston

The words of the world want to make sentences.

- Bachelard, Gaston

A word is a bud attempting to become a twig. How can one not dream while writing? It is the pen which dreams. The blank page gives the right to dream.

- Bachelard, Gaston





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