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Quotes about Identity

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An identity is questioned only when it is menaced, as when the mighty begin to fall, or when the wretched begin to rise, or when the stranger enters the gates, never, thereafter, to be a stranger. Identity would seem to be the garment with which one covers the nakedness of the self: in which case, it is best that the garment be loose, a little like the robes of the desert, through which one's nakedness can always be felt, and, sometimes, discerned. This trust in one's nakedness is all that gives one the power to change one's robes.

- Baldwin, James

An identity would seem to be arrived at by the way in which the person faces and uses his experience.

- Baldwin, James

It is always the same: once you are liberated, you are forced to ask who you are.

- Baudrillard, Jean

I'm Chevy Chase, and you're not.

- Chase, Chevy

Man may be defined as the animal that can say I, that can be aware of himself as a

separate entity.

- Fromm, Erich

The Beatles exist apart from my Self. I am not really Beatle George. Beatle George is like a suit or shirt that I once wore on occasion and until the end of my life people may see that shirt and mistake it for me.

- Harrison, George

Sir, a man may be so much of everything, that he is nothing of anything.

- Johnson, Samuel

I believe that man is in the last resort so free a being that his right to be what he believes himself to be cannot be contested.

- Lichtenberg, Georg C.

There comes a point in many people's lives when they can no longer play the role they have chosen for themselves. When that happens, we are like actors finding that someone has changed the play.

- Moore, Brian

The real meditation is... the meditation on one's identity. Ah, voil? une chose!! You try it. You try finding out why you're you and not somebody else. And who in the blazes are you anyhow? Ah, voil? une chose!

- Pound, Ezra

I know you are, but what am I? [As Pee-Wee Herman]

- Reubens, Paul

I is another.

- Rimbaud, Arthur

Identity is a bag and a gag. Yet it exists for me with all the force of a fatal disease.

Obviously I am here, a mind and a body. To say there's no proof my body exists would be arty and specious and if my mind is more ephemeral, less provable, the solution of being a writer with solid (touchable, tearable, burnable) books is as close as anyone has come to a perfect answer.

- Rossner, Judith

The minute you or anybody else knows what you are you are not it, you are what you or anybody else knows you are and as everything in living is made up of finding out what you are it is extraordinarily difficult really not to know what you are and yet to be that thing.

- Stein, Gertrude

I'm not Jack Nicholson. I'm not Brando. But I do mumble.

- Toro, Benicio Del

Trying to define yourself is like trying to bite your own teeth.

- Watts, Alan W.

I think the issues of "identity" mostly are poppycock. We are what we have done, which includes our promises, includes our hopes, but promises first.

- Berry, Wendell



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