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Quotes about Instinct

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There is not, in my opinion, anything more mysterious in nature than this instinct in animals, which thus rise above reason, and yet fall infinitely short of it.

- Addison, Joseph

Instinct is untaught ability.

- Bain, Alexander

An absolute can only be given in an intuition, while all the rest has to do with analysis. We call intuition here the sympathy by which one is transported into the interior of an object in order to coincide with what there is unique and consequently inexpressible in it. Analysis, on the contrary, is the operation which reduces the object to elements already known.

- Bergson, Henri L.

If men as individuals surrender to the call of their elementary instincts, avoiding pain and seeking satisfaction only for their own selves, the result for them all taken together must be a state of insecurity, of fear, and of promiscuous misery.

- Einstein, Albert

A few strong instincts and a few plain rules suffice us.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Instinct is the nose of the mind.

- Girardin, Madame de

Instinct is action taken in pursuance of a purpose, but without conscious perception of what the purpose is.

- Hartmann, Van

A goose flies by a chart which the Royal Geographical Society could not mend.

- Holmes, Oliver Wendell

Intuition and concepts constitute... the elements of all our knowledge, so that neither concepts without an intuition in some way corresponding to them, nor intuition without concepts, can yield knowledge.

- Kant, Immanuel

It is the rooted instinct in men to admire what is better and more beautiful than themselves.

- Lowell, James Russell

The active part of man consists of powerful instincts, some of which are gentle and continuous; others violent and short; some baser, some nobler, and all necessary.

- Newman, Francis W.

Instinct. When the house burns one forgets even lunch. Yes, but one eats it later in the ashes.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

The natural man has only two primal passions, to get and to beget.

- Osler, Sir William

What is peculiar in the life of a man consists not in his obedience, but his opposition, to his instincts. In one direction or another he strives to live a supernatural life.

- Thoreau, Henry David



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