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Quotes about Introspection

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What is interesting about self-analysis is that it leads nowhere -- it is an art form in itself.

- Brookner, Anita

Self-revelation is a cruel process. The real picture, the real you never emerges. Looking for it is as bewildering as trying to know how you really look. Ten different mirrors show you ten different faces.

- Deshpande, Shashi

The man whose whole activity is diverted to inner meditation becomes insensible to all his surroundings. If he loves, it is not to give himself, to blend in fecund union with another being, but to meditate on his love. His passions are mere appearances, being sterile. They are dissipated in futile imaginings, producing nothing external to themselves.

- Durkheim, Emile

The terrible fluidity of self-revelation.

- James, Henry

The mind can weave itself warmly in the cocoon of its own thoughts, and dwell a hermit anywhere.

- Lowell, James Russell

One receives as reward for much ennui, despondency, boredom --such as a solitude without friends, books, duties, passions must bring with it --those quarter-hours of profoundest contemplation within oneself and nature. He who completely entrenches himself against boredom also entrenches himself against himself: he will never get to drink the strongest refreshing draught from his own innermost fountain.

- Nietzsche, Friedrich

But when the self speaks to the self, who is speaking? The entombed soul, the spirit driven in, in, in to the central catacomb; the self that took the veil and left the world -- a coward perhaps, yet somehow beautiful, as it flits with its lantern restlessly up and down the dark corridors.

- Woolf, Virginia



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