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Quotes about Metaphysics

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I was thrown out of N.Y.U. my freshman year for cheating on my metaphysics final. You know, I looked within the soul of the boy sitting next to me.

- Allen, Woody

Two half philosophers will probably never a whole metaphysician make.

- Bachelard, Gaston

Metaphysics is the finding of bad reasons for what we believe upon instinct; but to find these reasons is no less an instinct.

- Bradley, Francis H.

Metaphysics means nothing but an unusually obstinate effort to think clearly.

- James, William

A little cooling down of animal excitability and instinct, a little loss of animal toughness, a little irritable weakness and descent of the pain-threshold, will bring the worm at the core of all our usual springs of delight into full view, and turn us into melancholy metaphysicians.

- James, William

The most heterogeneous ideas are yoked by violence together; nature and art are ransacked for illustrations, comparisons, and allusions; their learning instructs, and their subtlety surprises; but the reader commonly thinks his improvement dearly bought and, though he sometimes admires, is seldom pleased.

- Johnson, Samuel

A metaphysician is one who, when you remark that twice two makes four, demands to know what you mean by twice, what by two, what by makes, and what by four. For asking such questions metaphysicians are supported in oriental luxury in the universities, and respected as educated and intelligent men.

- Mencken, H. L.

That's metaphysics, my dear fellow. It's forbidden me by my doctor, my stomach won't take it.

- Pasternak, Boris

Metaphysics is a restaurant where they give you a thirty thousand page menu, and no food.

- Pirsig, Robert M.

Metaphysics abstracts the mind from the senses, and the poetic faculty must submerge the whole mind in the senses. Metaphysics soars up to universals, and the poetic faculty must plunge deep into particulars.

- Vico, Giambattista

Four thousand volumes of metaphysics will not teach us what the soul is.

- Voltaire

When he to whom a person speaks does not understand, and he who speaks does not understand himself, that is metaphysics.

- Voltaire



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