

Arthur Schopenhauer: Quotes & Facts

Blago Kirov



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This book is an anthology of quotes from Arthur Schopenhauer and selected facts about Arthur Schopenhauer. "Life without pain has no meaning." "Truth is most beautiful undraped." "Truth is no prostitute that throws herself away upon those who do not desire her; she is rather so coy a beauty that he who sacrifices everything to her cannot even then be sure of her favor." "Each day is a little life." "After your death, you will be what you were before your birth." "Science is not a taxi-cab that we can get in and out of whenever we like." "We can regard our life as a uselessly disturbing episode in the blissful repose of nothingness." "A genuine work of art, can never be false, nor can it be discredited through the lapse of time, for it does not present an opinion but the thing itself." "A high degree of intellect tends to make a man unsocial." "A man can be himself only so long as he is alone; and if he does not love solitude, he will not love freedom; for it is only when he is alone that he is really free." "A man can do what he wants, but not want what he wants." Schopenhauer is the son of Johanna Schopenhauer (née Trosiener) and Heinrich Floris Schopenhauer, both descendants of wealthy German patrician families. As early as 1799, Schopenhauer started playing the flute. Schopenhauer became a student at the University of Göttingen in 1809. In Dresden in 1819, Schopenhauer fathered, with a servant, an illegitimate daughter who was born and died the same year. In 1821, Schopenhauer fell in love with nineteen-year-old opera singer, Caroline Richter (called Medon), and had a relationship with her for several years. When he was forty-three years old, Schopenhauer took interest in seventeen-year-old Flora Weiss but she rejected him as recorded in her diary. Schopenhauer had a notably strained relationship with his mother Johanna Schopenhauer. After his father's death, Arthur Schopenhauer endured two long years of drudgery as a merchant, in honor of his dead father. Schopenhauer died of heart failure on 21 September 1860 while sitting at home on his couch. Music, for Schopenhauer, was the purest form of art because "is the only art that did not merely copy ideas, but actually embodied the will itself." He deemed music to be a timeless, universal language which is comprehended everywhere, and can imbue global enthusiasm, if in possession of a significant melody. Schopenhauer, by his own admission, did not give much thought to politics, and several times he writes proudly of how little attention he had paid "to political affairs of day Schopenhauer was adamantly against differing treatment of races, was fervently antislavery, and supported the abolitionist movement in the United States. Schopenhauer's controversial writings have influenced many, from Friedrich Nietzsche to nineteenth-century feminists.

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