

Blaise Pascal

Blaise Pascal (19 June 1623 – 19 August 1662) was a French mathematician, logician, physicist and theologian.

Note: All quotes from the *Pensées* are on that page.

Contents

Quotes

Discourses on the Condition of the Great
Conversation on Epictetus and Montaigne
On the Spirit of Geometry
The Art of Persuasion

Quotes about Pascal

Disputed

External links



To make light of philosophy is to be a true philosopher.

Quotes

- For as old age is that period of life most remote from infancy, who does not see that old age in this universal man ought not to be sought in the times nearest his birth, but in those most remote from it?
 - *Preface to the Treatise on Vacuum* (c.1651)
- *Je n'ai fait celle-ci plus longue que parce que je n'ai pas eu le loisir de la faire plus courte.*
 - **I would have written a shorter letter, but I did not have the time.**
 - *Provincial Letters*: Letter XVI (4 December 1656) (<https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/p/pascal/blaise/p27pr/part17.html>)
 - Literally: **I made this one [letter] longer only because I have not had the leisure to make it shorter.**
 - Such statements have also been attributed to Mark Twain, T.S. Eliot, Cicero, and others besides (<http://www.classy.dk/log/archive/001074.html>), but this article at Quote Investigator (<http://quoteinvestigator.com/2012/04/28/shorter-letter/>) concludes that Pascal's statement is likely the original source of the phrase.
- **People almost invariably arrive at their beliefs not on the basis of proof but on the basis of what they find attractive.**
 - *De l'Art de persuader* ["On the Art of Persuasion"], written 1658; published posthumously.



Our reason is always disappointed by the inconstancy of appearances.