

Teilhard de Chardin – Quotes

Matter is spirit moving slowly enough to be seen.

We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.

By virtue of Creation, and still more the Incarnation, nothing here below is profane for those who know how to see.

Is evolution a theory, a system or a hypothesis? It is much more: it is a general condition to which all theories, all hypotheses, all systems must bow and which they must satisfy henceforward if they are to be thinkable and true. Evolution is a light, illuminating all facts, a curve that all lines must follow.

...the story of life is no more than a movement of consciousness veiled by morphology.

Up until now, to adore has meant to prefer God to things by referring them to God and by sacrificing them to God. Now adoration means the giving of our body and soul to creative activity, joining that activity to God to bring the world to fulfillment by effort and intellectual exploration.

A world on the way to concentration of consciousness, you think, would be all joy? On the contrary, I answer. It is just such a world that is the most natural and necessary seat of suffering. Nothing is more beatific than union attained; nothing more laborious than the pursuit of union.

What a vast ocean of human suffering spreads over the entire earth at every moment! ... In suffering the ascending force of the world is concealed in a very intense form. The whole question is how to liberate it and give it a consciousness of its significance and potentialities. The world would leap high toward God if all the sick together were to turn their pain into a common desire that the Kingdom of God should come ...

Science will, in all probability, be increasingly impregnated by mysticism. Immersion and emergence; participation in all things and sublimation; possession and renunciation; crossing through and being borne onward – that is the twofold yet single movement which answers the challenge of matter in order to save it.

Truth has to appear only once, in one single mind, for it to be impossible for anything to ever prevent it from spreading universally and setting everything ablaze.

My self is given to me more than it is formed by me.

I believe that the universe is an evolution.

I believe that evolution proceeds toward spirit.

I believe that the spirit is fully realized in the form of personality.

I believe that the supremely personal is the universal Christ.

Our duty, as men and women, is to proceed as if limits to our ability did not exist. We are collaborators in creation.

The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope.

The future is more beautiful than all the pasts.

Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.

The most telling and profound way of describing the evolution of the universe would undoubtedly be to trace the evolution of love.

Love is an adventure and a conquest. It survives and develops like the universe itself only by perpetual discovery.

Love is the affinity which links and draws together the elements of the world... Love, in fact, is the agent of universal synthesis.

The most satisfying thing in life is to have been able to give a large part of one's self to others.

The truth is, indeed, that love is the threshold of another universe. There is neither spirit nor matter in the world; the stuff of the universe is spirit-matter. No other substance but this could produce the human molecule.

Some day, after we have mastered the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love. Then for the second time in the history of the world, we will have discovered fire.