

Quotations from Einstein.

Living Philosophies

1. "Full well do I know that in order to attain any definite goal it is imperative that one person should do the thinking and commanding and carry most of the responsibility. But those who are led should not be driven, and they should be allowed to choose their leader. ----I am convinced that degeneracy follows every autocratic system of violence, for violence inevitably attracts moral inferiors. Time has proved that illustrious tyrants are succeeded by scoundrels. " p 5
2. "For this reason I have always been passionately opposed to such regimes as exist in Russia and Italy to-day." 5
3. "This subject brings me to that vilest offspring of the herd mind - the odious militia. The man who enjoys marching in line and file to the strains of music falls below my contempt; he received his great brain by mistake - the spinal cord would have been amply sufficient. This heroism at command, this senseless violence, this accursed bombast of patriotism - how intensely I dispise them! War is low and despicable, and I had rather be smitten to shreds than participate in such doings." 6
4. "Ever since childhood I have scorned the commonplace limits so often set upon ambition. Possessions, outward success, publicity, luxury - to me these have always been contemptible. I believe that a simple and unassuming manner of life is best for everybndy, best both for the body and the mind" 4

Quotations

Cosmic Religion.

1. "}}-the individual feels the vanity of human desires and aims, and the nobility and marvelous order which are revealed in nature and in the world of thought. He feels the individual destiny as an imprisonment and seeks to experience the totality of existence as a unity full of significance". Cosmic Religion p 48
2. "To know that what is impenetrable to us really exists, manifesting itself as the highest wisdom and the most radiant beauty --- this knowledge, this feeling, is at the center of true religiousness". Living Philosophies p 6
3. "It is enough for me to contemplate the mystery of conscious life perpetuating itself through all eternity, to reflect upon the marvelous structure of the universe which we can dimly perceive, and to try humbly to comprehend even an infinitesimal part of the intelligence manifested in nature." ibid. 7

Militant Pacifism

1. "Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding". Cosmic Religion p 67
2. "I am of the opinion that all thinking men should take a solemn pledge never to participate in any military activity, directly or indirectly" ibid 66
3. "We all know that when a war comes, every man accepts the duty to commit a crime - the crime of killing - each man for his own country". ibid. p 58
4. "It is the community of solitary people who, always immune to epidemics of hatred, are striving for the extermination of war as the first goal in the moral health of mankind, which seems to them ~~inexplicable~~ incomparably more important than the special interest of their own nation or their own state". Albert Einstein by Reiser p 153