

# SOME MATHEMATICAL QUOTATIONS



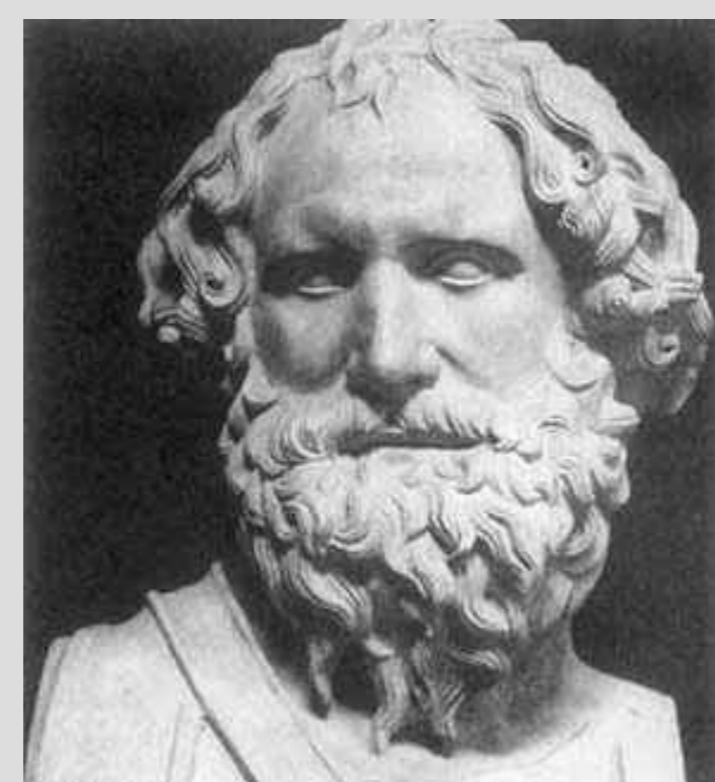
**Howard Aiken**  
1900 - 1973

Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats.



**Anaxagoras of Clazomenae**  
499 BC - 428 BC

There is no smallest among the small and no largest among the large, but always something still smaller and something still larger.



**Archimedes of Syracuse**  
287 BC - 212 BC

Give me a place to stand and I will move the earth.



**Charles Babbage**  
1791 - 1871

On two occasions I have been asked [by members of Parliament], 'Pray, Mr. Babbage, if you put into the machine wrong figures, will the right answers come out?' I am not able rightly to apprehend the kind of confusion of ideas that could provoke such a question.



**Stefan Banach**  
1892 - 1945

Mathematics is the most beautiful and most powerful creation of the human spirit. Mathematics is as old as Man.



**Eric Temple Bell**  
1883 - 1960

"Obvious" is the most dangerous word in mathematics.



**Jacob Bernoulli**  
1655 - 1705

*Eadem mutata resurgo*  
Although changed, I will rise again the same



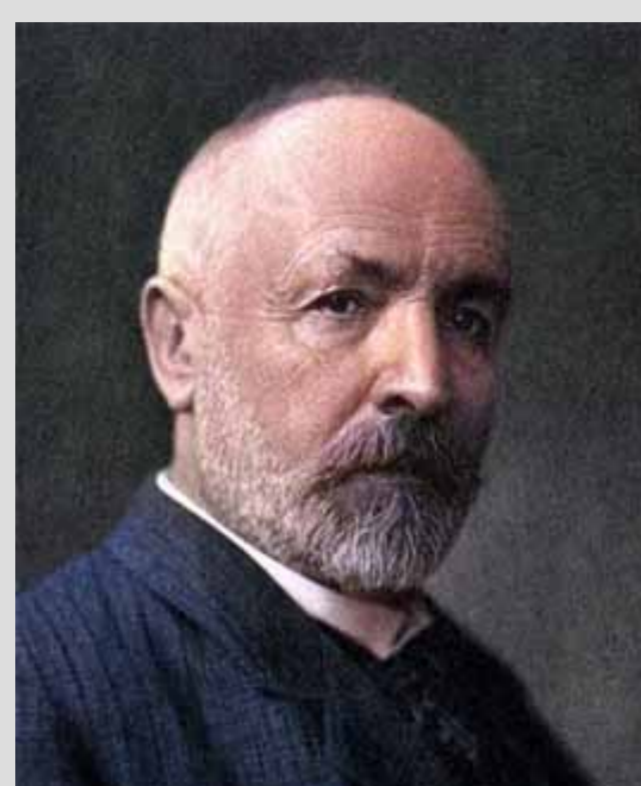
**Niels Bohr**  
1885 - 1962

Those who are not shocked when they first come across quantum mechanics cannot possibly have understood it.



**George Boole**  
1815 - 1864

No matter how correct a mathematical theorem may appear to be, one ought never to be satisfied that there was not something imperfect about it until it also gives the impression of being beautiful.



**Georg Cantor**  
1845 - 1918

In mathematics the art of proposing a question must be held of higher value than solving it.



**John Conway**  
1937 - 2020

You don't educate people by telling them useful things; you educate people by telling them interesting things.



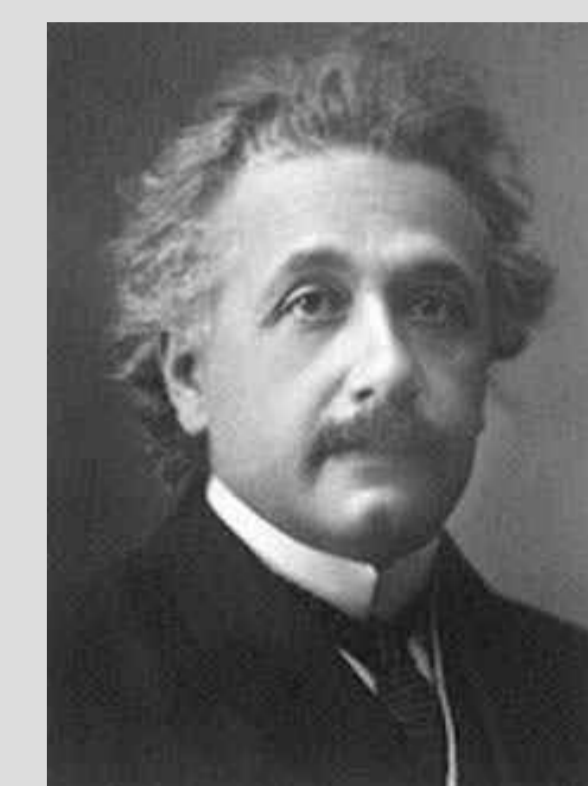
**Augustus De Morgan**  
1806 - 1871

It is easier to square the circle than to get round a mathematician.



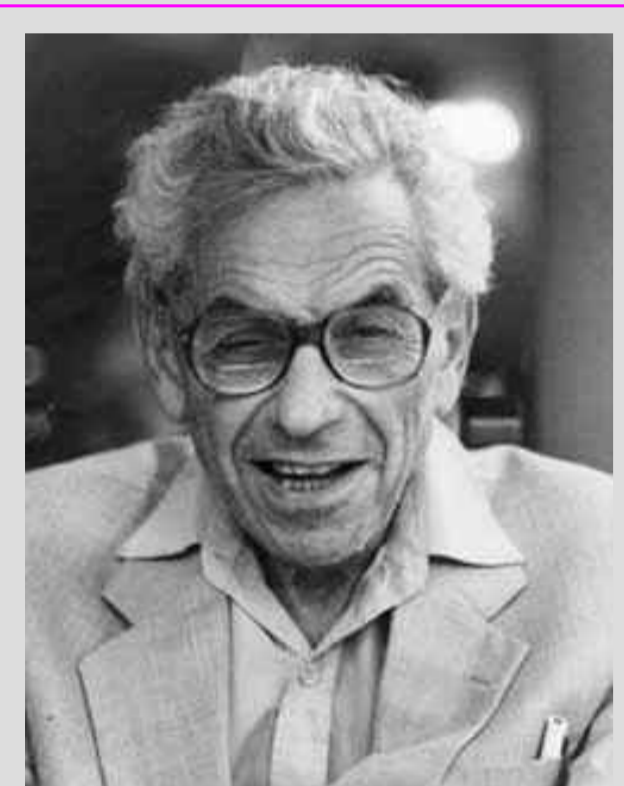
**René Descartes**  
1596 - 1650

If you would be a real seeker after truth, you must at least once in your life doubt, as far as possible, all things.



**Albert Einstein**  
1879 - 1955

The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science.



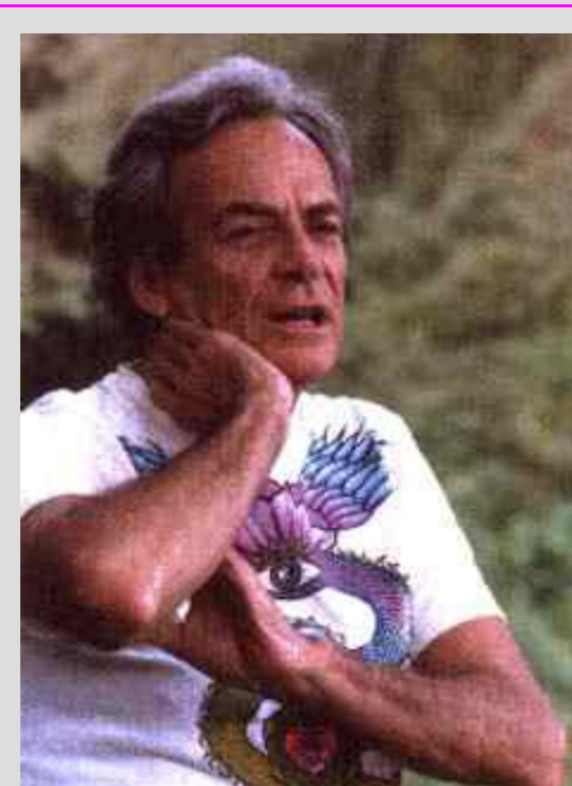
**Paul Erdős**  
1913 - 1996

Why are numbers beautiful? It's like asking why is Beethoven's Ninth Symphony beautiful. If you don't see why, someone can't tell you. I know numbers are beautiful. If they aren't beautiful, nothing is.



**Leonard Euler**  
1707 - 1783

Mathematicians have tried in vain to this day to discover some order in the sequence of prime numbers, and we have reason to believe that it is a mystery into which the human mind will never penetrate.



**Richard Feynman**  
1918 - 1988

Physics is like sex: sure, it may give some practical results, but that's not why we do it.



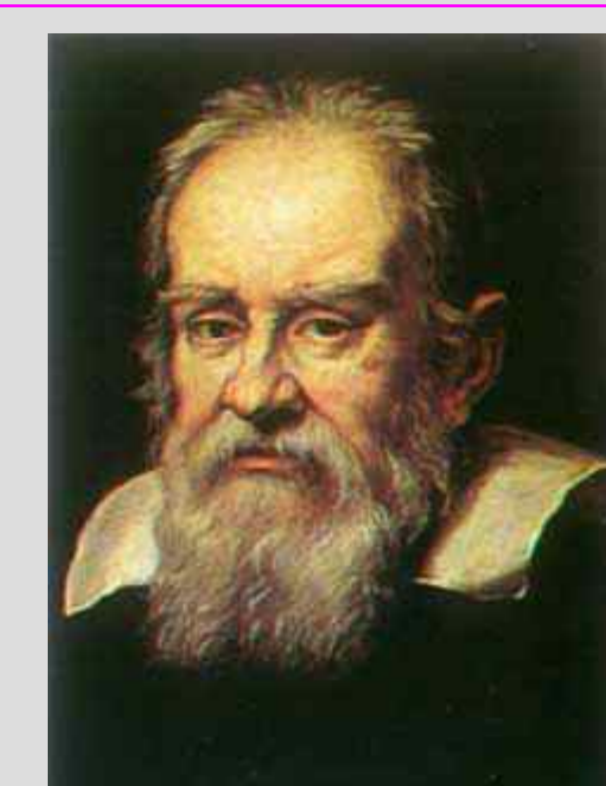
**Ronald Fisher**  
1890 - 1962

To call in the statistician after the experiment is done may be no more than asking him to perform a postmortem examination: he may be able to say what the experiment died of.



**Joseph Fourier**  
1768 - 1830

Mathematics compares the most diverse phenomena and discovers the secret analogies that unite them.



**Galileo Galilei**  
1564 - 1642

The laws of Nature are written in the language of mathematics ... the symbols are triangles, circles and other geometrical figures, without whose help it is impossible to comprehend a single word.



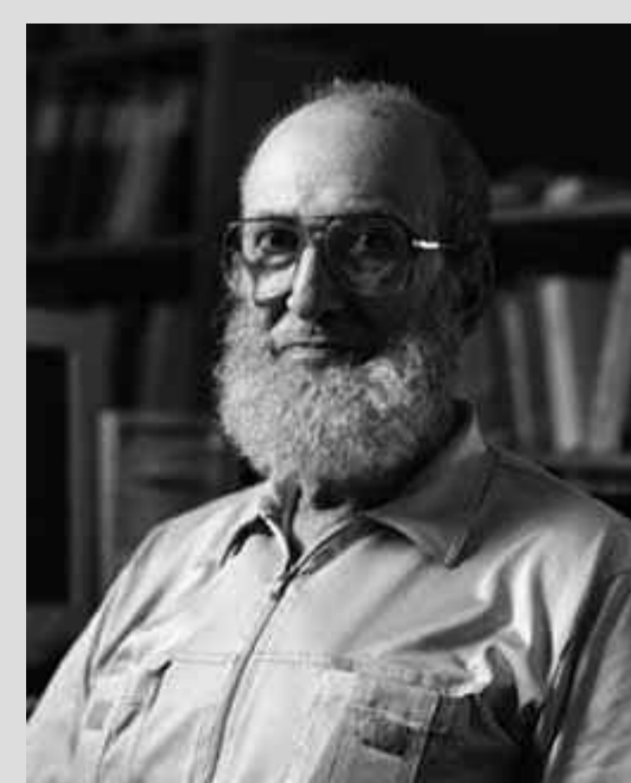
**Carl Friedrich Gauss**  
1777 - 1855

Mathematical discoveries, like springtime violets in the woods, have their season which no human can hasten or retard.



**Jacques Hadamard**  
1865 - 1963

Practical application is found by not looking for it, and one can say that the whole progress of civilization rests on that principle.



**Paul Halmos**  
1916 - 2006

When a student comes and asks, "Should I become a mathematician?" the answer should be no. If you have to ask, you shouldn't even ask.



**G H Hardy**  
1877 - 1947

In great mathematics there is a very high degree of unexpectedness, combined with inevitability and economy.



**David Hilbert**  
1862 - 1943

The art of doing mathematics consists in finding that special case which contains all the germs of generality.



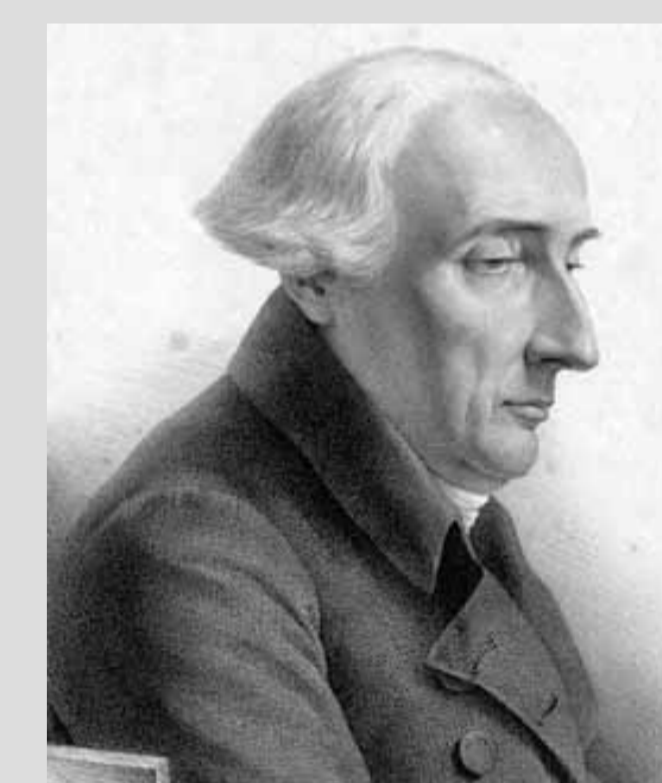
**Felix Klein**  
1849 - 1925

Everyone knows what a curve is, until he has studied enough mathematics to become confused through the countless number of possible exceptions.



**Sofia Kovalevskaya**  
1850 - 1891

It is impossible to be a mathematician without being a poet in soul.



**Joseph-Louis Lagrange**  
1736 - 1813

As long as algebra and geometry have been separated, their progress have been slow and their uses limited; but when these two sciences have been united, they have lent each mutual forces, and have marched together towards perfection.



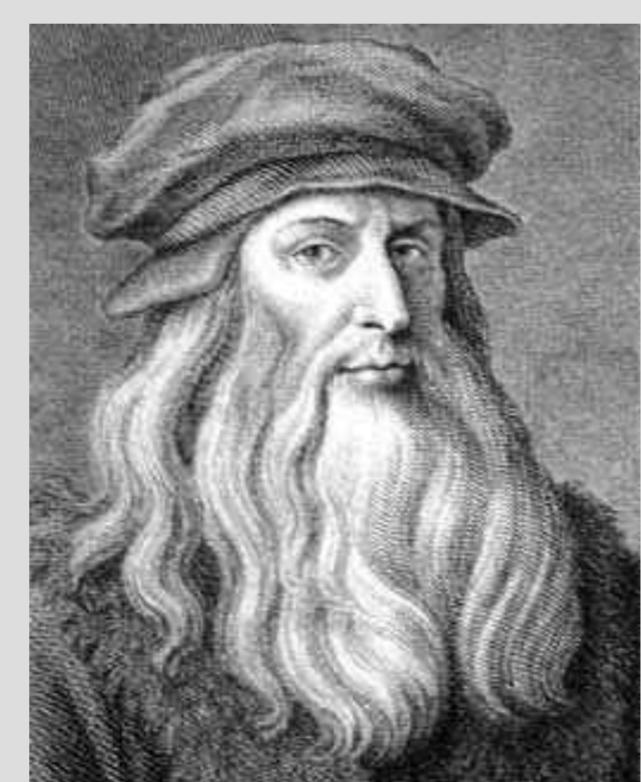
**Pierre-Simon Laplace**  
1749 - 1827

It is remarkable that the science of probabilities which began with the consideration of games of chance should have become the most important object of human knowledge.



**Gottfried Leibniz**  
1646 - 1716

The art of discovering the causes of phenomena, or true hypothesis, is like the art of deciphering, in which an ingenious conjecture greatly shortens the road.



**Leonardo da Vinci**  
1452 - 1519

Mechanics is the paradise of the mathematical sciences, because by means of it one comes to the fruits of mathematics.



**Isaac Newton**  
1643 - 1727

I know not what I appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the sea-shore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me.



**Blaise Pascal**  
1623 - 1662

We are usually convinced more easily by reasons we have found ourselves than by those which have occurred to others



**Henri Poincaré**  
1854 - 1912

Mathematical discoveries, small or great are never born of spontaneous generation They always presuppose a soil seeded with preliminary knowledge and well prepared by labour, both conscious and subconscious.



**George Pólya**  
1887 - 1985

When introduced at the wrong time or place, good logic may be the worst enemy of good teaching.



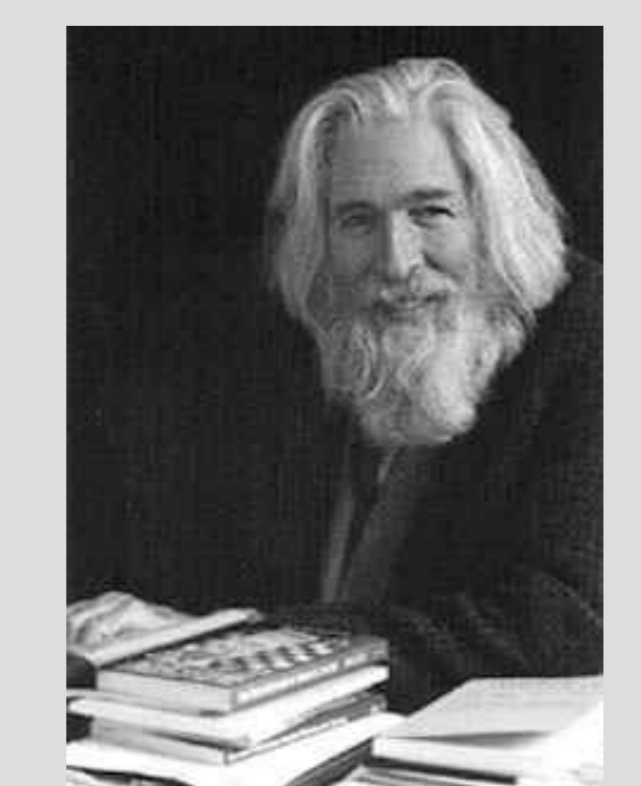
**Frank Ramsey**  
1903 - 1930

Suppose a contradiction were to be found in the axioms of set theory. Do you seriously believe that a bridge would fall down?



**Bertrand Russell**  
1872 - 1970

Mathematics, rightly viewed, possesses not only truth, but supreme beauty -- a beauty cold and austere, like that of sculpture.



**Raymond Smullyan**  
1919 - 2017

Some people are always critical of vague statements. I tend rather to be critical of precise statements; they are the only ones which can correctly be labeled 'wrong'.



**James Joseph Sylvester**  
1814 - 1897

May not music be described as the mathematics of the sense, mathematics as music of the reason?



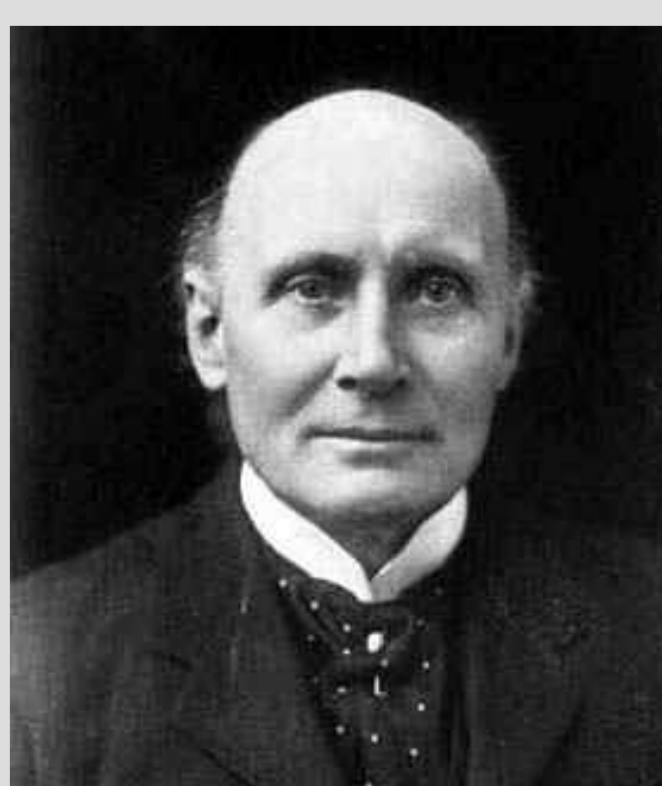
**Alan Turing**  
1912 - 1954

A computer would deserve to be called intelligent if it could deceive a human into believing that it was human.



**John von Neumann**  
1903 - 1957

If people do not believe that mathematics is simple, it is only because they do not realize how complicated life is.



**Alfred North Whitehead**  
1861 - 1947

Mathematics, in its widest significance, is the development of all types of formal, necessary, deductive reasoning.