

Now part of [my consciousness] lives on the Internet and seems to stay there all the time ...
“Real life” is just one more window. — Christine Boese, reporting on findings by MIT professor Sherry Turkle (pg. 338)

Information lasts only so long as someone cares about it. (pg.329)

Whether data or wisdom, information will survive only if we want it to. By extension, we can only live for as long as we care about ourselves. Already our knowledge to control disease and aging is advanced to the point that your *attitude* toward your own longevity is now the most important influence on your long-range health. (pg.330)

Later this century it will seem remarkable to people that humans in an earlier era lived their lives without a backup of their most precious information: that contained in their brains and bodies. (pg.325)

Is death desirable? The “inevitability” of death is deeply ingrained in human thinking. If death seems unavoidable, we have little choice but to rationalize it as necessary, even ennobling. The technology of the Singularity will provide practical and accessible means for humans to evolve into something greater, so we will no longer need to rationalize death as a primary means of giving meaning to life. (pg.326)

“If the mind were simple enough for us to understand, we would be too simple to understand it.”
—Peter D. Kramer (pg.169)

“Although we have the illusion of receiving high-resolution images from our eyes, what the optic nerve actually sends to the brain is just outlines and clues about points of interest in our visual field. We then essentially hallucinate the world from cortical memories that interpret a series of extremely low-resolution movies that arrive in parallel channels.” (pg.186)

My body is temporary. Its particles turn over almost completely every month. Only the pattern of my body and brain have continuity. (pg.371)

So am I constantly being replaced by someone else who just seems a lot like the me of a few moments earlier? (pg.385)

Religion is the smile on a dog...
Religion is a light in the fog...
—Edie Brickell, “What I Am”

If you could blow the brain up to the size of a mill and walk around inside, you would not find consciousness. — G. W. Leibniz

Dreams are real while they last; can we say more of life? — Havelock Ellis

Information is not knowledge (pg.372)

When people speak of losing part of themselves when a loved one dies, they are speaking quite literally, since we lose the ability to use the neural patterns in our brain that had self organized to interact with that person. (pg.372)

The primary problems we cannot solve are ones that we cannot articulate and are mostly ones of which we are not yet aware. (pg 372)

Employment in factories and farms has gone from 60 percent to 6 percent in the United States in the past century. (pg.340)