

HAITIAN PROVERBS

The Haitian people are a people of proverbs. Proverbs reflect the wisdom and philosophy of the Haitian way of life. They are memorized and recited at gatherings - one has only to say the first word of a proverb for the rest to chime in! The fact that these proverbs are subject to many interpretations make them ageless and a lively source of conversation. Below are some favorite proverbs of the Haitian people:

- 1) When you're not your natural self, you don't do anything well.**
- 2) When your garden is far away, you're not wasteful with your food.**
- 3) It's the last drop that caused the glass to overflow.**
- 4) When you do good, time passes quickly.**
- 5) If you don't use your head, your feet are going to do a lot of walking.**
- 6) You must sleep at John's house before you know how he snores.**
- 7) Education is the work of your entire life.**
- 8) Nobody knows what's under the jacket.**
- 9) Two heads have two different opinions.**
- 10) When in trouble, you're not supposed to sleep too soundly.**
- 11) What the eye doesn't see doesn't move the heart.**
- 12) Behind the mountains, more mountains.**
- 13) Rocks in the water don't know the misery of rocks in the sun.**
- 14) A single finger can't eat okra.**
- 15) The house that leaks can fool the sun but it can't fool the rain.**
- 16) Only when the serpent dies do you know its true length.**
- 17) A beautiful burial does not guarantee heaven.**
- 18) Little pots get the big pot filled.**
- 19) Make fun of the short man but don't make fun of the man who is naked.**