

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.