

## Proverbs

### African proverbs

*Discuss the following proverbs with your class. You may want to give several proverbs to small groups of students, and have them discuss and present what they think it means and how it applies to their own lives.*

A feeble effort will not fulfill the self (Dogon)

Between true friends even water drunk together is sweet enough (Zimbabwe)

A ripe melon falls by itself (Zimbabwe)

The dead say to each other "Dead one" (Mandinka)  
i.e., "the pot calling the kettle black"

A student doesn't know about masterhood but a master knows about studenthood (Mandinka)

Having a good discussion is like having riches (Kenya)

A master drummer must have seven eyes (West)

Every time an old man dies it is as if a library has burnt down -Chiek Oumar Ba- (Mandinka West Africa)

Words are spoken with their shells, let the wise man come to shuck them (West African, Mossi)

Lack of knowledge is darker than night (Nigeria, Hausa)



When the drumbeat changes, the Dance changes (Nigeria, Hausa)

He who rides the horse of greed at a gallop will pull it up at the door of shame (West Africa, Fulani)

Justice today, injustice tomorrow, that is not good government (Ghana, Asante)

If you want someone more knowledgeable than yourself to identify a bird you do not first remove the feathers.

The bitter heart eats it's owner (Tswana)

Until Lions have their own historians tales of the hunt will always glorify the hunter (Igbo, Nigeria)

A Tiger does not have to proclaim his Tigritude (Nigeria, Wole Soyinka)

A family is like a forest, when you are outside it is dense, when you are inside you see that each tree has it's place (Ghana, Akan)

The hunter in pursuit of an elephant does not stop to throw stones at birds (Uganda).

If all seeds that fall were to grow, then no one could follow the path under the trees (Akan).

Even the mightiest eagle comes down to the tree tops to rest (Uganda).

A man does not wander far from where his corn is roasting (Nigeria)

Proverbs compiled by and presented with permission from Kane Mathis