

Haitian Proverbs



Sè lè koulèv mouri, ou konn longè li.
*Only when the serpent dies
do you know its true length.*

Bwa pi wo di li wè, grenn pwenmennen di li
wè pase l.
*The high tree says he sees far, the walking
(traveling) seed says he sees farther.*

Yon sèl dwèt pa manje kalalou.
A single finger can't eat okra.

Bèl antèman pa di paradi.
*A beautiful burial does not guarantee
heaven.*

Konstitisyon se papye, bayonèt se fè.
*The constitution is made of paper, but the
bayonet is made of steel.*

Ròch nan dlo pa konnen mizè ròch nan
solèy.
*Rocks in the water don't know the misery
of rocks in the sun.*

Sa je pa wè kè pa tounen.
*What the eye doesn't see,
doesn't move the heart.*

Kay koule tronpe solèy, men li pa
tronpe lapli.
*The house that leaks can fool the sun,
but it can't fool the rain.*

Dèyè mòn gen mòn.
Behind the mountains, more mountains.

*These are just a few of the
hundreds of Haitian proverbs.*