

Assata Shakur

Quotes

*People, Thinking, Struggle, Government, Believe, Black, Country, Racism,
Revolutionary, Fighting, Running, Taken, War, Justice, Trying, Men, Giving,
Cuba, Vision, Strong*

Nobody in the world, nobody in history, has ever gotten their freedom by appealing to the moral sense of the people who were oppressing them.

~Assata Shakur

We need to be weapons of mass construction, weapons of mass love. It's not enough just to change the system. We need to change ourselves.

~Assata Shakur

It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains.

~Assata Shakur

Only a fool lets somebody else tell him who his enemy is....never let your enemies choose your enemies for you.

~Assata Shakur

Only the strong go crazy. The weak just go along.

~Assata Shakur

I have declared war on the rich who prosper on our poverty, the politicians who lie to us with smiling faces, and all the mindless, heartless, robots who protect them and their property.

~Assata Shakur

Where there is oppression, there will be resistance.

~Assata Shakur

Black revolutionaries do not drop from the moon. We are created by our conditions. Shaped by our oppression.

~Assata Shakur

Dreams and reality are opposites. Action synthesizes them.

~Assata Shakur

To become free, you have to be acutely aware of being a slave.

~Assata Shakur

I don't have to live up to that Superwoman myth. I can cry and be human and lean on people who take care of me. That can be very liberating.

~Assata Shakur

Peace is a rare gift. Peace of mind, peaceful sleeps, and peaceful spirits are all luxuries that few rebels can ever afford.

~Assata Shakur

No one is going to give you the education you need to overthrow them.

~Assata Shakur

We usually reach success by putting the simple truths that we know into practice.

~Assata Shakur

I think that, like many sisters, I was raised to be a Superwoman. I am a serious woman, and I want to be taken seriously.

~Assata Shakur

We're living in a very tricky world, and unless we become analytical and expose the tricknology, people will become sucked into that. It is very easy, it is very, very easy.

~Assata Shakur

When you go through all your life processing and abusing your hair so it will look like the hair of another race of people then you are making a statement and the statement is clear

~Assata Shakur

I think that in order to struggle you have to be creative. In my life, creativity has been something that has sustained me; it awoke my spiritual struggle.

~Assata Shakur

Some people spell "good" with two o's and some people spell it with one... and there shouldn't be a contradiction between that.

~Assata Shakur

The first part of planning is to believe that you can put that plan into practise.

~Assata Shakur

i Believe In The Fire Of Love And The Sweat Of Truth

~Assata Shakur

I believe in living, I believe in birth, I believe in the sweat of love and in the fire of truth and I believe that a lost ship, steered by tired, sea sick sailors, can still be guided home to port

~Assata Shakur

The U. S. is becoming more hostile to Black people and other people of color. Racism is running rampant and xenophobia is on the rise

~Assata Shakur

My life wasn't beautiful and creative before I became politically active. My life was totally changed when I began to struggle.

~Assata Shakur

People get used to anything. The less you think about your oppression, the more your tolerance for it grows.

~Assata Shakur

People are tried and convicted in the newspapers and on television before they ever see a courtroom.

~Assata Shakur

Part of being a revolutionary is creating a vision that is more humane. That is more fun, too. That is more loving. It's really working to create something beautiful.

~Assata Shakur

And if I know anything at all, it's that a wall is just a wall and nothing more at all. It can be broken down.

~Assata Shakur

If we are not committed to saving this earth we will be buying designer air filters and gas masks with little Nike swishes on them.

~Assata Shakur

When Black people seriously organize and take up arms to fight for our liberation, there will be a lot of white people who will drop dead from no other reason than their own guilt and fear.

~Assata Shakur

I was sentenced to life plus 30 years by an all-White jury. What I saw in prison was wall-to-wall Black flesh in chains. Women caged in cells. But we're the terrorists. It just doesn't make sense.

~Assata Shakur

Like all other Black revolutionaries, Amerika is trying to lynch me.

~Assata Shakur

A revolutionary woman can't have no reactionary man.

~Assata Shakur

Being a warrior and being a struggler has been forced on me by

oppression, otherwise I would have been free to be so much more.

~Assata Shakur

We're taught at such an early age to be against the communists, yet most of us don't have the faintest idea what communism is. Only a fool lets somebody else tell him who his enemy is.

~Assata Shakur

I've always been a student of different ways of looking at the world, different religions. That's been part of my survival mechanism, and also part of my curiosity as a person.

~Assata Shakur

A woman's place is in the struggle.

~Assata Shakur

Hip Hop can be a very effective way to reach young people and teach them about current political and social issues.

~Assata Shakur

All you have to do is ask yourselves, who controls the government?
And who are the victims of that control?

~Assata Shakur

The government recognized immediately that Rap music has enormous revolutionary potential and politicians immediately came together to end it.

~Assata Shakur

Imperialism is the underlying motor of racism. The underlying reason that racism keeps on being promoted in all of its various forms.

~Assata Shakur

Are you ready to sacrifice to end world hunger? To sacrifice to end

colonialism? To end neo-colonialism? To end racism? To end sexism?

~Assata Shakur

In the long run, the people are our only appeal. The only ones who can free us are ourselves.

~Assata Shakur

How lovely it is to live with a sense of community. To live where you can drop in the street and a million people will come and help you.

~Assata Shakur

The methods of peaceful protests are not capable of being effective, because in reality most people pay little attention to things that are not abrasive.

~Assata Shakur

The death penalty is used in such a blatantly racist way in the United States. There is no way that can be defended under any kind of definition of justice by anybody.

~Assata Shakur

I stay connected in my head. I'm spiritually and psychologically connected to African-Americans. They are my people, and that will never change.

~Assata Shakur

My energy just couldn't stop dancing. I was caught up in the music of struggle, and i wanted to dance.

~Assata Shakur

I've tried as much as possible to avoid the standard nine-to-five thing. I've tried to organize my life so that I can move around, change the rhythm and the tempo.

~Assata Shakur

The abnormal, the sick, the vicious have become more and more interwoven into the violent culture of the United States. Into the way news is seen, into the way movies are seen.

~Assata Shakur

I think anybody who is honestly struggling against racism must struggle against imperialism and vice versa.

~Assata Shakur

It is only for the sake of those without hope that hope is given to us.

~Assata Shakur

I have been a political activist most of my life and many groups have attempted to label me as a criminal because of my outspoken beliefs. I am not a criminal and I have never been one.

~Assata Shakur

People ask me if I miss the States. I miss African Americans. But not the U.S. government or all the things they put me through. I miss African American culture, our speech, dance and cooking.

~Assata Shakur

I believe in self-defense and self-determination for Africans and other oppressed people in America.

~Assata Shakur

The people who are running this planet are insane - they are literally destroying it. I don't know where they think they're gonna drink water, breathe air.

~Assata Shakur

People think that in order for something to work, it has to be complicated, but a lot of times the opposite is true. We usually reach success by putting the simple truths that we know into practice.

~Assata Shakur

We are pregnant with freedom.

~Assata Shakur

I couldn't see how we could seriously struggle without having a strong sense of collectivity, without being responsible FOR each other and TO each other.

~Assata Shakur

I can't do nothin except try to find cloud nine.

~Assata Shakur

Cuba has its own moral system and priorities. That's what keeps it going, the belief that the country can control its own destiny.

~Assata Shakur

Tourism has affected Cuba, because tourists come and they bring racist, sexist ideas. They bring a whole vision that there are rich people all over the world and that's the way it should be.

~Assata Shakur

I believe in life. And I have seen the death parade

~Assata Shakur

What most impressed me about Cuba was the optimism.

~Assata Shakur

I think that any time anybody gets rid of oppression, intervention, exploitation, cruelty - that's positive.

~Assata Shakur

It never occurred to me that anyone would name a nuclear missile "Peacekeeper". It never occurred to me that thousands of people would

be killed in the name of "peace-keeping".

~Assata Shakur

A lot of contemporary American culture makes its way to this county. Cuba is not some gray, isolated backwater. This is a happening place.

~Assata Shakur

I must confess that waltzes do not move me, I guess I hummed the blues too early, and spent too many midnights out wailing to the rain.

~Assata Shakur

When I was a child, if someone had talked to me about buying water, I would have thought it was a joke.

~Assata Shakur

People come telling the truth. When I ask how things are in the States, they don't give me the okeydoke. They say, "Honey, things are hard." It reminds me I have to keep struggling.

~Assata Shakur

Racism had grown out of slavery and exploitation and was very hard to eradicate quickly and completely.

~Assata Shakur

Theory without practice is just as incomplete as practice without theory.

~Assata Shakur

I realized that I was connected to Africa.

~Assata Shakur

I think that one of the great things that the Cuban revolution has done is preserve history.

~Assata Shakur

I worked, studied, mothered and continued to be an activist. I found that Cuba was much different from the US; its government was genuinely trying to erase racism.

~Assata Shakur

Every person that steps up and commits to social change helps solidify the black movement cause. It is not easy for those who fill in the leader role.

~Assata Shakur

I miss friends and family. If it weren't for visits from old friends and other African Americans I meet who come to Cuba, I'd probably be in some kind of time warp.

~Assata Shakur

I had to adjust to living in a Third World country, which means that things people in the U.S. take for granted-like hot running water whenever you turn on the tap-are not always available.

~Assata Shakur

I'm crafting a vision of my life that involves creativity. And Cuban society allows me to do this. I know it's harder in the U.S. where so many people are just grateful to have a job.

~Assata Shakur

My fantasy of Cuba was that everybody was going to be going around looking like Fidel, with green uniforms - and it was very different from my vision of how Cuba was going to be.

~Assata Shakur

I'm truly blessed, because many of my friends come to Cuba. They like it here-they can relax and not worry about drive-by shootings or getting raped.

~Assata Shakur

If the U.S. succeeds in destroying the revolution, my status will be like that of most Cubans: I'll be up a creek without a paddle. It will be devastating for people worldwide who believe in justice.

~Assata Shakur

I have advocated and I still advocate revolutionary change

~Assata Shakur

I think it's really hard to plan if you don't believe you can implement those plans.

~Assata Shakur

I think that people who want to change this planet have to seriously understand that as human beings we have to work to be good.

~Assata Shakur

This planet is a wonderful place, but a vulnerable place.

~Assata Shakur

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