

Audre Lorde

Quotes

Differences, Silence, Self, Believe, Pain, Men, Inspirational, People, Black, Erotic, Names, Inspiring, Children, Writing, Dream, Feminist, Mother, Giving, Ideas, Racism

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

~Audre Lorde

When I dare to be powerful - to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.

~Audre Lorde

There is no thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.

~Audre Lorde

Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.

~Audre Lorde

When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak.

~Audre Lorde

If I didn't define myself for myself, I would be crunched into other people's fantasies for me and eaten alive.

~Audre Lorde

I am not free while any woman is unfree, even when her shackles are very different from my own.

~Audre Lorde

Tomorrow belongs to those of us who conceive of it as belonging to everyone; who lend the best of ourselves to it, and with joy.

~Audre Lorde

I have come to believe over and over again that what is most important to me must be spoken, made verbal and shared, even at the risk of

having it bruised or misunderstood.

~Audre Lorde

If I cannot air this pain and alter it, I will surely die of it. That's the beginning of social protest.

~Audre Lorde

Divide and conquer must become define and empower.

~Audre Lorde

Institutionalized rejection of difference is an absolute necessity in a profit economy which needs outsiders as surplus people.

~Audre Lorde

Oppression is as American as apple pie.

~Audre Lorde

Unless one lives and loves in the trenches, it is difficult to remember that the war against dehumanization is ceaseless.

~Audre Lorde

The true focus of revolutionary change is never merely the oppressive situations that we seek to escape, but that piece of the oppressor which is planted deep within each of us.

~Audre Lorde

â€žOnce we recognize what it is we are feeling, once we recognize we can feel deeply, love deeply, can feel joy, then we will demand that all parts of our lives produce that kind of joy.

~Audre Lorde

In other words, I would be giving in to a myth of sameness which I think can destroy us.

~Audre Lorde

Sometimes we are blessed with being able to choose the time, and the arena, and the manner of our revolution, but more usually we must do battle where we are standing.

~Audre Lorde

I have come to believe that caring for myself is not self-indulgent. Caring for myself is an act of survival.

~Audre Lorde

We tend to think of the erotic as an easy, tantalizing sexual arousal. I speak of the erotic as the deepest life force, a force which moves us toward living in a fundamental way.

~Audre Lorde

The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house.

~Audre Lorde

Revolution is not a one time event.

~Audre Lorde

I realize that if I wait until I am no longer afraid to act, write, speak, be, I'll be sending messages on a Ouija board, cryptic complaints from the other side

~Audre Lorde

It is not the destiny of Black America to repeat white America's mistakes. But we will, if we mistake the trappings of success in a sick society for the signs of a meaningful life.

~Audre Lorde

Without community, there is no liberation.

~Audre Lorde

...and that visibility which makes us most vulnerable is that which also

is the source of our greatest strength.

~Audre Lorde

I am a bleak heroism of words that refuse to be buried alive with the liars.

~Audre Lorde

We must wake up knowing we have work to do and go to bed knowing we've done it.

~Audre Lorde

...my experience with people who tried to label me was that they usually did it to either dismiss me or use me.

~Audre Lorde

I am deliberate and afraid of nothing.

~Audre Lorde

Your silence will not protect you.

~Audre Lorde

You are the one that you are looking for.

~Audre Lorde

One pays a lot, we all pay a lot, for awareness.

~Audre Lorde

What woman here is so enamored of her own oppression that she cannot see her heel print upon another woman's face?

~Audre Lorde

Our visions begin with our desires.

~Audre Lorde

The learning process is something you can incite, literally incite, like a riot.

~Audre Lorde

Life is very short and what we have to do must be done in the now.

~Audre Lorde

I was going to die, if not sooner, then later, whether or not I had ever spoken myself. My silences had not protected me. Your silence will not protect you.

~Audre Lorde

Nothing I accept about myself can be used against me to diminish me.

~Audre Lorde

When you reach out and touch other human beings, it doesn't matter whether you call it therapy or teaching or poetry.

~Audre Lorde

I want to live the rest of my life, however long or short, with as much sweetness as I can decently manage, loving all the people I love, and doing as much as I can of the work I still have to do.

~Audre Lorde

We are all in the process of becoming.

~Audre Lorde

Because the machine will try to grind you into dust anyway, whether or not we speak.

~Audre Lorde

Well, I do not want to be tolerated, nor misnamed. I want to be recognized.

~Audre Lorde

... it is not difference which immobilizes us, but silence.

~Audre Lorde

I am still learning - how to take joy in all the people I am, how to use all my selves in the service of what I believe, how to accept when I fail and rejoice when I succeed.

~Audre Lorde

I started writing because I had a need inside of me to create something that was not there

~Audre Lorde

Each time you love, love as deeply as if it were forever.

~Audre Lorde

In our work and in our living, we must recognize that difference is a reason for celebration and growth, rather than a reason for destruction.

~Audre Lorde

What are the words you do not yet have? What do you need to say? What are the tyrannies you swallow day by day and attempt to make your own, until you will sicken and die of them, still in silence.

~Audre Lorde

Art is not living. It is the use of living. The artist has the ability to take the living and use it in a certain way and produce art.

~Audre Lorde

Our feelings are our most genuine paths to knowledge.

~Audre Lorde

Wherever the bird with no feet flew, she found trees with no limbs.

~Audre Lorde

For women, then, poetry is not a luxury. It is a vital necessity of our existence.

~Audre Lorde

We have to consciously study how to be tender with each other until it becomes a habit because what was native has been stolen from us, the love of Black women for each other.

~Audre Lorde

What I most regretted were my silences. Of what had I ever been afraid?

~Audre Lorde

Every Black woman in America lives her life somewhere along a wide curve of ancient and unexpressed angers.

~Audre Lorde

You cannot use someone else's fire. You can only use your own. And in order to do that, you must first be willing to believe that you have it.

~Audre Lorde

We are all more blind to what we have than to what we have not.

~Audre Lorde

Without community, there is no liberation...but community must not mean a shedding of our differences, nor the pathetic pretense that these differences do not exist.

~Audre Lorde

There are no new ideas. There are only new ways of making them felt.

~Audre Lorde

I am not only a casualty, I am also a warrior.

~Audre Lorde

Anger, used, does not destroy. Hatred does.

~Audre Lorde

Pain is important: how we evade it, how we succumb to it, how we deal with it, how we transcend it.

~Audre Lorde

Change is the immediate responsibility of each of us, wherever and however we are standing, in whatever arena we choose.

~Audre Lorde

I believe one of the hardest things you can do is conquer your fears, but if you have a goal, then it's your job to open up and let it be real no matter how scary it seems.

~Audre Lorde

What do we want from each other after we have told our stories

~Audre Lorde

We have been raised to fear the yes within ourselves, our deepest cravings.

~Audre Lorde

Battling racism and battling heterosexism and battling apartheid share the same urgency inside me as battling cancer.

~Audre Lorde

But the true feminist deals out of a lesbian consciousness whether or not she ever sleeps with women.

~Audre Lorde

The oppression of women knows no ethnic nor racial boundaries, true, but that does not mean it is identical within those boundaries.

~Audre Lorde

I am a Black Lesbian Feminist Warrior Poet Mother, stronger for all my identities, and I am indivisible.

~Audre Lorde

Only by learning to live in harmony with your contradictions can you keep it all afloat.

~Audre Lorde

Self-care is not about self-indulgence , it is about self-preservation.

~Audre Lorde

The erotic has often been misnamed by men and used against women. It has been made into the confused, the trivial, the psychotic, the plasticized sensation.

~Audre Lorde

The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us temporarily to beat him at his own game, but they will never allow us to bring about genuine change.

~Audre Lorde

How much of this truth can I bear to see and still live unblinded? How much of this pain can I use?

~Audre Lorde

The transformation of silence into language and action is an act of self-revelation .

~Audre Lorde

Anger is loaded with information and energy.

~Audre Lorde

Guilt is not a response to anger; it is a response to one's own actions or lack of action.

~Audre Lorde

Art is not living. It is the use of living.

~Audre Lorde

Poetry is the way we help give name to the nameless so it can be thought.

~Audre Lorde

It's a struggle but that's why we exist, so that another generation of Lesbians of color will not have to invent themselves, or their history, all over again.

~Audre Lorde

The erotic is a measure between the beginnings of our sense of self and the chaos of our strongest feelings.

~Audre Lorde

to that piece in each of us that refuses to be silent.

~Audre Lorde

The white fathers told us: I think, therefore I am. The black goddess within each of us - the poet - whispers in our dreams: I feel, therefore I can be free.

~Audre Lorde

I am my best work - a series of road maps, reports, recipes, doodles, and prayers from the front lines.

~Audre Lorde

Even the smallest victory is never to be taken for granted. Each victory must be applauded.

~Audre Lorde

The sixties were characterized by a heady belief in instantaneous solutions.

~Audre Lorde

. . . it is through poetry that we give name to those ideas which are-until the poem-nameless and formless, about to be birthed, but already felt.

~Audre Lorde

Part of the lesbian consciousness is an absolute recognition of the erotic within our lives and, taking that a step further, dealing with the erotic not only in sexual terms.

~Audre Lorde

Differences must be not merely tolerated, but seen as a fund of necessary polarities between which our creativity can spark like a dialectic.

~Audre Lorde

I am a reflection of my mother's secret poetry as well as of her hidden angers

~Audre Lorde

Raising Black children-female and male-in the mouth of a racist, sexist, suicidal dragon is perilous and chancy. If they cannot love and resist at the same time, they will probably not survive.

~Audre Lorde

Anger is an appropriate reaction to racist attitudes, as is fury when the actions arising from those attitudes do not change.

~Audre Lorde

Some words live in my throat breeding like adders. Others know sun seeking like gypsies over my tongue to explode through my lips

~Audre Lorde

I learned so much from listening to people. And all I knew was, the only thing I had was honesty and openness.

~Audre Lorde

Guilt and defensiveness are bricks in a wall against which we all flounder; they serve none of our futures.

~Audre Lorde

Poetry is not only dream and vision; it is the skeleton architecture of our lives. It lays the foundations for a future of change, a bridge across our fears of what has never been before.

~Audre Lorde

Silence has never brought us anything of worth.

~Audre Lorde

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