

# John Henrik Clarke

## Quotes

*People, Men, Thinking, Mother, Pyramids, World, Father, Believe, Children, Church, School, Mean, Firsts, Land, Tests, Europe, Looks, White, Equal, Islam*

Powerful people cannot afford to educate the people that they oppress, because once you are truly educated, you will not ask for power. You will take it.

~John Henrik Clarke

White people think when you love yourself you hate them. No, when I love myself they become irrelevant to me.

~John Henrik Clarke

What I have learned is that a whole lot of people with degrees don't know a damn thing, and a lot of people with no degrees are brilliant.

~John Henrik Clarke

If we are going to be masters of our destiny, we must be masters of the ideas that influence that destiny.

~John Henrik Clarke

Most human behavior is controlled by images. Image is a factor in how people look at themselves and what they use to reflect themselves. The control of images is a major factor in world power.

~John Henrik Clarke

To be black and beautiful means nothing in this world unless we are black and powerful.

~John Henrik Clarke

It's time for Black people to stop playing the separating game of geography, of where the slave ship put us down. We must concentrate on where the slave ship picked us up.

~John Henrik Clarke

We will have taken one giant step forward when we face this reality: Powerful people never teach powerless people how to take their power away from them.

~John Henrik Clarke

Nothing the European mind ever devised was meant to do anything but to facilitate the European's control over the world.

~John Henrik Clarke

Whoever is in control of the hell in your life, is your devil.

~John Henrik Clarke

Egypt gave birth to what later would become known as 'Western Civilization,' long before the greatness of Greece and Rome.

~John Henrik Clarke

A people's relationship to their heritage is the same as the relationship of a child to its mother.

~John Henrik Clarke

I will only debate with my equals. All others I teach.

~John Henrik Clarke

Africa is our center of gravity, our cultural and spiritual mother and father, our beating heart, no matter where we live on the face of this earth.

~John Henrik Clarke

Every form of true education trains the student in self-reliance

~John Henrik Clarke

...education has but one honorable purpose, one alone, everything else is a waste of time.....that is to train the student to be a proper handler of power.

~John Henrik Clarke

Anytime you turn on your own concept of God, you are no longer a free

man. No one needs to put chains on your body, because the chains are on your mind.

~John Henrik Clarke

Everything that touches YOUR life, must be an instrument of YOUR liberation or tossed into the trash cans of HISTORY

~John Henrik Clarke

To hold a people in oppression you have to convince them first that they are supposed to be oppressed.

~John Henrik Clarke

The role of religions in the domination and destruction of African civilizations was ruthless... Islam was as guilty as all the rest.

~John Henrik Clarke

Each generation must assume the responsibility of securing their manhood, their womanhood, the definition of their being on earth that in the final analysis is nationhood.

~John Henrik Clarke

I question the political judgement of those who would have the nerve to paint Christ white with his obvious African nose, lips and wooly hair.

~John Henrik Clarke

A good teacher, like a good entertainer first must hold his audience's attention, then he can teach his lesson.

~John Henrik Clarke

She was not a white woman. She was not a Greek... Until the emergence of the doctrine of white superiority, Cleopatra was generally pictured as a distinctly African woman, dark in color.

~John Henrik Clarke

Malcolm X found the language that communicated across the board, from college professor to floor sweeper, all at the same time, without demeaning the intellect of either.

~John Henrik Clarke

I don't attend any particular church now. I don't believe in denominations, nor do I believe in organized religion.

~John Henrik Clarke

Slavery ended and left its false images of black people intact

~John Henrik Clarke

The first light of human consciousness and the world's first civilizations were in Africa.

~John Henrik Clarke

African people need to stop shouting 'nationtime' until they are clear about the responsibilities of running a nation.

~John Henrik Clarke

Anytime someone says your God is ugly and you release your God and join their God, there is no hope for your freedom until you once more believe in your own concept of the 'deity.'

~John Henrik Clarke

You can see in our churches most of the males are pastors. Most of the deacons are males. But if the woman withdrew her support from our churches, you'd have to close the doors.

~John Henrik Clarke

There was a time when all dark-skinned people were called Ethiopians, for the Greeks referred to Africa as, 'The Land Of The Burnt-Face People.'

~John Henrik Clarke

Violence among all people is based on dissatisfaction, frustration and crushed ambition and people who don't know who to strike at and who to blame, and not willing to blame themselves.

~John Henrik Clarke

When the early Europeans first met Africans, at the crossroads of history, it was a respectful meeting and the Africans were not slaves. Their nations were old before Europe was born.

~John Henrik Clarke

The impact of racism has changed our look at ourselves because basically racism was meant to make us look unfaithfully at ourselves, and to not treasure our institutions.

~John Henrik Clarke

Service is the highest form of prayer as far as I am concerned.

~John Henrik Clarke

If people do not know where they have been and what they have been they don't know what they are. They don't know where they going to have to go or where they still have to be.

~John Henrik Clarke

In Africa, the woman was co-equal. In Europe, the woman was a vassal. To some extent, she still is.

~John Henrik Clarke

We 've lost something else: the relationship between men and women.

~John Henrik Clarke

Europeans not only colonized most of the world, they colonized information about the world.

~John Henrik Clarke

I am a nationalist, and a Pan-Africanist, first and foremost. I was well grounded in history before ever taking a history course. I did not spend much formal time in school - I had to work.

~John Henrik Clarke

If we don't unite, chances are we will go back into slavery.

~John Henrik Clarke

I think that you're just as close to Jesus if you use the equipment he gave you other than to call on him to do for you what you can do for yourself.

~John Henrik Clarke

Educating a child won't be difficult if you get through to the parent.

~John Henrik Clarke

My loving sister Mary has always shared the pain and pleasure of my heartbeat in a unique and special way. We have sung our sad and warm songs together.

~John Henrik Clarke

I could pull all kinds of games on my mother. I couldn't pull any games on my father.

~John Henrik Clarke

If you don't like the situation, if you are afraid and can't deal with it, nothing wrong with your legs, get out of there.

~John Henrik Clarke

To make one people better than the other would be ungodly in the first place.

~John Henrik Clarke

In the closing years of the nineteenth century, African-American

historians began to look at their people's history from their vantage point and their point of view.

~John Henrik Clarke

Your behavior determines, to some extent, the destiny of your nation and your group.

~John Henrik Clarke

We're all in a test. With or without God, we're in a test.

~John Henrik Clarke

I have walked majestically with kings and queens and presidents and other heads of states.

~John Henrik Clarke

If you struck your mother or your father, it was punishable by death because you struck at the whole society. You struck at the morality of the society itself. This is what we have lost.

~John Henrik Clarke

What we might have been dealing with here - with the building of the Pyramids - is an age that got lost. Man had to learn again what they previously had known.

~John Henrik Clarke

Some of us say, "Lord knows how much I can bear". I think you can assume that you can bear more than you have a right to bear.

~John Henrik Clarke

There are some long silences in Scandinavian and some Japanese films, when the audience knows action is taking place, but the audience hears no action.

~John Henrik Clarke



I believe in doing good for good's sake.

~John Henrik Clarke

In a collective society, everybody's business is everybody's business.

~John Henrik Clarke

The Arabs are deep in the slave trade right now.

~John Henrik Clarke

History is a compass that you locate yourself on the map of human geography, politically, culturally, financially.

~John Henrik Clarke

Man's attitude towards the universe and his opinion of the universe predates the scientific probe of the universe.

~John Henrik Clarke

If I lead the field in any way, it is in the area of curricula development, study guides and other teaching materials.

~John Henrik Clarke

Man's most intelligent age may have gotten lost in history.

~John Henrik Clarke

This kind of collective society - giving to each according to his need - existed in Africa not only before Karl Marx, but also before Europe.

~John Henrik Clarke

I think many times we charge the Lord for things we can do ourselves. If only we realized how well we have been equipped.

~John Henrik Clarke

When people laugh at your institutions and convince you that you have to adopt theirs - adopt their dress, adopt their taste in food - you are a

prisoner to those people.

~John Henrik Clarke

You walk out in the street, we don't know if we're going to get across.  
It's a test.

~John Henrik Clarke

Whoever the Lord is, he'd give us a facility. He's given you hands, legs and might so you use that facility to rise above the lowly status. Failing that, he gave you two good legs, just run like hell.

~John Henrik Clarke

In the United States, the Supreme Court's decision of 1954, outlawing segregation in school systems, was greeted with mixed feelings of hope and skepticism by African-Americans.

~John Henrik Clarke

The standard reason for Thanksgiving doesn't mean nothing to me.

~John Henrik Clarke

History is like a clock, it tells you your time of day.

~John Henrik Clarke

You should not bear insults.

~John Henrik Clarke

If God is love, then God has no stepchildren to love.

~John Henrik Clarke

All life is a test one way or the other.

~John Henrik Clarke

People rise and fall on the basis of the makings of institutions.

~John Henrik Clarke

We never see ourselves as heroes and sometimes when we do it is a hero that has made a fortune as a clown or a boxer. And there is no lasting value in either one of those.

~John Henrik Clarke

I believe in spirituality, which is out there.

~John Henrik Clarke

You shouldn't bear humiliations.

~John Henrik Clarke

The African had opinions about the universe that eventually turned out to be true.

~John Henrik Clarke

The one thing you never integrate at the ruin of your own pleasure is your institutions.

~John Henrik Clarke

Your group has a right and responsibility to preside over your behavior and you have a responsibility to make that behavior in a manner that does not endanger the group.

~John Henrik Clarke

What example do you have of anything like the Pyramids outside of Africa? You have them in Mexico, but that can be traced to early African migration. So the African created mound culture.

~John Henrik Clarke

Clowns don't build institutions, nor do boxers.

~John Henrik Clarke

No more religion anymore. No more who's a Moslem and who's a Protestant.

~John Henrik Clarke

I attended a Baptist church as a child and was an avid reader starting with the Bible.

~John Henrik Clarke

With no specific procedure, man arrived at sweeping conclusions about the universe that have proven to be true.

~John Henrik Clarke

Eat bread. You don't know if it's been polluted. Drink water, you don't know whether it's been polluted. So living is a test.

~John Henrik Clarke

I make a special point of working on Thanksgiving Day. I have friends I go out with but I even make it plain to them. The standard reason for Thanksgiving doesn't mean nothing to me.

~John Henrik Clarke

Attending church is one thing, belonging is another.

~John Henrik Clarke

You look at the Pyramids. They're not one fraction of an inch off in terms of their alignment. They were built without a bonding agent.

~John Henrik Clarke

The white woman has never had the co-equal status that the African woman has had.

~John Henrik Clarke

I think that Jesus-dependency has taken over our minds, and too many of our institutions.

~John Henrik Clarke

We're in a world of propaganda. Some of it is all too effective.

~John Henrik Clarke

Break all the TVs, burn all the Bibles.

~John Henrik Clarke

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