

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Quotes

*Basketball, Thinking, Athlete, Motivational, Player, Sports, People, Team,
Years, Play, Games, Jobs, Inspirational, School, Guy, Cancer, Opportunity,
Baseball, Teacher, Real*

One man can be a crucial ingredient on a team, but one man cannot make a team.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I would suggest that teachers show their students concrete examples of the negative effects of the actions that gangsta rappers glorify.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

High school dropouts are forfeiting their opportunity to pursue the American Dream.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

You can't win unless you learn how to lose.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I think that the good and the great are only separated by the willingness to sacrifice.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

My most memorable moment came in 1985 as we beat the Boston Celtics.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Five guys on the court working together can achieve more than five talented individuals who come and go as individuals.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Good thoughts are no better than good dreams, unless they are executed.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I think the NBA players have to be held accountable in a reasonable way, just like any other professionals.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

If ISIS represents Islam, then the KKK represents Christianity

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I try to do the right thing at the right time. They may just be little things, but usually they make the difference between winning and losing.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Great players are willing to give up their own personal achievement for the achievement of the group. It enhances everybody.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

A lot of players think the game is all about individual performances when it's really all about a team game.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I think race has been a burden for black Americans. Being Muslim has also been a challenge because so many people do not understand Islam.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I tell kids to pursue their basketball dreams, but I tell them to not let that be their only dream.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I'm not comfortable being preachy, but more people need to start spending as much time in the library as they do on the basketball court.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Fundamental preparation is always effective. Work on those parts of your game that are fundamentally weak.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

One man cannot make a team.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

You have to be able to center yourself, to let all of your emotions go... Don't ever forget that you play with your soul as well as your body.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

The extra pass and the extra effort on defense always get the job done.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

The saying, "Those that don't learn from history are condemned to repeat it" doesn't just apply to politicians and world leaders, it applies to all of us on a daily basis.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

My choosing Islam was not a political statement; it was a spiritual statement.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I think someone should explain to the child that it's OK to make mistakes. That's how we learn. When we compete, we make mistakes.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

My mother had to send me to the movies with my birth certificate, so that I wouldn't have to pay the extra fifty cents that the adults had to pay.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

You can't win if you don't play as a unit.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Your mind is what makes everything else work.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I saw Islam as the correct way to live, and I chose to try to live that way.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I was latching on to something that was part of my heritage, because many of the slaves who were brought here were Moslems.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

When we went up against teams that were better, I just hoped that we could steal the victories.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Islam is about finding your own space.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

In a typical history book, black Americans are mentioned in the context of slavery or civil rights. There's so much more to the story.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

The word 'leukemia' is a very frightening word. In many instances, it's a killer and it's something that you have to deal with in a very serious and determined way if you're going to beat it.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I can do something else besides stuff a ball through a hoop. My biggest resource is my mind.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

It's hard for young players to see the big picture. They just see three or four years down the road.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

When I was at UCLA, the Harlem Globetrotters offered me a million dollars to come play for them. I turned it down because my education

was just as important as playing ball.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I didn't really seek attention. I just wanted to play the game well and go home.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

When you're a coach you've got to go up the ladder, you've got to be ready to travel. That's the nature of coaching

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Some stuff can be fixed, some stuff can't be. Deciding which is which is part of maturing.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Center is a very tough position to play.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

As a parent, I have a job as a role model to my children, and by extension, to other young people.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

What we need are positive, realistic goals and the willingness to work. Hard work and practical goals.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

What I have is P.H. positive chronic myeloid leukemia, which is an aberration in your white blood cells.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Common decency demands that [NCAA athletes] should be paid, but the only way it will happen is the same way workers got paid throughout American history, through a strong union.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

In athletics there's always been a willingness to cheat if it looks like you're not cheating. I think that's just a quirk of human nature.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

My biggest resource is my mind.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Jackie Robinson, as an athlete and as someone who was trying to make a stand for equality, he was exemplary.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Yoga is just good for you.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I love basketball, but playing basketball doesn't fully define who I am. I was always a good student, too.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I expect more people from China and Asia to end up in the NBA.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I'm not going to disappear.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I listen to jazz mainly. Mainstream jazz.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

When the line started to blur between the fans and the players, sometimes things can get ugly.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

As brilliant an individual that Michael Jordan was, he was not successful until he got with a good team unit.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I felt that a number of people might have questioned my loyalty, but I continue to be a patriotic American.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

A team will always appreciate a great individual if he's willing to sacrifice for the group.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I'm still my parent's child, I'm still me, but I made a choice. I evolved into Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. I think it has to do with evolution.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I hope to be involved in a successful movie script.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I wanted to play baseball!

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

The transition was difficult. It's hard to stop something that you've enjoyed and that has been very rewarding.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I feel that there has been progress made since I was a boy on matters of race, but we have a long way to go.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I've had enough success for two lifetimes, My success is talent put together with hard work and luck.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

The game has basically not changed since I ended my career.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

When I was a kid, no one would believe anything positive that you

could say about black people. That's a terrible burden.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Alexander Hamilton realized that warfare was part and parcel of human nature, and it's something we had to prepare for.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I am highly offended by the total lack of acknowledgement of my contribution to Laker success.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I've had a desire to coach for years. This was something I felt I should do.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

People still cheat on their wives, that hasn't fallen out of fashion. We all speak of it badly, but it has not fallen out of fashion.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I think black Americans expect too much from individual black Americans in terms of changing the status quo.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Black people don't have an accurate idea of their history, which has been either suppressed or distorted.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

You play with your soul as well as your body.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I think Kwame will be an asset to the Lakers.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I think the NBA will certainly survive without Michael Jordan.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Culture and politics were inseparable [in the Sixties], which gave a soundtrack to political awareness and activism.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Michael Jordan and Magic and myself, all learned how to play the game in college programs that emphasized the team.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I read that Hollywood wanted to film *Fences* years ago with a white director, but [August] Wilson refused. He thought that the director needed to have lived the culture of black Americans.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

In the Western standards of modesty, there are different guidelines.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

After practice, I would have to go back to the dorm and take a nap.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I had a moment like that with Wilt (Chamberlain). He knocked me out of bounds, I came back and faked him, came across the middle and dunked on him.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I have been coaching recently. I coached high school basketball in Arizona, and I hope that more opportunities become available.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I've never been a person to share my private life, but I can help save lives.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

The lifespan of most professional athletes is relatively short, and most have no preparation for doing anything after their career ends, which it could in an instant.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

The only reason is that I hadn't seen The Modern Jazz Quartet perform live and a live performance is often where the real experience of jazz takes place. I'm not familiar with the Boswell Sisters.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I totally alienated some reporters as I retreated.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I want to do as little as possible when I finish playing ball - just spend a lot more time with my family.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I was a baseball fan myself, I wanted to play baseball.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

We all had a lot of fun making the film ["Airplane"], but there weren't a lot of outtakes or cracking up because we all were focused on doing our jobs in a professional manner.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Even when there are adverse circumstances, I try to do my job. And I usually do.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

If not shown appreciation, it gets to you.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

This is what I would have done if I had to have a real job: I would have been a history teacher.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Well, I'm a professional.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

[Coaching] is a difficult job which everyone who owns a TV thinks they can do better at.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I was just starting out acting [doing "Airplane"] and wanted to be taken as a professional, not as an athlete doing a cameo.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I'm not exaggerating when I say that the 761st was Patton's best tank unit and nobody knew about it.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

When the doctor told me I had cancer, I was scared.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I'm the baddest among the bad guys.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

With 300 million people in America, you can fail to impress 299 million of them and still go platinum.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Justice should be blind especially color-blind and able to fairly deal with the very real need for honest law enforcement.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I need about three seats lengthwise to sleep on a plane. It's not easy for me to curl up.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

I rooted for the Dodgers when they were in Brooklyn.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

There are rap groups that have a positive outlook in their art. These groups should be shown as an alternative to gangsta rap.

~Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

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