

# Paul Laurence Dunbar Quotes

*Heart, Lying, Dream, Prayer, Eye, Laughing, Godly, Writing, Smile, Sleep, Joy,  
Men, Sight, Conceited, Dying, Views, Debt, Caged Birds, Black, Tortured Souls*

..we wear the mask that grins and lies, it hides our cheeks and shades our eyes- this debt we pay to human guile; with torn and bleeding hearts we smile.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

Hope is tenacious. It goes on living and working when science has dealt it what should be its deathblow.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

With our short sight we affect to take a comprehensive view of eternity. Our horizon is the universe.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

I hope there is something worthy in my writings and not merely the novelty of a black face associated with the power to rhyme that has attracted attention.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

A minute to smile and an hour to weep in, A pint of joy to a peck of trouble, And never a laugh but the moans come double; And that is life!

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

Only the rich are lonesome.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

Poor conceited humanity! Interpreters of God indeed.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

All play and no work makes Jack a mere toy.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

We reduce the deity to vulgar fractions. We place our own little ambitions and label them ?divine messages?. With our short sight we affect to take a comprehensive view of eternity.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

I know what the caged bird feels, alas!

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

A song fluttered down in the form of a dove, And it bore me a message,  
the one word-Love!

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

We wear the mask that grins and lies.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

Taking it all in all and after all, negro life in Washington is a promise  
rather than a fulfillment. But it is worthy of note for the really excellent  
things which are promised

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

Washington is the city where the big men of little towns come to be  
disillusioned

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

This, this indeed is to be accursed, For if we mortals love, or if we sing,  
We count our joys not by what we have, But by what kept us from that  
perfect thing.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

Money is a great dignifier.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

Slight was the thing I bought, small was the debt I thought, Poor was  
the loan at best - God! but the interest!

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

Oh, how with more than dreams the soul is torn, ere sleep comes down

to soothe the weary eyes.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

The age is materialistic. Verse isn't. I must be with the age, so I am writing prose.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

It's all a farce, - these tales they tell  
About the breezes sighing, And  
moans astir o'er field and dell,  
Because the year is dying.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

You are sweet, O Love, dear Love,  
You are soft as the nesting  
dove. Come to my heart and bring it rest  
As the bird flies home to its  
welcome nest.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core.

~Paul Laurence Dunbar

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- Men Quotes
- Sight Quotes
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