

# Talib Kweli

## Quotes

*Hip Hop, People, Rap, Artist, Thinking, Art, Rapper, New York, Song, Looks, Community, Mean, Way, Writing, Blessing, Kids, Struggle, College, Careers, Records*

A flower that grow in the ghetto know more about survival than the one from fresh meadows.

~Talib Kweli

Skip the religion and politics, head straight to the compassion.  
Everything else is a distraction.

~Talib Kweli

I ignored your aura but it grabbed me by the hand, like the moon pulled the tide, and the tide pulled the sand.

~Talib Kweli

Do the math: You never settle for less than the whole if you knew the half.

~Talib Kweli

You gotta get back to your essence, Use your gifts and share your presence,  
Don't count your dollars 'til you count your blessings.

~Talib Kweli

Life without knowledge is death in disguise.

~Talib Kweli

The beautiful thing about hip-hop is it's like an audio collage. You can take any form of music and do it in a hip-hop way and it'll be a hip-hop song. That's the only music you can do that with.

~Talib Kweli

If lyrics sold then truth be told/I'd probably be just as rich and famous as Jay-Z.

~Talib Kweli

I'm at a loss for words. But even my loss is amplified.

~Talib Kweli

You know, there's a lot of activism that doesn't deal with empowerment, and you have to empower yourself in order to be relevant to any type of struggle.

~Talib Kweli

When you shine bright, some won't enjoy the shadow you cast.

~Talib Kweli

Hip-hop isn't as complex as a woman is.

~Talib Kweli

Just because no one can understand how you speak, Don't necessarily mean that what you be sayin is deep.

~Talib Kweli

We get high on all types of drugs when, all you really need is Love

~Talib Kweli

You make knowledge relevant to life and you make it important for children to learn things that will really relate to things going on in their lives, and not abstract.

~Talib Kweli

You can have your own opinion, but not your own facts.

~Talib Kweli

If you ain't using all the talents God provided you with For the betterment of Man, understand, You ain't nothing but a waste.

~Talib Kweli

Nowadays rap artists coming half-hearted, Commercial like pop, or underground like black markets. Where were you the day hip-hop died? Is it too early to mourn? Is it too late to ride?

~Talib Kweli

A true artist does not depend on radio for success. A true fan does not let radio determine what they support

~Talib Kweli

The responsibility of an artist is to be honest with themselves.

~Talib Kweli

I don't care if Rick Ross is 40 years old -- he's a misguided 40-year-old person.

~Talib Kweli

There just needs to be a gay rapper who's better than everybody. That's when that question will no longer be able to be asked.

~Talib Kweli

I think hip hop is a dance music that's rebellious by nature.

~Talib Kweli

Life is a beautiful struggle.

~Talib Kweli

I not only wanted to showcase lyrical skills but also continue to drop knowledge on the hiphop community. Im looking to elevate through my music, and through my music I educate.

~Talib Kweli

War is not civilized.

~Talib Kweli

You have to know when to be arrogant. You have to when to be humble. You have to know when to be hard and you have to know when to be soft.

~Talib Kweli

I'm not looking to set a standard... but, I believe I have offered a challenge to others with my work.

~Talib Kweli

So I think hip-hop is moving and is going to continue to move in the direction of rappers just being honest with themselves, whether you're talking about Common and Mos Def or Nas and 50 cent.

~Talib Kweli

When I met you it was magic... We polar opposites, but attracted like we was magnets.

~Talib Kweli

You gotta eat right, you gotta have healthy habits, you know, and balance out your decadence with a healthy lifestyle during the day.

~Talib Kweli

We send young white boys to the Army. We're sending young black boys to the prisons.

~Talib Kweli

The problem with our role is Americans live in a world of illusion.

~Talib Kweli

Woman are complex creatures.

~Talib Kweli

We're in an illusion about what our role is in world politics and foreign affairs, and our policies are killing and destroying and doing a lot of things that we are not aware of.

~Talib Kweli

But it becomes disrespectful when the artist's process is not respected.

~Talib Kweli

Well if somebody's giving me a script, I'll consider it. But it's not something I'm chasing.

~Talib Kweli

Once you're signed to a label you compromise.

~Talib Kweli

Even an independent label is looking for a hit, they're not looking for a record that's not gonna do well.

~Talib Kweli

God gave us music, so we play with our words.

~Talib Kweli

I have enough rhythm to blend at this point. I have enough rhythm to blend one song into another. But man, I have such respect for the art of deejaying. I hesitate to even call myself a deejay.

~Talib Kweli

Ain't nobody making music to not be heard and the easiest way to be heard is to be on the radio, but you should never compromise who you are, your values or your morals.

~Talib Kweli

Hip-hop is a vehicle.

~Talib Kweli

People consider Black Star a great album, and I think it's a classic album. But the fact is, both me and Mos Def have made better albums since Black Star.

~Talib Kweli

There are staples to my show. I have to be conscious about switching things up because I know people who saw me last year will say, 'He did

that last time.' But if certain things work, they work.

~Talib Kweli

I don't feel comfortable making empty music.

~Talib Kweli

And you know, art as commerce, doesn't really make too much sense, they don't go together.

~Talib Kweli

Young kids should be doing music that has shock value. They'll grow out of it.

~Talib Kweli

I like the fact that I can rep New York, but my style does not - I'm not trapped in a New York thing. I can do art songs with other artists and it's seamless.

~Talib Kweli

As an artist, I have to be a leader of my fans, not like follow them. Because if I chose to follow them, you know, they could do it.

~Talib Kweli

The most important time in history is - NOW - the present, So count your blessings cause time can't define the essence.

~Talib Kweli

Consider me the entity within the industry without a history of spitting the epitome of stupidity.

~Talib Kweli

I have such respect for the art of deejaying. I hesitate to even call myself a deejay.

~Talib Kweli

Honestly, you have to take care of yourself. That's probably something I have learned on the road.

~Talib Kweli

I started rapping because I wanted people to hear what I have to say, I want as many people to hear me as possible, and I do everything in my power to make that pop.

~Talib Kweli

Who you? Your name smaller than fine grains in couscous It's the highest calibre, your calibre is deuce deuce

~Talib Kweli

Harry Belafonte hit me to the Dream Defenders and I liked what they were about. When I asked them how I could help their movement, they said, "You can help by coming down here; you can tweet."

~Talib Kweli

I listened to a mind joint, and I wanted to do my own version of it, and what you hear on my mixtape is my take on what the whole CD sounds like.

~Talib Kweli

We commute to computers Spirits stay mute while you eagles spread rumors We survivalists, turned to consumers.

~Talib Kweli

If you go to a college campus and you do stop and frisk, you're going to find a lot of drugs there too.

~Talib Kweli

My rhymes are like shot clocks, interstate cops and blood clots, my point is your flow gets stopped.

~Talib Kweli



The way I see it, if people truly love my music, they will support me in some way down the road.

~Talib Kweli

I don't think that early hip hop stood out to be a social critique. A lot of fans of mine think that hip hop's ultimate responsibility is to critique social structures.

~Talib Kweli

When I look at the arc of my career, my focus is on lyricism, right? I own that.

~Talib Kweli

They ask me what I'm writing for - I'm writing to show you what we're fighting for.

~Talib Kweli

Love is blind, you just see bright light

~Talib Kweli

Hip hop is at its essence a folk music, because it speaks the language that people are still speaking at ground zero, it speaks the language that people speak on the streets.

~Talib Kweli

I think people are into me because of my music choices and my musicality.

~Talib Kweli

Just because someone has great content doesn't mean you like them as a rapper.

~Talib Kweli

Everybody could write, deejay, rap. Everybody could do it all.

~Talib Kweli

I look at the deejay thing as something - I'm good at it because I have my own music. I have enough rhythm to blend at this point.

~Talib Kweli

I have a luxury of people coming to see me whether I play for the crowd or not. I don't take that lightly.

~Talib Kweli

My parents are my biggest influences. My parents and my city. Brooklyn, New York, New York City, the community I grew up. I don't feel like I'm special in that. I feel like that's everybody.

~Talib Kweli

But you have to be creative on how you sell yourself and market yourself.

~Talib Kweli

I was kind of just too lazy to take my money out of the bank until I saw how Citi Bank responded to Occupy Wall Street.

~Talib Kweli

But there's so many things in life like women, like children, like God and family that transcends the world of hip-hop.

~Talib Kweli

Coltrane had a sax, Dale Earnhardt drives a race car and everybody has their tools.

~Talib Kweli

Fortunately, artists can live off their works, if you're creative at how you do it. If you just depend on the videos and the radio, you're at a loss.

~Talib Kweli

Hopefully, we learn to appreciate hip-hop here so that it doesn't go the way of jazz.

~Talib Kweli

I think its man's nature to go to war and fight.

~Talib Kweli

I was always rhyming and doing it for the love before I found out I was gonna have children and when I found out, doing it for the love wasn't enough.

~Talib Kweli

I will never do a record without some sense of responsibility.

~Talib Kweli

I gotta be dope first. I gotta be appealing to your senses, and to what you like first. Then the message happens. Then you relate to the message.

~Talib Kweli

I'd like to work with Outkast, I'd like to work with RZA, I'd like to work with Timbaland, York, a whole bunch of people.

~Talib Kweli

Music is not an exact science so depending on the time and the mode and the energy when we do it that will determine what happens with it.

~Talib Kweli

Let me finish my music, and let me present it the way I want to present it. And then share it, put it online, do whatever you want to do after that.

~Talib Kweli

You see somebody rapping and you're like, "Nah, my cousin can do

that." You're spoiled by the experience. Overseas, it's still something that people can appreciate.

~Talib Kweli

Or is it the mind state that's ill, creating crime rates to fill the new prisons the build

~Talib Kweli

Why give you the cure when the disease makes money?

~Talib Kweli

What is Norah Jones' style? Is it just the albums that we've heard? She has a rock group where she plays guitar in, downtown in New York, so do we really know her style?

~Talib Kweli

If you look at my career, doing albums with Norah Jones, Justin Timberlake, Gucci Mane and Lil Wayne or KRS-One and Jean Grae, I can't be pigeonholed.

~Talib Kweli

The founder of Crunk Feminists is a Christian. If you claim to be a Christian, but then you attack somebody for saying you should approach a problem with love, you're not being a true Christian.

~Talib Kweli

When you have a voice and a platform and you know better, it becomes your moral obligation to support that community. And by extension, you're supporting your family.

~Talib Kweli

I tour whether I have album out or not. I tour more than any other hip-hop artist.

~Talib Kweli

Now people won't beat you up if you are gay; they might just talk behind your back.

~Talib Kweli

I met Mos Def around that time but I didn't hook up with him until I was about 17 or 18.

~Talib Kweli

I think music sharing of any kind is great.

~Talib Kweli

I remember looking back on a photo of me... wearing a suit that was, like, two sizes too big for me. I think a lot of guys don't know what fits.

~Talib Kweli

We speak the love language, they speak from pain and anguish. Some don't love themselves, so their perception is tainted.

~Talib Kweli

I look at the deejay thing as a tier thing. If I'm not going to compete on that level, I'm just going to do it as a hobby.

~Talib Kweli

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