

Tavis Smiley

Quotes

People, Thinking, Country, Believe, Kings, America, Black, Issues, Fighting, Struggle, Attitude, Running, Giving, Careers, Loss, Class, Character, Life Is, Difficult, Winning

The data is going to indicate sadly that when the Obama administration is over, black people will have lost ground in every single leading economic indicator category.

~Tavis Smiley

The choices we make about the lives we live determine the kinds of legacies we leave.

~Tavis Smiley

Don't envy someone else's gift. Discover your own.

~Tavis Smiley

The storm came. Lives were washed away. Ancient pains resurfaced. Now it is time for a sea of change.

~Tavis Smiley

Sometimes rejection in life is really redirection.

~Tavis Smiley

I believe if we make black America better, we make all of America better.

~Tavis Smiley

We need to elect leaders who understand that leadership is about loving and serving people, not about self-advancement.

~Tavis Smiley

Poverty and wealth inequality are a form of instability into the future.

~Tavis Smiley

Regardless of your race, religion or political affiliation, never hesitate to question those in authority.

~Tavis Smiley

Capitalism is like a child: if you want the child to grow up free and productive, somebody's got to look over the shoulder of that child.

~Tavis Smiley

Why don't we scale up those things that do work.

~Tavis Smiley

This administration and these folk who run Washington are no more interested in our welfare and our well being than the man on the moon. And we have got to start taking our destiny into our hands.

~Tavis Smiley

Live just because or live your life for a cause

~Tavis Smiley

In some states, not even 50 percent of black boys finish high school.

~Tavis Smiley

I don't want the Obama era to be more about symbolism than substance when it comes to black people. I love him, but I love black people even more.

~Tavis Smiley

Losing teaches you something

~Tavis Smiley

How do you grow up in the shadow of a guy - I want to talk about the movie in a second - but how do you grow up in the shadow of a guy who really is a legend in his own time?

~Tavis Smiley

We give you the facts. I told you information is power - knowledge is power. We can't be in an ideological battle to redeem the soul of this country if we don't have the facts.

~Tavis Smiley

To be clear, the gap between the have gots and the have nots is widening. In this most multicultural, multiracial, multiethnic America ever, that concerns me.

~Tavis Smiley

When you work for something, you appreciate it more. So what are y'all going to do with all the opportunities you inherited that you didn't have to work for?

~Tavis Smiley

I still think in this country, and this might surprise you, the one thing that George Bush said as president that I do agree with, I love that phrase, "the soft bigotry of low expectations."

~Tavis Smiley

My acting gives me my self-worth

~Tavis Smiley

History is replete with examples of moments in time when we talk about deficit reduction and try to advance on it around the world, that is, where it leads to job losses, not job creation.

~Tavis Smiley

Be careful about gossiping because loose lips really do sink ships.

~Tavis Smiley

I believe there is nothing we endure in life that you can't recover from. Failure is not fatal. Everyone has the capacity to fail up.

~Tavis Smiley

There are really only two types of people. Either you're running scared or you're running free. I choose to run free, and you can, too, no matter

what your circumstances in life.

~Tavis Smiley

I just find in our world that forgiveness is becoming more and more a difficult thing for us to do.

~Tavis Smiley

I can't count the number of people I've talked to over the course of my career who have said to me that the thing that they most regret is the one time they did something just for the money.

~Tavis Smiley

I feel like I've been successful after being done with the film is when I see it, if I'm embarrassed, if I'm slightly mortified, and if I feel super-vulnerable, I think I did something.

~Tavis Smiley

Fear, fear, breeds hopelessness. When you're afraid, you don't know what to believe in, you don't know what to hold on to. You're struggling to find something to believe in.

~Tavis Smiley

I grew. Going outside my comfort zone is a big one for me.

~Tavis Smiley

For me, like when you've put yourself out there emotionally, physically, and you've really put yourself on the line, for me, that means I've really done something.

~Tavis Smiley

It's hard these days to have a conversation, at least it is for me, about [Truman]Capote without "Good Night, and Good Luck" coming up in the same conversation.

~Tavis Smiley

I think when I stop fighting, I die in a sense.

~Tavis Smiley

Troubled times do call for troubled songs, songs that unsettle our souls and our spirits unapologetically.

~Tavis Smiley

I feel blessed to be in the broadcast business for 20 years. I believe that when you're this blessed, you have an obligation to pay it forward. That's what life is all about ultimately.

~Tavis Smiley

The City of Angels is a microcosm of the world, and so living in L.A. makes me feel like a citizen of the world.

~Tavis Smiley

Having to try and going through the trials and tribulations to actually overcome, to get there to win, to triumph, that's what makes life interesting

~Tavis Smiley

I think, for most of us is that once you get to a certain place in your career you're not having to elbow and knock people around and audition for parts.

~Tavis Smiley

I wanted to be a theater actress, and initially, I wanted to work in musical theater

~Tavis Smiley

Loving your enemy is a radical concept.

~Tavis Smiley

John Carlos provided the world with one of the most iconic images of

the 1960s with his Black Power salute after a medal-winning performance at the 1968 summer games.

~Tavis Smiley

Be careful about gossiping because loose lips really do sink ships. Now that I'm in the broadcast business, and people talk about me, I know what it feels like to be the victim of gossip.

~Tavis Smiley

I'm always fascinated by people from the Midwest, because it is so different than Hollywood, who discover at some point that they want to be in Hollywood.

~Tavis Smiley

[John Carlos] has spent much of his life since that time as a dedicated human rights advocate and public speaker, and he is out now with a wonderful new text; a memoir, in fact.

~Tavis Smiley

Democrats, too often, take blacks for granted, and Republicans, too often, simply ignore black voters.

~Tavis Smiley

He was a humanist then, he's a humanist now, and to my mind John Carlos is an authentic American hero.

~Tavis Smiley

This whole notion of a post racial America was nonsense from the very beginning. It was a bad idea, a bad notion, a bad formulation when it was first raised.

~Tavis Smiley

Leonard Pitts, Jr. is the most insightful and inspiring columnist of his generation.

~Tavis Smiley

If you don't have courage, you can't practice any of the other virtues.

~Tavis Smiley

When I'm at the premiere and I see the film in its entirety, I forget plot, I forget the story, I forget what my character goes through, because I really do just let it go.

~Tavis Smiley

We come to know who we really are in life during the dark and difficult and desolate days of our journey.

~Tavis Smiley

I fear that we are living in a society, living in a world where forgiving people is becoming more and more difficult to do.

~Tavis Smiley

We're all cracked vessels, and we're always in process, I think, every one of us.

~Tavis Smiley

I love my cross-sectioned, cross-cultural audience. Some of them are doing better than the average guy, but my audience has always been people who are struggling to stay in the middle class.

~Tavis Smiley

Competition's always been a product of American lifestyle

~Tavis Smiley

Struggling to stay in the middle class, and I love that. That's me and my dad and my family.

~Tavis Smiley

Music is the soundtrack of our lives, it's essential for our lives.

~Tavis Smiley

This is not a skill problem, this is a will problem. Does America have the will to make education a priority? We know the things that work. Why don't we scale up those things that do work.

~Tavis Smiley

What determines your altitude in life is your attitude.

~Tavis Smiley

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