

Toni Cade Bambara Quotes

*Writing, Revolution, People, Trying, Self, Life, Way, Folks, Heart, Space,
Dream, Art, Stories, Greed, Nations, War, Misery, Mean, Ambush, Unity*

The role of the artist is to make the revolution irresistible

~Toni Cade Bambara

Words are to be taken seriously. I try to take seriously acts of language. Words set things in motion. I've seen them doing it. Words set up atmospheres, electrical fields, charges.

~Toni Cade Bambara

(M)aybe we too busy being flowers or fairies or strawberries instead of something honest and worthy of respect . . . you know . . . like being people.

~Toni Cade Bambara

Revolution begins with the self, in the self.... We'd better take the time to fashion revolutionary selves, revolutionary lives, revolutionary relationships. Mouth don't win the war.

~Toni Cade Bambara

Writing is a legitimate way, an important way, to participate in the empowerment of the community that names me.

~Toni Cade Bambara

TAKE HEART TO FLAT OUT DECIDE TO BE WELL AND STRIDE INTO THE FUTURE, SANE AND WHOLE

~Toni Cade Bambara

The only proper mask to wear in life is your own damn face.

~Toni Cade Bambara

The job of the writer is to make revolution irresistible.

~Toni Cade Bambara

When you dream, you dialogue with aspects of yourself that normally are not with you in the daytime and you discover that you know a great

deal more than you thought you did.

~Toni Cade Bambara

Write a lot and hit the streets. A writer who doesn't keep up with what's out there ain't gonna be out there.

~Toni Cade Bambara

Revolution begins with the self, in the self.

~Toni Cade Bambara

Writing is one of the ways I participate in transformation.

~Toni Cade Bambara

She [my mother] gave me permission to wonder, to dawdle, to daydream.

~Toni Cade Bambara

The dream is real, my friends. The failure to make it work is the unreality.

~Toni Cade Bambara

My responsibility to myself, my neighbors, my family and the human family is to try to tell the truth.

~Toni Cade Bambara

Reappraise the past, re-evaluate where we've been, clarify where we are, and predict or anticipate where we are headed. . . .

~Toni Cade Bambara

Take away the miseries and you take away some folks' reason for living.

~Toni Cade Bambara

Our lives preserved. How it was; and how it be. Passing it along in the

relay. That is what I work to do: to produce stories that save our lives.

~Toni Cade Bambara

All writers, musicians, artists, choreographers/dancers, etc., work with the stuff of their experiences. It's the translation of it, the conversion of it, the shaping of it that makes for the drama.

~Toni Cade Bambara

Old folks are the nation.

~Toni Cade Bambara

When we ever invited the beast to dinner he didn't come in and swipe the napkins and start taking notes on the tablecloth 'bout how to take over the whole house?

~Toni Cade Bambara

What can defeat greed, technological superiority, and legal lawlessness ... is discipline, consciousness, and unity.

~Toni Cade Bambara

An artist represents an oppressed people and makes revolution irresistible.

~Toni Cade Bambara

What is happening to the daughters of the yam? Seem like they just don't know how to draw up the powers from the deep like before. Not full sunned and sweet anymore.

~Toni Cade Bambara

People have to be given permission to write, and they have to be given space to breathe and stumble. They have to be given time to develop and to reveal what they can do.

~Toni Cade Bambara

I've never been convinced that experience is linear, circular, or even random. It just is. I try to put it in some kind of order to extract meaning from it, to bring meaning to it.

~Toni Cade Bambara

And what is religion, you might ask. It's a technology of living.

~Toni Cade Bambara

One monkey don't stop no show. Not one, not six. The struggle continues.

~Toni Cade Bambara

We have not been scuffling in this waste - howling wilderness for the right to be stupid. All this waste.

~Toni Cade Bambara

It's a dismally lonely business, writing.

~Toni Cade Bambara

Medication without explanation is obscene.

~Toni Cade Bambara

There are times ... when any visitor - in person, by phone, by mail - is an intruder, a burglar, a space hogger, an oxygen taker, a chaos maker, a conflict inducer, a mood chaser, and a total drag.

~Toni Cade Bambara

I try to live [the Golden Rule] and I certainly expect it of some particular others. But I'll be damned if I want most folk out there to do unto me what they do unto themselves.

~Toni Cade Bambara

The story is a piece of work. The novel is a way of life.

~Toni Cade Bambara

Not all speed is movement.

~Toni Cade Bambara

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