



# THE OLD FOLKS SAID IT... AND THAT SETTLED IT!



A Compilation of "Black Sayings"  
(with interpretation)



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***Untie the “will not” and the “cannot” will slip like  
a bowknot.***

Think positively.

***Can’t turn a pig’s ear into a silk purse.***

Some things or behaviors will not change.

***Little drops of water,  
little grains of sand,  
make the mighty ocean  
and the pleasant land.***

People need each other to make the world a better place.

***Can’t put lipstick on a pig.***

If the situation is bad accept it.

***Nothing spoils a duck but his bill.***

People can disgrace themselves by talking too much.

***Deliver me from a whistling woman and a  
crowing hen.***

A male speaking: he doesn’t want a talkative woman.



***Hold on! Don't get yo 'drawers' in a knot.***

Have patience.

***It's your little red wagon; you can push it or  
pull it.***

It's your life; you can make it hard or easy.

***Don't burn your bridges; you may have to cross  
them again.***

Always be kind to the person that has helped you; you may  
need help again.

***If you can't say anything good, don't say anything.***

Your verbal responses should be positive.

***Why buy the cow when you can have the milk  
free?***

If a boy can get what he wants from a girl, what will  
he gain by marrying her?

***That man hates work worse than God hates sin.***

The man is extremely lazy.

***He's a hell-raiser!***

The man likes to argue or start confusion.

***He'd take a dime off of a dead man's eyes.***

The person is a thief.

Note: Before the embalming process, people used to put coins on the dead person's eyes to keep them closed.

***She's built like a coke bottle.***

The woman is very shapely, well proportioned  
36-24-36.

***I see now, said the blind man; for the man who  
never saw a thing.***

A person finally understands what is being said.

***Do you know who you are talkin' to?***

Usually a correction — show some respect.

***Don't forget who you are talkin' to!***

Usually a correction — show some respect.

***Give your soul to God because your 'behind'  
is mine.***

Usually the parent is forewarning the child that a whipping is coming.

***I brought you into this world; I'll take you out!***

A threat or a promise that 'should' change the child's behavior.

***I'll slap the taste out yo' mouth!***

To be slapped so hard that the taste buds will come off of the tongue.