

African Proverbs—A Collection of My Favorites

These come from West Africa

Talking doesn't fill the basket in the farm (Success requires planning and hard work.)

Don't insult the crocodile until you cross the water. (Be careful about criticizing others.)

Only a knife knows what the inside of a coco-yam looks like. (Those who investigate and research something understand the subject.)

A big blanket encourages sleeping in the morning. (Luxury encourages idleness. If you have worked hard and made wise choices, you will find contentment.)

A bird that is eating guinea-corn keeps quiet. (Someone going about his regular business will not create a disturbance. Dedicate yourself to a task.)

Rats don't dance in the cat's doorway. (Don't invite trouble.)

A hippopotamus can be made invisible in dark water. (Ignorance can lead to potential danger. It is important to be informed and alert.)

If your house is burning, there is not time to go hunting. (Priorities are important in planning activities.)