

My buela uda say My grandmother would say

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These phrases were taken from the publication made on the social network Facebook by photographer Joel Peñaloza on October 9, 2015. It was titled: “¡Hey! Lets keep up our tradition! And bring back our Old People phrases if you nuu any just put them right here, And lets see how we can enjoy we self a diffrent wie”.

Being the result of comments in the publication and having the participation mainly of inhabitants of the Island of Providence, written in English, Creole and a fusion between both.

The value that these phrases have for me is because I think they help reaffirm the sense of culture that is carried with language. This small selection was made without discriminating the type of phrases, as a sample of the diversity of sayings in the Island. They were transcribed exactly as the original posters put them. Some footnotes that help to a better understanding of the phrases have been included.

Riddle

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- What's smaller than a ants mouth.
- What the ans put in the mouth smaler than the mouth
- What I have and you use it more than me.

Premonition / Warning

- When foul³ mery⁴ hawk is near
- We yuh⁵ hed forget yuh fut pie fa
- We sweet yuh going sowa yuh
- Ben⁶ the tree from i⁷ small
- Live with me and then you will now me

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³ Fowl

⁴ Happy

⁵ You

⁶ Turn

⁷ It's

- See me and live with me is two diferent things
- Play With Popy⁸, Popy lick yuh mouth
- Every dog have deh⁹ 4 o clock
- Feeding maga¹⁰ dog him come a bite you
- Not every day bucket go a¹¹ golly¹² Them come back With bottom
- Sorry fi¹³ maga daag¹⁴ maga daag torn round and bite you
- Fattening cow head fi maga dog
- Not only one time monkey want wife
- Every buor¹⁵ hag have their christmas.
- To much rata¹⁶ no dig good hole
- The new brume sweep clean the old one knows the conner
- The higher monkey climb the more he expose his baxaid¹⁷
- Go you may, come you must
- Easy river run deep
- U neva miss the Water till the Well run Dry
- What no fit no forse
- Every bully have their conqueror
- When you cant hear you feel
- when yuh goin¹⁸ two fast and two far the lard stop yuh
- what goes around comes around
- what go up like coconot three drop like coconot
- Trouble no set¹⁹ like rain
- Too much fire pan the pot!
- You will reap what you sew!
- Fass²⁰ kill ungle waaka!
- You ida²¹ ton²² a man, ore a monky
- You we seet Wen²³ coco gat²⁴ bone.

⁸ Puppy

⁹ Theirs

¹⁰ Slim

¹¹ to

¹² brook

¹³ for

¹⁴ dog

¹⁵ Pork/hog

¹⁶ Rat

¹⁷ Buttocks

¹⁸ Going

¹⁹ Cloudiness

²⁰ Nosey

²¹ Either

²² Turn

²³ When

²⁴ Have

- You will get it wen foul gat tite²⁵
- If you play with fire you will get burn
- Is not one time monkey want wife
- Same knife reep sheep, reep goat
- you neva mist²⁶ the water till²⁷ the well run dry
- When you have glass window dont trow rock
stone
- What sweet you going sowa²⁸ you
- Hard ears bring dog ears
- Dont let the right hand know what the lef one
do.
- You de²⁹ fly pas³⁰ you nest
- Dont spear the rad and spoil the child
- Not every shet³¹ eyes is sleep
- Don't take the book by the back
- Where you bound you must obey
- Cousin bring dozen
- When pus go sleep...Rat ñam dem sopaa³²
- You can do as much as you want...but not as long
- When you spit ina³³ the air.. it drop back ina you
face
- What you sow you reap
- Every road have a Ben a every ben have and end
- Time langar³⁴ than ruop
- The devil find work for idle hands

²⁵ Tooth

²⁶ Miss

²⁷ Until

²⁸ Sour

²⁹ Are

³⁰ Past

³¹ Shut

³² Supper

³³ To/in

³⁴ Longer