Pawol Granmoun / Haitian Sayings

Zafè kabrit pa gade mouton.
A sheep doesn’t concern itself with a goat’s problems.

*Bourik travay pou chwal galonnen.*
The donkey works so that the horse can prance.

*Si ou pa pwason, ou pa dwe antre nan nas.*
If you aren’t a fish, you shouldn’t enter the net.

*Tout otan tèt ou poko koupe, espere met chapo.*
As long as you still have a head, you can hope to wear a hat.

*Sak vid pa kanpe.*
An empty sack cannot stand.

*Marengwen ap vole ou pa konn mal ak femèl.*
While mosquitoes are flying, you can’t tell male from female.

*W’ap kouri pou lapli, ou tonbe nan gran rivye.*
While you’re running from the rain, you fall in the river.

*Se le ou nan male w’ap konn kiyes moun ki zanmi w.*
When you are in trouble, you find out who your friends are.

*Nan chemen jennen, yo kenbe chwal malen.*
In a tight space, you rein in a wild horse.

*Bourik fè ptit pou do li pose.*
A donkey has foals to lighten his load.
Tout sa’k pa bon pou youn, li bon pou yon lòt.
Things that are not good for one person are good for another.

Chat brule nan dlo cho, le li wè dlo frèt, li pè.
After a cat burns itself in hot water, it is then afraid when it sees cold water.

Twòp magi gate sòs.
Too much seasoning ruins the sauce.

Responsab se chaj.
The person responsible is also accountable.

Le ou bezwen debarase yon chen, ou di li gen raj.
If you want to get rid of a dog, you say he has rabies.

Ou jamn tande pòt an bwa goumen avèk pòt an fè?
You ever hear of a wooden door fighting an iron door?

Men anpil chay pa lou.
Lots of hands make light work.

Makak sou konn sou ki bwa li fwote.
A drunken monkey knows what tree he is rubbing against.

Se kondisyon ki bat kòk.
You can’t change the rules in the middle of the game.

Se sòt k’ap soti, lespri ap antre.
Each trial makes us wiser.

Domi pa konn mizè malere.
The wretched can sleep anywhere.

Woch nan dlo pa konn mizè woch nan solèy.
Rocks in the water don’t know the misery of rocks in the sun.