

## Ubuntu maxims or short statements [\[edit\]](#)

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Ubuntu is often presented in short statements called [maxims](#) by [Samkange](#) (1980). Some of these are:<sup>[13]</sup>

- *Motho ke motho ka batho* (Sotho/Tswana). A person is a person through other people.
- *Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu* (Zulu). A person is a person through other people.
- *Umntu ngumntu ngabantu* (Xhosa). A person is a person through other people.
- *Munhu munhu nevanhu* (Shona). A person through other people.
- *Ndiri nekuti tiri* (Shona). I am because we are.
- *Munhu i munhu hivanwani vanhu* (Xitsonga). A person is a person through other people.
- *Muthu ndi muthu nga vhathu* (Venda). A person is a person through other people

Wikipedia Ubuntu article, accessed December 12, 2023

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in his book *No Future Without Forgiveness*, says: "Ubuntu is very difficult to render into a Western language... It is to say, 'My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in what is yours.'"

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/magazine/5388182.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/magazine/5388182.stm), accessed December 12, 2023

Poets like Gerard Manley Hopkins, Mary Oliver, David Whyte, Denise Levertov, Naomi Shihab Nye, Rainer Maria Rilke (a dude!) and T.S. Eliot now name your own inner experience. Even if you have never read poetry before. Mystics like Rumi, Hafez, Kabir, John of the Cross, Theresa of Lisieux, Baal Shem Tov, Lady Julian of Norwich, and Rabia will speak to you perhaps more than people from your own tradition- whereas before you did not know or did not care, what they were talking about. Like Jesus, you may soon feel as though you have "nowhere to lay your head" (Matthew 8:20), while a whole set of new heads are making sense to you! This is true politically too. In fact, if your politics do not become more compassionate and inclusive, I doubt whether you are on the second journey

Falling Upward, Richard Rohr, page. 144