



The Black Family Pledge

Dr. Maya Angelou

Leader: Because we have forgotten our ancestors,
our children no longer give us honor.

**People: Because we have lost the path our ancestors cleared
kneeling in perilous undergrowth, our children cannot find
their way.**

Leader: Because we have banished the God of our ancestors, our
children cannot pray.

**People: Because the old wails of our ancestors have faded beyond
our hearing, our children cannot hear us crying.**

Leader: Because we have abandoned our wisdom of mothering and
fathering, our children give birth to children they neither want
nor understand.

**People: Because we have forgotten how to love, the adversary is
within our gates, and holds us up to the mirror of the world
shouting, "Regard the loveless".**

All: Therefore we pledge to bind ourselves to one another, to
embrace our lowliest, to keep company with our loneliest, to
educate our illiterate, to feed our starving, to clothe our ragged,
to do all good things, knowing that we are more than keepers of
our brothers and sisters. We are our brothers and sisters. In
honor of those who toiled and implored God with golden
tongues, and in gratitude to the same God who brought us out
of hopeless desolation, we make this pledge. Amen. Ache.