

# Amiri Baraka

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## Masked Angel Costume

The Sayings of Mantan Moreland

1. Never let a ghost  
Ketch you  
Never!
2. Avoid Death  
Ghosts  
Always  
be  
there!
3. Dead People  
& Live People  
Should not  
Mix!
4. Ghosts think they  
good lookin  
Never stay to find out!
5. I am mentioned in the credits  
but the ghost  
got the  
dough!
6. Cemeteries  
Funeral Parlors  
Morgues  
Do not need  
You while  
You  
alive

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The author of numerous plays, poems, and essays, Amiri Baraka lives and writes in Newark, New Jersey.

7. Never let Mr. Chan  
send you into  
a dark  
room  
by  
your self
8. If the dark get  
Noisy  
Seek  
light  
at  
Once!
9. Few people know  
my whole  
name.  
Nor  
if the name  
they call me  
is  
real.
10. Wait until  
the shooting  
stops  
then  
wait  
for  
witnesses  
Leave as soon  
as it is  
safe.
11. I am a chauffeur  
when you see  
me  
But that is  
only  
in the  
movies.
12. I am never really  
laughing  
except  
off  
camera.

13. I made a lot of money  
 & made people happy  
 It was  
 a job  
 I accepted rather  
 than  
 preach  
 or  
 steal!

14. *Birmingham*  
*Birmingham*  
 was where  
 4 of my daughters  
 were killed  
 John Coltrane  
 composed  
 Alabama  
 It was the music  
 that moved  
 my feet  
 they never  
 failed.

### **Chuck**

I would Burn Bush  
 & his whole cabinet  
 before the Flag  
 & I'd Burn the Klan  
*before*  
 them!  
 Unless one of them  
 was wrapped  
 in it!

### **Ancient Music**

The main thing  
 to be against  
 is *Death!*  
 Everything Else  
 is a  
 Chump!