

**10 Short Stories
&
Ten Quotes
Part Two**



Dedicated to Sant Kirpal Singh Ji Maharaj

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You may tell a tale that takes up residence in someone's soul,
becomes their blood and self and purpose. That tale will move them and drive them
and who knows what they might do because of it....
(Erin Morgenstern)



We don't solve our problems, we grow out of them. (Carl Jung)



That Divine Yearning

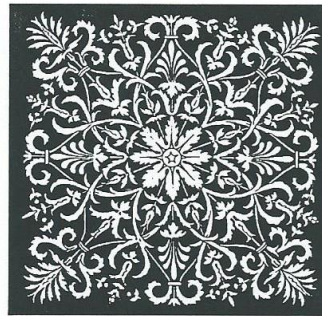
Ramakrishna

God cannot be seen without yearning of heart, and this yearning is impossible unless one has finished with the experiences of life. Those who live surrounded by “women and gold”, and have not yet come to the end of their experiences, do not yearn for God.

When I lived at Kamarpukur, Hriday's son, a child of four or five years old, used to spend the whole day with me. He played with toys and almost forgot everything else. But no sooner did evening come than he would say, “I want to go to my mother”. I would try to cajole him in various ways and would say, “Here, I'll give you a pigeon”. But he wouldn't be consoled with such things; he would weep and cry, “I want to go to my mother”.

He didn't enjoy playing any more. I myself wept to see his state.

One should cry for God that way, like a child. That is what it means to be restless for God. One doesn't enjoy play or food any longer. After one's experiences of the world are over, one feels this restlessness and weeps for God.



Of all of the qualifications love is the most important, for if it is strong enough in a man it forces him to acquire all the rest, and all the rest without it would not be sufficient. (Sant Kirpal Singh, ruhanisatsangusa.org/gemsq.htm)



Love One Another

John the Evangelist lived to a great age and became so feeble that he had to be carried to the meetings of the faithful. There, because of his weakness, he was unable to deliver a long discourse; so at each gathering he simply repeated the words: “Little children, love one another.”

The disciples, weary of hearing the same words over and over, asked him why he never said anything else. In response, John gave this answer, “Do this alone and it is enough.”



Mahatmas always say that an ounce of practice is more than tons of theory. Mere theoretical knowledge without practice is of no avail. (Sant Kirpal Singh, ruhanisatsangusa.org/pdf/ss72/ss197207.pdf)



Then Comes the Time for Action

Ramakrishna

Do you know my attitude? Books and things like that only point out the way to reach God. After finding the way, what more need is there of books and scriptures? Then comes the time for action.

A man received a letter from home informing him that certain presents were to be sent to his relatives. The names of the articles were given in the letter. As he was about to go shopping for them, he found that the letter was missing. He began anxiously to search for it, several others joining in the search. When at last the letter was discovered, his joy knew no bounds. With great eagerness he opened the letter and read it. It said that he was to buy five seers of sweets, a piece of cloth, and a few other things. Then he did not need the letter any more, for it had served its purpose. Putting it aside, he went out to buy the things. How long is such a letter necessary? As long as its contents are not known. When the contents are known one proceeds to carry out the directions.

In the scriptures you will find the way to realize God. But after getting all the information about the path, you must begin to work. Only then can you attain your goal.



Man can change for the better, can he not? That is why it is said, you're the maker of your own destiny. Even a robber can become a Saint. There are instances like that. Do you know what special quality a robber has? When a robber decides something, he goes at the cost of his life. He will do it regardless. When a horse is very unruly, you have only to change the directions by using reins, that's all. What can a sick horse do? He can hardly walk. Even if he's put on the way, he's plodding and sighing like anything. So ornery strong horses are wanted. You must have something in you. The reins only need to be redirected. (Sant Kirpal Singh, ruhanisatsangusa.org/lok/wait.htm)



Single-Mindedness

Junaid of Baghdad was passing the scene of a public hanging where a thief was on the scaffold. Junaid bowed towards the criminal. Someone asked him, "Why did you do that?" Junaid said, "I was bowing before his single-mindedness. For his aim, that man has given his life."



A man who has got love with him, love of God, is attached to God so much that all other things leave his mind, he is not attracted by anything else. (Sant Kirpal Singh, *The Teachings of Kirpal Singh*, v. 3, 93)



Non-Attachment

Kitano Gempo, abbot of Eihei temple, was ninety-two years old when he passed away in the year 1933. He endeavored his whole life not to be attached to anything. As a wandering mendicant when he was twenty he happened to meet a traveler who smoked tobacco. As they walked together down a mountain road, they stopped under a tree to rest. The traveler offered Kitano a smoke, which he accepted, as he was very hungry at the time.

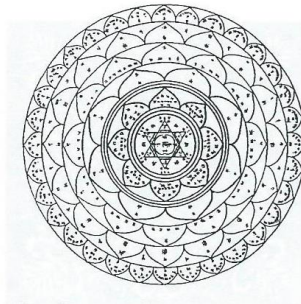
“How pleasant this smoking is,” he commented. The other gave him an extra pipe and tobacco and they parted.

Kitano felt: “Such pleasant things may disturb meditation. Before this goes too far, I will stop now.” So he threw the smoking outfit away.

When he was twenty-three years old he studied I-King. It was winter at the time and he needed some heavy clothes. He wrote his teacher, who lived a hundred miles away, telling him of his need, and gave the letter to a traveler to deliver. Almost the whole winter passed and neither answer nor clothes arrived. So Kitano resorted to the prescience of I-King, which teaches the art of divination, to determine whether or not his letter had miscarried. He found that this had been the case. A letter afterwards from his teacher made no mention of clothes.

“If I perform such accurate determinative work with I-King, I may neglect my meditation,” felt Kitano. So he gave it up and never resorted to its powers again.

When he was twenty-eight he studied Chinese calligraphy and poetry. He grew so skillful in these arts that his teacher praised him. Kitano mused: “If I don't stop now, I'll be a poet, not a meditator.” So he never practiced calligraphy again nor wrote another poem.



The whole creation is the temple of God. There is no place where He is not. In minerals life is sleeping; in plants life is dreaming; in birds and animals life is awakening; and in man life is awake. As such we are brothers of all creatures, of plants, of birds and animals. So the flowers and trees, sparrows and doves are as members of our own order. How simple, pure, loving and beautiful they are! We should love all. We should live in fellowship with all creatures, with all life. One must not interfere with the life of any animal in God's creation. (Sant Kirpal Singh, *Portrait of Perfection*, 143)



Lord Buddha and the Shepherd

As Lord Buddha was walking one day along a country road, he met a shepherd who was driving his flock of sheep and goats to a nearby hill, where there was a good grazing ground. One of the goats was lame and limped along slowly, always falling behind the rest of the flock. But the shepherd showed no pity for the poor beast, and lashed it mercilessly to make it keep up with the herd.

When Lord Buddha saw what was going on, his heart was moved by pity and compassion. Stepping up to the shepherd, he asked: "Where are you going with your herd?"

The shepherd pointed to the nearby hill.

"Would you have any objection if I should carry this poor lame goat to the top of the hill on my shoulders?" asked Lord Buddha.

The shepherd laughed. "Why, of course not," he replied.

So Lord Buddha happily carried the goat to the top of the hill and left it there with the rest of the flock.



First is God's grace. He has given you human birth. This means you can go up: go back to your home. Again His grace – the second grace – you met somebody who was Word made flesh. This is His Grace. Then that Word made flesh – (Grace was there) gave you something to start with. So all this - God's Grace and Master's Grace is done. So many thousands of dollars have been deposited in your name. Now comes the third Grace – your own grace – have grace on your own self, and go to the window where that money can be drawn. So even God's Grace and the Master's Grace does not help much unless you have grace on your own self, you see. The whole thing depends on you. (Sant Kirpal Singh, *The Light of Kirpal*, 138)



God Has Already Done His Share

A Zen master was invited to a great Catholic monastery to give instructions in Zen practice. He exhorted the monks there to meditate and try to solve their koan or Zen question with great energy and zeal. He told them that if they could practice with full-hearted effort, true understanding would come to them.

One old monk raised his hand. “Master,” he said, “our way of prayer is different than this. We have been meditating and praying in the simplest fashion without effort, waiting instead to be illuminated by the grace of God. In Zen is there anything like this illuminating grace that comes to one uninvited?” he asked.

The Zen master looked back and laughed. “In Zen,” he said, “we believe that God has already done his share.”



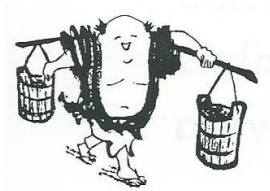
It is not the inner experience which determine the spiritual progress, but the basic personal attitude of serene living of the child disciple, which proves his or her worth. (Sant Kirpal Singh, *The Teachings of Kirpal Singh*, v. 2, 95)



Drawing Water and Carrying Wood

Master Pang lived a simple life with his wife, son, and daughter, earning his living by making and selling bamboo utensils. Renowned for the depth of his spiritual insight, Pang refused to engage in philosophical speculation or debate. In response to a taunt by a scriptural scholar, Pang responded:

“Let go of longing and aversion and everything will be perfectly clear. Because you select and reject, you can’t perceive things as they are. My daily affairs are quite ordinary; but I’m in total harmony with them. I don’t hold on to anything, don’t reject anything; nowhere an obstacle or conflict. Who cares about wealth and honor? Even the poorest thing shines. My miraculous power and spiritual activity: drawing water and carrying wood. Immersed in the wonder of Tao, I can deal with whatever life brings me, and when death comes, I am ready.”



If one tries to live a Godly life, all God's favors automatically flow down to him. One who loves God need not ask for any favor. It is enough to dedicate our very life to Him and become His bound slaves. It is up to Him to treat us as He wishes. (Sant Kirpal Singh, *The Teachings of Kirpal Singh*, v. 2,27)



By the Will of Rama

Ramakrishna

In a certain village there lived a weaver. He was a very pious soul. Everyone trusted him and loved him. He used to sell his goods in the market-place.

When a customer asked him the price of a cloth, the weaver would say, "By the Will of Rama the price of the yarn is one rupee and the labor four annas; by the Will of Rama the profit is two annas. The price of the cloth, by the Will of Rama is one rupee and six annas." Such was the people's faith in the weaver that the customer would at once pay the price and take the cloth.

The weaver was a real devotee of God. After finishing his supper in the evening, he would spend long hours in the worship hall meditating on God and chanting His name and glories.

Now, late one night he was sitting outside the worship hall when a band of robbers happened to pass that way. They wanted a man to carry their goods and said to the weaver, "Come with us."

So saying, they led him off by the hand. After committing a robbery in a house, they put a load of things on the weaver's head commanding him to carry them. Suddenly the police arrived and the robbers ran away. But the weaver, with his load, was arrested.

He was kept in the lock-up for the night. Next day he was brought before the magistrate for trial. The villagers learnt what had happened and came to the court. They said to the magistrate, "Your Honor, this man could never commit robbery." Thereupon the magistrate asked the weaver to make his statement.

The weaver said: "Your Honor, by the Will of Rama I finished my meal at night. Then by the Will of Rama I was sitting outside the worship hall. It was quite late at night by the Will of Rama. By the Will of Rama I had been thinking of God and chanting His name and glories, when by the Will of Rama a band of robbers passed that way. By the Will of Rama they dragged me with them; by the Will of Rama they committed a robbery in a house; and by the Will of Rama they put a load on my head. Just then, by the Will of Rama the police arrived and by the Will of Rama I was arrested. Then by the Will of Rama the police kept me in the lock-up for the night, and this morning by the Will of Rama I have been brought before Your Honor."

The magistrate realized that the weaver was a pious man and ordered his release. On his way home the weaver said to his friends, "By the Will of Rama I have been released."

Whether you live in the world or renounce it, everything depends upon the Will of Rama. Throwing your whole responsibility upon God, do your work in the world.

(Tales and Parables of Sri Ramakrishna)

Ingratitude is the greatest evil. What has God given us? All that we need and much more. Have we ever offered a thanksgiving prayer for what He has done and the bounteous gifts supplied by Him? If we fulfill these conditions of truthfulness and contentment with a sense of gratefulness, He would not deny us anything for which we may happen to wish. (Sant Kirpal Singh, ruhanisatsangusa.org/search4truth.htm)



Be Content with Your Time

Master Yu fell sick one day, and a friend paid a call to cheer him. The friend found the master lying on his cot in an awkward position. “It is simply amazing,” master Yu said after the greetings had been observed. “The Creator has made me crooked. My back is hunched and my vital organs are on top of me. My chin is hidden in my navel, and my shoulders are higher than my head, and my pigtail points to the sky. There must be some dislocation of the great balancing forces of nature, the yin and the yang.”

Yet, master Yu was smiling as he spoke, and his eyes were calm with his unconcern.

“Do you resent what is happening?” his friend asked.

“Why, no,” master Yu said. “Why should I resent it? I received life because my time had come. I will lose it when my time passes on. Be content with your time, dwell in your time, and neither sorrow nor joy will touch you. In ancient times, this was called ‘freedom from bondage’. There are those who cannot free themselves because they are bound by things of the world. But there is no point to that. Nothing can win out against the Creator. That’s the way it has always been. So what is there to resent?”





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