

Death and Dying



Awareness of death is the very bedrock of the Path.
Until you have developed this awareness,
all other practices are obstructed.
(Dalai Lama)

The first sign of love of God is not to be afraid of death, and to be always waiting for it. For death unites the friend to his Friend - the seeker to the object which he seeks. (Al Ghazzali: 1058-1111, Iran, Sufi mystic, philosopher, theologian)



And now the end is near and so I face the final curtain. My friends, I'll say it clear, I'll state my case of which I'm certain. I've lived a life that's full, I've traveled each and every highway and more, much more than this, I did it my way. (Paul Anka: 1941-present, singer, songwriter)



Death is a release from the impressions of sense, and from impulses that make us their puppets, from the vagaries of the mind, and the hard service of the flesh. (Marcus Aurelius: 121-180, Roman Emperor, Stoic philosopher)



Death, like birth, is a secret of Nature. (Marcus Aurelius)



Despise not death, but welcome it, for nature wills it like all else.
(Marcus Aurelius)



It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live. (Marcus Aurelius)



Just as the womb takes in and gives forth again, so the grave takes in and will give forth again. Death is very good because it takes man to a sinless world, where the battle with his impulses is ended. The mystics conceived of the body as an encumbering garment which falls away at death and leaves the true man free to rise into the Light of the heavenly life.

(Bereshit Rabbah: a religious text from Judaism's classical period)



Death is the temporary end of a temporary phenomenon. (Buddha: Siddhartha Gautama, 563 BCE-483 BCE, India)



It is not hard to die. It is harder, a thousand times harder, to live.
(Henry W. Beecher: 1813-1887, American clergyman, social reformer)



Never is the undying Self born nor does it die; never did it come to be nor will it come not to be: Unborn, eternal, everlasting is the primordial Self. It is not slain when the body is slain. (Bhagavad Gita: One of the greatest of the Hindu scriptures. Composed in the 1st or 2nd century)



For certain is death for the born and certain is birth for the dead; therefore over the inevitable thou should not grieve. (Bhagavad Gita)



The fact is, it seems, that the most you can hope is to be a little less, in the end, the creature you were in the beginning, and the middle.
(Samuel Beckett: 1906-1989 Irish author, won Nobel Prize for literature)



Happy is he who dies before he calls for death to take him away.
(Francis Bacon: 1561-1626, English philosopher, statesman, scientist, author)



There is but one freedom, to put oneself right with death. After that everything is possible. I cannot force you to believe in God. Believing in God amounts to coming to terms with death. When you have accepted death, the problem of God will be solved -- and not the reverse.
(Albert Camus: 1913-1960, French author, won Nobel Prize for literature)

Look upon life as a swelling tumor, a protruding goiter, and upon death as the draining of a sore or the bursting of a boil. (Chuang-Tzu: 4th century BCE, influential Chinese philosopher)



The ancient masters slept without dreams and woke up without worries. Their food was plain. Their breath came from deep inside them. They didn't cling to life, weren't anxious about death. They emerged without desire and reentered without resistance. They came easily; they went easily. They didn't forget where they were from; they didn't ask where they were going. They took everything as it came, gladly, and walked into death without fear. They accepted life as a gift, and they handed it back gratefully. (Chuang-Tzu)



Death -- a friend that alone can bring the peace his treasures cannot purchase, and remove the pain his physicians cannot cure. (Mortimer Collins: 1827-1876, English author)



Awareness of death is the very bedrock of the Path. Until you have developed this awareness, all other practices are obstructed. (Dalai Lama: 1935-present, spiritual and political leader of Tibet)



Just as a well spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well used brings happy death. (Leonardo da Vinci: 1452-1519, Italian artist)



As soon as a man comes to life, he is immediately old enough to die. (Der Ackermann aus Bohmen: a dialogue by Johannes von Tepl. Written c.1400, It comprises a formal dispute with death who deprived the author of his young wife)



Death in itself is nothing; but we fear to be we know not what, we know not where. (John Dryden: 1631-1700, English author)



The only thing that burns in hell is the part of you that won't let go of your life: your memories, your attachments. They burn them all away, but they're not punishing you, they're freeing your soul. If you're frightened of dying and you're holding on, you'll see devils tearing your life away. If you've made your peace, then the devils are really angels freeing you from the earth. (Meister Eckhart: 1260-1327, German Christian mystic, theologian, preacher)



Now he has departed from this strange world a little ahead of me. That signifies nothing. For us believing physicists the distinction between past, present, and future is only a stubbornly persistent illusion. (Albert Einstein: 1879-1955, physicist)



Our fear of death is like our fear that summer will be short, but when we have had our swing of pleasures, our fill of fruit, and our swelter of heat, we say we have had our day. (Ralph Waldo Emerson: 1803-1882, American, founder of the school of thought known as Transcendentalism)



Never say about anything, "I have lost it," but only "I have given it back." Is your child dead? It has been given back. Is your wife dead? She has been returned. (Epictetus: 50-135, Greek philosopher)



Death, feared as the most awful of evils, is really nothing. For so long as we are, death has not come, and when it has come we are not. (Epicurus: 341-270 BCE, Greek philosopher)



Who knows but that this life is really death, and whether death is not what men call life? (Euripides: 480-406 BCE, Greek playwright)



No one can confidently say that he will still be living tomorrow. (Euripides)



When we attempt to imagine death, we perceive ourselves as spectators. (Sigmund Freud: 1856-1939, Austria, founder of psychonalysis)



Perhaps the gods are kind to us, by making life more disagreeable as we grow older. In the end, death seems less intolerable than the manifold burdens we carry. (Sigmund Freud)



To die is poignantly bitter, but the idea of having to die without having lived is unbearable. (Erich Fromm: 1900-1980, humanistic philosopher, psychologist)



I said to Life, I would hear Death speak. And Life raised her voice a little higher and said, you hear him now. (Kahlil Gibran: 1883-1931, Lebanese writer, author of The Phophet)



Desire is half of life, indifference is half of death. (Kahlil Gibran)



For what is it to die, but to stand in the sun and melt into the wind? And when the Earth has claimed our limbs, then we shall truly dance. (Kahlil Gibran)



I'm not afraid of death. It's the stake one puts up in order to play the game of life. (Jean Giraudoux: 1882-1944, French playwright)



Death is a favor to us, but our scales have lost their balance. The impermanence of the body should give us great clarity, deepening the wonder in our senses and eyes of this mysterious existence we share and are surely just traveling through. (Hafiz: Shams al-Din Hafiz, 1315-1390 was a great Persian mystic and mystical poet. He is the most celebrated Persian poet)



The ship you are riding on, look where it is heading: Your body's port is the graveyard. Realizing the destiny of each clay bowl tossed into the sky with no one to catch it I finally accepted the Beloved's kind offer to enroll in His sublime course of Spirit Love. (Hafiz)



All I know of life and myself is that we are just a midair flight of golden wine between His Pitcher and His Cup. (Hafiz)



Birth is not the beginning of life - only of an individual awareness. Change into another state is not death - only the ending of this awareness. Most people are ignorant of the Truth, and therefore afraid of death, believing it to be the greatest of all evils. But death is only the dissolution of a worn out body. Our term of service as guardians of the world is ended when we are freed from the bonds of this mortal frame and restored, cleansed and purified, to the primal condition of our higher nature. (Hermes Trismegistus:

Hermes is a legendary figure, who may have represented three different teachers. His writings looms large in the Western esoteric tradition. Born from the fusion of the Greek and Egyptian spiritual traditions, the writings attributed to this great sage had a decisive effect on the Renaissance)



Death is like an arrow that is already in flight, and your life lasts only until it reaches you. (Hermes Trismegistus:)



Death is a delightful hiding place for weary men. (Herodotus: 484-425 BC, Greek historian, is regarded as the "Father of History" in Western culture)



The call of death is a call of love. Death can be sweet if we answer in the affirmative, if we accept it as one of the great eternal forms of life and transformation. (Hermann Hesse:1877-1962, German author, wrote Siddhartha)



Our brains are seventy-year clocks. The Angel of Life winds them up once for all, then closes the case, and gives the key into the hand of the Angel of the Resurrection. (Oliver Wendell Holmes: 1841-1935, known as "the Great Dissenter" for his principled stands during three decades on the U.S. Supreme Court)



Life and death are balanced on the edge of a razor. (Homer: 800-750BC, wrote the two great epics of Greek history: the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Cited as the starting point of Western literary and historical tradition)



It is the duty of a doctor to prolong life. It is not his duty to prolong death. (Thomas Horder: 1871-1955, English physician)



The longings that a person feels when alive, which remain fixed in his heart, come to mind at the moment of death. (Jnaneshwar: 13th century Hindu saint, poet and philosopher)

To the psychotherapist an old man who cannot bid farewell to life appears as feeble and sickly as a young man who is unable to embrace it. (Carl Jung: 1875-1961, Swiss psychiatrist, founder of analytical psychology)



Death, the awe-inspiring and heart-rending death, is to me a harbinger of joyous life, and I welcome it fully. (Kabir: 1440-1518, India, mystic, poet)



Your mind state at the time you draw your last breath is crucial, for upon this hinges the subsequent direction and embodiment of the life force. (Roshi Philip Kapleau: 1912-2004, American, Zen Buddhism teacher)



The body is nothing but a covering over our soul, and when it is gone we are not dead; just as we do not think that we are dead when our coat is worn out, or if someone tears our shirt. The moment when a person dies is the only moment when he feels he is dead. The impression of this dying condition, the hopelessness of the doctor, the sorrow and grief of the family cause this impression. After death, as he recovers from this, he gradually finds himself alive...for the great burden has been removed. (Hazrat Inayat Khan: 1882-1927, Sufi mystic and teacher)



Death is a tax the soul must pay for having a name and form. (Hazrat Inayat Khan)



Thou, divine death, to which everything returns and disappears, receive thy children into thy star-studded bosom; free us from time, number, space; give us back the peace that life interrupted. (Leconte de Lisle: 1818-1894, French poet)



Life and death are one thread, the same line viewed from different sides.
(Lao-Tzu: Chinese Taoist Philosopher, 600 B.C.E)



Life is going forth, death is returning home. (Lao-Tzu)



The moment comes when the great nurse, death, takes man, the child, by the hand and quietly says, "It is time to go home. Night is coming. It is your bedtime, child of earth. Come; you're tired. Lie down at last in the quiet nursery of nature and sleep. Sleep well. The day is gone. Stars shine in the canopy of eternity." (Joshua Liebman: 1907-1948, American rabbi, author)



Tell me not, in mournful numbers, life is but an empty dream! For the soul is dead that slumbers, and things are not what they seem. Life is real! Life is earnest! And the grave is not its goal; dust thou art; to dust returnest, was not spoken of the soul. (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: 1807-1882, American poet)



The gods conceal from men the happiness of death, that they may endure life.
(Lucan: 29-65, Roman poet)



The dead are indeed happy, having gotten rid of the incubus of the body; the dead do not grieve. Do men fear sleep? No, they court it and prepare for it.
(Ramana Maharshi: 1879-1950, India, mystic, guru)



Sleep is temporary death. Death is longer sleep. Why should one desire continuance of body shackles? Let the man find out his undying Self and be immortal. (Ramana Maharshi)



A man's dying is more the survivors' affair than his own. (Thomas Mann: 1875-1955, German writer)



The death of someone we know always reminds us that we are still alive - perhaps for some purpose which we ought to re-examine. (Mignon McLaughlin: 1913-1983, American author)



You should strive for a readiness to die! Be certain and ready; when the time comes, you will have no fear and no regret. (Milarepa:1052-1135, generally considered one of Tibet's most famous yogis and poets, a major figure in the history of the school of Tibetan Buddhism)



Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind; quietly they go, the intelligent, the witty, the brave. I know. But I do not approve. And I am not resigned. (Edna St. Vincent Millay: 1892-1950, American poet)



Of course you don't die. Nobody dies. Death doesn't exist. You only reach a new level of vision, a new realm of consciousness, a new unknown world. (Henry Miller:1891-1980, American author)



Death is a golden key that opens the palace of eternity. (John Milton: 1608-1674, England, author of epic poem Paradise Lost)



All days travel toward death; the last one reaches it. (Michel de Montaigne: 1533-1592, French author)



The idea is to die young as late as possible. (Ashley Montagu: 1905-1999, English anthropologist, educator)



We should weep for men at their birth, not at their death.
(Baron de Montesquieu: 1689-1755, French political philosopher)



Death, when we consider it closely, is the true goal of our existence. I have formed during the last few years such close relations with this best and truest friend of mankind, that this image is not only no longer terrifying to me, but is indeed very soothing and consoling! And I thank my God for graciously granting me the opportunity of learning that death is the key which unlocks the door to our true happiness. (Wolfgang Mozart: 1756-1791, Austrian composer)



Let children walk with nature, let them see the beautiful blendings and communions of death and life, their joyous inseparable unity, as taught in woods and meadows, plains and mountains and streams of our blessed star, and they will learn that death is stingless indeed, and as beautiful as life. (John Muir: 1838-1914, American naturalist, founder of the Sierra Club)



Death is nothing but a gateway to birth. Nothing that lives ever dies, it only changes form. When a man's body is weary the soul leaves the body to receive newer and fresher garments. And so on goes this great play of God - from eternity to eternity. (Guru Nanak: 1469-1539, founder of the Sikh religion)



In the evening do not expect to live till morning, and in the morning do not expect evening. Prepare as long as you are in good health for sickness, and so long as you are alive for death. (Imam Nawawi: 1234-1278, Muslim author)

One should depart from life as Ulysses parted from Nausicaa -- blessing it rather than in love with it. (Friedrich Nietzsche: 1844-1900, German philosopher)



In reality, there is no death because you are not the body. Let the body be there or not be there, your existence is always there; it is eternal...
(Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj: 1897-1981, Indian spiritual philosopher, guru)



No university will teach you how to live so that when the time of dying comes, you can say: "I lived well, I do not need to live again."
(Sri Nisargadatta Maharaj)



I believe there are two sides to the phenomenon known as death, this side where we live, and the other side where we shall continue to live. Eternity does not start with death. We are in eternity now. (Norman Vincent Peale: 1893-1993, religious teacher, author of The Power of Positive Thinking)



The boundaries between life and death are at best shadowy and vague. Who shall say where one ends and where the other begins? (Edgar Allen Poe: 1809-1849, American author)



There are two bodies - the rudimental and the complete; corresponding with the two conditions of the worm and the butterfly. What we call "death" is but the painful metamorphosis. (Edgar Allan Poe)



The hour of departure has arrived, and we go our ways - I to die, and you to live. Which is better God only knows. (Plato: 428-347 BC, Greek philosopher, student of Socrates, teacher of Aristotle)

The soul is immortal and clothed in many bodies successively. (Plato)



I am making my last effort to return that which is divine in me to that which is divine in the universe. (Plotinus on his deathbed: 205-270, Greek philosopher, founder of the Neoplatonic school of philosophy)



Not by lamentations and mournful chants ought we to celebrate the funeral of a good man, but by hymns, for in ceasing to be numbered to mortals, he enters upon the heritage of a diviner life. (Plutarch: 46-120, Greek historian, biographer)



We say that the hour of death cannot be forecast, but when we say this we imagine that hour as placed in an obscure and distant future. It never occurs to us that it has any connection with the day already begun or that death could arrive this same afternoon, this afternoon which is so certain and which has every hour filled in advance. (Marcel Proust: 1871-1922, French author)



Each departed friend is a magnet that attracts us to the next world.
(Jean Paul Richter: 1763-1825, German novelist)



Even if death were to fall upon you today like lightning, you must be ready to die without sadness and regret, without any residue of clinging for what is left behind. Remaining in the recognition of the absolute view, you should leave this life like an eagle soaring up into the blue sky.
(Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche: 1910-1991, Tibetan Buddhism master, teacher)



When death finally comes you will welcome it like an old friend, being aware of how dreamlike and impermanent the phenomenal world really is.
(Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche)



Before we know it our life is finished and it is time to die. If we lack the foundation of a stable practice, we go to death helplessly, in fear and anguish.
(Kyabje Kalu Rinpoche: 1905 - 1989, a Buddhist meditation master, scholar and teacher. He was one of the first Tibetan masters to teach in the West)

To create the most positive possible imprint on the mind-stream before death is essential. The most effective practice of all to achieve this is a simple practice of Guru Yoga, where the dying person merges his or her mind with the wisdom mind of the Master, or Buddha, or any enlightened being. Even if you cannot visualize your Master at this moment, try at least to remember Him, think of Him in your heart, and die in a state of devotion. When your consciousness awakens again after death, this imprint of the Master's presence will awaken with you, and you will be liberated. If you die remembering the Master, then the possibilities of His or Her grace are limitless. (Sogyal Rinpoche: 1947-present, Tibetan lama, author of The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying)



Normally we do not like to think about death. We would rather think about life. Why reflect on death? When you start preparing for death you soon realize that you must look into your life now and come to face the truth of your self. Death is like a mirror in which the true meaning of life is reflected. (Sogyal Rinpoche)



People so often give up in death and that is a pity. Death is not a tragedy to be feared, but actually it is an opportunity for transformation. (Sogyal Rinpoche)



When we finally know we are dying, and all other sentient beings are dying with us, we start to have a burning, almost heartbreaking sense of the fragility and preciousness of each moment and each being, and from this can grow a deep, clear, limitless compassion for all beings. (Sogyal Rinpoche)



Death is simply a shedding of the physical body, like the butterfly coming out of a cocoon. It is a transition into a higher state of consciousness, where you continue to perceive, to understand, to laugh, to be able to grow, and the only thing you lose is something you don't need anymore - your physical body. It's like putting away your winter coat when spring comes. (Elisabeth Kubler-Ross: 1926-2004, psychiatrist, author of On Death and Dying)

Remember me when I am gone away, gone far away into the silent land;
when you can no more hold me by the hand. Remember me when no more
day by day you tell me of our future that you planned: only remember me;
you understand it will be late to counsel then or pray. Yet if you should
forget me for a while and afterwards remember, do not grieve: for if the
darkness and corruption leave a vestige of the thoughts that once I had, better
by far you should forget and smile than that you should remember and be sad.
(Christina Rossetti: 1830-1894, British poet)



Our death is our wedding with eternity. (Jalaluddin Rumi: 1207-1273, Sufi
mystic, poet. Rumi is one of the most widely read poets in the United States)



If I die, don't say that he died. Say he was dead, became alive, and was
taken by the Beloved. (Rumi)



Do not cry, "Alas, you are gone!" at my graveside: for me, this is a time of
joyful meeting! Do not bid me farewell when I am lowered into my grave: I
have passed through the curtain to eternal grace! (Rumi)

When I die and you wish to visit me, do not come to my grave without a drum, for at God's banquet mourners have no place. (Rumi)



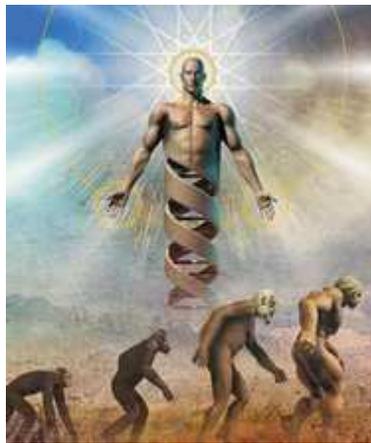
The body, like a mother, is pregnant with the spirit-child: death is the labor of birth. All the spirits who have passed over are waiting to see how that proud spirit shall be born. (Rumi)



Death is in reality spiritual birth, the release of the spirit from the prison of the senses into the freedom of God, just as physical birth is the release of the baby from the prison of the womb into the freedom of the world. While childbirth causes pain and suffering to the mother, for the baby it brings liberation. (Rumi)



For thousands and thousands of years I existed as a rock. Then I died and became a plant. For thousands and thousands of years I existed as a plant. Then I died and became a fish. Then I died and became an animal. For thousands and thousands of years I existed as an animal. Then I died and became a human being. Tell me, what have I ever lost by dying? (Rumi)



Die happily and look forward to taking up a new and better form. Like the sun, only when you set in the west can you rise in the east. (Rumi)

Those to whom death seems as sweet as sugar, how can their sight be dazzled by the temptations of this earthly realm? Physical death holds no bitterness for them, they see it as a blessed refuge from a prison cell into a glorious garden. It will deliver them from a world of torment: No one weeps for the loss of such nothingness! (Rumi)



Someday I'll be a weather-beaten skull resting on a grass pillow, serenaded by a stray bird or two. Kings and commoners end up the same, no more enduring than last night's dream. (Ryokan:1758-1831, Japanese Zen Buddhist monk)



There is no cure for birth and death save to enjoy the interval.
(George Santayana: 1863-1952, Spanish and American philosopher)



Death is not a deplorable event; it is the journey's end, the owner getting out of the car when the time is up and the goal is reached. It is a consummation, a happy conclusion, or at least it ought to be, if only all are wise enough to treat it as such and be prepared for it. (Sathya Sai Baba:1926-present, Hindu guru)



I believe that when death closes our eyes we shall awaken to a light, of which our sunlight is but the shadow. (Arthur Schopenhauer: 1788-1860, German philosopher)



Death - the last sleep? No, it is the final awakening. (Sir Walter Scott: 1771-1832, Scotland, author)



Seeing death as the end of life is like seeing the horizon as the end of the ocean. (David Searls: Contemporary author)

Man's real nature is primarily spiritual life, which weaves its threads of mind to build a cocoon of flesh, encloses its own soul in the cocoon, and, for the first time, the spirit becomes flesh. Understand this clearly: the cocoon is not the silkworm; in the same way, the physical body is not man but merely man's cocoon. Just as the silkworm will break out of its cocoon and fly free, so, too, will man break out of his body-cocoon and ascend to the spiritual world when his time is come. Never think that the death of the physical body is the death of man. Since man is life, he will never know death. (Seicho-no-Ie: a nondenominational, New Thought religion. Begun in Japan)



The hour which gives us life begins to take it away. (Seneca: Seneca the Younger, 4 BC - 65 AD, Roman Stoic philosopher, tutor of Emperor Nero)



Your brother has not lost the light of day, but has obtained a more enduring Light. He has not left us, but has gone before us. (Seneca)



Death is a punishment to some, to some a gift, and to many a favor. (Seneca)



The day which we fear as our last is but the birthday of eternity. (Seneca)



What is death? Either a transition or an end. I am not afraid of coming to an end, this being the same as never having become; nor of transition, for I shall never be in confinement quite so cramped anywhere else as I am here. (Seneca)



All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players; they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages. (William Shakespeare: 1564-1616, the literary giant of the Western world)



Cowards die many times before their deaths: The valiant never taste of death but once. (William Shakespeare)



Death is for many the gate of hell; but we are inside on the way out, not on the outside on the way in. (George Bernard Shaw: 1856-1950, Ireland, author, won the Nobel Prize for Literature)



Nothing can be accomplished after death in the way of spiritual liberation unless it is at least begun during this life. (Santon ki Shiksha: another name for the yoga of the celestial sound current)



At the moment of death the sum of all the experiences of life on earth comes to the surface of the mind - for in the mind are stored all impressions of past deeds - and the dying man then becomes absorbed in these experiences. Then comes complete loss of memory. Next there arises before man's mind the vision of his life to come, a vision regulated by his impressions of his past deeds; and he no longer recollects his life on earth. This complete forgetfulness of his past identity is death. His complete acceptance of another state and identification with a new body is said to be his birth. He no longer remembers his past life, and, though he has existed before, he considers himself newly born. His next birth is regulated by the deeds of the present life - the deeds which make up his character. If his character is dominated by light, he achieves a higher birth, that of a deva or of a sage; if by passion, he is returned to earth as a demon or as a man; and if by darkness he is born from the lower wombs. (Sirmad Bhagavatam: Hindu text)

Death is no bugbear; it is the name given to a change which comes when one leaves the coarse atmosphere of the earth and enters a finer one of Light. Something like the sun setting in one place and rising in another.

(Sant Kirpal Singh: 1894-1974, India, God-realized guru)



Wherever our desire is, we shall go there. That is why a person's thought should be on God at the time of death. (Sant Kirpal Singh)



If you die in that sweet remembrance of the Master you are not to return to the world. (Sant Kirpal Singh)



Each man has to die in the manner destined by past karma, either by disease or accident. Death cannot befall us before it is due. Then why worry? We may not know as to how we will meet death, whether by disease or by accident, but one thing is sure, that if the sweet remembrance of the Lord exists at the time, we will have a peaceful death as the Master's presence will be overhead. The only thing required to be done is the sweet remembrance of the Lord all the time. (Sant Kirpal Singh)



If you have been accustomed to one thought, a ruling passion in your life, then naturally that will be the last thought with you. Anything which has been ruling your mind will come up. (Sant Kirpal Singh)

Wherever our desire is, we shall go there. That is why a person's thought should be on God at the time of death. (Sant Kirpal Singh)



The initiates of the Living Master have a rare privilege, for they are granted Divine protection at the time of their final exit from the world. Such disciplined souls are greeted at the last moment by the Radiant Form of the Master, Who escorts them into the inner planes for further progress on the Path as may be necessary for each individual. There are many living instances of those leaving the earth plane for good who bore testimony to the Master's presence and make a happy transition, with His Grace. (Sant Kirpal Singh)



There is no court of trial after death for a devoted disciple. The Master is all in all for him. (Sant Kirpal Singh)



At death, some writhe in agony and torment, and others leave in joy and peace. So what is it all about? They say that at the event of any birth the world rejoices, and the newcomer cries – but brothers, you should live such a life that at departure you yourself rejoice, and the whole world cries. This would mean that you had won the gamble of life. (Sant Kirpal Singh)



The relatives of initiated persons do get help from the Master Power in proportion to the love that the initiates have for the Master and their relatives have for the initiates. (Sant Kirpal Singh)



In nature death follows life and life proceeds from death. Death as a cessation of life in one form is but a prelude to re-living in another, and generally at a higher level of existence than before, and in better and more congenial environs. (Sant Kirpal Singh)

We are to leave this world one day, and if we are loving, obedient disciples, and have made proper preparations in this lifetime, we do not have the transition which we call death. While others weep, the spiritually developed soul departs happy – happier than a bridegroom on his wedding day. The time of death is a critical one in our experience, when our friends and relatives are helpless to render any assistance; but for the followers of Sant Mat, it is the happiest time of all. The Master appears and takes the departing soul with Him, and puts it in its upward journey at the place for which it is fit. There is no rendering of accounts with Kal, provided there have been love for and obedience to the Master. The departed soul is happier than it has ever been before. There is absolutely no fear of death. The Master's presence within breaks all worldly connections, and the mind is free to continue the upward journey. (Baba Sawan Singh: 1858-1948, India, God-realized guru, guru to Sant Kirpal Singh)



A man of discrimination and wisdom is not afraid of death. He knows that death is the gate of life. Death to him is no longer a skeleton bearing a sword to cut the thread of life, but rather an angel who has a golden key to unlock for him the door to a wider, fuller and happier existence. (Swami Sivananda: 1887-1963, Hindu guru)



I shall be dead in a few months. But it hasn't given me the slightest anxiety or worry. I always knew I was going to die. (B.F. Skinner: 1904-1990, one of the 20th century's most famous psychologists, known especially for his emphasis on behaviorism.)



To fear death is nothing other than to think oneself wise when one is not; for it is to think one knows what one does not know. No man knows whether death may not even turn out to be the greatest of blessings for a human being; and yet people fear it as if they knew for certain that it is the greatest of evils. (Socrates: 469 BC-399 BC, Greek philosopher who laid the early foundations for Western philosophical thought. Teacher of Plato)

Be of good cheer about death and know this as a truth --that no evil can happen to a good man, either in life or after death. (Socrates)



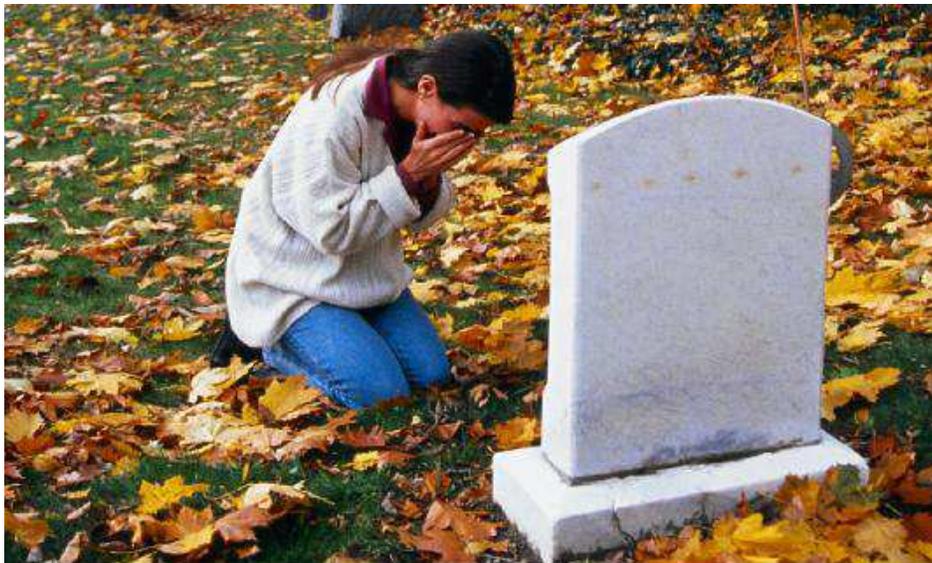
The difficulty, my friends, is not in avoiding death, but in avoiding unrighteousness; for that runs faster than death. (Socrates)



I am confident that there truly is such a thing as living again, that the living spring from the dead, and that the souls of the dead are in existence. (Socrates)



The bitterest tears shed over graves are for words left unsaid and deeds left undone. (Harriet Beecher Stowe: 1811-1896, American reformer and writer, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin)



Death is not extinguishing the light; it is putting out the lamp because dawn has come. (Rabindranath Tagore: 1861-1941, India, poet, philosopher, social reformer, was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature)

Life, like a child, laughs, shaking its rattle of death as it runs. (Tagore)



In the dualism of death and life there is a harmony. We know that the life of a soul, which is finite in its expression and infinite in its principle, must go through the portals of death in its journey to realize the infinite. It is death which is monistic, it has no life in it. But life is dualistic; it has an appearance as well as truth; and death is that appearance, that maya, which is an inseparable companion to life. (Tagore)



On the day when death will knock at thy door, what will you offer him? I will set before my guest the full vessel of my life. I will never let him go with empty hands. (Tagore)



Birth and death are like ships: why do we rejoice over a ship setting out on a journey when we know not what she may encounter on the seas? We should rejoice when the ship returns safely to the port. (Midrash Tanhuma: Jewish text)



We die into this world and are born back into the oneness. (Taoist saying)



While we are mourning the loss of our friend, others are rejoicing to meet him behind the veil. (John Taylor: 1808-1887, was the third president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)



Death is the bright side of life. (Alfred, Lord Tennyson: 1809-1892, regarded by his contemporaries as the greatest poet of Victorian England)



After you die, you wear what you are. (Saint Teresa of Avila: 1515-1582, Christian Spanish mystic)



Whatever state of being one calls to mind at the end upon leaving aside his body, to that very state he attains, always being in that state. (Tibetan Book of the Dead)



O ye that move! We too were like you once, enjoying life to the full. But alas! Now we are a handful of dust beneath this stone. (Tombstone inscription)



All say "How hard it is that we have to die" - a strange complaint to come from the mouths of people who have had to live. (Mark Twain: 1835-1910, American author)



The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time. (Mark Twain)



A man acts according to the desires to which he clings. After death he goes to the next world bearing in his mind the subtle impressions of his deeds; and, after reaping there the harvest of those deeds, he returns again to this world of action. Thus he who has desire continues subject to rebirth. He who lacks discrimination, whose mind is unsteady and whose heart is impure, never reaches the goal, but is born again and again. But he who has discrimination, whose mind is steady and whose heart is pure, reaches the goal and, having reached it, is born no more. (Upanishads: ancient Hindu text)



Death plucks my ear and says, "Live - I am coming." (Virgil: 70 BC-19 BC, most famous poet of ancient Rome)



I see clearly that there are two deaths: to cease loving and being loved is unbearable. But to cease to live is of no consequence. (Voltaire: 1694-1778, French poet, historian, and philosopher)



You live on earth for a few short years which you call an incarnation, and then you leave your body as an outworn dress and go for refreshment to your true home in the spirit. (White Eagle: 19th century Native American spiritual teacher)



Come lovely and soothing death, undulate round the world, serenely arriving, arriving, in the day, in the night, to all, to each, sooner or later, delicate death. (Walt Whitman: 1819-1892, American poet)



Nothing can happen more beautiful than death. (Walt Whitman)



Do you suspect death? If I were to suspect death, I should die now. Do you think I could walk pleasantly and well-suited toward annihilation? Pleasantly and well-suited I walk, whither I walk I cannot define, but I know it is good, the whole universe indicates that it is good, the past and the present indicate that it is good. (Walt Whitman)



Death is only an experience through which you are meant to learn a great lesson: you cannot die. (Paramahansa Yogananda: 1893-1952, Indian guru, author of Autobiography of a Yogi)