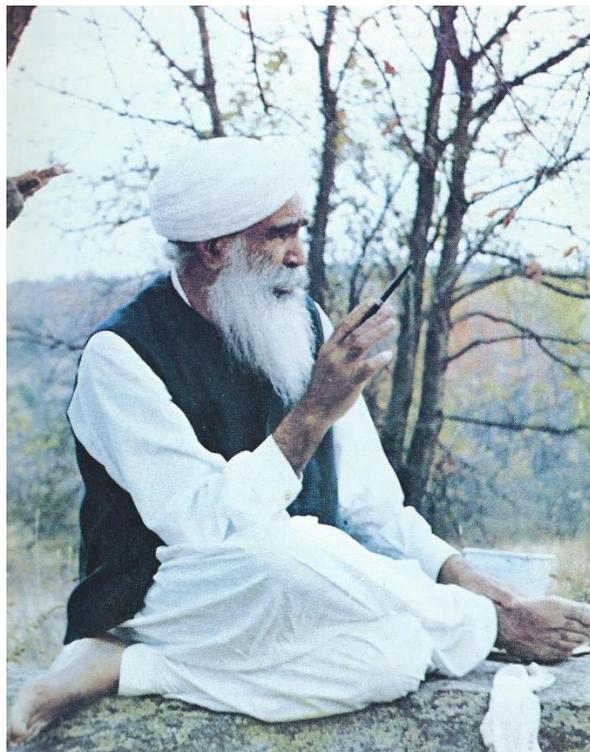


# Make Hay While the Sun Shines



Sant Kirpal Singh Ji Maharaj

The more you are developed while living here,  
the more of the inner journey is covered in the Beyond.

(Sant Kirpal Singh Ji)

[ruhanisatsangusa.org/wayof.htm](http://ruhanisatsangusa.org/wayof.htm)



If we live recklessly when our hair is black,  
at least when it turns to white we should give some thought  
to how we are living, and what it will avail us.

(Sant Kirpal Singh Ji)

[ruhanisatsangusa.org/listen.htm](http://ruhanisatsangusa.org/listen.htm)



Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be.  
Remind me that my days are numbered,  
and that my life is fleeing away.

(Psalm 39:4)



## Sant Kirpal Singh Ji Maharaj

Make hay while the sun shines. You should always hie on your Holy Path irrespective of worldly gains or losses. You will appreciate that after all everything is to be left behind at the final hour of death, and only the Holy Naam will accompany us into the Beyond. You know very well the supreme importance of regular meditations. The more you are developed while living here, the more of the inner journey is covered in the Beyond. Know it for certain that you are here in this mortal world only for enjoying the rare bliss of Holy Naam. God and Master (God in man) first; all else secondary. ([ruhanisatsangusa.org/wayof.htm](http://ruhanisatsangusa.org/wayof.htm))



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

When you are strong and healthy, you never think of sickness coming,  
but it descends with sudden force like a stroke of lightning.  
When involved in worldly things, you never think of death's approach;  
quick it comes like thunder crashing round your head.  
(Milarepa)

Thus shall ye think of all this fleeting world:  
a star at dawn, a bauble in a stream; a flash of lightning in a summer cloud,  
a flickering lamp, a phantom, and a dream.  
(Buddha)



...I would reiterate that our days are numbered, and before the great final change, viz., death, comes, the initiates should develop rising above body consciousness by attuning their souls with the Holy Naam. If you will take one step, He will come down hundreds of steps to greet you. Each and every moment spent in holy meditation stands to your spiritual credit.

(ruhanisatsangusa.org/wayof.htm)



You are living amidst the causes of death like a lamp standing in a strong breeze.  
(Nagarjuna)

This world is swept away by aging, by illness, by death.  
For one swept on by aging no shelters exist.  
Keeping sight of this danger in death,  
do meritorious deeds that bring bliss.  
Make merit while alive.  
(Buddha)



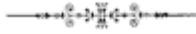
Get the full benefit of meditation, and increase it day by day. The more you increase it, the nearer will you advance toward your goal. If you refuse, the day will come when you will be filled with regret for the lost opportunity. ([ruhanisatsangusa.org/thief of.htm](http://ruhanisatsangusa.org/thief%20of.htm))



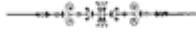
Meditate now,  
lest you regret it later.  
(Buddha)

You are a mist that appears for a little while  
and then vanishes.  
(James 4:14)

This existence of ours is as transient as autumn clouds.  
To watch the birth and death of beings  
is like looking at the movements of a dance.  
A lifetime is like a flash of lightning in the sky, rushing by,  
like a torrent down a steep mountain.  
(Buddha)



We must make hay while the sun shines. Although much time has been lost, we still have some time left. We must, therefore, make most of the time that is still with us. [ruhanisatsangusa.org/gurmukh.htm](http://ruhanisatsangusa.org/gurmukh.htm))



All things conditioned are unstable, impermanent, fragile in essence as an unbaked pot, like something borrowed, or a city founded on sand, they last a short while only. They are inevitably destroyed, like plaster washed off in the rains, like the sandy bank of a river – they are conditioned, and their true nature is frail. They are like the flame of a lamp, which rises suddenly and as soon goes out. They have no power of endurance, like the wind or like foam, unsubstantial, essentially feeble.

(Buddha)

A mock show, dew drops, or a bubble, a dream, lightning flash, or cloud, so should one view what is conditioned.

(Buddha)

Life is as fleeting as a rainbow, a flash of lightning, a star at dawn.  
Knowing this, how can you quarrel?

(Buddha)

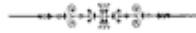


In this human body you can go back to your home and in no other. You are fortunate you have the human body. What you can do here in a short time, cannot be done in the other world - the higher planes - in ten times as long. ([ruhanisatsangusa.org/lok/god-enter.htm](http://ruhanisatsangusa.org/lok/god-enter.htm))



O Kabir, why do you slumber?  
Arise, awake, and remember the Merciful,  
for the day is not distant when you will sleep the long sleep  
with both legs fully stretched.  
(Kabir)

Never halting night or day,  
My life drains constantly away,  
And from no other source does increase come.  
How can there not be death for such as me?  
(Shantideva)

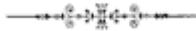


What takes months to do here, there takes years to do.  
([ruhanisatsangusa.org/lok/riseabov.htm](http://ruhanisatsangusa.org/lok/riseabov.htm))



Up, sluggard, and waste not life;  
in the grave will be sleeping enough.  
(Benjamin Franklin)

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)



Night follows day. Human life is the only opportunity at our disposal for higher awakening. We are totally ignorant about the life after death. Therefore, make hay while the sun shines. Know thyself and Overself. One who is enlightened while alive would be so after death. A learned man would remain learned after he shakes off his mortal frame. An illiterate person would not become a pundit after death. Salvation during one's lifetime has been the supreme ideal of all Saints. Promise of salvation after death is of no value. ([ruhanisatsangusa.org/thinkofdeath.htm](http://ruhanisatsangusa.org/thinkofdeath.htm))



Few are the wise ones who turn the heart away from worldly objects,  
and spend their time in gathering riches for the life beyond,  
before departure from this lonely earth.

(Ansari of Herat)

The spiritually enlightened choose freely to devote themselves  
to the work of the next world;  
the foolish choose freely the work of this.

(Rumi)



“Arise, awake, and stop not till the Goal is reached” is the time honored message coming down, as it does from eternity, and I repeat it today with all the emphasis at my command. Make hay while the sun shines. The Kingdom of God verily is at hand and the Power of God unmistakably beckons you to it. Avail of the golden opportunity that God has given you, for human birth is a rare privilege and thrice blessed is man. Make the most of it, while there is yet time... You are one of the fortunate children of Invincible Light. Live up to that sacred Truth. Master-Power is always with you and will be extending you all love and grace. ([ruhanisatsangusa.org/msg-ss.htm](http://ruhanisatsangusa.org/msg-ss.htm))

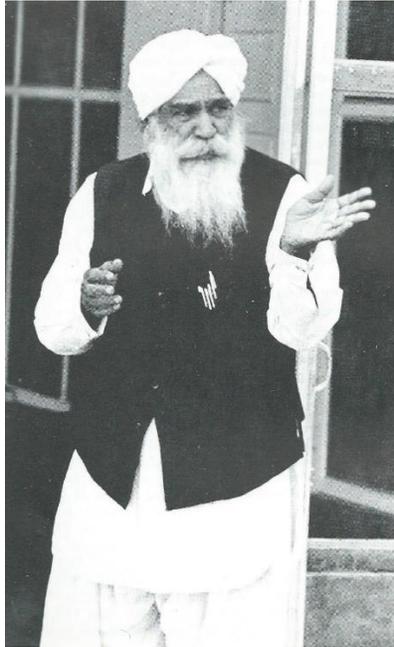


A turtle lives in the ocean and every 100 years he comes up for air.  
If that turtle was to rise for air and by chance put his head through a bucket  
that was floating on the surface it would be extremely rare.  
Attaining a precious human rebirth is even rarer than that.  
(Buddhist)

In a man's life, his time is but a moment, his being a mere flux,  
his senses a dim glimpse, his body food for the worms,  
and his soul a restless eddy ... The things of the body  
pass like a flowing stream; life is a brief sojourn,  
and one's mark in this world is soon forgotten.  
(Marcus Aurelius)



The day our allotted number of breaths expire this body will fade away like a bubble of dew.  
And that time might arrive any minute... (ruhanisatsangusa.org/dieb4death.htm)



Remember, only that breath is truly valuable,  
which is spent in remembering the True Name of the Lord;  
all other breaths you breathe, spent in some other schemes and plans,  
are useless.  
(Kabir)

Many have died; you also will die.  
The drum of death is being beaten.  
The world has fallen in love with a dream.  
(Kabir)



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 Bani Magazine, January 1984, 16)



To think about weakness in old age is also a trick of the mind:  
By making us worry about all the weaknesses which some do experience in old age,  
our mind is keeping us from Simran.

Instead of thinking about old age and its weakness, we should do Simran,  
which could be of some help to us. But worrying will not help.

(Sant Ajaib Singh, Sant Bani Magazine, 3/85)

Even when we are not meditating, we can be swimming in ecstasy. How?  
We can keep our attention on the divine Beloved all hours of the day and night.  
While driving, while working with our hands or body, while cooking food, while eating,  
while exercising, or doing any other activities, we can remember God.

(Sant Rajinder Singh, *Spark of the Divine*, 141)

Our regularity in meditation  
and the amount of our leisure time we spend in sweet remembrance of the Master  
is directly proportional to the extent of our passion, zeal, love, and eagerness  
to reach our goal in the least possible time.

(Sant Darshan Singh)



If you die in that Sweet Remembrance of the Master you are not to return to the world.  
(ruhanisatsangusa.org/lok/dont-forget.htm)

Wherever our desire is, we shall go there. That is why a person's thought should be on God at the time of death. (ruhanisatsangusa.org/serpent.htm)

Whatever your ruling passion is at the end of your life, you'll be driven there, that's the law.  
(ruhanisatsangusa.org/comeback.htm)

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.  
(ruhanisatsangusa.org/lok/protection.htm)



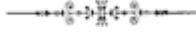
If you have not chosen the Kingdom of God first, it will, in the end,  
make no difference what you have chosen instead.  
(William Law, 18<sup>th</sup> century English mystic)

The worm is in the root of the body's tree; travelers, it is late!  
Life's sun is going to set.  
During these brief days that you have strength,  
be quick and spare no effort of your wings.  
(Rumi)

Don't die again with that holy ruby mine inside still unclaimed  
when you could be swinging a golden pick with each step.  
(Hafiz)



The first thing the negative power does when he wants to keep control over a soul is to stop them doing bhajan and simran. The individual finds that there is always something to lure him away from his meditation. (*The Night is a Jungle*, 175)



Meditation...is the expression of your true nature;  
it is the activity which appeases your inmost desire.

Repetition, for no special purpose and without end,  
is the way to follow the Cosmic Order.  
The point is not to look for something, but to practice.  
Continue until you reach your coffin.  
If you practice every day, after a while  
you no longer have to think about practicing or decide  
or want to practice. So repetition is very important.

We can say either that we make progress little by little,  
or that we do not even expect to make progress.  
Just to be sincere and make our full effort in each moment is enough.  
(Suzuki Roshi)



Those children who are devoting time to their meditations in loving obedience will find that their progress will steadily improve as time goes on, and they will develop receptivity. Each day is precious, and time is running short for all initiates as their work is of the highest importance. Blessed are they who spend their time wisely. (Letters to N. Y. Initiates, part 12)



We have never cared to think about what kind of journey lies beyond the Gates of Death. We lament the death of others. But actually we should be concerned with our own end, and should prepare ourselves for our own life beyond death.  
(Baba Sawan Singh)

Mark that we are here for a short time only, and in the end even our bodies will desert us. What then can we expect from other people in this world? Think of death, what a solemn and awe-inspiring scene it is. At that time neither friends nor our worldly greatness will help us. Only the Word and our Satguru will relieve us. Therefore, even now begin to prepare for that event, lest you be found wanting in the time of trial.  
(Baba Sawan Singh)



All the time life is passing away; time and tide wait for no man. After all, it is something like a pitcher full of water; drop by drop it is oozing out. Then what will happen? One day the pitcher will be empty; all the water will be out. Similarly, these numbers of breaths, or drops of water you might say, they are dropping out, one by one. We think we are getting old; truly speaking, we are growing young. A man who is to live fifty years, if he has passed ten years, he has forty years left; when twenty years have passed, he has only thirty years left; are you growing older or younger? It is going down! ([ruhanisatsangusa.org/pdf/ss74/ss197408.pdf](http://ruhanisatsangusa.org/pdf/ss74/ss197408.pdf))

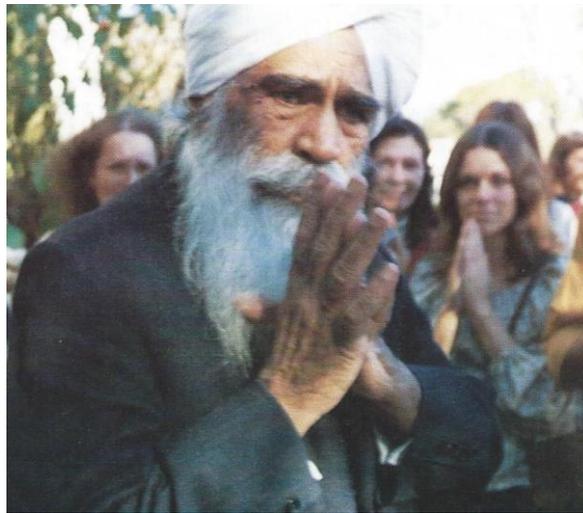


In the dead of night, a Sufi began to weep.  
He said, "This world is like a closed coffin, in which  
We are shut and in which, through our ignorance,  
We spend our lives in folly and desolation.  
When Death comes to open the lid of the coffin,  
Each one who has wings will fly off to Eternity,  
But those without will remain locked in the coffin."  
So, my friends, before the lid of this coffin is taken off,  
Do all you can to become a bird of the Way to God;  
Do all you can to develop your wings and your feathers.  
(Attar)



## Baba Sawan Singh on Retirement

To one who had recently retired on a pension, Hazur said: “You should look upon this day as your most lucky day. You have played your game well. All your worldly duties are over. Now you should do something for yourself. Up to this time, you have been doing other's work. Now do your own. All desires and worldly cravings should be turned out of your mind. Tell your mind that you have finished your game in the world and now God's innings begins. Take your mind out from family, property, wealth, honor, country and all other connections with the world. Bring your mind to such a state that existence or non-existence of these things may have no effect on you. Now devote all your thought, attention and time to God and God alone. Become His now. Cleanse your mind of everything else. Think day and night of Bhajan and of nothing else. Work hard. Fight the mind fearlessly. The Guru is with you. With His help, subdue the mind.” (*Spiritual Bouquet*, Radha Soami booklet)



Nothing in the world is permanent, and we're foolish when we ask anything to last,  
but surely we're still more foolish not to take delight in it while we have it.  
(W. Somerset Maugham)

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.”  
(Nisargadatta)



## The One Thing Which You Must Never Forget

Rumi

There is one thing in the world which you must never forget. If you were to forget everything else and remember this, then you would have nothing at all to worry about; but if you were to remember everything else and then forget this, you would have done nothing with your life.

It is as if a king sent you to a country to carry out a particular mission. You go to that country, you do a hundred different things; but if you do not perform the mission assigned to you, it is as if you have done nothing. All human beings come into the world for a particular mission, and that mission is our singular purpose. If we do not enact it, we have done nothing.

Now if you were to say, “Look, even if I have not performed this mission I have, after all, performed a hundred others,” that would mean nothing. You were not created for those other missions.

It is as if you were to buy a sword of priceless Indian steel such as one usually finds only in the treasuries of emperors, and were to turn it into a butcher’s knife for cutting up rotten meat, saying, “Look, I’m not letting this sword stay unused, I am putting it to a thousand highly useful purposes.”

Or it is as though you were to take a golden bowl and cook turnips in it, while for just one grain of that gold you could purchase hundreds of pots.

Or it is as though you were to take a dagger of the most finely-wrought and tempered steel and use it as a nail to hang a broken pitcher on, saying, “I’m making excellent use of my dagger. I’m hanging a broken pitcher on it, after all.” When you can hang a picture on a nail that costs only a few cents, what sense does it make to use a dagger worth a fortune?

Remember the deep root of your being, the presence of your Lord. Give your life to the one who already owns your breath and your moments. If you don’t, you will be exactly like the man who takes his precious dagger and hammers it into his kitchen wall for a peg to hold his broken pitcher.

You are more valuable than both heaven and earth. What else can I say? You don’t know your own worth. Do not sell yourself at a ridiculous price - you who are so valuable in God’s eyes.



If, during lifetime, entry has been made into the eye center  
and the sound current has been grasped,  
life has been usefully spent.  
If this has not been done,  
even though all else has been done - and most successfully –  
then life has been wasted.

(Baba Sawan Singh, *Spiritual Gems*, 143)



## The Wise King Sant Kirpal Singh



There is a story of a kingdom wherein they chose a new king every five years. During the five years, the king was the supreme ruler and his every word obeyed; but at the end of this period, the people would take the king to a dense forest full of wild animals and reptiles and leave him there. On the day the king was chosen he would rejoice at his good fortune, but on the expiration of five years, he would be led off to the jungle sadly lamenting his lot in life.

Many kings came and went in their turn, until one day a man was chosen who had the serious thought, “What will happen to me after five years?” He was a man of considerable intelligence and was duly concerned for his future life. So after some careful thought, he secretly started to send workers into the forest to cut some of the trees and make a huge clearing. They then made orchards, gardens, beautiful buildings, and appropriate surroundings, until the whole place became a luxurious kingdom. A man can do wonders in five years, and when the time was up and he was told that he must leave the throne, he smiled happily and said, “Yes, let's go.”

The people were naturally amazed and asked why he was rejoicing. He told them, “I have already prepared my destination and have taken possession there; so I have no fear of going. What is more, I will actually enjoy more comfort there, for here I had many responsibilities, yet there I will have none.”

All souls have this golden opportunity while in the human form and so we should make use of it and prepare while we can, for the day will come when we have to leave.

(ruhanisatsangusa.org/dieb4death.htm)

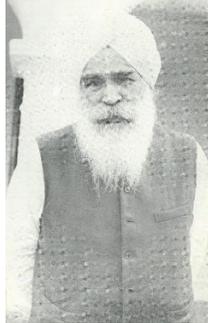


We are at our very best, and we are happiest, when we are fully engaged in work we enjoy on the journey toward the goal we've established for ourselves. It gives meaning to our time off and comfort to our sleep. It makes everything else in life so wonderful, so worthwhile.

(Earl Nightingale)



All that has blemished your pure life in the past can be left in the hands of the Master, and in the future you should live a clean and chaste life and be regular in your spiritual practices. You will come very close to the Master, and His love will just envelop you. (Sant Kirpal Singh, [ruhanisatsangusa.org/tours/55/ss55\\_11.htm](http://ruhanisatsangusa.org/tours/55/ss55_11.htm))



The day is now ended, our lives are shorter.  
Now we look carefully at what have we done.  
Let us be diligent; let us live deeply, free from our afflictions,  
aware of impermanence so that life does not drift away without meaning.  
(Thich Nhat Hahn)



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)

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



Disciples of a saint do not feel any pain at the time of death.  
They rather enjoy great peace at that time.  
(Swami Ji Maharaj)

When a loving devotee dies, the Master takes care of the soul.  
He guides it and instructs it even after death.  
In this respect the death of a devotee is totally different  
from that of a man of the world.  
(Baba Sawan Singh, *Spiritual Gems*, latter 81)



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For more booklets go to: [kirpalsingh.org](http://kirpalsingh.org)  
(Spiritual Quotations for Lovers of God)

