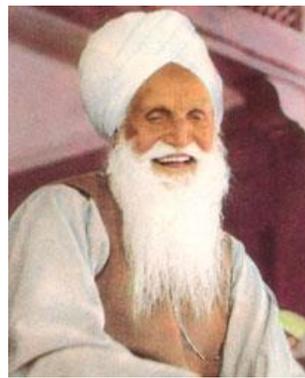
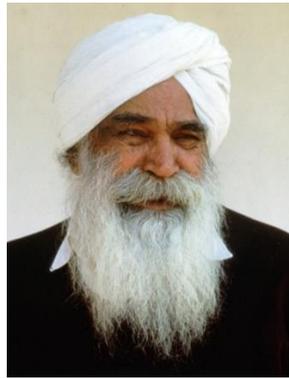
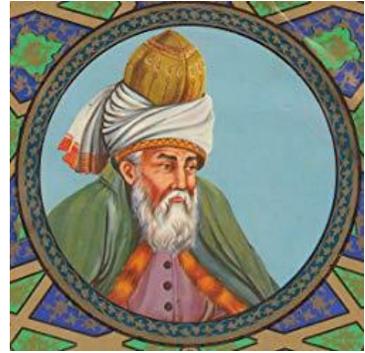
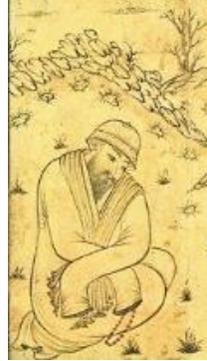


# Wisdom from Ten Wise Ones



# Saint John of the Cross

Spanish Mystic & Poet  
1542-1591



Once I said to God, “How do you teach us?”  
And He replied,  
“If you were playing chess with someone who had infinite power and infinite knowledge  
and wanted to make you a master of the game,  
where would all the chess pieces be at every moment?  
Indeed, not only where he wanted them,  
but where all were best for your development;  
and that is every situation of one’s life.”



The flame called the moth but the glass pane was there.  
How many have died not in the fire  
but in the cold, crazed in longing?



It is great wisdom to know how to be silent  
and to look at neither the remarks, nor the deeds, nor the lives of others.



It makes little difference whether a bird be held by a slender thread or by a rope;  
the bird is bound, and cannot fly until the cord that holds it is broken.  
It is true that a slender thread is more easily broken; still notwithstanding,  
if it is not broken the bird cannot fly.  
This is the state of a soul with particular attachments:  
it never can attain to the liberty of the divine union, whatever virtues it may possess.  
Desires and attachments affect the soul as the remora is said to affect a ship;  
that is but a little fish, yet when it clings to the vessel  
it effectually hinders its progress.

# Sri Ramakrishna

Hindu Mystic  
1836-1886



## Then Comes the Time for Action

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.

## That Divine Yearning

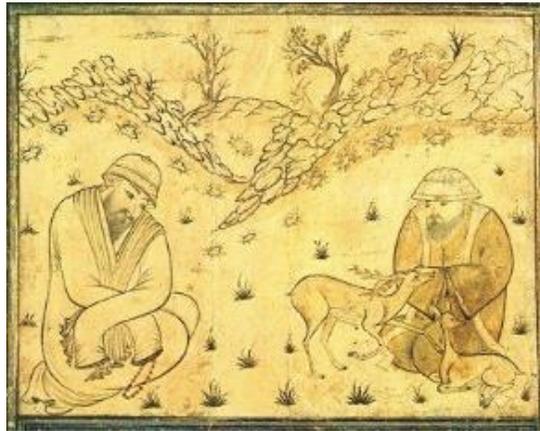
God cannot be seen without yearning of heart, and this yearning is impossible unless one has finished with the experiences of life. Those who live surrounded by “women and gold” and have not yet come to the end of their experiences, do not yearn for God. When I lived at Kamarpukur, Hriday's son, a child 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.

## Saint Paltu Sahib

Indian Mystic & Guru

1710-1780

There was another Paltu.  
I was mistaken for him and given devotion.  
Devotion was given to me by mistaking me for another of my name.  
I took the wealth meant for another and secreted it.  
It was fated for another but was given to me.  
I alone know it, nobody else does.  
I offered to return it, but it was not accepted.  
This was a mistake by the Great One; what He said I did  
Oh Paltu! You are a great sinner  
and the Lord committed a mistake.  
There was another Paltu.  
I was mistaken for him and given devotion.



Many are the tales people tell about me – my Master turns a deaf ear to them all. He has turned a deaf ear to such tales ever since I surrendered to him. Ignoring my faults and sins, he has made me his own. I commit acts of injustice, I'm swayed by lust and anger; but however wicked the son may be, he is still dear to his father. I am lustful, greedy and depraved, dishonest and low-bred, but because of my surrender he has raised me up high. Such indeed, O Paltu, is his gracious treatment of me. Many are the tales people tell about me – my Master turns a deaf ear to them all.



Through the grace of my Master, I have captured the five bandits. I have captured the five bandits, and peace now reigns in the town. The three attributes have been expelled, in their place devotion resides. Greed and attachment have been seized and beheaded; desire and egotism have been mortally wounded. Wickedness has been expelled with the whip of piety. The valiant soldier-saint has stormed the fortress of his body. I have established law and order, O Paltu, and the news has spread in the town. Through the grace of my Master, I have captured the five bandits.

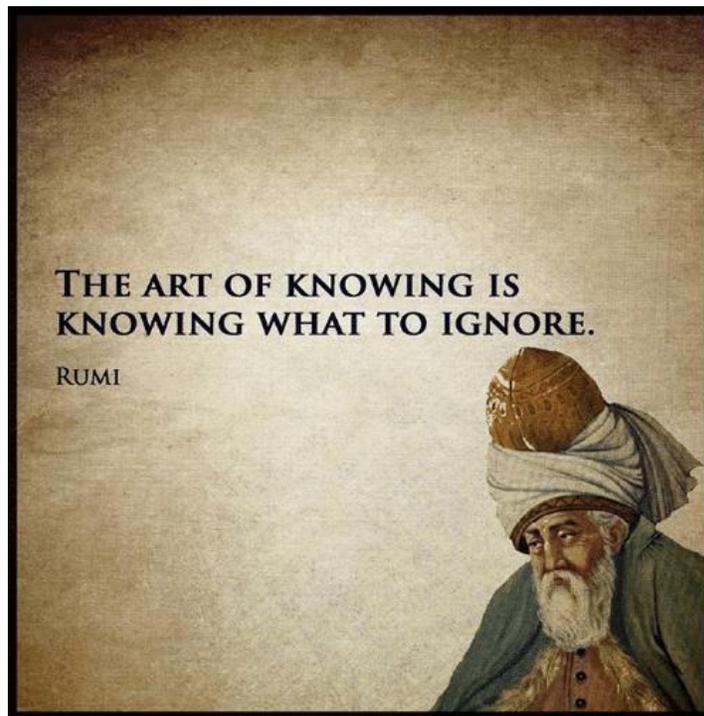


# Rumi

Sufi Mystic & Poet  
1207-1273

The dead regret not dying, but having lost opportunities in life.

Well said that leader of mankind,  
That whosoever passes away from the world  
Does not grieve and lament over his death,  
But grieves ever over lost opportunities.  
He says, "Why did I not keep death always in view,  
Which is the treasury of wealth and sustenance?  
Why did I blindly all my life set my affections  
On vain shadows which perish at death?  
My regret is not that I have died,  
But that I rested on these vain shadows in life.  
I saw not that my body was a mere shadow or foam,  
Which foam rises out of and lives on the Ocean (God)".



Your task? To work with all the passion of your being to acquire an Inner Light, so you escape and are safe from the fires of madness, illusion, and confusion that are, and always will be, the world.



## Shams i Tabriz

Sufi Mystic, Poet, Rumi's Guru  
1185-1248

Night is the time when the Beloved Lord appears. Those who are asleep at this time are depriving themselves of a great boon. Day is for work, but night is for love and devotion to the Lord. Therefore, the whole night should be spent in communion with the Lord. The whole world sleeps, but the devotees spend the night in meditation at the Feet of the Lord.

O thou beautiful moon-like seeker, if you do not sleep at night you will gain the treasure of immortality. Your night will become resplendent with that hidden Sun. Your eyes will open and you will behold His splendor.

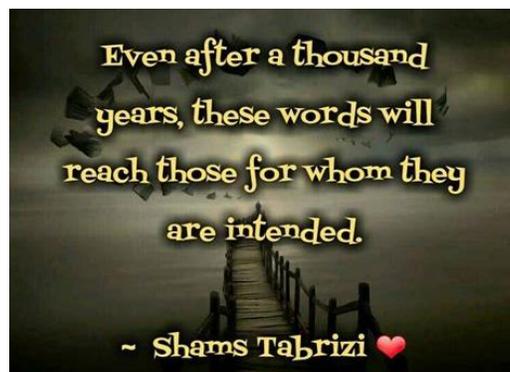
You have spent thousands of nights in endeavoring to fulfill your desires and cravings, but if you do not sleep for the sake of your Beloved, then what harm can befall you? Do you not know that whatever the spiritual kings possess, was obtained by them at night?

You should remain awake for the sake of that Giver of all gifts, and you should have no fear that sleeplessness will result in mental fatigue, because during that time flows the Foundation of Life, the Nectar of which will make you refreshed and heighten your consciousness. Therefore, do not sleep. Every morning the Voice of the Lord calls you. By listening to it, all your worries and troubles will vanish, and the stains of previous evil impressions on your mind will also be washed away. Do not sleep throughout the night, because at that time thousands of lives receive the sustaining life-force. Like the full moon, the Supreme Lord descends from the highest heavens to bless His disciples with the gifts of Grace and Mercy.

Only at night the soul meets its Lord and has all its desires fulfilled. The hearts of those who realize the value of night become as brilliant as the noonday sun.

There is seclusion at night. Our Beloved is within us, and what a gracious time it is! The Sound Currents of Naam are reverberating on all sides and are easily audible in the silence of the night. If you have an intense longing to meet your Lord, you should know the darkness of the night is like the long black tresses of the Beloved, spread everywhere. And if you continue to sleep at night, then you should be ashamed.

The solitude of night is like a river which has innumerable pure gems in it. If you are keen to acquire them, you dive deep into the ocean of the night. Do not be asleep. Behold the stars at night! How they keep awake and travel unimaginable distances! And learn the lesson that by keeping awake at night you also have to reach a Goal. (Quoted by Sant Kirpal Singh, The Time of Elixir)



Sant Kirpal Singh Ji Maharaj  
to His Beloved Guru,  
Hazur Baba Sawan Singh Ji Maharaj

Come Beloved Satguru, come and show me your face.

Your simple, simple face – your Beloved Form –  
In your face is seen the Glory and Radiance of God –  
You are the one who attracts my heart.  
Come.

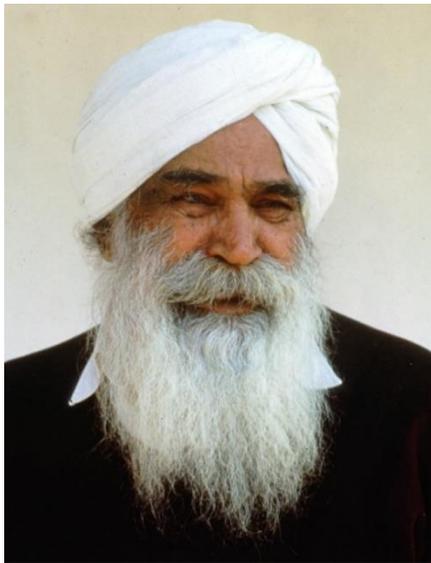
Your beautiful forehead, the white turban, light shines from all parts;  
Your eyes are full with cups of love, and your eyebrows are emitting light.

Your hair is like silken threads from which the Radiance of God flashes;  
On each hair of your head the light of both worlds is shining.

Seeing the beautiful face and listening to the Dhun I get the mark of the Master.  
Your delicious words and sweet voice furnish the heat of my heart.

Your pure beard flows down your chest, becoming whiter and whiter,  
showering light.

The color of Naam destroys ego. You are the one who teaches humility.



Sant Kirpal Singh Ji Maharaj  
1894-1974



Baba Sawan Singh Ji Maharaj  
1858-1948

Since the time I first saw your glory, O Sawan,  
The very thought of you makes me like Majnu.  
Every hair and pore of my body is singing your song.  
Not only individuals, but all people of the Lord-  
All countries, all mystics recognize your greatness.

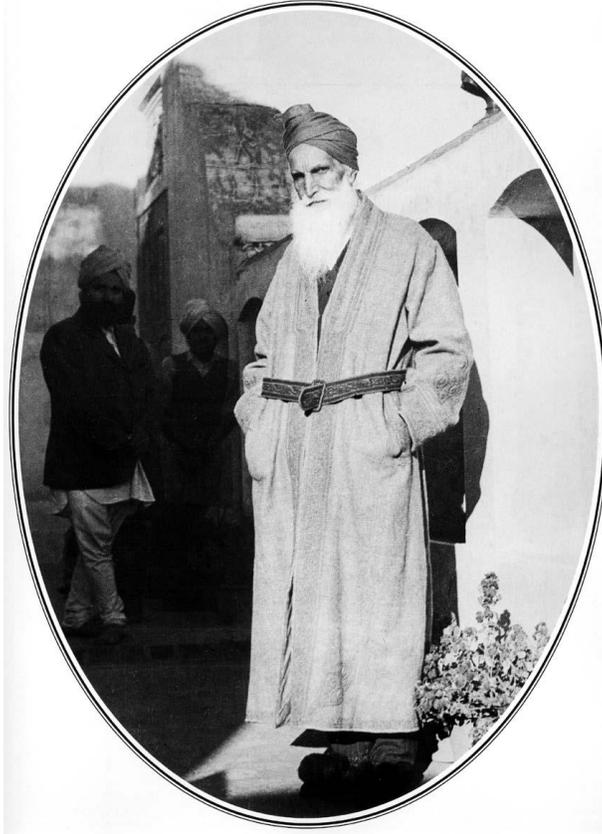
(Songs of the Masters)

# Hazur Baba Sawan Singh Ji Maharaj

“The Great Master”

Indian Saint, SatGuru

1858-1948



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 [spiritual practice] 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)*

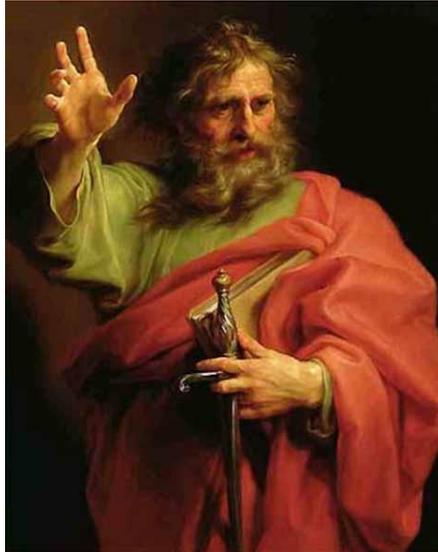


I say, even if you are not able to put in much labor, try to develop love for a mahatma or for a realized soul. If you really love a saint or mahatma, then - asleep or awake - you always think of him. Where would you go after death? You go to the place of the person on whom your thoughts have been dwelling all along. *(Spiritual Gems, letter 13)*



## Saint Paul

c. 5 – c. 64 or 67



I may be able to speak the language of men and even of angels,  
but if I have no love, my speech is no more than a noisy gong or a clanging bell.  
I may have the gift of inspired preaching; I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets;  
I may have all the faith needed to move mountains--but if I have no love, I am nothing.  
I may give away everything I have, and even give up my body to be burned—  
but if I have no love, this does me no good.  
Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud;  
love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable;  
love does not keep a record of wrongs;  
love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth.  
Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail.  
Love is eternal.  
There are inspired messages, but they are temporary;  
there are gifts of speaking in strange tongues, but they will cease;  
there is knowledge, but it will pass.  
For our gifts of knowledge and of inspired messages are only partial;  
but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear.  
When I was a child, my speech, feelings, and thinking were all those of a child;  
now that I am a man, I have no more use for childish ways.  
What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face-to-face.  
What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete—  
as complete as God's knowledge of me.  
Meanwhile these three remain:  
Faith, Hope, and Love;  
and the greatest of these is Love.



No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love Him.

# Jesus Christ

4 BC– AD 30/33

## Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”



“Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s Word. The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God’s Word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God’s Word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!” (Gospel of Matthew chapter 13/1-9;18-23)



# Lao-Tzu

Chinese Philosopher & Founder of Taoism  
601 BC-531 BC



To believe in the Tao is easy;  
To keep the Tao is difficult.



Not all spiritual paths lead to the Harmonious Oneness.  
Indeed, most are detours and distractions,  
nothing more.



Greed for enlightenment and immortality is no different than greed for material wealth.  
It is self-centered and dualistic, and thus an obstacle to true attainment.  
Therefore, these states are never achieved by those who covet them;  
rather, they are the reward of the virtuous.



Understand this if nothing else:  
Spiritual freedom and oneness with the Tao are not randomly bestowed gifts,  
but the rewards of conscious self-transformation and self-evolution.



If you attach yourself to gross energies –  
loving this person, hating that clan,  
rejecting one experience or habitually indulging in another –  
then you will lead a series of heavy, attached lives.  
This can go on for a very long and tedious time.



Life is going forth,  
death is returning home.





May Your Soul Be happy;  
Journey Joyfully.  
(Rumi)

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