

Quotations from Guru Granth Sahib Ji¹ on death

(from www.realsikhism.com, quotations, death)

- O mortal, why are you so proud of small things? With a few pounds of grain and a few coins in your pocket, you are totally puffed up with pride. Even if you control a hundred villages with great pomp and ceremony. Even if you have an income of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The power you exert will last for only a few days, just like the green leaves of the forest. No one has brought this wealth with them, and no one will take it with him when he dies. Emperors, even greater than Raawan², passed away in an instant. The Lord's devotees are steady and stable forever; they worship Him, adore Him, and chant the Lord's Name. Those who are mercifully blessed by God are given the chance to join the company of holy. Mother, father, spouse, children and wealth will not go along with you in the end. Kabear³ says, meditate on God. Your life is uselessly wasting away. (1251)
- Those who serve the true Guru⁴ are shown the true path. Reflecting on the true word of the Shabad⁵, One overcomes death. (149)
- Life and death come to all who are born. Everything here gets devoured by death. (15)
- While waking up or going to sleep, the Lord is always with you, watching over you. The fear of death departs while meditating on Him. (196)
- Know the state of your inner being; meet with the Guru and get rid of your skepticism. To reach your True Home after you die, you must conquer death while you are still alive. (21)
- Like the swan on the lake, death hovers over the body. Kabear says, meditate on God. (325)
- Why are you sleeping and forgetting Naam⁶, O careless and foolish mortal? So many have been carried across by this river of life. O mortal, get aboard on the boat of God's Feet and cross over. Sing the glorious praises of God in the company of the holy twenty-four hours a day. You may enjoy various pleasures, but they are useless without Naam. Without devotion to the Lord, you shall die in sorrow, again and again. You may dress up, eat luxury food, and apply scented oils to your body, but without meditating on God, your body shall surely turn to dust and you shall have to depart. How treacherous is this world; very few realize it! Salvation rests in the Lord's Sanctuary; O Nanak⁷, this is your pre-ordained destiny. (398)
- The day dawns, and then it ends, and the night passes away. Mortals do not realize that this life is diminishing. Each day, the mouse symbolizing death is gnawing on the rope of life. (41)
- You commit innumerable sins because of your desires and longing for Maya⁸. Your body will become a pile of dust; death will eventually conquer you. Abandoning your wealth and youth, you will have to leave without any food or clothing. Nanak says, only your actions shall go with you; your actions cannot be erased. (459)
- Listen, O deluded and demented mind: hold tight to the Guru's feet. Chant and meditate on Naam, the Name of God; death will be afraid of you, and sufferings shall depart. (57)

- In an instant one is born and in an instant one dies. In an instant one come to this world, and in an instant one disappears. One, who recognizes the Shabad and merges into it, is not afflicted by death. (58)
- This day arrives and this day shall go. You must march on; nothing remains stable. Our companions are leaving and we must leave as well. We must go far away. Death is hovering over our heads. Why are you asleep? Wake up, you ignorant fool! You believe that your life in the world is true. The One who gave you life also provides you with nourishment. In each and every heart, He runs His shop. Meditate on the Lord and renounce your egotism and self-conceit. Within your heart, contemplate the Naam, the Name of God, every morning. Your life has passed away, but you have not arranged your path. Evening has set in and soon there will be darkness on all sides. Ravi Daas⁹ says, O ignorant mortal, don't you realize that this world is the house of death? (793)
- The mortal does not realize that death is laughing and hovering over his head. Entangled in conflict, pleasure and egotism, he does not even think of death. So serve your true Guru; why wander around miserable and unfortunate? You gaze upon the transitory beautiful safflower, but why do you get attached to it? You commit sins again and again and keep gathering wealth to spend. But your dust shall mix with dust; you will arise and depart naked (809)

¹ 1430 pages, 5763 hymns

² Raawan (Rawana) was a historical emperor who reigned over Sri Lanka from 2554 BC to 2517 BC. He is the primary antagonist character of the Hindu epic, the Ramayana.

³ Kabeer Ji was a true devotee of God in 14th century India. He did not consider himself to be either a Muslim or a Hindu.

⁴ Guru means a spiritual leader sent by God.

⁵ Shabad is the Word of God, also any single hymn from Guru Grant Sahib Ji.

⁶ Naam is the living presences of God, the Name of God, meditation on the Name of God.

⁷ Guru Nanak, the first of the 10 Sikh Gurus, the founder of the Sikh faith.

⁸ Maya means materialistic things, the world we can see or touch.

⁹ Ravi Daas was a poet and devotee, born in 1399. Many of his devotional hymns are present in Guru Granth Sahib.