

[Gurudeva's Quotes and Quips](#)

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## Gurudeva's Quotes and Quips

"Life is meant to be lived joyously!"

Satguru Sivaya Subramuniyaswami  
(1927-2001)

You are not your mind, because you can control your mind with your will.

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There are only two things you can really depend on: one is the changeableness of life, and the other is the unchanging Self within you.

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The world is divided into two kinds of people: the wise and the otherwise.

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Everything is permanent, until it changes.

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On corporal punishment of children:  
Anyone who beats my devotees beats me.

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God Siva is Immanent Love and Transcendent Reality.

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When you react to a situation, do not re-enact it. Wait until the emotional nature has completely composed itself, then study your reaction.

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If you are going to control your income, start by controlling your emotions.

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Listen for silence in noisy places; feel at peace in the midst of disturbance; awaken joy when there is no reason.

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If you want to know how much you have progressed in your spiritual life, just look

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back and reflect on the changes.

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Even to hear about the Self is good and brings about good karma. Not many will be exposed to the Self.

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Vindictiveness comes from insecurity.

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It is a gift of God to see ourselves as others see us.

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Sitting in a state of meditation, you must be more alive and alert than a tightrope walker suspended without a net on a taut cable three hundred feet above the surface of the Earth.

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As your mind releases its desires and cravings, it releases the hold that it has on you. You dive deeper, fearlessly into this blazing avalanche of light, losing your consciousness. And as you come back into the mind, you see the mind for what it is, and you are free. You find that you are no longer attached because you see that the binder and the bound are one. You become the path. You become the way. You are the light.

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Some people desire peace of mind so intensely that they never have peace of mind.

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Man is not man, man is God.

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You have to want the Self more than your life, because that's what it is—more than your life.

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To know the Self God, go into the that of that, then into the that of that,

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further into the that of That.

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If you're standing up, it's confrontation. If you're sitting down, its conversation. On correcting people, including but not limited to children.

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I've always been a supporter of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.

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Anava, or ego, could seem like

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spirituality, but in reality it's only spirit-duality.

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The pilgrimage toward any experience starts with your first concept of it.

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For creative things, give time. For productive things, give goals.

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Only when man realizes the Self does he attain his full maturity and find completeness.

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Mystics walk away from an uncompromising situation. They don't stick around to make more karmas in this life.

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The whole idea of being adharmic in order to preserve dharma makes humans the most despicable of creatures. This should be ripped out of Hinduism without mercy as far as I am concerned.

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Character is "care actor," the ability to act with care.

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A spiritual man always has to have the upper hand on the lower nature.

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There is no true path that leads away from religion.

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At this time in the Kali Yuga, ignorance is equally distributed worldwide, and wisdom has become an endangered species.

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When shopping one day, Gurudeva

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quipped, "A good buy is a hello."

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There is no good and bad karma; there is self-created experience that presents opportunities for spiritual advancement. As long as we react to karma, we must repeat it. That is the law.

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Desire is the force that drives humanity onward and through all phases of the mind. By changing our desires, we change our life. By changing our life, we change those around us.

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Make the mind always remain poised, like a hummingbird over a flower, so that you begin to live in the eternal now constantly, permanently.

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Let your mind cognize itself by turning itself back on itself. Become consciously conscious. All you have to do is to watch your mind think.

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You are a being that has unlimited power within.

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No man is my enemy. No man is my friend. All men are my teachers. Some teach me what to do, some teach me what not to do.

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Be happy with your achievements, which are done with willpower. That will help accomplish your goals and, further, give you confidence to carry out more tasks.

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If anything goes wrong within a marriage, the blame should be on the man. He's the head of the house and should be responsible to ensure

everything goes right.

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Consistency is the key to the conquest  
of karma.

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Money is cold, so you need to be cool,  
too, when you deal with it.

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The whole path is a total surrendering.  
All four sects of Hinduism meet in  
surrender, prapatti, to the Divine.

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Time is the curvature that makes all people the center of the universe.

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The mystery is no mystery to the mystic.

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Intelligence is finite, but stupidity knows no limits.

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Draw awareness inward, toward the center. When you are elsewhere, you are in one place. When you are the

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center, you are everywhere.

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When looking for tax deductions stops,  
then true giving begins.

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It's as simple as That.

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With all His great powers, the one  
thing Siva cannot do is take Himself  
out of you.

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Siva is the Life of our life.

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Q: Gurudeva, how do we talk to you, once you have passed on?A: Through my successors. Talk to them, and they will talk to me.

DID YOU KNOW?

Rishis' Crossroads

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The most recent four gurus of the Nandinatha Sampradaya's Kailasa Parampara, Gurudeva's spiritual lineage, met their preceptors at the famed Nallur Kanthaswamy Temple to Lord Muruga in northern Sri Lanka. Around 1860, Chellappaswami (1840-1915) first saw Kadaitswami (ca 1810-1875) at this sacred shrine. Forty years later, about 1900, Yogaswami

(1872-1964) encountered Chellappaswami at the Nallur chariot shed. The sage called out to him, "Hey, who are you?"

Yogaswami was transfixed by the inner meaning of that question and the power of his questioner. In 1949, on his way to meet Yogaswami, Gurudeva had a vision of the 77-year-old sage inside Nallur Temple's inner sanctum during puja. An hour later, when they

met in person, Yogaswami asked him, "Did you see me?" Gurudeva answered, "Yes. I saw you at Nallur."