

Sayings of Dag Hammarskjöld (29.7.1905-18.9.1961)

(The Saying (1) and (2) were quoted by M. Sato at the sesshin in February 2023;
cf. D. Hammarskjöld, Signs on the Way).

(1)

When morning freshness gives way to midday fatigue, when the leg muscles
quiver with tension, when the path seems endless and suddenly nothing
wants to go as you desire – just then you must not procrastinate.

(1956)

(2)

Tired
and alone.
Tired
until the mind aches.
From the cliffs
meltwater runs.
Numb fingers,
shaking knees.
Now is the time,
now you must not let go.
Other ways
have resting places
to meet one another
in the sun.
But this way
is your own way,
and it is now,
now you must not fail.
Weep,
if you can,
weep,
but do not complain.
It is the path that has chosen you –
And you should be thankful.

(July 6, 1961)

(translated from the German version)