

# The Lazy Days of Summer!

## Thoughts on the *Business* of Life



Every once in a while we're reminded afresh how, with refreshing brevity and clarity, Ben Franklin's Poor Richard tossed out one truth after another. These samplings are from Ben's *The Way to Wealth*, attractively reprinted in a wee volume by Boston's Applewood Books: "Sloth, like rust, consumes faster than labour wears, while the used key is always bright." "Diligence is the mother of good luck." Laments poor Malcolm, why is it that such sage advice is always more inspiring to read than to follow?

*-Malcolm S. Forbes (1987)*

Ambition is a poor excuse for not having sense enough to be lazy.

*-Edgar Bergen*

Idleness is not doing nothing. Idleness is being free to do anything.

*-Floyd Dell*

No ethic is as ethical as the work ethic.

*-John Kenneth Galbraith*

Iron rusts from disuse, stagnant water loses its purity and in cold weather becomes frozen; even so does inaction sap the vigors of the mind.

*-Leonardo Da Vinci*

I have all my life long been lying in bed till noon; yet I tell all young men, and tell them with great sincerity, that nobody who does not rise early will ever do any good.

*-Samuel Johnson*

Laziness is a good deal like money; the more a man has of it the more he seems to want.

*-Josh Billings*

Life, as it is called, is for most of us one long postponement.

*-Henry Miller*

When the idle poor become the idle rich You'll never know just who is who or who is which.

*-E.Y. (YIP) Harburg*

A lazy man is never lucky.

*-Persian proverb*

What use is a good head if the legs won't carry it?

*-Yiddish proverb*

A lazy person, whatever the talents with which he set out, will have condemned himself to second-hand thoughts and to second-rate friends.

*-Cyril Connolly*

I suspect guys who say, "I just send out for a sandwich for lunch," as lazy men trying to impress me.

*-Jimmy Cannon*

The lazy are always wanting to do something.

*-Vauvenargues*

Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

*-II Chronicles 15:7* [CPM](#)

Adapted from *Forbes* (August 16, 2004).