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High without respite: a study of drug literature

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‘Get High’

You must always be high. Everything depends on it; it is the only question. So as not to feel the horrible burden of Time wrecking your back and bending you to the ground, you must be high without respite.

But on what? On wine, on poetry, or on virtue, whatever you like. But get high.

And if sometimes you wake up, on palace steps, on the green grass of a ditch, in your room’s gloomy solitude, your intoxication already waning or gone, ask the wind, the waves, the stars, the birds, clocks, ask everything that flees, everything that moans, everything that moves, everything that sings everything that speaks, ask what time it is. And the wind, the waves, the stars, the birds, clocks, will answer, “It is time to get high! So as not to be martyred slaves of Time, get high; get high constantly! On wine, on poetry, or on virtue, as you wish.”

– Charles Baudelaire, *The Parisian Prowler*