

# DESIDERATA

by Max Ehrmann

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,  
and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender,  
be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly, and listen to others,  
even to the dull and ignorant;  
they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons;  
they are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others,  
you may become vain or bitter,  
for always there will be  
greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career  
however humble;  
it is a real possession in the  
changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs,  
for the world is full of trickery.

But let this not blind you  
to what virtue there is;  
many persons strive for high ideals,  
and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself.  
Especially do not feign affection.

Neither be cynical about love,  
for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment,  
it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years,  
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit  
to shield you in sudden misfortune.  
But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.  
Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline,  
be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe  
no less than the trees and the stars;  
you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you,  
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore, be at peace with God,  
whatever you conceive Him to be.  
And whatever your labors and aspirations,  
in the noisy confusion of life,  
keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham,  
drudgery, and broken dreams,  
it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful.  
Strive to be happy.