

DESIDERATA

Go placidly amid the noise and 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 mind quietly and clearly, and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant, they too have their say. Avoid hard and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself to others, you may become vain and bitter, for always there will be greater and better persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements, as well as your plans' keep interested in your career, however humble it may be, it is a real possession in times of constant change as they are. Exercise caution in your business affairs, 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 years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in misfortune, but do not stress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of 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 yourself, and with God whatever you conceive him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations and toil in the noisy confusion of life, keep pure in your soul.

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