

# Desiderata Poem

*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 the ignorant; they too have their story.*

*Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.*

*If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and 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 with your soul.*

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

*Be cheerful.*

*Strive to be happy.*