

DESIDERATA



**SO PLACIDLY AMID THE NOISE & HASTE,
& 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 & clearly;
and listen to others, even the dull & ignorant; they too have
their story. *f* Avoid loud & aggressive persons, they are
vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others,
you may become vain & bitter; for always there will be
greater & lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your
achievements as well as your plans. *f* 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. *f* Be
yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical
about love; for in the face of all aridity & disenchantment it is
perennial as the grass. *f* 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 imaginings. Many fears are born of
fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be
gentle with yourself. *f* You are a child of the universe, no
less than the trees & 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. *f* Therefore be at peace with God,
whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors &
aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your
soul. *f* With all its sham, drudgery, & broken dreams, it is
still a beautiful world. Be careful. Strive to be happy.