

D E S I D E R A T A

**G**O 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 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 not this 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.*

- MAX ERDMANN

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I do believe in Santa. Not the guy who lives at the North Pole with a bunch of elves, making toys all year, flying around in a sleigh. No, the Santa I believe in is a regular person, doing ordinary (or not so ordinary) things, day after day to make this world a better place. I believe that Santa lives in each of us. I believe that we are all placed on earth by God (or whatever your belief calls the higher power within you) to do what is right. We don't always make it, but we should strive for it. I believe in the basic goodness of people, but that there is some evil that may exist from time to time. I wish you a brave New Year. Let all anguish, pain and sadness leave your heart and let your road be clear.