

Desiderata

The Human Abstract

You are a child of the universe
No less than the trees and the stars
And 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
I try to be, I strive to be
Oh, I wish to be happy
I try to be, I strive to be
Oh, I wish to be happy
Oh, Desiderata
Oh, Desiderata
As far as possible, without surrender
Be on good terms with all persons
Speak your truth quietly and clearly
And listen 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 yourselves 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 career however humble
It is a real possession
In the changing fortunes of time
I try to be, I strive to be
Oh, I wish to be happy
I try to be, I strive to be
Oh, I wish to be happy
Oh, Desiderata
Oh, Desiderata
Be yourself, especially do not feign affection

Neither be cynical about love
Take kindly the council 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 and loneliness
Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle to yourself
With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams
It is still a beautiful world
I try to be, I strive to be
Oh, I wish to be happy
I try to be, I strive to be
Oh, I wish to be happy
I try to be, I strive to be
Oh, I wish to be happy
Oh, Desiderata
Oh, Desiderata
Oh, Desiderata
Go placidly amid the noise and the haste
And remember what peace there maybe in silence

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