

IN MEMORY OF

ADLAI
EWING
STEVENSON

February 5, 1900 — July 14, 1965

*From a marked page found on Mr. Stevenson's
bedside table . . .*

GO PLACIDLY amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. . . . Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story. . . . 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 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.

Excerpts from "Desiderata," by Max Ehrmann.

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