

Weekly Zoroastrian Scripture Extract # 140 – Desiderata - A New Year Advice and Resolution  
by America Poet Max Ehrmann

Hello all Tele Class friends:

**On this New Year 2016, many of us diligently set out to make some New Year's Resolutions which evaporates after a few days or weeks!  
Let us take a detour from our Weekly Scriptures Extracts and present to you a beautiful 1927 prose poem by American poet, Max Ehrmann from Terre Haute, Indiana.**

**In 1964, I joined P&G in Cincinnati as a Chemical Engineer.  
As a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), I used to get its monthly magazine.**

**In the first 1965 issue, there was a poem given for the New Year and I still remember it vividly.**

**I was so impressed by the poem that I found everything I can about the author Max Ehrmann and his Desiderata (Latin: "Desired things") and other works.**

**My daughter Shirin gifted me a huge poster with this poem which my dear Jo Ann framed for me and is proudly hanging always in my study.**

**With this as the background, let us present this beautiful prose poem of Max Ehrmann, as something to think about in our daily lives:**

## **Desiderata – A New Year Advice and Resolution by American Poet Max Ehrmann**

**(Please hear the attached .mp3 file for its recitation)**

**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 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.

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 Ehrmann, "Desiderata".*

**(Max Ehrmann – Desiderata)**

## **SPD Explanation:**

1. “American writer Max Ehrmann (1872–1945) wrote the prose poem "Desiderata" in 1927.

In 1956, the Reverend Frederick Kates, rector of St. Paul’s Church in Baltimore, Maryland,

included *Desiderata* in a compilation of devotional materials for his congregation.

The compilation included the church's foundation date: "Old Saint Paul's Church, Baltimore AD 1692".

Consequently, the date of the text's authorship was (and still is) widely mistaken as 1692, the year of the church's foundation."

(<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desiderata>)

2. It has been reported that *Desiderata* was inspired by an urge that Ehrmann wrote about in his diary:

*"I should like, if I could, to leave a humble gift -- a bit of chaste prose that had caught up some noble moods."*

3. The poem was popular prose for the "make peace, not war" movement of the 1960s.

4. By the way, *Desiderata* is Latin and has been interpreted as "Things to be Desired" or "Things Desired As Essential."

**May the Flame of Fellowship, Love, Charity and Respect for all burn ever eternal in our hearts so we can do HIS work with humility, diligence and eternal enthusiasm!**

**Atha Jamyat, Yatha Aafrinaamahi! (May it be so as we wish!)**

Love and Tandoorasti, Soli