



# In Bounds

by Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

***“Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence”***

I meditate daily...when I remember to.

Like a tattoo upon skin, the opening words and content espoused upon in the Desiderata have been etched into my mind since a young boy. Hung upon the wall in the bathroom I shared with my brother in my youth, at the time the sentences never really resonated as I had seen them so often that the letters just smeared together. It was a token posting to read while passing a few moments each day.

Not until I received my own, framed copy to take with me to freshman year at college did I begin taking the message to heart. Besides being comprehensive and easy to read, the material was applicable to many situations encountered in my life.

***“As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons.”***

In my earlier days, I was often distraught for long periods of time, even years, over individuals for whom I thought had done me wrong...such a waste of my time and energy.

***“Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.”***

Honesty is truth; just don't ask me a question that you might not like my answer to. Sometimes it is hard, but hearing is as important to listening.

***“Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.”***

I like whom I am, where I am and when I am in this continuum of time we call 'life'. And I am very grateful for my existence, no greater than or lesser than anyone else.

***“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.”***

I loved being a golf course superintendent and am equally enamored with this chapter of my life. Everyday is another adventure. I own my destiny.

***“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.”***

With great appreciation, I trust and value the opinions and insight of others...but I am not stupid and invest, fiscally and emotionally, with reasonable vigilance.

***“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.”***

This line is cool as it mentions grass! I am who I am.

***“Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.”***

I'm not ready for this as getting old really sucks.

***“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.”***

A recovering alcoholic, divorcee and sometimes too hard on myself, I am fortunate to have a 'higher power' whom I can disclose my worst fears to and unburden myself.

***“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.”***

I'm a guy and I really, really like affirmation.

***“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. With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.”***

My framed copy The Desiderata resides upon the wall in my office for easy reference. Yes, it is a beautiful world, be cheerful and strive to achieve happiness.

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.