

Scouts' Own Worship Service Nonsectarian and Interfaith Resources

Boy Scout Troop 149

Quotes and Thoughts

To be closer to God, be closer to people.
-Kahlil Gibran

For every complex and difficult issue, there is always an answer that is simple, easy and wrong.
-H.L. Mencken

Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.
-Mohandas Gandhi

Love the earth and sun and animals,
Despise riches, give alms to everyone that asks,
Stand up for the stupid and crazy,
Devote your income and labor to others...
And your very flesh shall be a great poem.
-Walt Whitman, American Poet

Meditate.
Live purely. Be quiet.
Do your work with mastery.
Like the moon, come out
from behind the clouds!
Shine
-Buddha

"All you have shall some day be given;
Therefore give now, that the season of giving
may be yours and not your inheritors."
-Kahlil Gibran, Lebanese Poet and Novelist

Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for kindness.
- Seneca, Roman Philosopher

Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.
-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

If I keep a green bough in my heart, the singing bird will come.
-Chinese Proverb

Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.
-Buddha, The Enlightened One

“The journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.”
-Lao Tzu, Chinese Philosopher

Use what talent you possess:
the woods would be very silent
if no birds sang except those that sang best.
-Henry Van Dyke, American Educator

If it is not truthful and not helpful, don't say it.
If it is truthful and not helpful, don't say it.
If it is not truthful and helpful, don't say it.
If it is truthful and helpful, wait for the right time.
--Buddha

What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, the master calls a butterfly.
--Richard Bach

You often say, "I would give, but only to the deserving."
The trees in your orchard say not so, nor the flocks in your pastures.
They give that they may live, for to withhold is to perish.
Surely he who is worthy to receive his days and his nights,
is worthy of all else from you.
--Kahlil Gibran

Smile at each other, smile at your wife, smile at your husband, smile at your children, smile at each other -- it doesn't matter who it is -- and that will help you to grow up in greater love for each other.
--Mother Teresa

Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

-- Mark Twain

In the archer there is a resemblance to the mature person.

When he misses the mark, he turns and seeks the reason for his failure in himself

-- Confucius

A True Friend

A true friend is one to whom you can tip out all the contents of your heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and, with the breath of kindness, blow the rest away.

-an Arabian definition of a friend

Friendship

If there is one ingredient which adds warmth and love to our lives it is friendship

If there is one relationship to help us through all the others, it is friendship

Friends surround us with the beauty of their caring

With friends we can share what we see, what we feel and what we love

Friends help us with our problems because they listen and as they listen we begin to hear the language of our own hearts

With friends we can walk along the remembered paths of our lives and completely share our experiences

With friends we can work the soil of forgotten dreams that needed to be tended and nurtured once again

With friends we can plant the seeds of our hearts and new dreams

We can always return to a friend like going back to a special place and find the same warm feeling unchanged by time or distance

Life gives us friends so we can share the precious times and memorable moments of being children, teenagers, adults, parents, and grandparents

Life gives us friends so we can share the growing up and growing down and growing old

With friends we have a place to go to be accepted and understood

Together we can laugh

Together we can cry

Our thoughts are heard, our feelings are held in the heart of a friend

With friends our lives are made more full, more rich, more open and beautiful and blessed

The Log in the Woods

The old log in the woods will never be a great tree again, things never go back, yet lying there, covered with moss, it is creating new life, which in turn will be great and beautiful...

The fish eats the insect, the bird the fish, the mammal the bird, and the insect the mammal, as each, in universal rhythm is creating new life, for there is no life except life which comes from life...

Waters flow where daisies grew, Trees grow where swans once swam

All things upon this earth are developing into new things, from what is here must come what is to be.... There is no other material.

-- Gwen Frostic

Be At Peace

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 with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world...

-- From an inscription in St. Paul's Church, Baltimore

Take Time

Today I pray that I can:

Take Time to think. It is the source of power.

Take time to play. It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read. It is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to pray. It is the greatest Power on earth.

Take time to be friendly. It is the road to happiness.

Take time to laugh. It is the music of the soul.

Take time to give. It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work. It is the price of success.

Take time to do charity. It is the key to Heaven.

Today's Thought

I am but one,

But I am one;

I can't do everything,

But I can do SOMETHING;

What I can do,

I ought to do,

What I ought to do,

God helping me,

I WILL DO.

Different Approaches to God

You see many stars at night in the sky but find them not when the sun rises, can you say there are no stars in the heaven by day? So, O man! Because you behold not God in the days of your ignorance, say not that there is no God. As one and the same material, water is called by different names by different peoples, one calling it water, another calling it eau, a third aqua, and another pani, so the one Satchitananda, the everlasting intelligent-bliss, is invoked by some as God, by some as Allah, by some as Jehovah, by some as Hari, and by others as Brahman.

As one can ascend to the top of a house by means of a ladder or a bamboo or a staircase or a rope, so divers are the ways and means to approach God, and every religion in the world shows one of these ways. Different creeds are but different paths to reach the Almighty.

-- Sri Ramakrishna from Searching, p.76

The Golden Principle

Blessed are those who prefer others before themselves. -- Baha'i Faith

Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful. -- Buddhism

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. --Christianity

This is the sum of all duty: treat others as you yourself would be treated. -- Hinduism

No one of you is a believer until you desire for another that which you desire for yourself. -- Islam

In happiness and suffering, in joy and grief, regard all creatures as you would regard your own self. -- Jainism

What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. -- Judaism

Be not estranged from another for God dwells in every heart. -- Sikhism

Human nature is good only when it does not do unto another whatever is not good for its own self. -- Zoroastrianism