

"IF"

Submitted by John Farewell | Farewells Backflow Testing & Repairs

One of the greatest joys as a young child in the late 60's and into the 70's was looking forward to the old classic television shows that were aired weekly on the local channels. Netflix, You Tube, Prime and the endless array of options now available through the internet were not part of my adolescent world. Shows like, "Happy Days," "The Walton's," "Hee Haw," "Little House on the Prairie," "The Brady Bunch" and "I love Lucy" were not only part of my youth, they were my youth. Learning to deal with the issues of life with Richie Cunningham, John Boy Walton, Bobby Brady, and Laura Ingalls just seem to make the whole process easier. Now, 50 years later and with a whole lot of life under my belt, I stand here on the edge of this COVID chaos and ask myself, "Now who do I turn to in order to find inner peace?"

Recently I came across this poem that I believe answers this question. It is simply title:

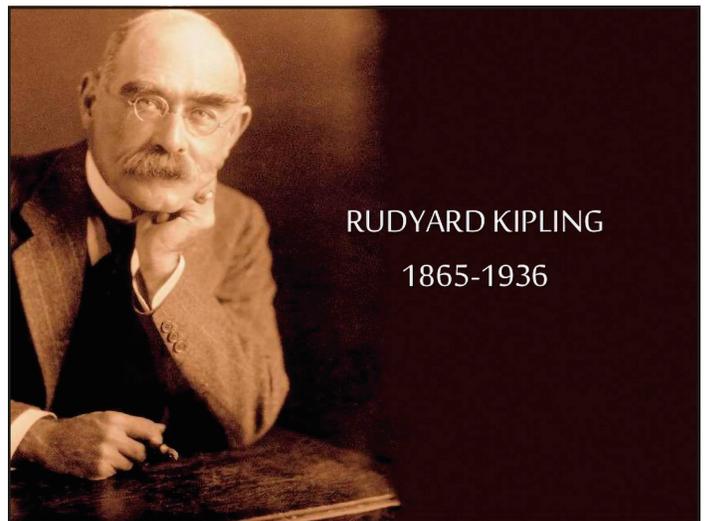
"IF"

by rudyard kipling.

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;
If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;
If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings—nor lose the common touch;

If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run—
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Just as Dorothy, the Scare Crow, the Cowardly Lion, and the Tin Man found, the answer lies within each of us. You are the answer to the peace that is within you. Realize it. Do not expect others to solve your problems. Be the change you want to see in your world. Be kind and remember that everyone you meet is going through a battle you know nothing about. Treat others with respect. Learn to listen. The answers to your problems are often found in the words of others. Live your life with intention and purpose and most of all, with love for all. In the end, we are left with nothing but the memories of the days we now live, make them good ones. Peace be with you all. 💧💧



RUDYARD KIPLING

1865-1936