

# *A Prayer*

**Let me do my work each day;  
and if the darkened hours of  
despair overcome me, may I  
not forget the strength that  
comforted me in the desolation  
of other times.**

**May I still remember the bright  
hours that found me walking over  
the silent hills of my childhood, or  
dreaming on the margin of a quiet  
river, when a light glowed within me,  
and I promised my early God to  
have courage amid the tempests of the  
changing years.**

**Spare me from bitterness and from  
the sharp passions of unguarded  
moments.**

**May I not forget that poverty and  
riches are of the spirit.**

**Though the world knows me not,  
may my thoughts and actions be  
such as shall keep me friendly  
with myself.**

**Lift up my eyes from the earth,  
and let me not forget the uses of  
the stars.**

**Forbid that I should judge others  
lest I condemn myself.**

**Let me not follow the clamor of  
the world, but walk calmly in  
my path.**

**Give me a few friends who will  
love me for what I am; and keep  
ever burning before my vagrant  
steps the kindly light of hope.**

**And though age and infirmity overtake  
me, and I come not within sight  
of the castle of my dreams, teach me  
still to be thankful for life, and for  
time's olden memories that are good  
and sweet; and may the evening's  
twilight find me gentle still.**

**Max Ehrmann  
(1872-1945)**