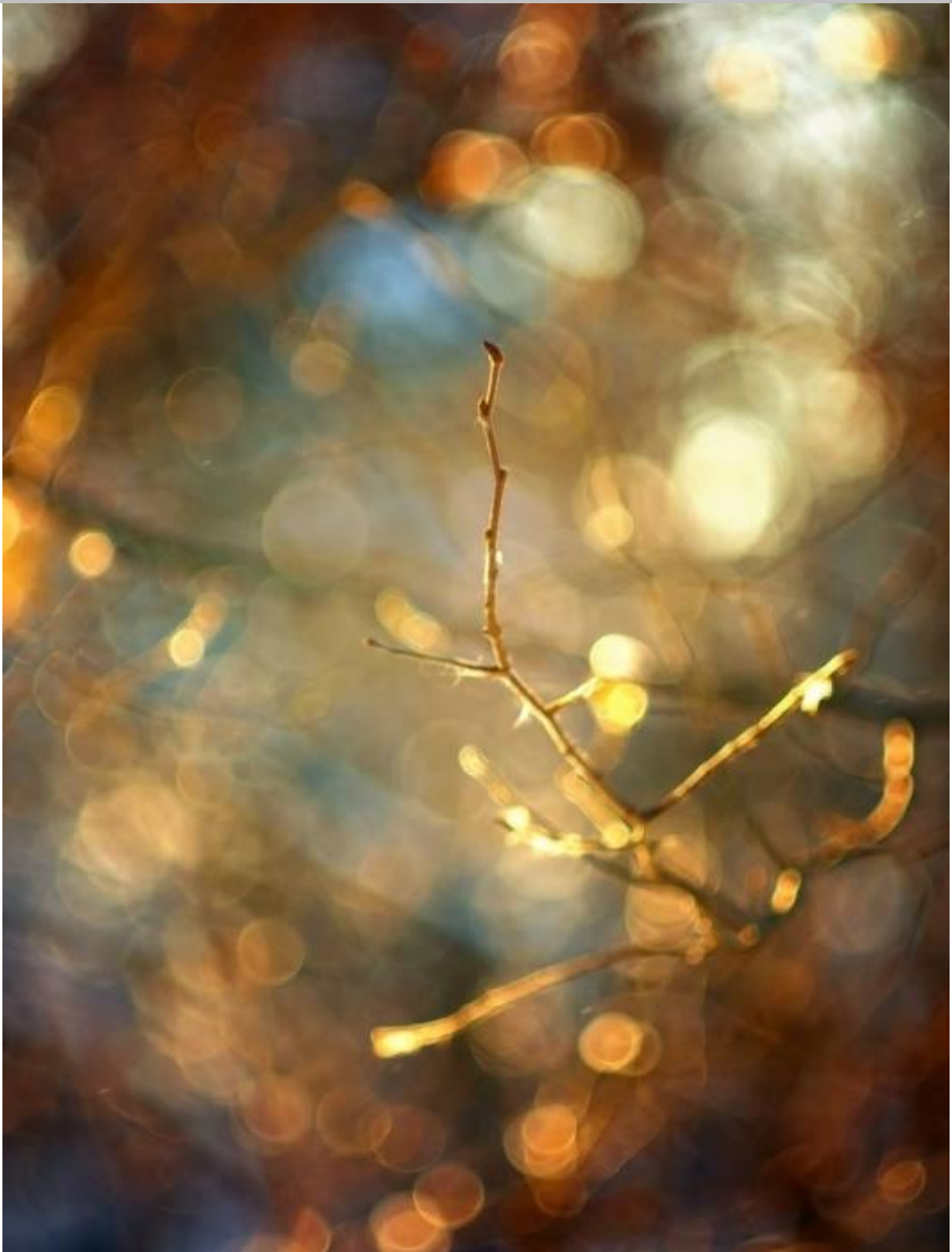


*Selected thoughts of
Thomas à Kempis*



Excerpted from Thomas à Kempis' *The Imitation of Christ*. Translated from the Latin by F.B. (nom de plume of Anthony Hoskins); at least ten editions between 1613 and 1686.

How to find inner peace and true liberty

My son, now will I teach you the way of peace and true liberty. . . .

Be desirous, my son, to do the will of another rather than your own.¹

Choose always to have less rather than more.²

Seek always the lowest place, and to be inferior to everyone.³

Wish always, and pray, that the will of God may be wholly fulfilled in thee.^{4, 5}

How to serve God

How many perish by reason of vain learning⁶ in this world, who take little care of the serving of God:

And because they rather choose to be great than humble, therefore they become vain in their imaginations.⁷

He is truly great, that is great in charity.

He is truly great, that is little in himself, and that maketh no account of any height of honour.⁸

He is truly wise, that accounteth all earthly things as dung, that he may gain Christ.⁹

And he is truly learned, that doeth the will of God, and forsaketh his own will.¹⁰

¹ [Matthew xxvi, 39; John v, 30; vi, 38]

² [1 Corinthians x, 24]

³ [Luke xiv, 10]

⁴ [Matthew vi, 10]

⁵ *The Imitation of Christ* 3, xxiii.1; "Of Four Things that bring much Inward Peace."

⁶ [Titus i, 10]

⁷ [Romans i, 21]

⁸ [Matthew xviii, 4; xxiii, 11]

⁹ [Philippians iii, 8]

¹⁰ *The Imitation of Christ* 1, iii.6

How to follow the behests of the Inner Voice

Blessed is the soul which hears the Lord speaking within her,¹ and receives from His mouth the word of consolation.

Blessed are the ears that gladly receive the pulses of the Divine whisper,² and give no heed to the many whisperings of this world.

Blessed indeed are those ears which listen not after the voice which is sounding without, but for the Truth teaching inwardly.

Blessed are the eyes which are shut to outward things, but intent on things eternal.

Blessed are they that enter far into inward things, and endeavour to prepare themselves more and more, by daily exercises, for the receiving of Heavenly secrets.

Blessed are they who are glad to have time to spare for God, and shake off all worldly impediments.^{3, 4}



¹ [*Psalm lxxxv*, 8]

² [*Matthew xiii*, 16-17]

³ [However, without neglecting their duty to Nature and failing to embrace all living creatures, whether human or animal, with love, kindness, and helpfulness. — ED. PHIL.]

⁴ *The Imitation of Christ* 3, i.1