

Myself  
Edgar Guest

I have to live with myself, and so,  
I want to be fit for myself to know;  
I want to be able as days go by,  
Always to look myself straight in the eye;  
I don't want to stand with the setting sun  
And hate myself for the things I've done.

I don't want to keep on a closet shelf  
A lot of secrets about myself,  
And fool myself as I come and go  
Into thinking that nobody else will know  
The kind of man I really am;  
I don't want to dress myself up in sham.

I want to go out with my head erect,  
I want to deserve all men's respect;  
But here in this struggle for fame and pelf,  
I want to be able to like myself.  
I don't want to think as I come and go  
That I'm bluster and bluff and empty show.

I never can hide myself from me,  
I see what others may never see,  
I know what others may never know,  
I never can fool myself- and so,  
Whatever happens, I want to be  
Self-respecting and conscience free.