

KEEP ME REASONABLY SWEET – 17 Century Nun's Prayer

Lord you know better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old.

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but you know Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility, and lessened overconfidence, when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet, I do not want to be a Saint, some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is not nice to know. Give me the ability to see good in unexpected places, talents in unexpected people and give me O Lord the grace to tell them so.

Amen