

ANYWAY

MOTHER THERESA VERSION

The version found written on the wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta:

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.
If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.
What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.
Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.
In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

The words seem to be based on a composition originally by Kent Keith, but much of the second half has been re-written in a more spiritual way.

ORIGINAL VERSION

The Paradoxical Commandments © 1968, 2001 Kent M. Keith

"The Paradoxical Commandments" were written by Kent M. Keith in 1968 as part of a booklet for student leaders.

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. Love them anyway.
If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway.
If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.
The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.
The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.
People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway.
What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.
People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway.
Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.

The poem was apparently the inspiration for Martina McBride's recent hit:

ANYWAY

Martina McBride

You can spend your whole life buildin' Something from nothin'
One storm can come and blow it all away
Build it anyway

You can chase a dream That seems so out of reach
And you know it might not ever come your way
Dream it anyway

God is great But sometimes life ain't good
And when I pray It doesn't always turn out like I think it should
But I do it anyway I do it anyway

This world's gone crazy It's hard to believe
That tomorrow will be better than today
Believe it anyway

You can love someone with all your heart For all the right reasons
In a moment they can choose to walk away
Love 'em anyway

God is great But sometimes life ain't good
And when I pray It doesn't always turn out like I think it should
But I do it anyway Yeah - I do it anyway

You can pour your soul out singing A song you believe in
That tomorrow they'll forget you ever sang
Sing it anyway Yea, sing it anyway

Yeah, yeah!

I sing

I dream

I love

anyway