

David Berman's Mission Statement

(living draft, year 5770)

My mission is to help, for helping is the most effective thing I can do. I will teach what I know, creating a legacy of the knowledge I value.

Every event is an opportunity for the poised: I seek to be poised and to solidify the surface upon which I stand. ☞ I will learn continuously, for learning is the way to evolve. I will improve continuously, for continuous improvement yields lasting change. ☞ I will solve each problem only once.

I will be soft on the surface while firm within.
☞ I will respect the Earth and my part in the thin fragile precious web of life that covers her.
I will sing at campfires and spend time outdoors.
☞ I value differences as strengths just as biodiversity is a strength.

I will build win-win relationships with my body. I will choose wisely what I eat, see, read and do. I will avoid addictive and destructive habits. I will exercise regularly and rest amply. ☞ I am blessed with many privileges and abilities: intelligence, diplomacy, expression, mathemagical ability, passion, wit, security, judgment, patience, confidence, visual acuity...I have a duty to achieve with these blessings.

In planning my time, I will balance my roles and focus on importance and goals. I will focus within my circle of influence, acting on what I have the power to affect and thus enlarge my circle. I will exercise self-discipline and self-denial.

I value my freedom, the freedoms of our society, and the rights and responsibilities they manifest. I will help repair the World. ☞ I am as much a product of my decisions as of circumstances. I will not allow conditions, conditioning, or emotional fear to determine my responses. I will be a self-starting individual who exercises initiative. I will not avoid responsibility. I will not fear failure, only lost opportunity.

I will give priority to people over things, as people are more important. I will find the good in all people and dwell there. I will focus on the positive, in myself and others, in each situation. I will listen empathically to understand deeply.

I will not be deterred by what others think of me. I will be who I pretend to be...and not pretend to be someone I don't care to be. My work and how I do it speaks for me: if noticed, I want it to be for my effectiveness. How I perform affects how I feel about myself: I will seek excellence in what I do, with the wisdom to know when to avoid perfection. I will record how I feel in a personal journal.

I will be a responsible parent and spouse. I will find the unique talents of my nuclear family and help them develop. I will teach my offspring to love and laugh, to learn and grow beyond their bounds. ☞ My home will be a place where I and family and friends find delight, comfort, peace, thread, love, wisdom and welcome. I will maintain a safe, healthy, and orderly environment. ☞ I will honour and build strong friendships with people I choose to admire, emulate, and learn from. I will focus on eleven specific friendships.

I will influence the development of persons and organizations. I will seek balance amongst career, family, and self. I will build healthy, trusting relationships with family, friends, and professional associates by giving often in little ways. I will take a proactive role in my community.

Money shall be my servant, not my master. I will seek financial independence over time through means I feel comfortable recommending to my offspring, free from debt. My wants will not exceed my means. I will not spend more than I earn. I will invest at least 10% of my income. I seek the option to semi-retire by age 60. While securing control over where I can live and staying on pace with my retirement goal, I will give at least 10% of my after-tax income (including corporate donations) to organizations whose missions are in step with my own (and at least 10% of my output).