

## WHAT HAVE I LEARNED THAT IS IMPORTANT IN LIFE?

That we should never cease to grieve about the harm that people do to others and to themselves,

that we should never cease to have compassion for people in their often mistaken ways of living,

that we should never cease to admire the perseverance of people in the face of the hardships they meet in life,

that we should never cease to appreciate the wide extent of even the limited goodness that people exhibit in their lives,

that we should never cease to long for the greater goodness that is possible for humans,

that we should never cease to be thankful for whatever pulls us in the direction of the good,

that we should never cease to be eternally grateful for the good news that love improves everything in life, even if not always in the world's terms,

that we should never cease to be amazed by the nature of life and especially by the ways its myriad forms come forth from minute seeds,

that we should never cease to be grateful for the nature of the material world's adaptability to human needs,

that we should never cease to be mind-boggled by nature's enormity and minuteness and working, and

that we should never cease to be awed and humbled by the big questions we cannot answer with certainty and proof--questions about the whence, the whither and the why of it all.