

I AM ME by Virginia Satir

I am me. In all the world, there is no one exactly like me. There are persons who have some parts like me, but no one adds up exactly like me. Therefore, everything that comes out of me is authentically mine because I alone choose it.

I own everything about me, **My body** including everything it does; **My mind** including all its thoughts and ideas; **My eyes** including the images of all they behold; **My feelings** whatever they may be... anger, joy, frustration, love, disappointment, excitement **My Mouth** and all the words that come out of it polite, sweet or rough, correct or incorrect; **My Voice** loud or soft. And all my actions, whether they be to others or to myself.

I own my fantasies, my dreams, my hopes, my fears. I own all my triumphs and successes, all my failures and mistakes. Because I own all of me I can become intimately acquainted with me. By doing so I can love me and be friendly with me in all parts. I can then make it possible for all of me to work in my best interests.

I know there are aspects about myself that puzzle me, and other aspects that I do not know. But as long as I am friendly and loving to myself, I can courageously and hopefully, look for solutions to the puzzles and for ways to find out more about me.

However I look and sound, whatever I say and do, and whatever I think and feel at a given moment in time is ME . This is authentic and represents where I am in that moment in time. When I review later how I looked and sounded, what I said and did, and how I thought and felt, some parts may turn out to be unfitting. I can discard that which is unfitting, and keep that which proved fitting, and invent something new for that which I discarded.

I can see, hear, feel, think, say and do. I have the tools to survive, to be close to others, to be productive, and to make sense and order out of the world of people and things outside of me. I own me, and therefore I can engineer me.

I am me and I am okay.

Virginia Satir was an author and family therapist who wrote this poem when she was working with a teenage girl who had a lot of questions about herself and what life meant. It was shared with me when I was a teenager and I have continued to pass it on to girls for inspiration and insight.