

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 78 (2012)  
**Heft:** [1]  
  
**Vorwort:** Editorial  
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The new year isn't quite brand new anymore. I hope it has started well for you, has brought you rain if you need rain - and sunshine if you need or wish sunshine.

To the topic of sunshine, here is an uplifting story. As you know I always go shopping by bus, and so I'm going to tell you another bus story - only this time the hero is not the bus driver.

It was a glorious summer day, after a series of less glorious days. The bus was almost empty, the bus driver on time - and I thought she should be delighted to see about twenty teenagers, obviously keen to go to the beach, waiting for her bus. Not so. Before she even came to a halt, she growled at the waiting girls that she could probably not take them all and that they should let adults get in first - which happened anyway, as the adults had all queued up in front of the girls. The girls didn't growl back at the driver but paid their fare - and to the bus driver's disappointment, they all had the correct fare, their ID cards ready, didn't push. So she growled anyway, repeating that she couldn't take them all. More and more of the girls poured into the bus, and all found a seat and kept talking. One girl tried to reassure the bus driver that there were still many empty seats, but that was not what the grumpy lady wanted to hear. She hissed at the innocent girl that she was the boss and she called the shots. The girl did not answer back; I quite admired her for it. In the end, the driver simply had to accept the fact that all the girls fitted into the bus easily; even she couldn't think of a reason to leave anybody behind.

I got out of the bus before the girls' beach. I hope they had a lovely day at the beach - and I hope the driver didn't explode before she got them there.

I wish you the girls' immunity against bad moods and their determination to enjoy the day anyway!

*TndL*

## Inner Peace

- *If you can start the day without caffeine,*
- *If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,*
- *If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,*
- *If you can eat plain food every day and be grateful for it,*
- *If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,*
- *If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,*
- *If you can conquer tension without medical help,*
- *If you can relax without liquor,*
- *If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,*

*...then you are probably the family dog!*

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