

By "Tony from Torquay"
(With acknowledgements to Rudyard Kipling)

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,*

*If you can reassure your children young and old
To avoid despair and fear as this will quickly end with better times*

*If you can smile and thank sincerely all those that serve you
Delivering, filling shelves and at supermarket tills
and bite your tongue if favourite things are missing from the shelf*

*If you see the old and frightened
as they survey shelves empty of food looted by the selfish
give a reassuring nod and offer them your own with a glad heart*

*If you can show your faith in the future by buying non essentials
and thus provide hope to traders who fear losing everything*

*If you can set politics aside for the greater good by
forgetting trivial quarrels and support leaders struggling to make sense of it all*

*If you can use local shops fearful for their livelihoods and
don't cast them aside in better times in pursuit of cheapness or extra convenience
for next time they may not be there for the old, the vulnerable, the immobile and you*

*If you can volunteer your services to help the weak and those in need
do so and be of good cheer and disposition to all you come across*

*If you can look with compassion on the homeless
and spare some money to show that others still care about their plight*

*If when your grandchildren ask what you did in the great Corona Virus war
will you be able to look them square in the eye with your humanity burnished through simple acts of
kindness and not cast them downwards in shame at your greed and selfishness?*

Then Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, and you are a worthy member of the human race
