

September 20, 2023

## DARE TO FAIL

Who said the words above? Norman Vaughn who was, in 1925, the leader of Admiral Byrd's expedition to Antarctica. Norman raced in the Iditarod until he was 88 and at his 100th birthday he was planning his return to Antarctica for a replay of the Admiral Byrd expedition! He always said "Dare to fail" ... you never know if you are going to be successful if you don't try!

And, there is a wonderful poem by E.E. Cummings (who did not believe in punctuation or capital letters) which exemplifies Norman's philosophy:

### Here Is Little Effie's Head

*here is little Effie's head  
whose brains are made of gingerbread  
when the judgment day comes  
God will find six crumbs  
stooping by the coffinlid  
waiting for something to rise  
as the other somethings did—  
you imagine His surprise  
bellowing through the general noise  
Where is Effie who was dead?  
—to God in a tiny voice,  
i am may the first crumb said  
whereupon its fellow five  
crumbs chuckled as if they were alive  
and number two took up the song,  
might i'm called and did no wrong  
cried the third crumb,i am should  
and this is my little sister could  
with our big brother who is would  
don't punish us for we were good;  
and the last crumb with some shame  
whispered unto God,my name  
is must and with the others i've  
been Effie who isn't alive  
just imagine it I say  
God amid a monstrous din  
watch your step and follow me  
stooping by Effie's little, in  
(want a match or can you see?)  
which the six subjunctive crumbs  
twitch like mutilated thumbs:  
picture His peering biggest whey  
coloured face on which a frown  
puzzles, but I know the way—  
(nervously Whose eyes approve  
the blessed while His ears are crammed  
with the strenuous music of  
the innumerable capering \*\*\*\*\*)*

*—staring wildly up and down  
the here we are now judgment day  
cross the threshold have no dread  
lift the sheet back in this way.  
here is little Effie's head  
whose brains are made of gingerbread*

Follow Norman's advice ... **Dare to Fail** ... you will have successes along the way if you only try! (I went to Norman's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and will never forget his kindness, courtesy and brilliance!)



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