

My THOUGHTS

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WHAT IS FRIENDSHIP?

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I sit here in the depths of my conscious trying to understand this word call, "friend or friendship", and the responsibilities such a label might carry. Often I ponder the meaning of that word. It seems such an obvious thing, "friendship", and yet it becomes so very complicated. So here I am navigating through the ocean of understanding, and hopefully I don't crash on a island of vagueness.

We all have people in our lives that we call friends. But how many of us can really say that we know our friends. Maybe with the tongue only, but internally, I don't know.

We think we understand those around us. The people we have come to know reveal patterns of behavior, and as our expectations of that behavior are fulfilled time and again, we begin to believe that we know the person's heart and soul. I consider that to be an arrogant perception, for one cannot truly understand the heart and soul of another. But this^{is} where the beauty arises in a friendship. As crazy as this may sound, but it leads us to this word call, "Trust". Even though we do not know their heart and soul. We trust them with our's, and they trust us with their's. With this trust we are giving someone the ability to destroy us, but hoping they don't. That is why trust is so important in the realmis of friendship.

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So if you are willing to give someone this trust and ability knowing the consequences that can manifest from it, then you can truly say that person is your friend. Hope becomes your pillow of faith. So you rest without worries.

~~Also~~ Indeed trust is a key component, but respect is a fundamental part in friendship. "Respect" is allowing your friends to be their own individuals, and allowing them to have their own consciences. See by allowing your friends to enjoy this freedom, you allow them to be their own person, have their own mind, and their own thinking. Even if it is contrary to your views and thinking. You develop a fond respect for their uniqueness because it lies within their very own individualism. If you can not respect their individualism then you are not a friend but an enemy to their person.

We also must understand that there is a fine line between friendship, and when that line is crossed, the result is often disastrous. Sometimes the friends become more like a parent, and when that happens your friendship is reduced to a totalitarian one. Freedom of individualism, freedom of their ~~conscience~~ own consciences is ignored because parents are the dictator in a child's life. And if you treat your friends like a child, they will no longer respect you nor trust you with their thoughts, opinions, and views because they are fearful of your judgements of them. Don't be a parent to your friends but be a friend that they can trust

and turn to, and not turn away. There is no respect for judgemental people. You can warn without judging and uplift without belittling.

With this said, I come to the conclusion that those I call friends, I trust them with the ability they have, and with the hope that I truly know that their heart and soul is genuine, and I know that they respect my views, mind, thoughts and opinions, and they allow me to be my own individual without questioning it. This is the essence of friendship, Trust and Respect which turns the friendship to genuine and unbiased "Love".

I hope that I shedded some light on friendship and help you navigate through the ocean of understanding. These are my views and they are subjective, But I hope you ~~could~~ respect it. I can be mistaken, but we are creatures of flaws and sometimes things can be hypercritical, but life is hypercritical. Your views from last year could be different today and tomorrow. But knowledge helps you navigate through these storms, and when the storm clears. The knowledge I acquire through life shaped my views on friendship. So I rest ^{my} head on this pillow of faith, with no worries or cares cause I Trust and Respect my friends.

Respectfully
Sathya Narayana