

FRIENDSHIP

Of all the experiences that come into ones life, that of making friends is certainly one of the most rewarding and beautiful. One chooses one's friends, a little circle of loyal comrades, out of a world teeming with men and women. We give them our love, our faith, and our confidence, and we receive theirs in return. The making of friends is the highest joy in living, and the keeping of friends should be the first business of our lives. Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but above all, the power of giving out of one's self and of appreciating what is noble and loving in another.

Of all the blessings Heaven doth send,
Of all the gifts that life doth lend,
Of all rewards the utmost end,
Of joys the essence and the blend;
Here's to the one who'll not pretend, ~~But~~
But is, and stays the steadfast friend.

On life's busy thoroughfares -
We meet with Angels unawares,
So Father, make us kind and wise -
So may we always recognize
The blessings that are ours to take,
The friendship that is ours to make
If we but open our heart's door wide -
To let the sunshine of love inside.

Count your garden by the flowers
Never by the leaves that fall.
Count your day by golden hours;
Don't remember clouds at all.
Count your night by stars, not shadows,
Count your life by smiles, not tears,
And with joy in each tomorrow
Count your age by friends, not years.

Friendship brings to life a smile,
Makes all ups and downs worthwhile,
Friendship takes the clouds away,
Turns to blue the clouds of gray.
Friendship is a gift that's true,
It gives to us such friends as you.

FRIENDS II (cont'd.)

It is my joy in life to find
 At every turning of the road,
 The strong arms of a comrade kind
 To help me onward with my load.
 And since I have no gold to give,
 And love alone must make friends,
 My only prayer is, while I live,
 God, make me worthy of my friends.

Friendship brings to life a smile,
 Makes all ups and downs worthwhile;
 Friendship takes the clouds away,
 Turns to blue the clouds of gray.
 Friendship is a gift that's true,
 It gives to us such friends as you.

Give me work to do,
 Give me health,
 Give me joy in simple things.
 Give me an eye for beauty,
 A tongue for truth,
 A heart that loves,
 A mind that reasons,
 A sympathy that understands.
 Give me neither malice nor envy,
 But a true kindness
 And a noble common sense.
 At the close of each day
 Give me a book,
 And a friend with whom
 I can be silent.

A smile is a key to friendship,
 One thing that is certain to fit
 Right in the lock of every heart
 And open the lid to it.
 Friendship's ~~key~~ chain holds many a key,
 But each will ever depend
 On care we take in the choice we make
 Of the key that gains a friend.

The chain of fraternal friendship
 Has links of purest gold,
 Links that we hold and cherish,
 Our friends --- both new and old.

Now, may the warm love of friends
 Surround you as you go,
 Down paths of light and laughter
 Where happy memories grow.