

25. The great Roman orator, Cicero, in his celebrated treatise on Friendship, remarks with truth that it increases happiness and diminishes misery by the doubling of our joy and the dividing of our grief. When we do well, it is delightful to have friends who are so proud of our success that they receive as much pleasure from it as we do ourselves. For the friendless man the attainment of wealth, power, and honour is of little value. Such possessions contribute to our happiness most by enabling us to do good to others but if all those whom we are able to benefit are strangers, we take far less pleasure in our beneficence than if it were exerted on behalf of friends whose happiness is as dear to us as our own. Further, when we do our duty in spite of temptation, the mental satisfaction obtained from the approval of our consciences is heightened by the praise of our friends; for their judgment is as it were a second conscience, encouraging us in good and deterring us from evil. Our amusements have little zest and soon pall upon us if we engage in them in solitude, or with uncordial companions, for whom we can feel no affection. Thus in every case our joys are rendered more intense and more permanent by being shared with friends.

It is equally true that, as Cicero points out, friendship diminishes our misery by enabling us to share the burden of it with others. When fortune has inflicted a heavy unavoidable

blow upon us, our grief is alleviated by friendly condolence, and by the thought that as long as friends are left to us, life is still worth living.

But many misfortunes which threaten us are not inevitable and in escaping such misfortunes, the advice and active assistance of our friends may be invaluable. The friendless man stands alone, exposed, without protection to his enemies and to the Woes of fortune; but whoever has loyal friends is thereby provided with a strong defence against the worst that fortune can do to him.

DATE: / /

Wren & Martin Precise Exercise 25:

Title:

Friends: The Source of Second Conscience.

Cicero, in his work "Friendship" portrays how friendship boosts the ecstasy and alleviates the grief. Success when shared with friends, reinforces delight, and materialistic accessories hold no value then. Friends are the ultimate source of second conscience, undergirding goodness and deterring from wrongdoing. Solitariness has no enthusiasm as it shrouds us with either no consolate or with strangers. However, the advice and support of friend is indispensable circumventing the sufferings. Only the loyal friends are the source of provision against misfortunes.

Total words: 230

Required words: 77

Given words: 80

Suggested Title: ① Friends: The provision of
Indispensable Support

② The Magical Bond: Joy Doubled,
Misery Divided