

25. The great Roman orator, Cicero, in his celebrated treatise on Friendship, remarks 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 judgement 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 uncongenial 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 blows of fortune; but whoever has loyal friends is thereby provided with a strong defence against the worst that fortune can do to him.

"Friends are blessings"

Friends augment the joy and reduce the worries of one's life, as said by Cicero, a Roman Orator. It is fantastic feeling when friends feel proud on one's success. Wealth and power is not fruitful in front of friendless man, when he cannot utilize them for his friend's needs and happiness. A friend's approval is of great importance in encouraging to do good things and restraining from bad ones. The zest to do any good declines in the absence of a close companion around.

Happiness got multiplied when shared with friends. The difficult times of life pass when friends are around. A friend cannot mitigate a misfortune, but his support provides protection against the bad. While, a friendless man is all alone in bad times.

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