

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 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.

 The best friend a man has in this world may turn against him and become his enemy.

Importance of True Friendship

The author explains Cicero's viewpoint on friendship as a shared experience of joy and grief. In this regard, sincere friends are a true blessing, as they admire our success, encourage good deeds, and protect us from evil. Moreover, spending time and wealth on friends brings far more pleasure than spending them on strangers. Consequently, the feeling of happiness becomes more intense and long-lasting with real friends, whereas it remains temporary with others. Likewise, friendship reduces the burden of sorrow through condolence, which makes life worth living. Even at times when sympathy fails to help, the company of true friend provides strong support and emotional stability.

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main idea is picked and discussed over all content is fine
need improvement in expression