

There are plenty of people fitted out with a good relay of substantial qualities & pleasing attributes, who are admirably calculated to fill the place of the extensive outer court of agreeable acquaintances. **But that life alone is rich which holds one perfect friendship, in which mutual sympathy is mutual clairvoyance (intuitive knowledge) as well; in which sacrifice on either side would be luxury & not trial; in which the bond is indestructible because it is that of the spirit, and therefore divine & eternal.**

It is quite useless & dangerous to strike leagues of friendship with cheap people where no divine friendship can be. People, like pictures, should have the advantage of a good light & of fair & true perspective. This is only simple justice. Many persons are like the pictures whose colour is put on in the method that blends only at a certain focal distance. Seen too near, the canvas is all one blot & blur of shapeless smears of paint, without meaning or values; but go to the true focal distance, and, behold, the purple smear becomes a mountain range; the shapeless patches of blue or grey or rose become a sky & clouds; the red & green spots show as scarlet flowers in the grass & the entire landscape is palpitating with light & throbbing with life. It is luminous & beautiful; the artist has fairly painted light as well as colour. But all this is only to be felt & seen at the true focal distance. Another school of painting permits the closest scrutiny, but at a distance you miss the wonderful atmospheric effects & the light & life of the impressionist.

There are people who correspond to each, – those who suffer by being seen too near, and those who may be seen to advantage in small details, but whose character or achievements, when viewed in perspective, **are not impressive.** Each must be given the advantage of the true light & the true focal distance. Again, friendship, like love, must be largely taken “for better, for worse.” It is idle to “throw over” a friend who in many ways gives you pleasant & agreeable companionship, because, indeed, you discover faults not at first perceived. If one waits to find perfection in his friend, he will probably wait long & live & die unfriended at last. The fine art of living, indeed, is to **draw from each person their best.** Friendship is in itself as fine an art as is music or painting. Let the artist approach the keyboard, and what melodies does he evolve? Let the untrained & the ungifted come, and we have discords. The skilled

fingers of the sculptor touch the clay into beauty of form & charm of suggestion; the painter, the poet, brings colour/vision/power; but the one not endowed with the artist’s genius produces discords, daubs, or meaningless rhyme. So with life. The individual gifted with tact, sweetness & charm creates the very qualities in which they believe & which they themselves possess. They “get on” with people harmoniously. It is the exquisite result of high qualities.

To be swift to discern the faults or follies of others does not argue the possession of superiority. It takes far less insight to discover defects than it does to discern noble and lovely qualities. “It requires a god to recognize a god.” Noble people recognize each other intuitively. Of course there are persons with whom no friendship can be, – **people who are cheap, petty, selfish, and self-seeking.** One should not strike leagues of friendship with these, for with them no friendship can be.

Nothing is more fatal to friendly relations than complaints & reproaches & demands for explanations. People must be judged in **the wholeness of their conduct.** A thousand subtle influences, unexpected and unforeseen events, have their action & reaction on life. A thousand things occur that can neither be analyzed nor defined. Many a temporary alienation is effectively overcome by silence. Reproaches, questionings, but widen the gulf. Leaving it alone, taking up other interests and ideas, bridges it over. Then, too, if people would truly meet, it must be in an atmosphere above the merely personal & local & visible. By different & very diverse paths they may gain the same spiritual plane; and when there, meeting is inevitable. In fact, there is this element of inevitableness in all friendship worthy the name. It is not so much an achievement or an agreement as it is a predestined relation. Its strongest bond is charm. “Men talk of morals” says Emerson, “but it is manners that associate us.” More deeply still, it is tastes that associate us. An expression that jars on one’s sense of taste will undo in an instant all the influence or impression made by sterling virtues through a term of years. A defect in knowledge, even in morals, can be condoned, but not defective perception. For its roots lie deep in temperament, in the lack of all that culture which is the result of a thousand subtle influences.

The lack of fine perception that results in want of consideration for others, **in forgetfulness & carelessness in little things;** that imposes upon the

time, strength, or resources of other people, – is a defect more inimical to friendship than is many a graver fault in morals. It implies lack of good breeding, refinement, lack of a thousand essentials of daily intercourse.

Cheapness of nature can be redeemed only from one source, that of the invisible power on the divine side of life. By seeking this in silence & concentration for a little time each day, all refinement & loveliness & charm can be achieved. It is the magic of life. Silence, concentration on Facebook???

The friendships that are best worth having are those that come unsought. Suddenly we recognize the shining beauty before us, and life is invested with a divine radiance. The talent for making friends, or for discovering them, is a specific and distinctive one, and is perhaps the result of a combination of happy qualities; yet in any perfect friendship there is always the sense of the unexpected, the miraculous.

No other possession of life holds such preponderating value as one’s friends. All beside these are a part of the scenery of the external & temporal world; but friendships are of the eternal & the divine. It is these that give value & zest to life; that furnish it with interest, with charm, and with happiness. **To be rich in one true friend is to be poor in nothing.** It is to possess that infinite reservoir of what may be, for want of a better term, denominated capital in life, in that it predetermines success in whatever line of achievement one may choose to work. A range of warm and strong friendships creates the magnetic atmosphere that vitalizes every element within its influence, so that it is not that social enjoyments and companionships are in any sense interruptions to specific work, however important, but that they yield instead the very elements out of which it is best created. The genuine friendships of life are largely discovered, not acquired. We find them rather than make them. They are predestined relationships, and are recognized intuitively.

We risk being aloof because our attention is periodically drawn away from the conversation to our animated “smart” devices. We are overwhelmed with the sense of disconnection that results from being “connected”. Leave the texting, tweeting, device turned off till we’re done conversing right! It’s discourteous. Courtesy is an act of piety said the Prophet (p).

In this secretive digital world...**To trust completely is to trust blindly.** A true friend is like a kohinoor diamond, very rare; false friends are on facebook everywhere.

**100, 500 “FRIENDS” ON FACEBOOK. REALLY?
SOCIAL NETWORKING IS EMPTINESS;
A KIND OF GAUDY, IMMORAL MEANINGLESSNESS**

Friend

Your friends are your needs answered.

They are your field which you sow with love
& reap with thanksgiving.

And they are your board & your fireside.

For you come to them with your hunger,
& you seek them for peace.

When your friend speaks their mind
you fear not the “nay” in your own mind,
nor do you withhold the “ay.”

And when they are silent

your heart ceases not to listen to their heart;
For without words, in friendship, all thoughts,
all desires, all expectations are born & shared,
with joy that is unclaimed.

When you part from your friend, you grieve not;
For that which you love most in them may be
clearer in their absence, as the mountain to the
climber is clearer from the plain.

And let there be no purpose in friendship save
the deepening of the spirit.

For love that seeks aught but the disclosure of its
own mystery is not love but a net cast forth:

and only the unprofitable is caught.

And let your best be for your friend.

If they must know the ebb of your tide,
let them know its flood also.

For what is your friend that you should
seek them with hours to kill?

Seek them always with hours to live.

For it is theirs to fill your need,
but not your emptiness.

And in the sweetness of friendship let there be
laughter, and sharing of pleasures.

For in the dew of little things
the heart finds its morning & is refreshed.

THE BELIEVERS, MEN & WOMEN, ARE PROTECTING FRIENDS OF ONE ANOTHER. THEY ENJOIN THE RIGHT & FORBID THE WRONG.

We are living in a “culture of illusion” – Facebook – which impoverishes language, makes us childlike, and is basically dumbing us all down. Facebook has reduced all reality to “likes” – this is phenomenal stupidity. Pics & vids that you oooh & ahhh over. There’s no sharing of intense ideas from minds of brilliant lucidity. The facebook mentality lives only for triviality.

To be occupied in what does not concern you is **worse than doing nothing**. FB is absolutely poisonous as you peer/pry into other friends lives. Its ritual mass escapism & idolatrous nihilism. A black hole of time. FB appears to be bringing the world closer but at the same time, distancing relationships further. People get addicted to it very fast & mistake it for real interaction. Then, annoying little social trends pop up that are purely a product of that addiction...such as people snapping pics everywhere, just so they can upload them to FB.

And there’s the trend of friending anyone & everyone. We have to hate the prostitution of the name of friendship to signify modish & worldly alliances. In groups, humans seldom raise each other up to something better; most often they average each other down. There are very few true individuals left – and that is sad. It doesn’t have to be that way and isn’t everywhere, but on Facebook, it’s the norm. Good people find by using this “technology” that it eventually makes their moral compasses break down. Now we’re **enjoining the wrong & forbidding the right**. Global society has become fatally entangled within a stupor of brainwashed self-deception...unfortunately, involuntarily enmeshed in the artificial FB-dominated **mock-universe** of our contemporary completely meaningless, infantile, pics/vids/chat-intoxicated pseudo-culture. A bloated arrogant citizenry of nihilist-**pornocratic** modernity – simplistically indifferent, obsessively toying around

with their BlackBerries, while their families & true friendships fall apart. Hey babe, **Take it to the max...**

The oppressiveness of freedom can be seen in the social networks capacity to provide immediate sensual gratification. This contributes to the creation of cultural shallowness & the single-minded pursuit of wrong pleasures. It does so through making us all “friends” whose status updates suffer from epilepsies of wit. Such friendships hurry to short & poor conclusions, because we have made them a texture of the soft fibre of our groins, instead of the tough fibre of the human heart. The laws of friendship are austere & eternal, of one web with the laws of nature & of morals.

Timelines & updates are full of garbage. A dazzling spectacle of people swooning over current events with **endless identical tweets**, parroted from the same view...as if thousands of people were just one – **automated, robotic, spectator...**repeating the same crap over & over again...for hours.

One in three divorces mention facebook. Flirtatious chatting & inappropriate messages with opposite-sex “friends” is leading many down a hellish path. People from your past are **not** meant to be a constant in your life today. If you are both single, then fine but most are not & have established lives with families involved. There is something warm & fuzzy about past relationships when we are caught up in the mundane reality of daily life. These past relationships are just fantasies...trying to recapture a vanished youth. Starting up a connection will be devastating. Do not say or do anything with these “friends” in secret that you would not want your partner to see. FB messaging...**if it is hidden from your partner it is cheating**. The damage that it can cause is not worth the temporary high that you get from going down memory lane. As one woman remorsefully noted: “I cheated on my husband with an old boyfriend who **found me on facebook** & have been living in regret since he found out. My lover gave me “feelings” that I have not had with my husband in a long time. **But those do not last, no matter who it is.**” Affairs that took months & years to develop now happens with lightning speed on FB & dating networks. It allows “friends” to abandon the constraints of moderation, modesty & reasonableness. **Broken trust, lies, hate & disrespect are the rotten fruits of forbidden friendships.**

STATUS UPDATE: STAY KEEN ON YOUR DEEN. KEEP IT ROUTINE. BELIEVE IN THE UNSEEN. STAY AWAY FROM THE OBSCENE. AVOID THE UNCLEAN. YOUR HEART WILL BE SERENE.

So who really makes a True FRIEND?

Friends in any true & abiding sense, are in the nature of a discovery; but when discovered, it is because of a **predestined spiritual relation** that compels recognition and which transcends & dominates all temporary & external conditions or circumstances. Friendship of this order is as eternal as the spirit itself. It is a part of spiritual identity & simply cannot be destroyed. As things go with human beings in a finite world, it may be subjected to much jar and fret, and be thereby deprived of much of its inherent joy & exhilaration & the luxury of that sympathetic comprehension which, in its ideal state, would be perfect; but still it can endure this & not be destroyed because there is that in its nature which is of the divine order & therefore indestructible. Of course, this is that rarest order of friendship which comes not only not more than once in a lifetime, but perhaps not more than once among a hundred, or even a thousand lives. It is one of the heavenly mysteries & cannot be accounted for by any earthly formula. It is a relation for which the world has neither sympathy nor comprehension. “Why do you idealize such a person. You see what is not there. You set up a chimerical creation of mere fancy & fall down & worship it.”

To listen to this is to turn away from the heavenly vision; to be deaf to the voices which the multitude cannot hear & which call to you alone. To idealize is not to follow a delusion, to mistake clay for alabaster, but it is to see more clearly, to discern that finer significance. It is only the exceptional nature that can be what the world calls idealized, which is simply recognition for what is actually there, and not in the least a process of investing it with qualities it does not possess. It is the inner vision that sees “the beauties hid from common sight.” The greatest sweetener of human life is Friendship. To raise this to the highest pitch of enjoyment, is a secret which but few discover.

Any friendship that is worth the name is not in the least a matter of reason or choice, but rather of magnetism & temperament. It can bear almost everything of friction, jar, annoyance, or pain, – not, surely, without losing much of its divineness & sweetest joy, yet still it can bear them, – and still spring up again with renewed vitality. And as it is a wholly spiritual

Zamals Software Co.; 6 Dowding St. Kitty
shamal2007@yahoo.com; Brochures on zamalsgy.com
PLEASE DONATE: CALL SHAMAL 225-9031

relation, it may not only spring up with renewed vitality from experiences that would simply exterminate & annihilate any lesser bond, but in the region where it lives – the miracle region of life – the renewal may be absolute regeneration as well, and transmute it into an infinitely higher condition, – purified, redeemed, from the elements that so nearly wrought its wreck/destruction. It may undergo a kind of resurrection hour, in which all baser elements are eliminated from the crucible in which it has been tried; sown in weakness, it may be raised in power. This experience, while exceptional, is possible, and depends upon the magnanimity & the generosity of the one who, of either, has the most to forgive, and **the way in which the forgiveness is offered**. A certain mingling of dignity & delicacy, with yet a liberal allowance of generosity & faith in a better future, go a great way in this regeneration of personal relations. One who receives this feels the responsibility upon them of proving not again unworthy of this noblest of aid; and so the very springs of endeavour & aspiration are renewed, and there rises before their vision a new heaven & earth.

People talk lightly & carelessly of friendship when they do not know the meaning of the term; when they are not, themselves, the stuff of which friends are made; when they know less of the **truth & trust & tenderness** that the name implies. To exchange cards or calls or dinner invitations; to be members of the same club or the same religious institution; to hold views in common as to games and the drama of current-day affairs, – is no more friendship than it is politics or theology; although these relations, and **others even more superficial**, masquerade under its name. In its true sense friendship is a relation that defies analysis, defies explanation, and defies all the known laws of the chart of polite society, because it is grounded in something far deeper & more abiding. It is, **when found**, something to be held sacredly as the inestimable treasure of life, as its profoundest & most potent source of inspiration. It is something in which to believe as one believes in God. “The soul’s emphasis is always right.” Its insight is unerring; its vision swift to discern that which is spiritual reality.