

PARSLEY PEOPLE A friend is one who gives attention to another. They go around offering hope and help wherever, whenever there is a need. One person has called these people "PARSLEY PEOPLE." They are always adorning that which is around them, making their friend look better by their very presence.

PLANNED FRIENDSHIP

What made us friends in the long ago
When first we met . . . well I think I know . . .
The best in me and the best in you
Hailed each other because they knew
That always and ever since time began
Our being friends was a part of God's plan.

FRIEND OR BUDDY Recently, I read an interview with Tony Dorsett in a magazine insert in a local newspaper. In the article he says, "The best advice given me was from my dad who told me, you can have all the friends in the world, but you will have only one or two buddies. I used to drive old cars, and he told me I would find out real quick who my buddies were . . . when the car broke down. There are a lot of people who like to jump on the bandwagon that are not true friends."

GREEK FIDELITY Whenever a discussion of fidelity and friendship arises, the story of Damon and Pithias is usually mentioned. And rightfully so, for it is one of the classic statements of fidelity and true allegiance.

Back in the Fourth Century B.C., a ruling tyrant named Dionysius sentenced one of his subjects to death, a philosopher named Pithias. He felt Pithias was conspiring against him. Pithias begged for some time to allow him to return home and arrange some family affairs. He offered to leave one of his friends in the hands of Dionysius as a pledge for his return by an appointed time, and who would be willing, in case Pithias broke his word, to die in his stead.

The appointed time for the return of Pithias arrived, and public expectation ran high as to the outcome of this singular affair. The day drew to a close; no Pithias came; and Damon was in the act of being led to execution, when, all of a sudden, the absent friend, who had been detained by unforeseen and unavoidable obstacles, presented himself to the admiring crowd and saved the life of Damon.

Dionysius, the account has it, was so impressed by this instance of fidelity and friendship that he pardoned Pithias, and entreated the two to allow him to share their friendship.

GRANT'S FAITHFUL FRIEND General Grant's faithful friend, his chief of staff, the Galena lawyer, John A. Rawlins . . . was closer to Grant than any other during the war. It was to Rawlins that Grant gave his pledge that he would abstain from intoxicating liquors. When he broke that pledge Rawlins went to him and with great earnestness pleaded with him, for the sake of himself, and for the sake of the great and holy cause of the nation, to refrain from strong drink. Faithful were the wounds of that friend. In front of the Capitol at Washington today there stands the magnificent monument of General Grant, sitting on his horse in characteristic pose and flanked on either side by stirring battle scenes. But at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, a little to the south of the avenue, is Rawlins Park, where there stands a very ordinary, commonplace statue of Rawlins. Whenever I stand before the great monument of Grant on his horse there in front of the Capitol, I think of that other monument. I think of that faithful friend who kept Grant on his horse. +++++