

It possible to be both friendly and selfish  
at the same time, without the friendship  
suffering?

## A MANLY PARTING OF FRIENDS

Who is the better friend —  
the one who will agree to  
anything, or the one who  
will tell you when you're  
making a mistake?

Let me be the person  
that you walk with in the mountains  
Let me be the person  
that you pick flowers with  
Let me be the person  
that you tell all your inner feelings to  
Let me be the person  
that you talk to in confidence  
Let me be the person  
that you turn to in sadness  
Let me be the person  
that you smile with in happiness 🌱

### "OUR FRIENDSHIP"

We have formed  
a friendship  
that has become  
invaluable to me  
We discuss our goals  
and plan our future  
We express our fears  
and talk about our dreams  
We can be very serious  
or we can just have fun  
We understand each other's lives  
and try to encourage each other  
in all that we do  
We have formed  
a friendship  
that makes our lives  
so much  
nicer

Only a few more days before you leave.  
A few short days before another good thing

Comes to an end.

And, as is typical of endings  
The entire span of our relationship  
Has begun to play across my mindscreen—  
Frames in warm, glowing color—  
Not bad viewing, everything considered . . .

Except the film is too short  
Strange, isn't it, how life's  
Most special gifts dissolve  
Before the packages are unwrapped.  
But then, reminiscing is for sentimental slobs,

Right?

I mean, you and I,  
We're both strong, young men.  
No holes were left for tears  
In our sturdy armored masks.  
Don't worry, though.  
I'm a good soldier.  
I'll guard these disgraceful emotions  
With my life.

I'll laugh and kid around as usual,  
Mention missing you in the most sarcastic tones  
I can muster, and when it's time,  
I'll beat that quiet quaver in my voice,  
Repeat those trodden words of parting friends,  
Shake your hand firmly—  
Quickly—

And maybe, if it seems right,  
Slap you on the shoulder as you leave.  
Then, after you're gone,  
I'll go home and take something for the pain.

Distance can never weaken  
our relationship  
for what is in our minds  
and hearts  
is stronger than  
any outside force. 🌱