

# THE ART OF FRIENDSHIP

---

The first step in the art of friendship is to be a friend; making friends takes care of itself.

TO BE A FRIEND A PERSON SHOULD...

- ... start being a friend to oneself, by being true to their highest and best, and by aligning oneself with the enduring values of human life that make for growth and progress.
- ... strive to be "like the shadow of a great rock in a weary land," to be a source of refuge and strength to those who walk in darkness.
- ... believe in the inherent goodness of people and their potential greatness, they should treat persons in a big spirit, expectant of a noble response.
- ... strive to lift people up, not cast them down; to encourage, not discourage; to set an example that will be an inspiration to others.
- ... be sensitively responsive to the dreams and aims of others and show sincere appreciation for the contributions others make to the enrichment of their own life.
- ... practice the companionship of silence and the magic of words that speech may build and not destroy, help and not hinder.
- ... close their eyes to the faults of others and open them to their own.
- ... be oneself and be done with hypocrisy, artificiality and pretense; meet and mingle with people in quiet simplicity and humility.
- ... be tolerant and have an understanding heart and a forgiving nature. They should know that all people stumble now and then, and that those who never made a mistake never accomplished anything.
- ... join hands with all people who are working for great principles, great purposes and great causes; they should put their shoulder to the wheel to help achieve common goals.
- ... go more than halfway with others, greet them first and not wait to be greeted and radiate a spirit of overflowing good will.
- ... remember that we are human magnets, that like attracts like, and that what we give, we get.
- ... recognize that no one knows all the answers, and that they should add each day to their knowledge of how to live the friendly way.

- Wilfred A. Peterson