

# Friendship

## Uncovering the secrets of friendship

### Baha'i Faith

Do not be content with showing friendship in words alone, let your heart burn with loving kindness for all who may cross your path.

Abdu'l-Baha , Paris Talks, P.16

### Buddhism

The friend who always seeks his benefit,  
The friend whose words are other than his deeds,  
The friend who flatters just to make you pleased,  
The friend who keeps you company in wrong,  
These four the wise regard as enemies;  
Shun them from afar as paths of danger.

The friend who is a helper all the time  
The friend in happiness and sorrow both,  
The friend who gives advice that is always good,  
The friend who has full sympathy with you,  
These four the wise see as good –hearted friends,  
And with devotion cherish such as these  
As does a mother cherish her own child.  
Digha Nikaya iii.187, Sigalovada Sutta

### Christianity

Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends  
John 15:13

### Hinduism

He who experiences the unity of life, sees his own self in all beings, and all beings in his own self, and looks on everything with an impartial eye.  
Bhagavad Gita, V1:29

### Islam

When a greeting is offered you, meet it with a greeting still more courteous, or at least of equal courtesy. God takes careful account of all things.  
Quran 4:86

### Baha'i Faith

If a person falls into error for a hundred thousand times he may yet turn his face to you hopeful that you will forgive his sins, for he must not become hopeless, neither grieved nor despondent!  
Tablets of Abdul-Baha, V2 page 436

#### Buddhism

Whether in the village or the forest, whether on high ground or low, wherever the enlightened live, that is a delightful spot.  
Dhammapada 98

#### Judaism

Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.  
King James Bible, Proverbs 147

#### Islam

It may be that God will ordain love between you and those whom you hold as enemies. For God has power over all things; and God is oft-forgiving, most merciful.  
Qura'n 60,7

#### Christianity

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dewelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue ; but in deed and in truth.  
1 John 317-18

#### Baha'i Faith

O Friend!

In the garden of thy heart plan naught but the rose of love, and form the nightingale of affection and desire loosen not they hold. Treasure the companionship of the righteous and eschew all fellowship with the ungodly.  
Baha'u'llah, Hidden Words, #3

#### Confucianism

There are three sorts of friend that are profitable, and three sorts that are harmful.  
Friendship with the upright, with the true-to-death, and with those who are heard much is profitable.  
Friendship with the obsequious, friendship with those who are good at accommodating their principles, friendship with those who are clever at talk is harmful.  
Analects 16.4

#### Judaism

He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.  
King James Bible, Proverbs 179

### Buddhism

Even if a man of intelligence lives with a wise man only for a moment, he will immediately recognize the truth, like one's tongue recognizes the flavour of the soup.

Dhammapada 65

### Hinduism

Two paths lie in front of man. Pondering on them, the wise man chooses the path of joy; the fool takes the path of pleasure.

Katha Upanishad 2

### Baha'i Faith

Be thou loving to every afflicted one, a dispeller of sorrow to every grieved one, a refuge to every fearful one,... a consolation to dejected hearts,... and a succour to every lamenting one.....

Tablets of Abdul-Baha, Page 202

### Christianity

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers!

Psalms 11

### Islam

You who believe, if some perverse man should come up to you with some piece of news, clear up the facts lest you afflict some folk out of ignorance and some morning feel regretful for what you may have done... Quran, 49, 6-12

### Buddhism

Don't cultivate the company of bad companions. Don't cultivate depraved men. Cultivate companions of good character. Cultivate superior men.

Dhammapada 78

### Islam

O ye who believe! Carefully avoid suspicion; verily some suspicion is a sin. And do not play the spy, nor backbite each other.

Quran, Sura 49, 6-12

### Buddhism

If you find an intelligent companion, a wise and well-behaved person going the same way as yourself, then go along with him, overcoming all dangers, pleased at heart and mindful

Dhammapada 328

### Confucianism

The good man does not grieve that other people do not recognize his merits. His only anxiety is lest he should fail to recognize theirs.

Analects 1:16

Buddhism

Like a fine flower, beautiful to look at but without scent, fine words are fruitless in a man who does not act in accordance with them.

Dhammapada 51

Christianity

Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive and ye shall be forgiven.

King James Bible, Luke 637

Baha'i Faith

O people of God! I admonish you to observe courtesy, for above all else it is the prince of virtues. Well is it with him who is illumined with the light of courtesy and is attired with the vesture of uprightness. Whoso is endued with courtesy hath indeed attained a sublime station.

Tablets of Baha'u'llah, p. 88

Hinduism

look upon all the living beings as your bosom friends, for in all of them there resides one soul. All are but a part of that Universal Soul. A person who believes that all are his soul-mates and loves them all alike never feels lonely.

Christianity

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind, let each esteem other better than themselves.

King James Bible, Philippians 23-5

Buddhism

Don't speak harshly to anyone. If you do people will speak to you in the same way. Harsh words are painful and their retaliation will hurt you.

Dhammapada 133

Judaism

There are friends who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Proverbs 18.24

Buddhism

It is by dealing with a man that his virtue is to be known, and that too after a long time; not by one who gives it a passing thought or no thought at all; by a wise man, not by a fool. It is by association that a man's integrity is to be known... It is in times of trouble that his fortitude is to be known... It is by conversing with him, that a man's wisdom is to be known, and that too after

a long time; not by one who gives it a passing thought or no thought at all; by a wise man, not by a fool.

Udana 65-66

Christianity

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; he that has found one has found a treasure. There is nothing so precious as a faithful friend, and no scales can measure his excellence. A faithful friend is an elixir of life; and those who fear the Lord will find him.

Sirach 6:7-17

Baha'i Faith

Humanity is not perfect. There are imperfections in every human being, and you will always become unhappy if you look toward the people themselves... Therefore, do not look at the shortcomings of anybody; see with the sight of forgiveness.

Abdul-Baha', The Promulgation of Universal Peace, p.93