

A POETIC DISTILLATION ON FRIENDSHIP

A friend is the one you most want to talk to when something in your day has troubled, or hurt, you.

MEMO TO SELF #17

If you haven't touched your friend's heart, if you haven't stroked it and stoked it, or cared enough to take the time to gently provoke it, you have failed as a friend, and you need to acknowledge it. Then, open up your heart and let the love of God change it.

POETIC MEME #1

When you opened my heart, you saw my scars and my pain. Then your gentle love healed it and closed it again.

CHOOSE TWO OR MORE OF THE POETIC FORMS PROVIDED AND WRITE YOUR OWN POEMS ON FRIENDSHIP.

More examples of these forms can be found in my first poetry collection, *Infinite Connections*.

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POETIC MEME #9

Friendship is like slipping on a comfortable old jacket and finding all kinds of forgotten things in the pocket. Suddenly, your memory grows wings and your heart lifts up its weary head and silently sings.

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EXPLANATIONS OF THESE 3 NEW POETIC FORMS

My first poetry collection, *Infinite Connections*, is divided into 9 sections. The poetic forms overleaf are in Sections 7, 8 & 9. Below, are explanations of these new forms. I hope you enjoy trying these forms yourself and applying them to the subjects and issues you are passionate about exploring, critiquing, or promoting.

7: Memos to Self (177-184)

These are little reminders to myself that I need to step back and take in the bigger picture of life, perhaps adjust my perspective, admit my shortcomings, reach out to others and acknowledge those things that connect us, and those moments of reflection sent to correct us.

8: Poetic Memes (185-188)

For me, poems are pictures drawn with words and they have the power to speak to others, even though they begin as a personal reflection in the unique circumstances of the poet's life. In the same way, memes begin as a personal response, yet reflect the core values and responses of wider communities as they fly through cyberspace, making their infinite connections and contributing to the communal conversations of humanity. I hope the thoughts in this section will feel familiar to you and be a kind of memorable poetic shorthand for some of *your* concerns and experiences.

9: Poetic Distillations (189-194)

In these single-sentence poems, I have sought to distil moments of reflection to a succinct thought that captures the essence of the experience, or idea. In these little drops of red wine, I hope you can see beyond to the planting and the harvesting of the original vine. Each poem employs internal rhyme.

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