

# PHILOSOPHERS ON FRIENDSHIP & LOVE

*Love and friendship have been a focus of philosophical investigation for centuries, producing theories that range from materialistic conceptions of friendship and love as purely physical phenomena to those which hold them to be intensely spiritual affairs that allow us to touch divinity (whatever one's conception of that might be). In addition, friendship and love are often studied not just as relationships that exist between people but also extend to the ways in which we live our lives, construct our cities/governments, educate people, relate with the environment and more. As such the philosophical investigation of friendship and love involves mentally diving into the pools of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and religion, as well as political science, behavioral science, social science and more. In other words, understanding and appreciating the true nature of friendship and love (if indeed there is a true nature of either), requires that one explore and consider a plethora of intellectual, emotional, and other terrains. For those of you interested in embarking on the journey...here are a handful of quotes from various philosophers and thinkers that will, hopefully, provide you with some good food for thought!*

- There is always some madness in love. But there is also always some reason in madness – *Fredrick Nietzsche*
- I don't need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better - *Plutarch*
- At the touch of love everyone becomes a poet – *Plato*
- In poverty and other misfortunes of life, true friends are a sure refuge. The young they keep out of mischief; to the old they are a comfort and aid in their weakness, and those in the prime of their life they incite to noble deeds - *Aristotle*
- Where there is love there is life – *Mahatma Gandhi*
- Life has no blessing like a prudent friend - *Euripides*
- Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage – *Lao Tzu*
- Friendship is always a sweet responsibility, never an opportunity – *Khalil Gibran*
- There is no remedy for love but to love more – *Henry David Thoreau*
- In the end, all books are written for your friends – *Gabriel Garcia Márquez*
- One word frees us of all weight and pain in life...that word is Love – *Socrates*

- Each friend represents a world in us, a world possibility not born until they arrive and it is only by this meeting a new world is born – *Anäis Nin*
- Where love rules, there is no will to power; and where power predominates, there love is lacking. The one is the shadow of the other – *Carl G. Jung (Father of Analytical Psychology)*
- Friendship is almost always the union of a part of one mind with another; people are friends in spots – *George Santayana*
- The first duty of love is to listen – *Paul Tillich*
- Wishing to be friends is quick work, but friendship is a slow ripening fruit – *Aristotle*
- To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already three parts dead – *Bertrand Russell*
- However rare true love may be, it is less so than true friendship – *Albert Einstein (Theoretical Physicist)*
- The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit out own image. If in loving them we do not love what they are, but only their potential likeness to ourselves, then we do not love them: we only love the reflection of ourselves we find in them – *Thomas Merton*
- The friend who holds your hand and says the wrong thing is made of dearer stuff than the one who stays away – *Barbara Kingsolver (Author)*
- There is the same difference in a person before and after he is in love as there is in an unlighted lamp and one that is burning. The lamp was there and it was a good lamp, but now it is shedding light too and that is its real function – *Vincent Van Gogh (Artist)*
- I hold this to be the highest task of a bond between two people: that each should stand guard over the solitude of the other – *Rainer Maria Rilke*
- Love is not, by its own desire, heroic...It exists by its willingness to be anonymous, humble and unrewarded – *Wendell Berry (Environmental Activist, Author)*
- Three things tell a man: his eyes, his friends and his favorite quotes – *Immanuel Kant*
- Love isn't the work of the tender and the gentle; Love is the work of wrestlers - *Rumi*



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