

What is a Friend?

Eyes behold threads within the pattern of a blanket. A gentle breeze tries to disturb it, but only some short tassels on its edge are moved. Seasoned in his years, King Liam is sitting out on the castle grounds enjoying the warmth of a late afternoon sun when his grandson comes to him in tears, “What’s the matter, Ronan?”

“I can’t seem to find the right kind of friends.”

“Well, if it’s any consolation to you, we’ll always be friends. Now, what happened that has you so upset?”

I was in the village and there was a boy who came up to me and I thought he was my friend, but without warning he shoved me to the ground . . .”

“. . . Ronan, there are those who live to receive life from The Great One’s love in a full relationship with Him, those who are on the way to understanding what this means, and those who walk in the dark. I believe the one who pushed you had been led to believe that he could see, but was really frightened into being lost. For when one is inside themselves without any sight, they blindly lash out in fear and miss doing what is right. It is unknown what to do with spirits when confusion is near as they mislead by keeping light darkened in the air.”

Liam’s grandson dries his tears with the sleeves of his shirt and looking over, says, “I do not understand. Can you tell me more?”

While wiping the remainder of his tears ’til dry on his face, his grandfather explains, “Look here upon my blanket. Do you see the different colors within its design?”

“Yes, but what does this have to do with friends?”

“Let us start out with the fine line of yellow. Remember your first encounter with the glory of God’s love and how much joy it brought you when you were just two?”

“I see. The color yellow must mean having The Great One’s Spirit of joy. Yet there is so little yellow and so much red, green, and black and so many of the squares that blend together.”

“Ronan, you are fortunate to have come into the yellow at such a young age. Yet there are those who live in the darker places of the black that cannot see they are being used to blend in with the other colors to try and put out the shining of your joy in the yellow.”

“Do any of the other colors have meaning beside the yellow and the black, grandfather?”

“The red represents that sometimes we have to suffer to keep our joy in order to remain in the yellow. The shades of green tell of how others grow through different stages, like a green bud before bloom into a yellow flower.”

“I understand now, grandfather. The boy who pushed me down tried to interfere with my shining in the yellow. He couldn’t see that he was being used by the dark squares to try to put out my joy.”

“. . . And the color red?”

“. . . My suffering to remain in the yellow must happen due to the joy that God gives from my friendship while growing through the shades of green and other mixed colors with Him.”

“I’m glad you understand that love concerns itself with suffering sometimes, for I do not know how much longer you’ll be here at the castle with us. I don’t know if you’ve noticed your mother’s strange behavior. Being my daughter, as hard as I find it to believe, she was never introduced into an understanding of the yellow and this has influenced her into the darkness of the pattern of the black.

No matter what, we must continue to pray for her to fully know The Great One, that she will no longer dwell in the dimness of lies of shadow shades by believing there is life in them while in the dark. So, should you ever be taken from this place, do not harden your heart

towards her, but pray for her to know the joy of your light instead. Though in telling you this, understand to respect her position as this will give her a desire to listen to what you have to say. Yet guard your heart and pay attention with eyes fixed on the flower of your light of joy as wisdom would not have you do anything against a life of living in the yellow.”

“Are you saying that my mother is a witch?”

“All who are in rebellion to the balance of truth and love are unaware that the simple pass on and get punished. It is from a lack of understanding light that all walk under the spell of spirit dragons that stalk the night. Should you find yourself in times of trouble by any shadows, pray to remain in the yellow of the bright.”

“I will pray for both me and her, grandfather.”

“I know it will be hard to stand up against those who come at you while they live in the dark at times, but always ask for wisdom and The Great One shall teach you life.”

“What should I do about the boy who pushed me down if I encounter him again?”

“Ronan, as you find your way through the different patterns of people growing in time, there will be moments of discovering nuggets of truth that will enlighten your mind. Watch carefully how everyone behaves before you speak and your understanding of life will grow. For when you have a seed and care for it, you can tell when a weed comes to choke. The spirit world is much like this. For The Great One, as Creator, protects all thoughts while watching over them that they grow to enhance a life in His garden of love. Weeds try to crowd and draw life from God’s thoughts by confusing a plant, but if they stay focused on the truth of the Spirit of love, life will sprout into the eternal by questioning until answers come.”

“I remember watching the gardeners pull weeds from around the flowers to prevent them from being crowded out. I always thought that it was to make them look good on the grounds, but now I understand the deeper meaning of their purpose of work. It is to protect and preserve the flowers so they won’t lose the colors of their life.”

“So, how would you handle another who repeatedly tries to crowd you in the future that has been infested with weeds in the garden of His thoughts?”

“First, I would water him with prayers of love to make sure that I shall not lose my patience. I now understand why verses from the *Book of Life* are so important, for I have spoken what they’ve taught.”

King Liam looks to his grandson with a gaze and a tear in his eye.

“Why are you crying, grandfather?”

“I am not crying but rejoicing.”

“I don’t understand.”

“Your taste for the passion of The Great One’s words has been ignited and will now protect you throughout your life.

“How?”

“You have a light that shall guide and protect your High King’s heritage and now you shall always live within the light.”

“I see with sight. Walk in the light while you have the light, so that darkness will not overtake you.”

“Brilliance has captured your mind and heart this day!”

“I understand your happy tears now, grandfather.”

“Having this light shall always guide you into doing what is right if you pay careful attention. For the Great One speaks to us throughout all our actions and spoken words and sometimes by the laws of nature which surround as they contain the ideas of life for everyone around. Now what wisdom would you use after prayer if you found yourself in this position again?”

“For a start, wisdom tells me not to play too far from the grounds without an escort and that I must be more aware of my surroundings.”

“You’ve answered wiser than I when I was pushed . . .”

“. . . You were pushed, grandfather?”

“Of course! Everyone is pushed or tested in one way or another, but it must always be remembered that we have a divine purpose to our lives. If this is remembered in these situations, our eyes will forever be kept upon the light we walk in. A choice is ever set before us to walk in darkness or in light. Remember, there are consequences for our actions if we do not guard our tender hearts.”

“What did you do when you were tested?”

“I remembered the verse, “Be angry and sin not, do not let the sun go down on your wrath,” which saved my life when I had a knife held to my throat during a robbery once. For if I had failed the test by acting in anger, I could have lost my life in addition to my possessions and been killed in darkness rather than remain in light. You would not be here if I had chosen the darkness of flesh over my purpose of vision in life.”

“But I feel like I lost my true self.”

“Did you?”

“What do you mean?”

“I would say that you set a better example by choosing not to fight.”

“Then when do you fight?”

“After prayer, if God’s Spirit comes upon you, He will deliver you by His might. Otherwise, continue to live by the words from the *Book of Life* and what they point to by drawing from the root of its eternal vine on the tree of life.”

“Is there any more wisdom that you’ve experienced on the matter of friendships in your life?”

“I had learned that I had to be a friend to myself first before I could be a friend to others.”

“I don’t understand.”

“Oh, I believe that you do.”

“How?”

“Have you not just discovered walking in the light?”

“Yes!”

“Well, walking in the light allows you to see and know yourself. For within this light, you can understand that The Great One loved us enough to give us His light to see and know ourselves as the *Book of Life* states, “We love because God first loved us.” The Great One as creator and God has loved and embraced us with His warmth that we may see the truth within His light and this allows us to be a friend to ourselves as it is life.”

“I see the light in what you say, grandfather. For in knowing myself, I can see how I want to be treated to show myself a friend to others.”

“If you do this, even when you find yourself in bad company, which will try to corrupt your good character, you’ll stand firm in the face of this adversity and shine your light within the darkness of any crowd.”

“I’m learning much wisdom this day as I feel my roots spread out in truth and know that I am growing in the warmth of love.”

“You shall further discover that it is easier to learn when you’re young. For as people grow older they become set in patterns, which have blown them outside of having peace within themselves. In discovering everyone is in a hurry to go no place fast, you’ll see that they shall not break the barrier of the heights and depth of time nor escape back into eternity as you’ve just described. For in the spreading of your roots and growing in the warmth of slowing down, you’ll embrace more light of

love inside the breadth that passes within time 'til shattered out of a freefall. Now, we are able to land on the firm foundation of the Christ who lifts us up when standing in His light. So continue slowing down to grow while at rest and the foundation of God's peace will not cease. For when we went no place fast, we could not catch up with God and His power of love to emanate from us as we were not within His kingdom. He has filled us to overflow. As within His presence to touch others, I am left in awe while watching how He uses me to burn away weeds. I have watched others come into bloom by His light and it is precious in my sight."

"Tell me more stories from what has happened from your past, so that I may grow from them to see more of our Great One's truth."

"In the beginning of my relationship with father, King Henry, he was not available to me and with Queen Mary just as busy at court, I really did not have much in the way of guidance in our castle. After becoming the joke of conversation, which I overheard in bits of gossip, lacking in understanding, I only laughed along with them. Back then, I did not realize that many of my friends were jealous of me and were really abusive enemies behind their deceitful smiles. How blind we can be when we run from our pain unaware that it's there? I tried to enter into friendships without understanding what love was many times. I only got pain in its place while believing it was love and even though it added to my darkness, I thought that getting attention was good."

Ronan hugs King Liam, saying, "Oh grandfather, I am so sorry."

"Steady now, for it was a long time ago and during this time, God was preparing me to be a wise king. The Great One was training me to understand all walks of life one lesson at a time.

It wasn't before long your uncle Edward grew to give me a hug and in him I found acceptance. Bit by bit things started to make sense to me in the midst of my commotion and unrest. I was slow in the

beginning but my warped point of view, which took me through empty spaces where I watched life pass me by, gradually became filled in as I discovered how to hug myself and knew that somehow God was holding me from within. Then all at once, I knew where love began.”

Liam’s grandson gives himself a hug and pauses for a moment, “I understand, grandfather!”

Though at this point, Ronan, I still did not see my great value on how I would become effective in touching many lives as there just wasn’t enough of me together, but I tasted, God is good. My relationship with The Great One had begun as did my journey to love.”

Ronan holds grandfather tightly again.

“I started to see things very differently as do you, my grandson. You will find your own space apart from a crowd and start to grow with a vision that will be valuable to our High King and others, too. Although not very focused now, you’ll soon overcome what holds you back. There were limitations in the midst of turmoil that surrounded, but you will grow in your relationship with Him ‘til more freedom is found in being who God created you to be. For, He has called you to be His friend by teaching you what love is and this will protect you from going where love is not.”

“What do you mean?”

“There will be more perils as you come to know more of yourself before the light of God. Be careful. For when you try to avoid the obvious ones that will do you harm, it can blind you to see what is coming next in the way of friendships. Deceptive friends do not take the time to listen to get to know you but what they can get out of you. They’ll lie to get their needs met in terms of what you know or have, and not who you are as a person. So keep your eyes centered on the character of Christ as described in the *Book of Life*.