

Friendship

Friendship is above reason, for, though you find virtues in a friend, he was your friend before you found them. It is a gift that we offer because we must; to give it as the reward of virtue would be to set a price upon it, and those who do that have no friendship to give. If you choose your friends on the ground that you are virtuous and want virtuous company, you are no nearer to true friendship than if you choose them for commercial reasons. Besides, who are you that you should be setting a price upon your friendship? It is enough for any man that he has the divine power of making friends, and he must leave it to that power to determine who his friends shall be. For, though you may choose the virtuous to be your friends, they may not choose you; indeed, friendship cannot grow where there is any calculated choice. It comes, like sleep, when you are not thinking about it; and you should be grateful, without any misgiving, when it comes.

So no man who knows what friendship is ever gave up a friend because he turns out to be disreputable. His only reason for giving up a friend is that he has ceased to care for him; and, when that happens, he should reproach himself for this mortal poverty of affection, not the friend for having proved unworthy. For it is inhuman presumption to say of any man that he is unworthy of your friendship, just as it is to say of any woman, when you have fallen out of love with her, that she is unworthy of your love. In friendship and in love we are always humble, because we see that a free gift has been given to us; and to lose that humility because we have lost friendship or love is to take a pride in what should shame us.

We have our judgments and our penalties as part of the political mechanism that is forced upon us so that we may continue to live; but friendship is not friendship at all unless it teaches us that these are not part of our real life. They have to be; and we pay men, and clothe them in wigs and scarlet, to sit in judgment on other men. So we are tempted to play this game of judgment on ourselves, even though no one has paid us to do it. It is only in the warmth of friendship, that we see how cold a thing

it is to judge and how stupid to take a pleasure in judging; for we recognize this warmth as a positive good, a richness in our natures, while the coldness that sets us judging is a poverty.

A. CLUTTON-BROCK

**Exercises**

1. What connection has the second paragraph with the third? Confine your answer to about 50 words.
2. Explain the meanings of the following words and phrases as they are used in the passage: above reason (1.1); on the ground that (1.5); setting a price upon (1.8); calculated choice (1.13); misgiving (1.15); he turns out to be disreputable (1.17); reproach (1.19); presumption (1.21).
3. Join these sentences, then check your answers against the text:
  - a. Friendship is above reason. You find virtues in a friend. He was your friend before you found them. (1.1-2)
  - b. You may choose the virtuous to be your friends. They may not choose you. (1.11-12)
  - c. In friendship and in love we are always humble. We see that a free gift has been given to us. (1.23-25)
  - d. We are tempted to play this game of judgment on ourselves. No one has paid us to do it. (1.33-34)
4. In not more than 110 words summarise the author's view of friendship as expressed in the first two paragraphs. (1.1-27)
5. Write a composition on one of the following:
  - a. Getting to know people.
  - b. Friendship.

# ELECTRICITY

Electricity is such a part of our everyday lives and so much taken for granted nowadays that we rarely think twice when we switch on the light or turn on the radio. At night, roads are brightly lit, enabling people and traffic to move freely. Neon lighting used in advertising has become part of the character of every modern city. In the home, many labour-saving devices are powered by electricity. Even when we turn off the bedside lamp and are fast asleep electricity is working for us, driving our refrigerators, heating our water, or keeping our rooms air-conditioned. Every 10 day, trains, trolley-buses, and trams take us to and from work. We rarely bother to consider why or how they run—until something goes wrong.

In the summer of 1959, something *did* go wrong with the power-plant that provides New York with electricity. For a great many 15 hours, life came almost to a standstill. Trains refused to move and the people in them sat in the dark, powerless to do anything; lifts stopped working, so that even if you were lucky enough not to be trapped between two floors, you had the unpleasant task of finding your way down hundreds of flights of stairs. Famous effects like Broadway and Fifth Avenue in an instant became as gloomy and uninviting as the most remote back streets. People were afraid to leave their houses, for although the police had been ordered to stand by in case of emergency, they were just as confused and helpless as anybody else.

25 Meanwhile, similar disorder prevailed in the home. New York can be stifling in the summer and this year was no exception. Cool, air-conditioned apartments became furnaces. Food went bad in refrigerators. Cakes and joints of meat remained uncooked in cooling ovens, and people sat impatient and frightened in the 30 dark as if an unseen enemy had landed from Mars. The only people who were not troubled by the darkness were the blind. One of the strangest things that occurred during the power-cut was that some fifty blind people led many sighted workers home. When the lights came on again, hardly a person in the city can 35 have turned on a switch without reflecting how great a servant he had at his finger-tips.

Choose the best answer in each exercise: a, b, c or d.

1. According to what is said in the first paragraph, electricity a. is something we have come to accept without question. b. is still something of a miracle. c. is something we think about all the time. d. has not made life easier.
2. The passage suggests that most large modern cities a. would be better off without electricity. b. are completely dependent on electricity. c. need air-conditioned buildings. d. are terrible places to live in.
3. People were afraid . . . leaving their houses. (11.21-22) a. for; b. to; of; d. in
4. The police had been ordered to stand by . . . an emergency. (11.22-23) a. providing that there was; b. should there be; c. if there would be; d. though there might be
5. Labour-saving devices (1.6) means: a. refrigerators; b. machines that save time, c. inventions that make work easier; d. electrical appliances
6. reflecting (1.35) means: a. noticing; b. observing; c. watching; d. thinking

## Sentence Structure

Rewrite this sentence, then check your answer against the text:  
There can hardly have been a person in the city who turned on a switch without reflecting how great a servant he had at his finger-tips.  
Hardly . . . (11.34-36)

## Advertisements

No one can seriously pretend to remain unaffected by advertisements. It is impossible to turn a blind eye to the solicitous overtures to buy this or that article that fill our streets, newspapers, and magazines. Even in

5 tisers are waiting to pounce on their helpless victims through our living-rooms: advertisement or television programmes. In time, no

matter how hard we resist, clever little tunes and phrases seep into our subconscious minds and stay there. Though they seem so varied, all these advertisements have one thing in 10 common: they make strong appeals to our emotions.

Fear is the biggest weapon of all. The consumer is literally scared into spending his money when he is reminded that he may die tomorrow and leave his family unprotected for: his house may be burnt down while he is away on holiday; that mysterious pain 15 he has in the stomach

is really the first symptom of a serious nervous disorder. The bait dangled before his nose is security, and he is gripped with fear when he compares his miserable lot with that of the smiling, healthy-looking man in the advertisement, who was provident 20 enough to do all the right things at the right time.

But sometimes, it is not our fears that are invoked, but our sense of comfort. Human ingenuity has devised countless machines that take the drudgery out of housework. All you need do is press a button.... 25 Why should you freeze every winter? It's time you had this inexpensive heating system installed. Immediately you begin drifting around the house in shirt-sleeves when it's 20 below outside!

The softest spot of all is our vanity. No man wants to be bald 30 before he is thirty; no woman wants to lose her school-girl complexion. We are flattered and coaxed until we almost believe that we have the habits of potential film stars, providing of course, that we use...! Sometimes the methods

persuade us that we are superior to other 35 people and it is time we realized it. The funny man in the poster

establishes immediate contact with us by making us feel that we belong to the few who have a sense of humour and who are highly intelligent.

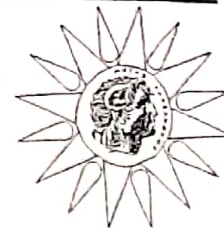
40 No amount of logical argument can convince so much as this assault on our emotions. When a crunchy, honey-filled chocolate bar stares up at you from a glossy page, what else can you do but rush out and buy one?

### EXERCISES

1. Answer the following questions in your own words as far as possible:
  - a. What examples does the writer give to illustrate each of the following? Give one example for each: (i) fear, (ii) a sense of comfort, (iii) vanity, (iv) intelligence.
  - b. Why, in the writer's opinion, is it impossible to remain unaffected by advertisements?
2. Write a composition on the following:

'Advertising is a necessary evil.' Discuss this statement.

## The "oath" of Alexander the Great



The "oath" of Alexander the Great (Opis, 324 BC)

"It is my wish, now that the wars are coming to an end, that you should all be happy in peace. From now on, all mortals live as one people in fellowship, for the good of all, see the whole world as your homeland, with laws common to all where the best will govern regardless of their race. Unlike that narrow minded, I made no Distinction between Greeks and Barbarians.

The origin of citizens, or their race into which they were born, is of no concern to me I have only one criterion by which to distinguish them. VIRTUE. For me any good foreigner is a Greek and any bad Greek is worse than a barbarian. If disputes ever occur among you, you will not resort to weapons but will solve them in peace. If need be, I shall arbitrate between you. See God not as an autocratic despot, but as the common father of all, and thus your conduct will be like the lives of brothers within the same family.

I, on my part, see you all equal whether you are white or dark-skinned. And I should like you not simply to be subjects of my commonwealth, but member of it, partners of it. To the best of my ability, I shall strive to do what I have promised.

Keep as a symbol of love this oath, which we have taken tonight with our libations".

*Arrian Anabasis of Alexander  
6th Book. Plutarch, Moralia*

### A. Comprehension questions

1. What ever-lasting messages does Alexander's wish contain ?
2. The oath shows that there were some criteria on which people would be considered inferior or superior. What were they?
3. What does "virtue" in Alexander's oath mean? Does it have the same meaning for the ancient Greeks?
4. Alexander the Great, in his oath, expresses a new concept of God. What is it? Do you think that it approaches the contemporary idea of God?
5. What does Alexander the Great mean by saying "subjects" and "members or partners" of his commonwealth?

6. Alexander's oath seems to have been made more by a religious leader than by an army leader. How is this proved in the oath?
7. Alexander's oath, perhaps in an early time, predicts a global society. What characteristics of globalization can you distinguish in it?

### B. Vocabulary

Match the words with the appropriate definition:

1. fellowship
  - a. standard by which sth is judged
2. mortal
  - b. to turn to for help
3. concern
  - c. to act as a judge in (an argument)
4. criterion
  - d. ruler with unlimited powers/tyrant
5. dispute
  - e. companionship
6. occur
  - f. to struggle hard
7. resort to sth
  - g. offering of wine etc. to a good in former times
8. arbitrate
  - h. a human being
9. despot
  - i. happen
10. strive
  - j. an agreement or quarrel
11. libation(s)
  - k. thing that is important or interesting to sb

### C. Writing

1. Do you think that people, despite their different origin or culture can peacefully co-exist and co-operate? How? (answer in not more than 50 words)
2. Do you think that our country tends to be a multicultural, multinational country? (40 words)
3. What has caused the phenomenon of xenophobia in modern societies and how can somebody combat it? (40 word)
4. Describe Alexander's personality as it appears in the oath (50 words)