

True Friends

True friends are like cool waters,
So refreshing to the soul,
Their words bring life and healing,
And make wounded spirits whole.

They'll always be there for you,
No matter how great the cost,
With love, stand right beside you,
When your life is tempest tossed.

You know that you can trust them,
With the secrets of your heart,
They'll hold them dear as you do,
And from their lips won't depart.

In gladness they're glad with you,
In sadness they wipe your tears,
Uphold you in troubled times,
And will help you face your fears.

Their friendship won't diminish,
But will grow stronger with time,
They love without condition,
And do show themselves as kind.

Though you may have many friends,
No doubt there's only a few,
As close to you as family,
And you'll count those friends as true.

- Randy J. Schum
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BIG-HEARTED People

BIG-HEARTED people,
overflowing with kindness.
Those who give themselves away
abundantly; to you—to others.

Seeming to possess a special sense as
if they already know your deepest need;
they'll do whatever it takes
to bless you at just the right time,
in the most significant,
generous way.

They're salt-of-the-earth folks,
willing to get down with you
on hands and knees
at ground level,
bearing the heat of the day,
intermingling their life with yours.

Genuine smiles,
hands reaching out,
hugging you with their eyes;
It's easy to see their **BIG HEARTS**
because they are so transparent.
Enriching your life,
they ask for nothing in return,
except, that by your enrichment
you become a **BIG-HEARTED**
person to someone else.

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Do It Afraid

When you find you must do something
you've never done before,
And your mind tells you to retreat
and find the exit door,
Refuse to think on any thoughts
that make you feel dismayed,
Be confident that you'll succeed
and just *do it—afraid.*

When David faced Goliath, there's
no doubt his mind had said,
You'll never defeat this giant,
for you're as good as dead,
But he simply believed that God
would surely give him aid,
And won the battle for he resolved
to *do it—afraid.*

Gideon faced a vast army
of thousands by the score,
His army only numbered three
hundred and not—one—more,
Yet his trust was not in numbers
but God alone that day,
And defeated his foes, for he
chose to *do it—afraid.*

For fear is an emotion that
will try to trick your mind,
To make you believe that you will
certainly fail *this* time,
So don't go by your feelings or
else you will be betrayed,
But make the choice to trust in God,
and just *do it—afraid.*

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The threefold expression of God's love through Christ

He shows His love to us:
In this was the love of God made
manifest toward us, that God sent
his only begotten Son into the world,
that we might live through him.
—1 John 4:9

He places His love in us:
And hope does not disappoint us;
because the love of God is poured
out in our hearts by the Holy Ghost
who is given unto us.
—Romans 5:5

He demonstrates His love through us:
And the Lord make you to increase
and abound in love toward one
another, and toward everyone,
even as we do toward you.
—1 Thessalonians 3:12

Adapted from the book
Big-Hearted People®
by
Randy J. Schum
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Follow Your Heart

Don't allow yourself to be conformed,
To what others think or say,
Above all follow your heart my friend,
Not the mind-set of our day.

For what is in your heart defines you,
That is really who you are,
If you try to be someone you're not,
You are doomed right from the start.

It's about being true to yourself,
And rejecting compromise,
For being false to attain some goal,
Is considered most unwise.

All around are people who pretend,
To be real and so sincere,
But remember that there are some folks,
Who are not as they appear.

So when life presents you with the choice,
You will know which to pursue,
For if you follow your heart always,
You'll succeed at being you.

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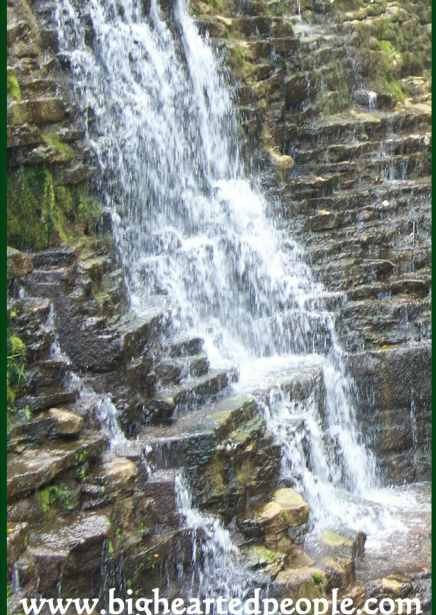


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WHEN THE POOR AND NEEDY SEEK
WATER, AND THEIR IS NONE,
AND THEIR TONGUE FAILS
FOR THIRST, I THE LORD WILL
HEAR THEM, I THE GOD OF ISRAEL
WILL NOT FORSAKE THEM.

I WILL OPEN RIVERS IN HIGH PLACES,
AND FOUNTAINS IN THE MIDST OF
THE VALLEYS; I WILL MAKE THE
WILDERNESS A POOL OF WATER, AND
THE DRY LAND SPRINGS OF WATER.

—ISAIAH 41: 17-18



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