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Like leaves, friendships change

Everywhere I look I see the leaves beginning to change. As the leaves change colors and start to fall, I am reminded of friendships. Just as the tree's leaves grow and change, so does a friendship evolve similarly.

Friendships start with a kind of gesture or kind word, changing into a heart-moving experience, something you wouldn't want to miss for the world.

Soon afterward the leaves fall, and all the eminence of the experience seems to end. It is comparable to when a friendship sometimes falters. Our hearts fall silent, afraid of losing what we have grown so close to, fearful of being rejected and intimidated by a feeling of insuperiority.

Human acceptance is the foundation of friendship. To have a friendship end would be saying to that person you are no longer worthy being my friend, a heart wrenching experience.

I was reminded of friendships again a few days ago. I heard my sons on the phone and the next thing I heard was sobs, and the door slammed shut.

Since when did friendships become so complicated to retain? Were the sobs because he lost a friend or because he felt rejected or not worthy? Are friendships so easily made that one can toss them effortlessly aside?

I recall being a teen-ager not so long ago, contrary to my son's opinion. Two things I've learned are that I never want to be a teen-ager again and that friendships do get easier for the most part, except for the apprehension or rejection part. So when the sorrows come, as they sometimes will, keep in mind you are worthy still.

Even if you lose a friend, you will have delightful memories that you would have missed had you not opened your heart to let them in. So friendship never really end, only change. I've come to recognize in my old, wrinkle-bag stage of 37 yrs old that friends are part of the journey through life. With each friendship made, a small part of your destiny is brought to light...to live, laugh and love.