

# Friendship as Supported by the Canon, Physics, and Ethics

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Over the last weekend, with the help of my neighbor and friend, I painted my apartment. It was a tiresome process. We worked for more than 13 hours on Sunday. In order to make the labor more pleasant, we played 80s songs. When the process was nearly over, he reminded me that the amount of work he did over the weekend was proof of how much he loved me. The last time I had a friend this warm was during my college years.

After the chaos of re-inventing my space completely over the weekend, I feel like we created new memories, and I also feel that the space reflects an inner change in me and in my life. Now, when I look at the new colors of my walls, I am reminded also of my friendship and the warmth, familiarity, and love, which found a token in the act of painting itself. The Havamal attests to the importance of giving friends concrete tokens of our respect and love.

## Quote

With presents friends should please each other,  
With a shield or a costly coat:  
Mutual giving makes for friendship  
So long as life goes well.  
Stanza 41, Havamal

The Havamal also says that when friends do not complain about the distance they travel to see each other, that is also a proof of true friendship, so there are other ways in which friendship can be made concrete, tokenized. And it says that not everyone who smiles at us, or who laughs at our jokes, is a friend.

The takeaway here is that friendship requires concrete tokens, concrete, direct, unmediated experiences, to grow and to be true friendship. (This can be time spent, favors done, words of advice imparted, etc. not just "gifts"). They act as proof, as evidence, of the friendship that is there, but also cement it and build memories. I've frequently talked about the importance of making philosophy tangible, the same goes for friendship.