

Being with Others

Opening words and Chalice lighting:

"The way is full of genuine sacrifice.
The thickets blocking your path are anything
that keeps you from that, any fear that you may be broken
into bits like a glass bottle.

This road demands courage and stamina, yet it's full of
footprints!

Who are these companions?

They are rungs in your ladder. Use them!

With company you quicken your ascent.

You may be happy enough going along, but with others
you'll get farther, and faster.

Someone who goes cheerfully by himself to the customs
house to pay his traveler's tax will go even more
lightheartedly when friends are with him.

Every prophet sought out companions.

A wall standing alone is useless, but put three or four walls
together, and they'll support a roof and keep grain dry
and safe.

When ink joins with a pen, then the blank paper can say
something.

Rushes and reeds must be woven to be useful as a mat. If
they weren't interlaced; the wind would blow them away.

Like that, God paired up creatures, and gave them
friendship."

Rumi – The Essential Rumi

Welcome and check-in (A time to share what is on your mind in order to clear it and be
in the present.)

Reading for discussion

Reflect on the words of the Rumi. Some of us are extroverts. It is not our alone time that
energizes us, but being out in the world, interacting with people, relating, being active,
doing things. Sometimes it seems that the party can't go on long enough, that perhaps
there is someplace else to go when it's over. Being with others can bring out the best in
us.

Questions for discussion

For you to be happy, useful, fulfilled and growing in the world –

What kind of time or interaction do you need with others?

Does your sociability crave sports, parties, conversations?

What kind of company brings playfulness, soul-searching or joy to your heart and mind?

What rejuvenates you in your work and play?

Check-out (A time to share likes and wishes, such as “I like how we...” “I wish we would...”, or express how you felt about the group.)

Closing words and extinguishing the Chalice:

I asked the professors who teach the meaning of life to tell me what is happiness. And I went to famous executives who boss the work of thousands of men. They all shook their heads and gave me a smile as though I was trying to fool with them. And then one Sunday afternoon I wandered out along the river and I saw a crowd of Hungarians under the tree with their women and children and a keg of beer and an accordion.

Carl Sandburg

Thanks to everyone for their participation and commitment to our group!