

DAMON AND PYTHIAS

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Indent of the story:

- *To reflect and share our ideas on friendship*
- *To realize that friendship demands sacrifice and loyalty.*
- *To clearly distinguish between friendship amid and companionship*
- *To encourage people to foster true friendships.*

A GREEK STORY

Many years ago there were two good friends, Damon and Pythias. They were ready to do anything for one another other.

Dionysius, their King, was a cruel and heartless man. No one ever dared speak against him for fear of punishment; only Damon and Pythias were brave enough to speak the truth.

One day some soldiers heard Pythias speaking against the king. They reported it to Dionysius. The King arrested Pythias and threw him into prison. Because Pythias would not take back what he said, the king condemned him to death.

Damon went to see his friend in prison and asked him: “Is there anything I can do to help you? I’m even ready to die for you.” Pythias, replied; “I would like to see my mother and my sister before I die to make some arrangements for their support and comfort”.

Damon at once went to the king and begged of him: “Allow Pythias my friend to visit his mother and sister before he dies. I will take his place in prison. If he does not come back on time for his execution, you can have me executed instead of him.”

King Dionysius was surprised at such friendship and trust; for he did never trust anyone in his life. The King, agreed.

So Pythias went to see his mother and sister while Damon stayed in prison. When the day of the execution arrived the king sent for Damon. “Where is your good friend now?” Ironically, he asked, “You should have learnt not to trust anyone. Now, because of your foolishness you will die.” Damon replied, “If my friend has not yet come, I know, it is not his fault. In any case, I am willing to die in his place. May God bless him?”

As Damon finished speaking a young man rushed into the palace and threw his arms around the prisoner. It was Pythias, of course, “I Thank God, I am not too late.. Many things stopped me from coming earlier. I thank you for giving me a chance of meeting my mother and sister before I die.”

At this, The King, was so moved that he remarked: “Had I had just a couple of persons, like you, Pythias and Damon, in my kingdom I would have been a different King. Now, both of you go free. I would give my crown and my wealth to secure true friends like you”.

