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"Portrait of a Friend"

I can't give solutions to all of life's problems, doubts,
or fears. But I can listen to you, and together we will
search for answers.

I can't change your past with all it's heartache and pain,
nor the future with its untold stories.

But I can be there now when you need me to care.

I can't keep your feet from stumbling....

I can only offer my hand that you may grasp it and not fall.

Your joys, triumphs, successes, and happiness are not mine;

Yet I can share in your laughter.

Your decisions in life are not mine to make, nor to judge;

I can only support you, encourage you,
and help you when you ask.

I can't prevent you from falling away from friendship,
from your values, from me.

I can only pray for you, talk to you and wait for you.

I can't give you boundaries which I have determined for you,

But I can give you the room to change, room to grow,
room to be yourself.

I can't keep your heart from breaking and hurting,

But I can cry with you and help you pick up the pieces
and put them back in place. I can't tell you who you are.

I can only care about you and be your friend.

--Unknown