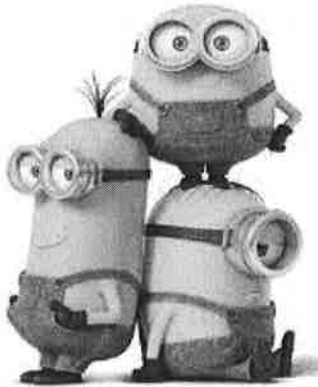


**Peninsula College and Fort Worden***presents***Uses of Philosophy for Living: Friendship**

Wesley Cecil PhD.



Now Gilgamesh got up to tell his dream to his mother; Ninsun, one of the wise gods. 'Mother, last night I had a dream. I was full of joy, the young heroes were round me and I walked through the night under the stars of the firmament, and one, a meteor of the stuff of Anu, fell down from heaven. I tried to lift it but it proved too heavy. All the people of Uruk came round to see it, the common people jostled and the nobles thronged to kiss its feet; and to me its attraction was like the love of woman. They helped me, I braced my forehead and I raised it with thongs and brought it to you, and you yourself pronounced it my brother.' Then Ninsun, who is well-beloved and wise, said to Gilgamesh, 'This star of heaven which descended like a meteor from the sky; which you tried to lift,- but found too heavy, when you tried to move it it would not budge, and so you brought it to my feet; I made it for you, a goad and spur, and you were drawn as though to a woman. This is the strong comrade, the one who brings help to his friend in his need. He is the strongest of wild creatures, the stuff of Anu; born in the grass-lands and the wild hills reared him; when you see him you will be glad; you will love him as a woman and he will never forsake you. This is the meaning of the dream.' Gilgamesh said, 'Mother, I dreamed a second dream. In the streets of strong-walled Uruk there lay an axe; the shape of it was strange and the people thronged round. I saw it and was glad. I bent down, deeply drawn towards it; I loved it like a woman and wore it at my side.' Ninsun answered, 'That axe, which you saw, which drew you so powerfully like love of a woman, that is the comrade whom I give you, and he will come in his strength like one of the host of heaven. He is the brave companion who rescues his friend in necessity.' Gilgamesh said to his mother, 'A friend, a counsellor has come to me from Enlil, and now I shall befriend and counsel him.' Epic of Gilgamesh

## friend (n.)

Old English *freond* "one attached to another by feelings of personal regard and preference," from Proto-Germanic *\*frijand-* "lover, friend" (source also of Old Norse *frændi*, Old Danish *frynt*, Old Frisian *freund*, Dutch *vriend*, Middle High German *friunt*, German *Freund*, Gothic *frijonds* "friend"), from PIE *\*priy-ont-*, "loving," present participle form of root *\*pri-* "to love" (see *free* (adj.)).

"Friendship is not only invaluable but beautiful. Being a good friend and a good person is the same thing." (*Aristotle Nicomachean Ethics*).

"Anybody can sympathise with the sufferings of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathise with a friend's success." *Oscar Wilde*

"I don't need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better." *Plutarch*

"It is not a lack of love, but a lack of friendship that makes unhappy marriages." *Friedrich Nietzsche*

"Life is partly what we make it, and partly what it is made by the friends we choose." *Tennessee Williams*

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**Next Lecture December 15<sup>th</sup> "The Accursed Share"**

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