**2 Passages from Aristotle – Reflection**

*“After that, the next topic is friendship; for it is a virtue, or involves virtue. Further, it is most necessary for our life. For no one would choose to live without friends even in he had all the other goods. Indeed rich people and holders of powerful positions, even more than other people, seem to need friends. For how would one benefit from such prosperity if one had no opportunity for beneficence, which his most often displayed, and most highly praised, in relation to friends? And how would one guard and protect prosperity without friends, when it is all the more precarious the greater it is?” (Nichomachean Ethics, Book 8 Chapter 1, Pg 119)*

*“Presumably though, we had better examine the universal good, and puzzle out what is meant in speaking of it. This sort of inquiry is, to be sure unwelcome to us, because those who introduced the Forms were friends of ours; still it presumably seems better, indeed only right to destroy even what is close to us if that is the way to preserve truth. We must especially do this as philosophers, [lovers of wisdom]; for though we love both the truth and our friends, reverence is due to the truth first.” (Nichomachean Ethics, Book 1 Chapter 6, Pg 5)*

I chose these two passages from Aristotle’s Nichomachean Ethics because I believe they give us a very intimate and important look into the very heart of Aristotle’s belief about relationships and friends, and his pursuit of the truth. As we can see in the first passage, Aristotle truly believes that friends are *necessary for our life*, and he definitely views them as incremental to one’s happiness, as he states that one would hate to be without friends even if he had everything else the world could offer him. Cleary Aristotle states the extreme value that he places on friends, and how much his friends mean to him.

This makes the next passage all the more beautiful and intimate, as we can see that Aristotle says that we as philosophers should be ready to abandon and *destroy* our friendships and thereby our key to happiness and fulfillment, if they interfere with the pursuit of truth. Aristotle truly believes that even though friends are *necessary* for human life just like food and water, that we should forsake them in the pursuit of truth. The correlation between these two passages makes Aristotle’s whole attitude of seriousness and commitment to his philosophical works all the more intimate. As we can see that Aristotle has shown that he is literally willing to give up his friends, his happiness, and even a *necessity of life* in the pursuit of what is true. I have much respect for Aristotle, and find this view of his to be both heartbreaking and inspiring.