

## Dealing with Pain Caused by Friends

If a friend does something bad to you that causes you pain, you should never blame yourself for what he or she has done, nor should you react by trying to hurt him or her. Instead, you should see him and deal with him for what he proved himself to be, a bad person, who deserves neither your friendship nor your respect. Bad people have been doing bad things to good people throughout history, oftentimes choosing the closest to them as victims to cheat and mislead and hurt.

A person, whom I considered at one point in my life to be a close and trustworthy friend, did something terrible to me lately; he forced me to evacuate a flat I contracted with him to buy, and thus denied me the quiet, secure life I enjoyed in that beautiful flat for three consecutive years; he also cheated me of the opportunity to increase my assets because the value of the flat had doubled during that period. My old friend did the cheating out of greed and because the law was on his side; it written by the rich to enable them to cheat and exploit the poor and the weak. The law of the land does not recognize written or oral agreements related to property ownership unless title for the concerned property is transferred from the owner to the buyer, which was not done in our case; my old friend, the owner had refused to go through the legal procedures and pay the fees required to do so.

I could have decided to fight the owner in court and deny him access to the flat for two years or more, but I knew that he would win at the end of the day, unless the law is changed to be fair and equitable. So, instead of choosing to engage him in a long, exhausting and ultimately losing battle, I decided to avoid a bitter fight and turn my attention to doing the things I do best; things that make me happy and give me most satisfaction; to reading and writing, to travel and participation in seminars and conferences, to giving lectures, and to helping students and others who need my help and can use my knowledge and benefit from my life experience.

Choosing to fight would have tied me down for years, and led me to think negatively rather than positively and, thus, allow myself to be cheated of valuable time. Whoever thinks negatively is unable to think positively, and while doing so, such people will be wasting valuable time and hurting themselves more than hurting those they do not like.

Some of my friends and relatives blamed me for what had happened because I trusted my old friend and believed that he would honor his signature, promise and our written agreement, not consider cheating me; I could also have blamed myself for the same reasons. But I did not. Trusting others, especially friends, is a virtue, not a sin; cheating friends is a sin, not a virtue.