Together Unwavering

Valerie Kisselback ‘15

In imitation of the lyrical style of Sappho, this poem celebrates the goodness of an Aristotelian friendship and invokes Arete, the goddess of excellence and virtue, to bless and sustain it.

My friend:
Innocence springs from his soul,
Wisdom, strength, and song
Rise up from within him.
A radiant light amid the darkness of misguided principles,
His integrity is wondrous to behold.
His smiling disposition becomes him;
So modest and unwavering,
The embodiment of goodness.

O, Arete:
Send forth a cascade of blessings!
Illuminate our moral qualities,
That he may cultivate mine and I his!
In every encounter
Strengthen our virtuous habits,
That our souls may reflect your shining excellence!
Remain with us,
Unwavering,
That goodness may endure.

Together:
Joy and mirth ring forth,
consolation and encouragement sustain.
Our hearts are devoted to Arete,
Our souls united in the same striving
To exemplify beautiful truth.
Both unwavering in dedication,
With courage and strength
Magnifying the goodness of the other.