

## To My Friends

Dear friends, and here I say friends  
the broad sense of the word:  
Wife, sister, associates, relatives,  
Schoolmates of both sexes,  
People seen only once  
Or frequented all my life;  
Provided that between us, for at least a moment,  
A line has been stretched,  
A well-defined bond.  
I speak for you, companions of a crowded  
Road, not without its difficulties,  
And for you too, who have lost  
Soul, courage, the desire to live;  
Or no one, or someone, or perhaps only one person, or you  
Who are reading me: remember the time  
Before the wax hardened,  
When everyone was like a seal.  
Each of us bears the imprint  
Of a friend met along the way;  
In each the trace of each.  
For good or evil  
In wisdom or in folly  
Everyone stamped by everyone.  
Now that the time crowds in  
And the undertakings are finished,  
To all of you the humble wish  
That autumn will be long and mild.

**Primo Levi**  
**16 December 1985**

