

Strength of Character

by Kenita Gibbins

A friend and I knocked heads with a conversation about free will. He said, "There is no such thing as free will." I replied immediately, "Of course we have that privilege."

He backed up his claim that we have no choice when to be born and when to die. I agreed. I will never admit that we can't be in charge in between our birth and death. I even quoted William Henley's *Invictus*. "I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul." Our very intelligent host and I argued for probably an hour. His genius wife came out, bringing a new topic. She served wine and appetizers — a lovely way to shut us up.

George and I went home talking about the many different meanings of the word. Neither of us appreciates friends who walk out of our lives with no explanation. If dear ones leave, then I can hope it isn't due to death. We've instructed our children to send out our Christmas card list, explaining why they haven't received news from us.

When I turned age 40, I read an article that said a person should've learned to say no by now. Many years later, I still agree with 'Okay' in many instances. I will make the coffee for Windsor Gardens Writers Group. It becomes a smile, not to say no, while showing my strength of character.