

AUTOBIOGRAPHY IN FIVE SHORT CHAPTERS

by Portia Nelson

I

I walk down the street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I fall in
I am lost . . . I am helpless
It isn't my fault.
It takes forever to find a way out.

II

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I pretend I don't see it.
I fall in again.
I can't believe I am in the same place.
but, it isn't my fault.
It still takes a long time to get out.

III

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I see it is there.
I still fall in . . . it's a habit.
my eyes are open.
I know where I am.
It is my fault.
I get out immediately.

IV

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I walk around it.

V

I walk down another street.

WHAT IS MATURITY

Ann Landers

Maturity is the ability to handle frustration, control anger and settle differences without violence or destruction.

Maturity is perseverance, sweating out a project or a situation in spite of opposition and discouraging setbacks. Maturity is unselfishness, responding to the needs of others, the capacity to face unpleasantness and disappointment without becoming bitter. Maturity is the gift of remaining calm in the face of chaos.

Maturity is the ability to disagree without being disagreeable. A mature person is able to say, "I was wrong." He is also able to say, "I am sorry." And when he is proven right, he does not have to say, "I told you so."

Maturity is the ability to make a decision and to accept full responsibility for the outcome. Maturity means dependability, integrity, keeping one's word. The immature have excuses for everything. They are the chronically tardy, the No-show, the gutless wonders who fold in the crises. Their lives are a maze of broken promises, unfinished business and former friends.

Maturity is the ability to live in peace with that which we cannot change.