

## BENDS ONLY, NOT THE END

Jimmy Teo

Life is always in the forward gear until the end  
All problems are necessary bends;  
Without bitterness, sweetness has less contents  
Without stormy weather, the bright sunshine is just a blank.

Add 'b' to 'end', and we have 'bend'  
That 'curve or sharp' bend necessary to slow us  
To be safe & have adequate rest  
Or burn out & suffer before the 'end'.

Add 'f' to 'end' and we have 'fend'  
That mandatory personal self-effort  
To move against laziness & dependence on others & parents  
And be self-supporting; inspiring others likewise.

Add 'l' to 'end' and we have 'lend'  
It is good if we could lend or help the poor,  
Instead of borrowing from others;  
As helping the poor is lending to the Lord.

Add 'm' to 'end' and we have 'mend'  
That sincere & loving efforts to mend our ways  
To be better & humbler  
And to be exemplary for others.

Add 'r' to end and we have 'rend'  
To pull asunder or tear apart everything wrong  
Both within or without;  
Daring to speak & fight for the rights of the poor & underprivileged.

Add 's' to end and we have 'send'  
The art of relaying & sending good inspirations  
To all our friends, even financial support for genuine needy  
Especially for kids, so that they could have a good future.

Add 't' to 'end' and we have 'tend'  
That tender touch to tend to whatever we have  
With simplicity & purity  
So that we have less complication & difficulties.

Add 'v' to 'end' and we have 'vend'  
That ability to provide, like a vending machine  
For ourselves & loved ones  
Through prudent sufficient savings rather than to be dependent on others.

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**Author's Note - 8.22am/Mon/8.6.15/On board SQ 998 to Yangon**

*Mark Chua, my associate from EASB suggested (he was seated next to me on the plane, the very 1st person to see my draft as I penned on the plane) that I when I add 'Fri' to the 'end', we have 'friend'. Indeed so. Let 'Friday' be the day for us to take time to enjoy quality time with friends (our progenies are our friends as well, as in some families they are not so). It is the start of the weekend. We need rest. We need replenishment of warmth & inspiration.*

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