

Written for a niece that was graduating and becoming a nurse

Dear Crystal,

I am honored to welcome you to the most cherished profession I can imagine in which one would dedicate one's life. Membership in this Sister/Brotherhood allows each of us to quietly and lovingly step into the life of another human at a time when we are so painfully needed.

You and I share the modest blessing of working in a profession where we can lay our hand on the worried brow, the aggrieved heart, the frightened soul of another...and for a sweet moment we will erase that, and fill the void with peace and trust. One cannot measure the joy and edification felt at the privilege of this wonderful gift!

This work will sadden you as well. You will lose those you care for and to whom you have become attached. You will see unethical, apathetic, or abusive peers and your heart will hurt for the pain they inflict and for the loss of the purity of your profession. You will have angry loved ones lash out at the nearest target: You! Yes, you will be mistreated, misunderstood, and misused.

Through this, remember to hold to your high standards, for you will find yourself occasionally in the company of others who have let their dedication falter. You know from experience that once we start to slip it is very hard to remain upright and keep from falling. So guard your ethics at all times, and bring those in contact with you up to your benchmark. Constantly keep in mind there is nothing more important than the human protecting him/her from anyone who would harm them, including your peers, his/her family, society, even the physician. You are the sole advocate. No one else can do the job entrusted to the 'Nurse'.

And after all this, I promise you that if you have chosen this profession for the right reason, your heart will rejoice each and every day as you walk the path, arm-in-arm with the rest of your sisters and brothers.

Welcome.

Written by: Shari Alexander, RN

