

## The Language of Love

By Anil Shrivastava 'Musafir'



“Love is a many splendored thing.” Love is the emotion that has mystified us from time immemorial. Most stories, novels, movies, poems and songs are based solely on love. No wonder, “love makes the world go ‘round.” Yet, true

love is the scarcest entity – hard to find. Ironically, “I love you” is, probably, the most abused and overused expression in any language. Love is a paradox inasmuch as it can be the cause of both bliss and misery. Love puts smile on our face and tears in our eyes. Love is easy to feel but difficult to express.

I have heard the expressions: “Love is giving until it hurts.” “Love is stronger than a man’s convictions.” “Love is the reflection of man’s worth.” “Love is the irresistible desire to be irresistibly desired.” “Love is never having to say you’re sorry.” I do not disagree with any of those statements.

A wise man once said to me ‘Love is God.’ Various dictionaries liken love to kindness, friendship, marriage, forgiveness, attachment, appreciation, fantasy, illusion, bond, affection and sensuality. I do not disagree with those either, but I have always wondered about an apt expression of love. Or is it that love can only be felt and expressed in a non-verbal form?

Poets have attempted to express verbal love most lucidly and eloquently, albeit poems can only briefly touch the true meaning of love. According to Elizabeth Barrett Browning love is eternal and indestructible by time and death.

Smiles, tears, of all my life! and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.

Lord Byron in his poem, “She walks in Beauty” likened love to innocence. For him love was abstract without any physical form as nowhere in the poem any mention is made of any physical features of the lady.

She walks in beauty, like the night  
Of cloudless climes and starry skies.....  
....A mind at peace with all below,  
A heart whose love is innocent.

Wordsworth found love in the beauty of nature as often expressed in his poems. The most vivid expression of his love can be found in the following excerpts:

I wandered lonely as a cloud...  
...And then my heart with pleasure fills,  
And dances with the daffodils.

Coleridge’s expression of love was passionate and of sacrifice:

All thoughts, all passions, all delights,  
Whatever stirs this mortal frame,  
All are but ministers of Love,  
And feed his sacred flame.

Shelly saw love in the fusion of lovers as one entity:

The fountains mingle with the river  
And the rivers with the ocean,  
...In one another’s being mingle-  
Why not I with thine?

For John Keats, the youngest of all romantic poets (died at the age of 25) love is the ultimate beauty and the only truth.

.... Beauty is truth, truth beauty,– that is all  
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.

But what is the best expression of love? Real love is mysterious and defies rigid explanations, but love makes its presence known while giving or receiving it. When your heart aches in someone else’s pain, a state of love exists. However, that does not translate love in a verbal form. We are human; therefore we err. Thus we hurt our loved ones advertently or inadvertently. If love is really divine, eternal, real beauty and ultimate truth then love has to be above ego and pride and that should give us the courage to say, “I am sorry and I was wrong.” In my opinion, that is the ultimate expression of love.

Sent your comments to:

**The THINK Club,**  
**P.O. Box 451,**  
**Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303-0451**

Or email to:

[TheThinkClub@AOL.com](mailto:TheThinkClub@AOL.com)