

On Love

2023

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For adult humans, love is an intense positive feeling of connection with something outside one's self. This connection is a feeling so intense that there is a sense of sharing identity with that "something else."

That "something else" can be almost anything so long as the "something else" is able to be receptive because love is a shared feeling of intense connection.

Love is inherent in the relationship of the gestating fetus and the mother where both share the most fundamental connection and identity with one another. The difficult birth process disconnects this formative love relationship, and a major goal in subsequent life is to reclaim it first through parental nurture and care, then in friendship, and finally in romantic love.

Love is not appreciation, admiration, adoration, or lust because these manifestations of intense feeling of connection are not necessarily shared.

Love can be achieved with many different "something elses," and love is expressed in different ways with these different "something elses." But, to meet the requirement of being shared, love must be expressed appropriately.

Love is the pinnacle positive feeling for humans, the most valuable experience that humans can have. Enduring love is the supreme privilege in life.

In spirituality, through the intuitive mental process, love can expand to be more and more inclusive of "something elses" until synthesis achieves unification with everything, which is the condition of enlightenment. This is the ultimate love experience – self as intensely connected to/sharing identity in All. Expressive culture [play, music, story, dance, ritual, etc.] initiate intuitive mental functioning and provide access to the unification experience and spiritual perspective.

True love between two adults is a microcosm expression of the love potential in the spiritual macrocosm. It retrieves the unification condition of the fetus.

Love of God and God's love for "you" together with whatever intermediaries the belief system requires – gurus, prophets, saviors, priests – is an attempt by institutionalized religion to provide supernatural based agency to substitute for what otherwise can be independently experienced as spiritually based macrocosm love free from the elaborate trappings of dogma.