

## And the Greatest is Love

In his message to Alcyone, in *At The Feet Of The Master*, The Master said that there are Four Qualifications to tread on the Path viz.

1. **Discrimination**
2. **Desirelessness**
3. **Good Conduct**
4. **Love**

“Of all the qualifications, Love is the most important. For if it is strong enough in man, it forces him to acquire all the rest.”

But what is Love?

Love is spoken of everywhere, all the time: in conversations with friends, on bumper stickers, on cover magazines, in spiritual books, by spiritual teachers etc

The Love referred to in Spiritual Teachings is not a feeling, it is the deepest and most truthful experience of reality one can have when we reconnect to Source/Primordial Energy/God.

So what stops us reconnecting to our Source/Primordial Energy/God?

For one it is Fear! Fear wears many masks, the favourite one being our ego-mind – entertaining the illusion that it is separate from everything else. It is the Fear of being One with the Source.

The other is that Man’s mystical experience, which is a Direct experience of the Divine Presence in the here and now, has been said to be a state which surpasses human understanding or description.

In most religious traditions the mystical experience is established as ineffable and inconceivable, precisely because it is transcendental, other-worldly, and extraordinary experience. That being the case, the question usually posed is: how do words of an ordinary, human language capture and convey an extra-ordinary, transcendental experience?

The answer, as attested to by all major religions and literary traditions is, by recourse to language of symbolism & “experiences”

Humanity uses symbols as a concrete or perceptible means of expressing the experience of abstract, imperceptible, spiritual, and divine realities.

At the most heightened state of consciousness, the mystical experience has been perceived as an encounter between two intangible entities, namely, the human soul and Divine Reality. In order to express the abstract encounter therefore, the concrete has to be expediently employed. In this context, the paradigms of love between man and woman, in all its myriad aspects, have most often been employed by mystics as a means of expressing this experience. In portraying this earthly love, however, the concern is usually not with the actual persons figured, but with them as archetypes, and as symbols of divine realities.

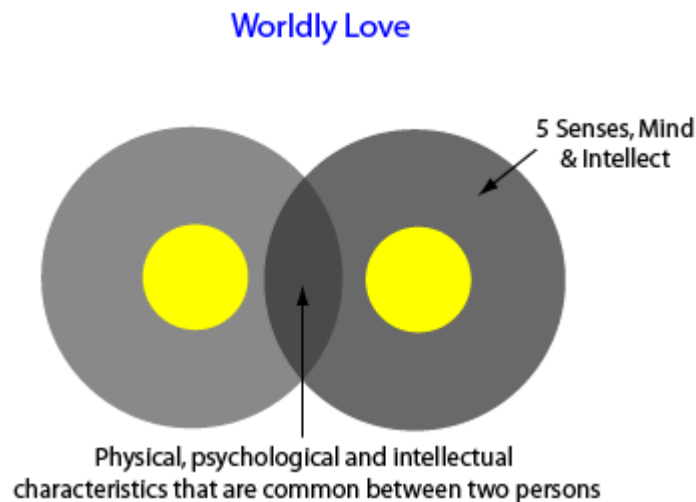
It is also of significance that symbolic expression generally focuses on the *process towards union*, rather than on union per se, with the Divine. In diverse mystical traditions this ontological experience has been given emphasis because mystical union is arrived at only through the stages of a long and arduous path.<sup>2</sup> This path, or journey, is expressed by the portrayal of human love-in-separation, in which the lovers are “torn” from each other. The separation is characterized by a searching, or quest, and a journey back to each other, fraught with pain, agony, and intense longing. This state of affairs symbolizes the consciousness of the human soul of its separation from God, and a yearning to return to its Source.

This yearning has been hauntingly portrayed in “The Lament of the Reed,” one of the most beautiful Sufi poems ever written. It conveys the plaintive cry of the reed (symbolizing the human soul) being torn from its original place (symbolizing Divine Reality).

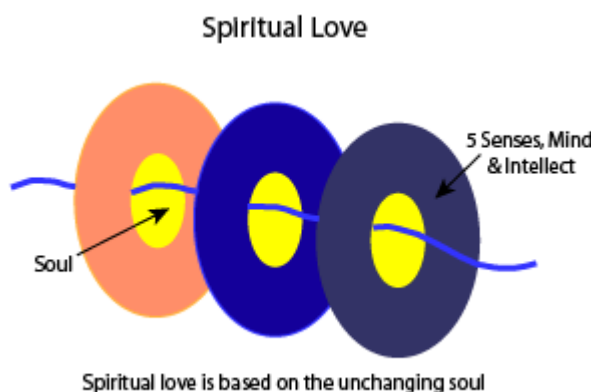
In the context of this process towards re-union, two great and dominant traditions, namely the Islamic-Sufi tradition of Persia, and the Hindu-Bhakti tradition of India, have produced literary works of singular beauty and merit in the form of prose, as well as poetry. In particular, two classic poems, Nizami’s *Layla Majnun* (Gelpke 1997), and Jayadeva’s *Gita Govinda* (Miller 1984), have gained widespread acclaim and canonicity within their individual literary traditions, as well as sanctity in their originating mystico-religious traditions.

Many people have peak experience when they suddenly get in touch with a higher, more inclusive reality. The sense of self disappears to leave place for a feeling of oneness with something bigger.

## The difference between Worldly Love & Spiritual Love:



The above diagram shows how worldly love i.e. love with expectation is based on the similarities with another person's nature. But there is no guarantee that all aspects of our nature will be similar or complement the other person's nature. When we begin to discover the difference, that's when the strife and trouble begins.



On the other hand, spiritual love or love without expectation is based on the unchanging Soul. This is akin to how a string links the beads on a necklace whatever the shape, colour or size – the external nature is not important. The hole in each bead represents our soul which is the same for all of us i.e. the God in one is not in any way different from the God within another.

*Ordinarily when one loves anyone there is some form of expectation attached and it is conditional. However spiritual love is unconditional, no matter what the circumstances are. This form of love is divine and only develops after a considerable amount of spiritual practice when one perceives God in everyone. So also, we become happier individuals when our love is not adulterated or diluted by expectations.*

[Ref: Spiritual Science Research Foundation](#)

### **That's the reality of Love: a unified field of energy.**

You cannot be in touch with it as long as you fear losing yourself. To be in love means to be at one with life, to go with the flow, to look at each experience, however difficult it is, as an opportunity to give your whole self to life and what it has to teach you. Only surrender can bring joy: when you surrender there is no more resistance, no more frustrations, just the flow of life going through you in Oneness.

However to surrender is to decide that you are no longer the driver of your life!

How Scary is that?

That depends on the definition of "you". If you define yourself as the physical person experiencing life that is indeed a very frightening thought. But if you consider yourself as a Spiritual being having a human experience, then this Spiritual being should be behind the wheel, right? So why not let it lead the show?

The difficulty is to know if and when our Spiritual self is involved in our daily lives, or if it shut off by our minds. How can we tell our higher Self is showing us something?

“Experiences” – coincidences, repetitive outcomes in relationships, “fateful” encounters, disagreements between our heart and out mind, dreams, spiritual experiences and openings are all signs of our higher Self’s presence trying to show or teach us something. To surrender to those signs is to follow them, open ourselves to their meaning and “go with the flow” of teaching.

Connection to Source is the highest form of Service we can give ourselves and the planet. **Selfless service** carries many gifts, **the first one being for the giver**. Beyond being useful to the community, the person performing a service exemplifies oneness by reaching to another in need. Working on our spiritual connection is never a selfish endeavour because it implies working with the energy of the world.

As we go inside we uncover our true essence, which is that we are the World-Oneness-God-Love. This has several consequences: the personal world perspective shifts to a more universal one of deep responsibility – relationships are infused with a new sense of equality, and separateness slowly dissipates to leave space for a more inclusive viewpoint of the world.

However this Love of wanting to be Oneness-God should not be perceived as an intense desire for liberation from the rounds of birth & deaths & for union with Oneness-God. That in itself would be a selfish desire! Indeed our will to be with one with God should be so intense, not in order that we may escape from the weariness and suffering but in order that because of our Intense Love for God we want to act with Him & as He does. Because He is Love, when we become one with Him, we will also be filled with **Perfect Unselfishness & Love** also

It is a great pity that the Spiritual world eludes many. Some see it as a fantasy, others think they will only know it after death, **yet it is right here**, behind the veil, and can be accessed by anyone.

When our physical reality falls apart, our spiritual; connection is our best ally.