

Love's Root.

The theme of love has never ceased to amaze humanity in a most astonishingly interesting way. This “love” that we speak of serves as the bedrock of creation – the very foundation of the existence of humanity itself in its purest form. This four letter word carries so much weight that eternity will not be sufficient to discuss it in its entirety.

Love can make a weary heart joyful, a hungry soul full, a sad face light up, and a traumatized mind relieved. Love can change a society and turn the whole world around for good. We think of love as a sensation, a feeling, or an action that finds root in the bottom of our heart. Love is a deep, tender, ineffable feeling of affection and solicitude toward a person (or thing), such as that arising from a sense of underlying oneness or an intense emotional attachment as for a pet or treasured object.

Considering the fact that love is the foundation of every positive change, we might be tempted to have a biased preconception of the ‘beginning’ of love. What exactly is the origin of love? How does it start? Well, it doesn’t begin on the thousand feet mountain or on the wealth and riches that abound. On the contrary, love has such a humble beginning that is almost unfathomable and profound – the person. Love begins with an individual; it all begins with me and you. It begins with that longing feeling to extend a helping hand to that person in pain, to contribute to the service of humanity, to put a smile on that sad face, to make life more pleasurable for that hopeless one, to show some compassion to that creature, to heal the world. Love is borne out of our personal passion and drive to make a lasting positive impact.

The theme of love is discussed in almost every holy book we can think of. Solomon in the Holy Bible dedicates a whole book to love. We can see how love is so vital and so essential. Love is indisputably inevitable for a thriving society. We exude love when we

perform activities ranging from caring for our surroundings (plants and animals) to caring for fellow humans. Love does not fail or falter; love is compassionate and enduring; love radiates when we care.

The seed of love is planted when we care for ourselves first. Love involves making ourselves lovely. When we create in ourselves a most enviable personality, our show of love will be duly reciprocated. When we make ourselves accessible to people around us, we simultaneously give ourselves the opportunity to show all the love we can. A lot of habits need to be cultivated in us in our quest to show love. Most importantly, we must possess a lively personality that will relate joyfully with every being. We also need to be humble enough to respect the views of others and appreciate the differences in opinions. In this way, we will see everyone as a reflection of us and treat them as such.

Individual love gives birth to community love. When we love ourselves, our family members and our immediate neighbors, we experience such an unexplainable spontaneous love extension to other people and places. Love requires just one person to plant a seed; the seed is watered daily as we continue to show acts of compassion. The seed germinates when we spread our acts to other people and places. The seed then becomes a big tree, deeply rooted, with strong towering branches. The tree provides shade in times of intense weather conditions – a shade under which every restless soul can find rest.

Love is not only about giving the million dollars that will sponsor thousands around the world; love is about helping that friend who is emotionally down, hugging that girl who just lost her dad, visiting that hospitalized person, saying “I love you” to that hopeless child (a word that can bring some healing gives no better feeling), being involved as a volunteer in organizations, giving without expecting reward. We do not have to build the gigantic mansion to

make an impact: we should simply start by laying the foundation of love, and we'll be surprised to see several hands join in building the mansion – that is just natural reciprocation. We begin by planting the tiny seed that will grow into the big tree. The word “love” appears in the Holy Bible (New International Version) approximately five hundred times; this tells us how valuable an act of love can be.

Let us not forget that we reflect the image of the creator when we show love – God himself is LOVE.

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