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English 1020

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Love

Dear Travis,

            “If you love someone, let them go and if they come back then you’ll know it was for sure”, said a friend of mine. That is true, however many people tend to confuse love with other words such as destiny. In this case that would destiny, not love. What exactly is love though? It is one of the most difficult questions for the mankind. Love for example is when you travel 50 miles with no gas in your tank just to see that person. Love is when you step in front of a bullet to keep that person alive.  Love could be something you are infatuated with such as shopping. Love could be shared between a brother and sister. Love can be shared between a man and his dog. Although love could have multiple meanings, my precise definition of love is an ineffable, deep, feeling of emotion. It reveals just how compassionate you are through action, tone, and even language about what or who is being loved. Love encompasses a wide variety of meanings, connections and relationships which center on emotions and experiences that create a sense of strong profound oneness.

Tell me Travis, what is your definition of love. Is that how you would define loving me? When I first met you, I thought I had found love. I felt a bond between us that I had never felt between anyone else. Don’t you remember when we first started dating? We met the spring of 2007. It was a nice beautiful spring day. I recall me and my best friend walking up the street enjoying our day as you pulled alongside of us in attempt to get to know me. At that moment I wasn’t giving you the day or time. It had to be later that week when you reconnected with me. Actually I recall you explaining how you saw my best friend walking from the store. You then told me you asked her about me and from there she called me. She asked me for permission to give my number to you and from there you contacted me right away. We spoke all day everyday and all night- exactly how every relationship seems to begin. This continued for about 2 or 3 more weeks until we decided to put a label on it and refer to one another as boyfriend and girlfriend. Of course it was a bit rushed but I enjoyed every bit of it because we knew we had something special.

            I reminisce but don’t value this part of our relationship because often times most relationships begin this way. Reason being is because things are fresh, new and exciting.  I have heard philosophers call this the “honeymoon period”.  The point of all that new love hype is to get the relationship started. Once you are together it’s no longer necessary. It’s already proven that you love each other and you no longer have to keep proving it. Now love should be shown by dependability, trust, and honesty, the things that are really meaningful. When dealing with love in a relationship, without those mechanisms, love is unclear. Love becomes questioned and eventually tested to prove rather not it is love. For example, during an argument, if you’re quick to end the relationship, your partner could easily assume you very much that didn’t love them verses you staying and trying to work the situation out. Other examples such as temptation of the opposite sex can also be a tester of love. And of course there are times when love is proven through both good and bad things.

 “One of the greatest challenges in loving others is to forgive them when they have wronged us and caused us pain. Forgiveness sets us free to love again

(Kuehn October 25,2010).” Every time we are wronged, we have to decide how we are going to deal with the hurt. Do we blame it on others or own up to our wrong and take the blame? Ultimately, we have to decide if we will forgive that person or if we will hold on to the hurt. If we hold on to the hurt, it will keep us from loving; that is where our relationship is now, stuck on two years ago when I cheated. It will keep us angry, frustrated, hostile, and that could be dangerous. It can convert to an abusive relationship, kind of what we have developed. Often times we don’t even communicate what’s hurting. Instead, it continues to fester and grow. Unresolved hurts that are not forgiven continues to cause pain which you are now expressing to me by disrespecting and treating me wrong in turn.  Even though at times we can’t always see that pain, it’ll still be there waiting to release at the heat of any disagreement. We don't want the one who wronged us to get away with it. We want them to be punished and our anger toward them is oftentimes the only way we know how to make what is wrong seem right or fair. The problem is it rarely makes things better. It only deepens our hurt and frustration and eventually turns to bitterness. When we finally do decide to forgive, we let go of that hurt and pain that’s inside. “Resentment gives way to acceptance of another's flaws (Kuehn October 25,2010).” Travis you will no longer feel the need to retaliate.

See, in the beginning we both was very excited by the idea of getting to know each other, so questions pour in, ideas and funny behavior came naturally because we wanted to get to know each other and have fun times. Although the bad outweighs the good, I remember more so the fun we had because it was the good in our relationship. We would have diner and watch a movie every weekend. Sometimes we were able to treat ourselves out while other times we stayed home and cuddled.  I remember the hot summer nights at the river front where we would sit on the rocks and watch the waves pour in. I remember how we would lay on the couch and stare into each other eyes. I felt that unity there and that’s why it was easy to love you. Oh but didn’t we have bad times. There were times I thought we would never make up. There were times when things got abusive, mentally and physically. There were times when I would just cry all night and you would hang up and cut your phone off. Travis was that loving me? Well at least in my eyes it wasn’t. I know I hurt you. And as a result of you disrespecting me I know shouldn’t never cheated. Did I really deserve to be treated wrong for two years after the effect though?

“Love is such a beautiful gift, when treated as such.” Have you ever heard the saying, “there is only one happiness in life, to love and be loved-George Sands?” That’s because love is what you make it. Who’s to say that love is exactly x, y, and z. Who’s to tell you how to love? You learn to love by what you feel inside. I can’t necessarily say that what we had wasn’t love because of our break up but I certainly agree to fact of always loving you. Love is conditional, never ending. For me to say that I don’t love you anymore would just be a bold face lie that I was telling myself. Love hurts and sometimes even if you love that person you have to learn to love yourself more and leave that hurting relationship before you hurt that person. Why do you think that people are getting killed every day because of a relationship? That’s because their hurting and don’t know how to deal with that pain. They don’t have common sense enough to leave that relationship; they just want to retaliate. Travis, that’s basically what you did to me. All the times you called me out of my name and all the times I allowed you to put your hands on me could’ve avoided. We knew we loved each but wasn’t smart enough to know that wasn’t a healthy relationship. It is when we do not cherish that love that it goes away. Then again, we carry hurt because we do not understand why we were treated that way. Life is so painful, why would we want to bring more pain and sometimes willingly? I hated the fact that you couldn’t respect but was blinded by the love I had for your heart. We have all took that love that we received and held it to our souls and loved it back. It brings us comfort, support and [beauty](http://www.selfgrowth.com/beauty.html) in our lives. Why would I want to lose that, is what I was thinking.

            Believe it or not sometimes as couples we model what other couples may do or what we may see them do. For example I recall seeing a couple in the mall with complementary shirts that read…”I’m with her and I’m with him (arrows pointing to each other).” I recall thinking that was cute and immediately wanted to get shirts made for us. It even gave me the idea to get dog tags made with the date that we became official and our names. Don’t you remember that? Anyways my all point is to prove that relationships are often times mirrored. Rather we mirror peers around us or someone of higher stature like our parents/family. "So much of what we know of love we learn at home (Sheffield 2010).” Take my parents for example, Mr. and Mrs. Andre Jones (announcer voice). They have been married for 12 years and wouldn’t you think they knew what love is.? Well when asked, they told me love was simply, “the level of passion you share, rather what it is for.” Not to say that there is a wrong and right answer but I disagree. Love is all around us. Love is so much more complex than just a feeling, passion, or emotion. “The trouble is that you never know what love is going to look like until it's too late. Will the great love of your life be a soap opera or a tragedy, a secret or a deathly silence, a romantic comedy or a profound heartbreak? We never know until it hits us like a ton of bricks (Sheffield 2010).”

Love comes in many shapes and sizes. Love is patient, love is kind. It has no envy, nor it boasts itself and it is never proud. Love protects; preserves and hopes for the positive aspect of life

Love sometimes is forever and sometimes only three years. (Laughing) Doesn’t it just seem like a total waste? Although love knocks us all down, while were down love opens up new gates. That’s why most people never stay down. Think about it. There are people that have lost their spouse due to something tragic and two years later they’re remarried. There are people that have been divorced but somehow managed to remarry that same person. I guess love work in mysterious ways. I say this because I still question whether what we had was love or just a total hot mess. I wonder how could you have loved me so but neither expressed or showed it. It’s like you sat back and watched our relationship fall apart while I struggled to keep it together as you had fun ripping us apart. It’s exactly like you wanted us to fail but more so see me hurt.

So Travis, I write this letter not to give you the definition of what I think love should but to persuade and suggest to you how to love. I don’t deny that what I felt between us was love however, just not love in its deepest form. I don’t believe that we quite knew how to love one another and ultimately deal with it and its many flaws, such as arguing. I worry because now that our relationship is over, what will you perceive other women as? Will ever be able to love again without reliving that hurt? If you don’t let it go you will never be able to love again.  Love brings [peace](http://www.selfgrowth.com/peace.html), comfort, understanding, honesty and most importantly [happiness](http://www.selfgrowth.com/improve.html). Love is everything. It evolves around everything. It's why you feel so passionate about your mom. It is why you wake up every morning and go straight to facebook. It is because you have developed a sense of profound oneness. Trust me; love is well forth leaving what’s in the past in the past. There are so many other people in life you still have to meet.

P. S. : “Love endures long and is patient and kind; love is never envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily, …love does not insist on its own right or its own way, for it is not self seeking (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).”

Love, Adrianna

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