

The Philosophy of Love.

By Hanumanprasad Poddar.

1. Love is not love which centres in any object of sense.
2. All conventions and restrictions are automatically relaxed in love—such is the law of love.
3. Love is only a dream so long as conventions and restrictions are deliberately ignored and done away with. Some sort of attachment must be prompting you to do so. In love, you have not to break the laws.
4. There is a peculiar intoxication in love, which does not allow the lover to look to observances and customs of society.
5. In love there is, of course, the quest of happiness, with this difference that the lover looks upon the happiness of the Beloved as his own happiness.
6. A true lover will find happiness even if he has to bear the tortures of hell for the sake of the Beloved,—if the Beloved finds joy in it; for he has completely merged his identity in that of his Beloved.
7. A prostitute alone seeks her own gratification and we know, her love has no value, no meaning. A chaste and faithful wife, on the contrary, tries to please her lord even by sacrificing her all. Her happiness lies in making him happy, because she does not recognize anything to be her 'own' excepting her husband.
8. If the Beloved flouts the lover in his very presence and shows intimacy to or makes love with a new-comer, the lover does not feel offended or insulted thereby. On the contrary, he will feel immensely pleased to think that his beloved is happy.
9. He alone is eligible for the divine gift of love who can bear the pangs of separation, put up with insult and oppression, threats and reproach, and can afford to remain happy notwithstanding all this.
10. Love knows no expression. The portals of Love are opened only when the lover is prepared to sacrifice his all, surrender his earth and heaven at the feet of the Beloved.
11. It is really very difficult to be blessed with true love. The lover has no right to grumble even if he has to spend his whole life in mere expectation.
12. Love is not a plaything; it is a blazing fire. He alone is able to realize the goal of his life who embraces this fire, forgetting everything else.

13. Love knows no limits. Where there is limit or restriction, rest assured there is no love there.

14. Love is its own reward; one who treads the path of love finds new vigour and encouragement in proceeding further.

15. Love is indescribable. It is to be found hidden in the cave of the Lover's heart: whatever comes out is a mere semblance of it.

16. The divine Rāmachandra is recorded to have sent the following message to Śrī Sitā to mitigate her pangs of separation:—

“O My Beloved! My heart alone can feel the intensity of love subsisting between you and Me and that heart is ever with you. Know this much to be the secret of love.” *

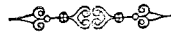
17. Kabir says:—

Love does not grow in a garden, Love does not sell in the market. Prince or pauper, whoever may desire, can have it in exchange for his life. So long as there was 'I', Hari was not; now that there is Hari, 'I' is gone. The path of love is very narrow and the two cannot go together. †

Union.

Light suffuses all my soul.
I am rapt beyond the world,
Where the part has found the Whole
In the lotus-bosom furled;
Where the lovers, life and light,
Find in love their heart's delight;
Where the days and years are lost
In a dim delicious haze,
And the Dove of Pentecost
Sings his supernatural lays:
Life and light within me lie
While the Stream of Time flows by.

Meredith Starr.



* तत्त्व प्रेम कर मम अरु तोरा । जानत प्रिया एक मन मोरा ॥

सो मन रहत सदा तव पाहीं । जानहु प्रीति रीति यहि माहीं ॥

† प्रेम न बाड़ी नीपजै, प्रेम न हाट विकाय । राजा परजा जेहि रुचै, सीस देइ ले जाय ॥

जब मैं था तब हरि नहीं, अब हरि हैं मैं नाहिं । प्रेम गली अति साँकरी, तामें दो न समाहिं ॥