

The Nature of Love and Acts of Love

Seekers, November 29, 2020

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends... So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13:4-13

Some Words for "Love"

Greek

- Agape - selfless love; God's love for humanity
- Philia - love between friends; Platonic love
- Eros - romantic, physical love
- Ludus - flirtatious, playful love
- Storge - familial love
- Mania - love out of control
- Pragma - rational, sensible love
- Meraki - love for what one does
- Philosophia - love of knowledge and wisdom
- Choros - love of place
- Philautia - positive self love; self esteem

Hebrew

- Havruta - fellowship in religious study

Sanskrit

- Maitri - loving kindness
- Kalyana mitrata - spiritual friendship

Maori

- Aroha - compassionate, empathetic love for someone

Chinese

- Xiao - familial piety, respect

French

- Amour propre - love dependent on judgment of others
- Amour de soi - love of self
- Amour fou - foolish love

Queries

- Is Love an action? a thing? a state of being? or something else?
- Have you experienced a connection between Love and well-being? between Love and religiosity? between Love and spirituality?
- What Acts of Love have you experienced or observed?

References: Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version; Translating Happiness - A Cross-Cultural Lexicon of Well-Being by Tim Lomas; Works of Love by Soren Kierkegaard