

‘There is a Power in Love’

Whether you absolutely love royal weddings or loathe them, you probably know by now that the American preacher Bishop Michael Curry gave a sermon all about ‘love’ at Harry and Meghan’s wedding. In his 14 minute long talk, Bishop Curry warned his listeners, who may well have numbered over 1 billion world-wide - not to underestimate ‘the power in love.’

It was all pretty inspiring and extraordinarily radical for a royal wedding. But what Bishop Curry did not say, is that before we can tap into the infinite power of love, we first have to open our closed, wounded hearts. We then need to go deep within to connect to our own core-self or soul until we find an inexhaustible well of love at the very centre of our being.

Once we connect to this infinite well of love, we can then simply extend this love to every sentient being we meet. Instead of judging others based on our extraordinarily limited and prejudiced picture of them, we can finally see the totally innocent and loveable child of God in everyone. We can learn to love that core aspect of all human beings without exception, regardless of their appearance or behaviour in this world.

This way of loving is very, very different from the way most human beings learn to love. Normal human love is wonderful, but it has several serious flaws in it. First of all, romantic loves tends to fade pretty quickly, and if we are really honest with ourselves, even our selfless love for our new-born child may fade when that adorable baby becomes a moody teenager.

Secondly, when we believe that only one special person can make us happy, we tend to cling needily and possessively to them in the name of love. We then experience a lot of fear –either consciously or subconsciously - that they may one day leave us. When a loved one does leave us for someone else, or when they die on us, we can be prostrated by grief for a long, long time.

Thirdly, although we rarely acknowledge this, normal human love is pretty self-centred. We actually love someone who gives us what we believe we lack. For example, a shy person may fall in love with an extrovert. A young woman may fall in love with a man who reminds her of her lost father. A rich, older man may fall in love with a much younger woman.

We also tend to love those who agree with us, or who bolster our sense of self-esteem. But we dislike, or even hate, those with completely different views or beliefs. If you are against Brexit for example, ask yourself how many of your dearest friends are pro-Brexit. If you hate fox-hunting, would you contemplate a loving relationship with a master of the hounds?

Normal human love is highly selective and pretty possessive. How many romantic partners for example are perfectly happy if their beloved flirts with an attractive stranger at a party? How many mothers are perfectly happy if their children decide that they would rather live with their father and his new wife?

Please do not think that I am in any way against anyone falling in love and then creating a loving family. What is the point of being against a biological fact of life? In any case, I am a real romantic and just love to see two people in love gazing into each other's eyes!

All I am saying is that there is a totally different kind of love - I like to call it divine love - that has absolutely none of the flaws of what we usually call love in our troubled world. How do I know this? I know it because over many years of awakening and going on intensive spiritual retreats with really high meditations, I have experienced the bliss of divine love many times.

When my heart fully opens and my consciousness rises up to an exceptionally high level, I sometimes experience a blissful love energy flooding through my whole being. Once I am flooded with this love energy, I then find that I am in love with all sentient beings.

For example, last week I was on a spiritual retreat in Assisi, the birthplace of Saint Francis and an incredibly powerful spiritual hot spot. After just a few days of meditating and praying with a lovely group of fellow seekers, we were walking down a beautiful country path surrounded by poppies and other gorgeous spring flowers when we came across an albino donkey in a field. This donkey ran over to us and put his head through the fence so that we could gently scratch his ears -well probably he was hoping we had an apple to give him but sadly we did not. Anyway, at that moment I felt so much love for the donkey and felt so much love coming from the donkey into my own heart that I almost burst into tears. Now I know this might sound as though I had eaten

some magic mushrooms for lunch, but all I can tell you was that the unconditional love that I felt within me and all around me at that moment was beyond blissful –and that my dear friends is the indiscriminate, awesome power of true love!

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June 2018