



Resources on Love

“Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes in all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”

-*Saint Paul*

“Of all powers, love is the most powerful and the most powerless. It is the most powerful because it alone can conquer that final and most impregnable stronghold which is the human heart. It is the most powerless because it can do nothing except by consent.

To say that love is God is romantic idealism. To say that God is love is either the last straw or the ultimate truth.”

-*Fredrick Buechner*

“Love does not begin and end the way we seem to think it does. Love is a battle, love is a war; love is a growing up.”

-*James A. Baldwin*

“Love does not dominate; it cultivates.”

-*Goethe*

“Love is the cure, for your pain will keep giving birth to more pain until your eyes constantly exhale love as effortlessly as your body yields its scent.”

- *Rumi*

“Universalists believe that all of us are going to end up together in heaven, so we might as well learn how to get along with each other now.”

-*Gordon McKeeman*

“So Much Happiness” from *Words Under the Words*

by Naomi Shihab Nye

(for Michael)

It is difficult to know what to do with so much happiness.

With sadness there is something to rub against,
a wound to tend with lotion and cloth.

When the world falls in around you, you have pieces to pick up,
something to hold in your hands, like ticket stubs or change.

But happiness floats.

It doesn't need you to hold it down.



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It doesn't need anything.
Happiness lands on the roof of the next house, singing,
and disappears when it wants to.
You are happy either way.
Even the fact that you once lived in a peaceful tree house
and now live over a quarry of noise and dust
cannot make you unhappy.
Everything has a life of its own,
it too could wake up filled with possibilities
of coffee cake and ripe peaches,
and love even the floor which needs to be swept,
the soiled linens and scratched records...
Since there is no place large enough
to contain so much happiness,
you shrug, you raise your hands, and it flows out of you
into everything you touch. You are not responsible.
You take no credit, as the night sky takes no credit
for the moon, but continues to hold it, and share it,
and in that way, be known.

“I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love.”

-Mother Teresa

“Love... it surrounds every being and extends slowly to embrace all that shall be.”

-Khalil Gibran

“Where there is love there is life.”

-Mahatma Gandhi

“Of Love,” from *Red Bird*

by Mary Oliver

I have been in love more times than one,
thank the Lord. Sometimes it was lasting
whether active or not. Sometimes
it was all but ephemeral, maybe only
an afternoon, but not less real for that.

They stay in my mind, these beautiful people,
or anyway beautiful people to me, of which



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there are so many. You, and you, and you,
whom I had the fortune to meet, or maybe
missed. Love, love, love, it was the
core of my life, from which, of course, comes
the word for the heart.

And, oh, have I mentioned
that some of them were men and some were women
and some – now carry my revelation with you –
were trees. Or places. Or music flying above
the names of their makers. Or clouds, or the sun
which was the first, and the best, the most
loyal for certain, who looked so faithfully into
my eyes, every morning. So I imagine
such love of the world – its fervency, its shining, its
innocence and hunger to give of itself – I imagine
this is how it began.

“Love is from the infinite, and will remain until eternity.
The seeker of love escapes the chains of birth and death.
Tomorrow, when resurrection comes,
The heart that is not in love will fail the test.”

-Rumi from Thief of Sleep

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

-Maya Angelou

“If we agree in love, there is no disagreement that can do us any injury, but if we do not, no other agreement can do us any good. Let us endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace.”

-Hosea Ballou

“The art of love is largely the art of persistence.”

-Albert Ellis

“We look forward to the time when the power of love will replace the love of power.”

-William Ellery Channing



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“The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for our-selves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves.”

-*Victor Hugo*

“Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.”

-*James A. Baldwin*

“Love makes your soul crawl out from its hiding place.”

-*Zora Neale Hurston*

“Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire.

Universalists believe that all of us are going to end up together in heaven, so we might as well learn how to get along with each other now.”

-*Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*

“Love is Not Concerned”

by Alice Walker

Love is not concerned
With whom you pray
Or where you slept
The night you ran away
From home.
Love is concerned
That the beating of your heart
Should kill not one.

“Once the realization is accepted that even between the closest human beings infinite distances continue, a wonderful living side by side can grow, if they succeed in loving the distance between them which makes it possible for each to see the other whole against the sky.”

-*Rainer Maria Rilke*

“A Great Need”

by Hafiz

Out
Of a great need
We are all holding hands



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And climbing.
Not loving is a letting go.
Listen,
The terrain around here
Is
Far too
Dangerous
For
That.

“Bi-Focal”
by William E. Stafford

Sometimes up out of this land
a legend begins to move.
Is it a coming near
of something under love?
Love is of the earth only,
the surface, a map of roads
leading wherever go miles
or little bushes nod.

Not so the legend under,
fixed, inexorable,
deep as the darkest mine
the thick rocks won't tell.

As fire burns the leaf
and out of the green appears
the vein in the center line
and the legend veins under there,
So, the world happens twice—
once what we see it as;
second it legends itself
deep, the way it is.

“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”
-Martin Luther King, Jr.

“You, yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection.”



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-Buddha

“Love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problem of human existence.”

-Erich Fromm

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

-Jesus

“Love is the magician that pulls man out of his own hat.”

-Ben Hecht

“Love is stronger than justice.”

-Sting

“All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.”

-Charles M. Schulz

“The hardest-learned lesson: that people have only their kind of love to give, not our kind.”

-Mignon McLaughlin

“Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it.”

-Rumi