THE SECRET OF LOVE

Man is a creature yeaning for love, he can't be satisfied but with love, wanting to love and to be loved. Without love he lives in emptiness, which can't be satisfied with possessions or honor etc. But even, outside the realm of love, man feels as if he were loosing the sweetness and existence of life, desiring death better than the killing dryness.

HE WASN'T THE SAME MAN I KNEW!

I was asked to interfere in solving a family problem between couples after a few months of their marriage. The bride who was in love with her groom and intimate with him for seven years before marriage said to me, "I know him now after marriage, he isn't the same man who dealt with me during the past seven years. He was loving but now I discovered his selfishness!" Her groom told me the same words and both were insisting on getting divorced.

Why didn't they know each other during all these years?

I NEED HIS HEART NOT HIS MONEY!

I was asked to interfere in solving a family problem, and the husband had sent a broker on the same day with a contract for buying a piece of land worthy of one million dollars, to be signed by his wife who oughtn't to pay a single sent of the price. I said to her "this is a good sign of his love for you,"

She said, "I want his heart...I ask for his love... And I don't want his money."

All of us without any exception yearn for love every day in some way or another, and even those whom we think to be very violent, and even murderers and blood-shedding, in the bottom of their hearts need love, because it's absence broke their existence and spoiled their humanity.

Now I ask: What is this love we ask for in our inner most hearts?

How can we reach it? And how can we grow in it?

LOVE NOT A MIRAGE!

Occasionally when anyone is left alone with his inner most feelings away from the currents of outworld events even what seems necessary to his daily needs, he recognizes himself and finds it as a sort of image to his creator, who is love itself, who asks us for nothing but to pour His paternal love inside us and that we respond to His love by (mutual) love.

Your God is not secluded in His heavens, ordering, forbidding and planning. But He is love itself, who descends to you asking to live in you, and taking away your feeling of seclusion even if you are deserted by everyone else, He eradicates your feeling of inferiority, because you are His Holy Temple and His beloved son, He drives away from you, your hunger and your poverty, so that you won't beg any love or compassion from anyone, but instead springs of love overflow in your depths, which can irrigate if possible all whom you meet and even those whom you don't meet.

PRACTICAL LOVE

As the eternal Word of God saw man concentrating his care round his "ego," and spoiling his nature, He Himself descended to him, incarnated and approaching him with love to pay the price with His precious blood, renewing your depths by His Holy Spirit, so as to raise it as His image: a loving being, recognizing and accepting the love of the Lord, thus becoming a lover who accepts love and overflow with it on your brethren on all the people!

The soul thirsty to love says: "To sit in it's shadow was my delight, and it's fruit was sweet to my taste." (Song of songs 2:3)

This soul sits at the cross contemplating the endless love of it's creator, it ladles from it and get fed (satisfied) with an extreme unspeakable sweetness.

My dear blessed brother... if your sins are like scarlet, and if you feel corruption creeping all over your being, and all your feelings and sensations are totally profaned, and you consider yourself united with sin, come and sit with me at the feet of the crucified, to receive His love the forgiven of sin, the endower of righteousness or say donor of love.

KINDLE THE GIFT OF LOVE

As the Word of God declared perfect love for you on the cross, and for you He sent His Holy Spirit, the spirit of love, which gave you a new ability to love.

You received the Holy Spirit, which kindles in you satisfying and joyful capabilities of love.

LOVE... NOT LUST

By the aid of the Holy Spirit dwelling in you, you consider everyone of the human race as a subject of your love in God. Thus you don't see in the opposite sex, just a means to satisfy your lusts, saying, it is just admiration of his tenderness, abilities, gifts or beauty of his body... But you see him as a human being highly and specially estimated by you. Many think that satisfying their sexual instincts, or their mere passions or admiration is real love...They run after this and at last they find it a mirage and sometimes mere pure selfishness.

In Christ complete love all your passions, sensations and considerations are sanctified and thus you love by the spirit of mature wisdom.

A youth came to me in agitation because the priest listening to his confessions represses his feelings. According to the words of this youth, he said that he couldn't live without very intimate relations with the opposite sex... Talking with him he confessed that he admired greatly a certain girl wishing to marry her later, because then he was just a university student. I replied, "Why don't you proclaim this relation to both families?

He agreed, but soon he talked about a second and a third one... And in his opinion each was fit to be his wife!

All that is an image of the continuous lust taking the name "love" which he cover by the illusion that such relations shall end by marriage! He behaves with immaturity from the spiritual, emotional, social and scientific aspects. The youth, who didn't know how to gain the true love, caring excessively about lust, can't even after his marriage live in internal purity especially in case of matrimonial conflicts... He seeks or even begs a human passion, considering himself deprived of love!

Kindling the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us satisfies our depths with true abilities of love. By that the youth whatever male or female, can choose his partner in life with maturity and a true divine guidance, in the proper time.

By the Holy Spirit, the heart of man becomes large enough to love his parents, the rest of his family, his colleagues, and even his enemies and antagonists, he loves them not because he is obliged or forced but rejoicing in Spirit!

AWFUL STATISTICS

Dr. Dobson mentioned that more than 50% of the marriages between youngsters in America come to an end during the first five years. We see some of them ending after some weeks or even days.

I haven't seen any marriage not based on true spiritual faith lasting, as it should be!

The entire world is yearning for love, but as God says, "Two sins have my people committed, they have forsaken me, a spring of living water, and they have hewn out for themselves cisterns, cracked cisterns that can hold no water." (Jeremiah 2:13)

LOVE IS A JOURNEY FOR THE SPIRIT

Now my dear attach yourself to true love, your Christ who is the way to love and it's giver, your heart will gain wisdom, your thought illuminates, your depths become so satisfied such that you don't seek to love the image of your beloved, or use his tenderness, or satisfy your lusts thru' him, but you just go on with him in the Spirit of the Lord, sacrificing yourself like your master, rejoicing in every tiredness of love.

Fr. Tadros Y. Malety