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## Love Knows No Bounds: An Existential Experience

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**Abstract:** In this article, the author tries to expound how love surpasses everything that tries to bog it down. It transcends everything and attains and reaches the Ultimate One, the source and summit of this beautiful creation. Love is the topic on which millions and millions of books are written, yet no one could understand its fullness. In this article, the author also points out our incomplete understanding of love, how it is understood differently by different persons and how it is the mother of all other values and virtues.

**Keywords:** Love, boundaries, uniqueness of love, breaking barriers, uniting people, experience, transcendental.

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“Love is shown more in deeds than in words” -St. Ignatius

## Introduction

Love is something that can never be understood fully by anyone. It surpasses every understanding, transcends all the limitations it faces, encompasses all the goodness of this world and will ever remain unconditional. Love literally breaks down all the barriers and reaches even the hardest of hearts. Like flowing water, which cannot be stopped on its way of travel, love can never be contained. Love is not just a feeling but a value and virtue in and by itself. It needs no other to support it because it is the source and summit of everything else.

Love is not physical and can never be counted by any calculation, and there is no logic behind love. Love is the purest form of affection; it is a state of mind. It does not care about whether you are poor or rich, ugly or pretty, tall or short, atheist or religious, white or black, old or young, and who you are, basically. It transcends all the human constructs that try to place us within boundaries and comes out stronger than ever.

### 1. Uniqueness of Love

People still struggle to define this beautiful term ‘love’ and we are not able to settle for a single definition. Everyone’s definition of love varies. In fact, our life is a series of love. The way our mothers introduce us to the world and run when their ears ring with our infant cries, how our fathers introduce the world to us and give us those life’s important lectures at the dinner tables, how our friend loves us without any judgements whatsoever, and finally how we are loved by God as if we were only one in this entire universe to be filled with His love.

Falling in love is just a mystical and mesmerising experience which can never be explained in any words. People fall in love with the sunsets and sunrises, sound of rain, cold kiss of snow, the perfume of grass after a storm or scents from around the globe, tastes of

certain foods, newly coated fresh smell of paint, music being played, smell of printed book pages, video games of their favourite and even with the drop of petrol.

More than falling in love with the above-mentioned material things, we fall in love with people, which is one of the most beautiful, enriching experiences of our lives. They fill our life with episodes of love. With some, we share only a few months; with others, we share our whole lives. Love teaches us sacrifice, how to give something so precious as our time or efforts, our care and compassion to someone else. (Pandikattu, 2016).

“In fact, a perfect heart has holes with love we have given away, it has mismatched pieces of other people who gave us a broken piece of their heart, only to fill those very holes left by others”

Paulo Coelho writes, “a perfect heart is not one that lacks a mess of scars and tears. In fact, a perfect heart has holes with love we have given away, it has mismatched pieces of other people who gave us a broken piece of their heart, only to fill those very holes left by others”.

Love can never be compared with anything because of its uniqueness. It is so unique that our efforts for comparison will turn futile. It can never be fully grasped and explained because it is the way it is.

## 2. Love Breaks Barriers

Love is truly limitless. Limits are based on human assumptions, society’s structure, and thought processes of limited intelligence, whereas love is beyond all these that weigh us down and do not allow us to experience the beauty of it in its fullness.

When we are really touched, and experience love, our deepest core of being, our set of beliefs, our way of thinking, and the rules and regulations that we hold on to will automatically undergo transformation. We would evolve from that love as a new being. (Pandikattu, 2016).

Love never knows any boundary, whether it is body, mind, distance, time, or death. It transcends everything. When in love, each cell of our body vibrates in a way that we may not be able to see but really feel the power within.

Unless we allow love to possess, no words will satisfy the questioner unless it is experienced from within, unless it flowers your heart and we become love for which each and every one of us is really called for. We must never ever try to find a meaning for love as there is no meaning or logic behind it. It is just what it is, purest at its finest form.

Love gives us a perfect heart, a heart that is ever selfless, generous, compassionate, and perfect in its imperfection. Love has no bounds because love is not related or restricted to any particular thing or person. Love is so unique in its being as we all fall in love with different things, and persons and have our own unique way of loving and expressing it to our loved ones.

Love is something that can never be explained entirely by anyone. Love has been given so many explanations and versions but never the fullness of love itself. Love is beyond everything. Love is told by all who understand it in their own words in their own understanding. When there is love, there is everything but even there is everything but not love, there is nothing.

### 3. Love Unites Us

Love is just a four-letter word but it gives us one of the finest meanings for life. We understand love in different

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ways and means. I feel love as an action. God loved the world so much that He became a man in order to love us through His unfailing presence. St. Ignatius rightly pointed out in his spiritual exercises that love ought to manifest itself more by deeds than words. Sacrifice, Acceptance and Generosity are the basic principles of love. First and foremost, love is sacrificial. Parents silently sacrifice many things for the betterment and welfare of their children. If a pregnant woman gets a choice of saving her life or her child's life, surely, she would like to save her child's life. Many people have shown the path to love through their sacrificial lives, like St. Mother Teresa, Blessed Rani Maria, and Fr. Stan Swamy. Even they were ready to embrace death for the sake of love. Denying oneself for others is true love.

Acceptance, loyalty, faithfulness, generosity, trust and friendship are part of love. Love dilutes our sufferings and enhances our times of joy and celebration. Love always accepts us as we are without any reservations and judgements. Love does not only go with the emotion, but it is a character. Even unknown people love us. Their love in action cannot be compensated. It flows from their hearts. Relationship values love. This kind of relationship is quite interesting to experience it in our daily lives. Love is a special invitation for us to live an exemplary life. Love blossoms in humanity even amidst inhumanity. It unites us in spite of our differences.

I strongly feel that it was "to be love and become love", our Lord Jesus Christ came to the Earth. He emptied himself and became one with us to show the power of the four-letter word "LOVE". His love is everlasting, unconditional, personal, and unique. He lived his teaching and preaching on love and that made him stand out from the crowd and finally even made him to surrender himself for the humanity. Thus, I say with courage and pride that He is Love and Love is He.

## **Nurtures Understanding**

Love surpasses everything. Jesus Christ was so engulfed and immersed in love that he spoke much about love. He really knew the “power” of love. St. Paul in his letter to the people of Corinth had said about love as “patient, kind, not jealous, not pompous, not inflated, not rude, not quick tempered, does not seek its own interests, does not brood over injury and does not rejoice over wrong doings but rejoices with the truth”. We accept others only when we accept ourselves. Love in itself is a quality but it has a lot of qualities within. Love is unconditional, inclusive, ever available and pure. The need to nurture love flows from our attitude. When we recognise and realise our incompleteness, we would begin to be more loving, kind, caring, considerate, and merciful towards all around us.

Our own incompleteness and the incompleteness of the other become one when we truly forget ourselves and try to be reconciled with one another (Pandikattu, 2015). Things and persons can become useless, but they will never become meaningless. Globalisation, modernisation, and consumerism have become very common these days and their effects are seen, felt and experienced even today. We have started using humans whom we have to love and started loving things which is meant only to be used.

At this juncture, the role of love is pivotal. It can never be side-lined and substituted. As said by the famous sage Rumi, “In every religion there is love, yet love has no religion”. Love nurtures everyone, and it is its nature too. Love accepts incompleteness, emptiness, shallowness, half-heartedness, and partialness (Pandikattu, 2016).

Only in accepting that we are limited, incomplete and empty do we become unlimited, complete and a part of fullness.

## **Conclusion**

Love binds even what cannot be bound, finds even what cannot be found, sees what cannot be seen and feels what cannot be felt. It is

not what is said but what is done. Love leads you closer to yourself, nearer to Oneself and dearer to Thyself. Love is not what you see, what you think, what you give, what you receive. Love will always be a unique gift for shaping us and our life.

Alain de Botton has said, “Perhaps it is true that we do not really exist until there is someone there to see us existing, we cannot properly speak until there is someone who can understand what we are saying, in essence, we are not wholly alive until we are loved”.

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