

# STRING

What is love?

Love is, but a tender string which when held at both the ends builds a relationship between its holders. Holding it two people of different environment, different life trod on their separate paths sharing all their happiness, sorrows, feelings, emotions and life as they move ahead in life, through the connection created by the string.

Though being so fragile and weak, this string brings hope to people even during their darkest days, or after greatest failures. It makes moving ahead on the path of life with numerous hurdles, seem easy and effortless. Despite all the difficulties and hurdles that come in life, people continue moving forward, facing them, happily, holding on to the string with a faith they put in it.

The string constantly reminds people of who they are, and how special their existence is, thereby preventing them from getting lost or giving up in the maze of the vast world.

We, humans are social animals. Living in groups had been in our nature from ancient times. Hence, one thing that we are all afraid of or don't want is to be left alone, wandering throughout our life with no one to turn to.

Life is a journey and we are travellers. We travel on our roads in life, holding the string and constantly pulling it gently toward ourselves with a hope, of our road converging with that of our fellow traveller, holding the string on the other side. And once the road converges, we hold hands and move ahead in life enjoying and facing it together.

But before this happens, following events usually occur:

As we already know, this string is fragile and needs to be held at both the ends. Hence sometimes during bad phases of life, desperate times or lack of communication, understanding, trust or quarrel, people on both the sides jerk the string with force in frustration, to convey their state to the person on the other side

of the string, which if fails to be conveyed, the force on the jerk increases which eventually multiplies the tension on the string from both sides. The threshold or tenacity of the string is low, hence even slight carelessness in the jerk causes the tension to overcome the threshold and the string breaks.

Sometimes only one of the holders jerk the string for the other to understand him/her, which if the other fails to do so, the first holder considers it to be ignorance or negligence. Hence, the situation worsens and even if the normal holder holds the string firmly on his/her end with a hope of things to get better, the string eventually breaks by the gradually increasing force applied by the troubled one. Or even if it doesn't break, longer the normal person holds, pressure on his/her palm increases in reaction to the force applied by the troubled one. And eventually the person on the normal side starts pulling and breaks it or loses his/her grip and lets go of the string thereby drifting away and their roads diverge.

Now sometimes one of the holder either pulls the string with too much force in utter obsession or desperation to get the roads to converge quickly or, never pulls only, he/she had just held the string under influence or pressure of the surrounding or other reasons. No matter the situation, the balance of force on the string gets disturbed in both the cases and hence either the string breaks or is left. No matter how determined the normal holder is, eventually due to the increased pressure on his/her palms by the great force being applied from the other side or because of doing all the pulling alone, and getting no or negligible response from the other side, he/she wears out and hence either breaks the string or lets it go.

As we saw how tender this string is, but it isn't lost or broken always due to the deeds of its holder. Sometimes external factors such as fate, society, jealous travelers or chance to hold multiple strings attack the string directly trying to break it, but still if its holders are determined and place faith in each other and hold their sides firmly and put their love, trust and hope in the string from their sides. The string gets strong and survives all of it.

Lastly, some people tend to join the broken string with a knot and move forward holding it. But what happens is now the string has become even more fragile and no matter how careful the holders try to be, the weak string never gets that strong

and since they couldn't protect it the first time, they are not able to protect it any further. One knot eventually leads to multiple knots until slowly the string withers away, leaving two people to walk on the same path without any connection or love between them or to later get their paths diverged. After the first knot, people hope for the things to go back as they were but it never does. The flawlessness, the purity, the special essence of the string no longer remains.

Hence, we may feel that its very tough or complicated to hold one, and keep moving, but its worth it. Even though its so fragile, and there are so many possibilities of it to get broken or lost, yet for the the right partners, or right fellow travelers, its very easy to hold the string and move on in life enjoying the essence of it in their journey without the fear of losing it or breaking it. Hence choose your fellow traveler wisely, don't be in a haste, don't hold anyone's string out of fear of being left alone. Neither force anyone to hold the string with you nor get forced. And once you have held the string, be responsible and mature, understand each other, communicate properly, and put your love, faith and respect in the string thereby making it stronger.

--written by Bhanu..