

Love: One of Life's Mysterious

Love is one of the greatest mysteries of life. Some believe that love can be described as something biological, others believe that it is more spiritual. So what is love, how do we find it, and how do we make it stay. Everyone seems to have different answers to these questions and love is different around the world. In some cultures marriage and love go hand in hand while in others love is not really a part of the reason the people got together.

In America, most search for the one. Someone who can provide passion, intimacy, friendship, community, and sometimes economic support. That is a lot to expect from one person which is why in some cultures people would have many wives or husbands. In America love is a huge part of marriage but in a lot of cultures love is not really a part of marriage. Marriage is more about security than about love. Basically in America you marry someone you love, while in other cultures you marry someone then seem to fall in love with them, and then in others love just is not even a part of the equation.

In the biology side of things the feeling of love is your Caudate Nucleus lighting up in a similar way as OCD. This reaction fades in two to four years. So I guess date someone for five before you decide on marrying them. There is also Attachment love which is Oxytocin-rich.

In anthropology marriage is defined as "A union between two or more people that establishes certain rights and obligations between the people, between them and their children, and between them and their in-laws." Since marriage differs so much around the world the definition has to be as broad as possible so it can include people who marry the same gender, multiple people, or the opposite gender. Depending on where you are in the world marriage can either be based on finding the one or it can be based more on finding a compatible financial partner. In America it is almost always about finding the one, while in India it is more about security.