

Sharif Hamza
Philosophy

Dialogue: The Nature Of Love

Characters:

Rahul: Define Love!

Meera: What is love?

Rahul: Meera, I feel we have to discuss. I have been examining us lately, and this I guess no longer works.

MEERA: What do you mean? It's been a long time we are dating, Rahul. What has been altered? I am baffled.

RAHUL It isn't something specific changing. I've just been struggling... like I am not happy. As if we were trapped in this life and this must be the way it should always have been? I'm not sure I can carry on this way.

MEERA: Stuck? We have done life together, Rahul. We've been through so much. You mean, pffft... just throw that away because now it is not all cupcakes and roses anymore?

RAHUL: This is not excitement, Meera. It's deeper than that. I just feel lost, and wonder if this isn't my place for me to be right now. Perhaps we never were, and I just played pretend this whole time.

MEERA: Pretending? After all these years? You're going to tell me that everything we went through, the moments we shared, none of it mattered for you?

RAHUL: I don't mean that. In essence, it meant something and to this day does. But there is a part of me that feels like we just... are not right for each other. This love, it is not what I have in mind when writing its definition.

MEERA: What is your expectation of love, Rahul? Perfect? Effortless? We have managed together so long because we were in charge of it. We did not just stumble upon it and think that maybe goodness poured out of us.

RAHUL: I know, same thing and that might be the problem Love shouldn't be work, all the time. This should be the natural process where you get to feel alive, not one that feels like a fucking dog fight day in and day out. I am sick of feeling like we are going through the motions.

MEERA: You think love is not hard work? What can I say that is such an innocent face of it. Love is work. For going the extra mile — even when you can barely walk...and nothing is ever perfect! Not like you even read anything saying that long-term relationships are a walk in the park.

RAHUL: I don't, but at the same time I'd love not to spend my whole life in something that is a compromise. I want something I feel... well, like it's good, and like ...like I can be me without asking you to architect a new version of yourself.

MEERA: Rahul, you and I have matured so much over the years. Well, that is what people in relationships do. Of course you think we should never again change, that the fairytale will continue forever and our perfection for one another would last unchanged. That's not how life works.

RAHUL: Nah that's what I mean; like, the thing is, I don't wanna keep changing or make you change. I am starting to feel like I cannot continue withholding who the real me is because of you, even if it will hurt your feelings. It's suffocating.

MEERA: Suffocating? That's how you view our relationship? This is what you did after all these years, after everything we have been through together? You have been saying You Had Been Suffocating?

RAHUL: I do not want to hurt you, Meera. I really don't. But I have to start being honest with myself. This was not the love I had in mind. And I told myself maybe it will be enough—the hope that it could work — but it isn't.

MEERA: Settle? Settling for me? That is what you have been doing this entire time. Waiting for something better to come along?

RAHUL: It's not like that. I wanted to hide away and not hurt you, but tried. I really did. But I have it in my head—a person like this, love like that and if it's not you, then resurfacing with me is just going to be impossible now.

MEERA: So, what? You are leaving me because I do not belong to your idealized version of love? And what, the times I stayed, was it special or noble? Every time I altered myself for you, became what was required?

RAHUL: I get it, and that's what makes this so difficult. You didn't need to be different for me. That's the problem, Meera. We should not have to enforce this. You've been trying so hard, and I appreciate it, but I don't want you to keep doing that for someone who can't give you the love you deserve.

MEERA: So that's it? You're just going to throw it all away because I don't conform to your idea of how love should be? All that stuff about staying together through the hard times? Fighting for what we have?

RAHUL: Perhaps love isn't about fighting, Meera. Perhaps it's about when to let go, when to allow that it's not what it was, and that there's nothing wrong with that.

MEERA: No, Rahul. It's about fighting. It's about hanging in there, even if it's hard and even when it's not perfect. You don't walk away from love because you didn't get a romantic story like the one you wrote in your head. That's not real.

RAHUL: You might be right, you might be wrong, but I have this feeling that I'm being somehow inauthentic, that I can't stay in a relationship where I'm not there in the moment, where I don't feel like I'm showing up for you.

MEERA: And me? I'm here too, you know. For so long. And you say I'm not enough, because I'm not some fantasy that you've dreamed up. That's not fair.

RAHUL: It's not fair. I wish it could be different, but I can't keep pretending. I don't deserve you. You deserve someone who looks at you and sees The Only One. And I can't be that person anymore.

MEERA: I mean, I guess that's what it boils down to – you can't be that person. And I think love is about working through that, not running from it – **AMIT:** Never running from it...? **MEERA:** Yeah, but... love can take many forms. Maybe we've been wrong about that all along.

RAHUL: Maybe. Maybe we have.