

A victorian flower dictionary the language of flowers

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The Victorian Language of Flowers: A Secret Code for Communication**

The Victorian language of flowers, an enchanting form of communication, allowed people to express emotions and convey messages through the symbolism of blossoms. Known as floriography, this intricate code was popular during the Victorian era and continues to captivate today.

Origin and Development

The language of flowers originated in the East and spread to Europe in the 18th century. During the Victorian era, it flourished, becoming a refined and intricate system. People used flower dictionaries, known as florilegia, to interpret the meaning of different blooms.

Meanings of Flowers

Each flower held a specific symbolic meaning:

- **Forget Me Not:** True love and remembrance
- **Rose (red):** Love, passion, romance
- **Lily (white):** Purity, innocence, majesty
- **Dahlia:** Elegance, refinement, gratitude
- **Marigold:** Fidelity, jealousy

How Did It Work?

Victorians used flowers to convey messages through bouquets, corsages, and other arrangements. The arrangement of flowers, their color, and even the number of blossoms all carried significance.

Why Did the Language of Flowers Exist?

In Victorian society, it was considered inappropriate to express certain emotions openly. The language of flowers provided a discreet and elegant way to convey secret messages and feelings.

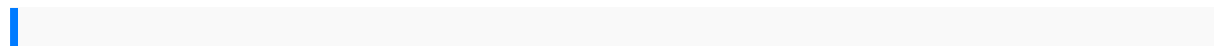
Victorian Flower Language Today

While the Victorian language of flowers is no longer widely practiced, it continues to inspire art, literature, and popular culture. Its romanticism and symbolism evoke a sense of nostalgia and elegance.

Specific Flower Meanings

- **Baby's Breath:** Purity, innocence
- **Carnation:** Gratitude, admiration
- **Lilac:** First love, longing
- **Poppy:** Forgiveness, consolation
- **Rosemary:** Remembrance, loyalty
- **Snowdrop:** Hope, new beginnings
- **Tulip (yellow):** Cheerfulness, happiness
- **Violet:** Modesty, love

Understanding the Victorian language of flowers allows us to appreciate the subtle and expressive communication methods of this bygone era.



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