Seneca Peklo

A Toast

Congratulations to the Bride and Groom. Love is a fantastic, mystical thing. Love can help you to learn to put another’s needs before your own; this will benefit you by giving helping you to find greater virtue and wisdom.[[1]](#footnote-1) Love may also help you to receive what Aristotle believes to be true human happiness. Aristotle’s that to achieve true human happiness you must enjoy the activity they do, have done the activity well, and are doing an activity that is worthwhile; in this case the activity is loving your spouse. In your marriage, you will hopefully enjoy the act of loving your spouse and love them well. Loving someone is also an activity that is worth wile as it can contribute to the well being of others, not only being your partner in which you took the vow to love, but the families and friends of the loved one, and it can contribute to you too as it can you virtue and wisdom and help you to achieve true happiness.[[2]](#footnote-2)

Love also will benefit you by helping to keep you’re mind and soul young. William Shakespeare said, “If that the world and love were young, and truth in every Shepard’s tongue, these pretty pleasures might me move, to live with thee and be thy love.”

Love and marriage are beautiful things, that I am so happy you have received; however, they are difficult to understand complex things. Herman Howell Horne once said, “To understand love is to understand life, to misdirect love is to misdirect life, to direct love alright is to make life beautiful.”[[3]](#footnote-3) So, even if you can’t understand the complexities of love, embrace them. Allow yourselves to live beautiful lives with one another’s. You must decide on marriage and the ability to stay in it truly is a decision.

Another tip for a successful life together is to listen to music often. It can bring you close together to care for one another. Music is an integral part of love. It will hopefully bring you close together and bring joy and light into your lives, so let the music play on.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Another important thing to have in a marriage is trust; trust that even through the hardest of times that your partner loves you and you love them which is a difficult and scary thing to do. Marcell Proust asked, “can we ever really know if we love someone-really love them, we might say- and we ever really know if the other loves us?”[[5]](#footnote-5) Sadly, we cannot, but that one should not live in the fear of that. You should embrace each other’s love and trust that it is still there.[[6]](#footnote-6)

It is also important to know sometimes one of you will have to rely on the other and one of you will have to take care of them. In life there is need-love and gift-love. One of you will practice need-love, where you need your partner to support you and help you, at points and the other will practice gift -love, helping your partner though their times of needs. There will be an ebb and flow of this where you switch back and forth throughout the good times and the bad and sometimes you will have to take on both roles at the same time.[[7]](#footnote-7) You may need to communicate when you need to be in the need-love role to your spouse.

Communication is a very important aspect of a marriage. It is important to tell your partner what you need because expectations may be different by each partner in the relationship. You must also maintain an optimistic attitude throughout. Although times may get tough time it is important to be optimistic and decide on your marriage as Howell says to do.[[8]](#footnote-8)

So, go fourth and enjoy your marriage, through the trails and tribulations remember to always think positively about the love that you have for one another and the benefits that you reap from your marriage. Listen to music, be there for one another, and always believe in the love you have.

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1. From Plato’s *Symposium*- “The Speech of Pausanias” pg.18 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. From Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*- Book One, “Happiness” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Page xiii of *Shakespeare’s Philosophy of Love* by Herman Harrell Horne [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Inspired by the Shakespeare quote form “If music be the food of love, play on” *Twelfth Night* (I.11) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. From Marcel Proust’s *Remembrance of Things Past.* Page not specifically cited in book that quote is used in- it between pg.261-285. Found in Ronald L. Hall’s *The Human Embrace* pg. 220. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Nussbaum wrote a response to *Proust’s Remembrance of Things Past*, and this is how she felt about the quote. Found in Ronald L. Hall’s *The Human Embrace* pg. 220. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*, “Likings and Loves for the Subhuman” [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. From *The Encyclopedia of Sociology* pg. 134-138 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)