

Love: an Anthology

[Compiled by Yanki Tauber](#)

Love is a paradox. Many paradoxes, in fact.

It is the most altruistic and the most selfish of human emotions. The most giving and the most fulfilling. The most spiritual and the most physical. The most natural and the most irrational. The source of our deepest pleasures and our deepest agonies.

Filial love, romantic love, sexual love, friendship, compassion, love of self, love of G-d -- these are all so different from each other as to have virtually no common denominator between them. Yet we call them all "love", and somehow understand that they're all the same thing. But could never explain why.

We call it an "emotion", yet love is much more than a feeling. Everywhere we look -- nature, human society, physics -- the giver/recipient equation is the very math of existence. Yet the math doesn't add up. One plus one never equals two. In love, one plus one equals one. And also three.

The Kabbalists tell us that G-d created the universe in order to experience love. Rabbi Akiva says that it is "a cardinal principle in Torah", and the great sage Hillel declared: "This is the entire Torah; all the rest is commentary."

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