

# A POEM ABOUT LOVE

An Editorial from Poets of the New OM

By Marina Phillips {WolfWillow}

Uncle Walt Whitman once said, “Love is a many-splendored thing.” It has its ups and downs, of course, like anything else; but it is an experience like no other. It gives us the fortitude to face all perceived ills in the world - the weak are made strong, the sick are healed, and all who come into its presence are uplifted in some way - even if they’re unaware how. You may ask, “But how can anyone be unaware of love”?

There are people in the world who value only things they can see; people for whom love is only a castle in the sky, better-left in the realms of dreams and fantasy. These are beings that have never opened up to love, and all its magical, diverse potential.

When a poet writes a work about love, he opens himself up to all the many twists and possibilities of that emotion. It is one of the richest, most fertile fields of human existence. Both light and dark sides of love have been the subject of many an epic story-poem, with endings both glorious and tragic. Many poets suffer the dark side of love, and have shot through the annals of literature like momentary bright stars, leaving us their perceptions and conclusions, inviting us to decide in our own minds how to interpret the goings-on.

Writing a poem about love is never as easy as it looks. There are many, many influences besides love itself. Should it rhyme? Shall it be free verse? How can all of this huge experience be shrunk down into mere words? This is pretty racy - what will my mother think if she reads this? Will my friends think I’m strange if I let them see? I want to write like Gibran and Shakespeare! Does anyone in the world really want to hear what I have to say?

In days of old, nobody who was about to write a love poem thought about these modern things. They were driven solely by their feelings. For all our wonderful technology and advances, it is perhaps a little sad that we have become so adept at hiding, and stifling our feelings. We have every modern convenience, but our ability to express emotion is in dire need of repair!

This Valentine’s Day, I invite you ... nay, I CHALLENGE you to write a love poem! Whether it be about your pet, your significant other, a cup of tea, or flowers – express your pleasure in it. Express your love! Get it out! Begin to restore this most fundamental of human capacities – you’ll thank me one day! Oh – and by the way, simply because you are a member of the human race (and also because you’ve read all the way to the end of these ramblings), I LOVE YOU!

**NAMASTE!**