TIMELESS LOVE

FOR

INDU BADLANI

Love is in the air. And it’s in the heart, the soul and the very fiber of our beings. Some have sung that it’s like “an itching in my heart” while others have confessed, “it’s a many splendored thing.” It’s inspired torture, elation, friendship, desperation, eternal companionship. It’s started wars and forged peace pacts, and where would great art and music be without true love as their muse? It is one of the most human of common denominators of existence and civilization. It’s visceral, organic, essential and inseparable from the lives we live. It distinguishes us while we’re in it, and beckons us to join centuries-old cultures as we recognize the power of authentic, timeless, genuine love.

Great poets and simple citizens have tried to express in words just what is the true and complete definition of eternal love. It’s not so easy, because although it is as universal as breathing, as basic as blood coursing through the human body, the DNA of true love varies with the people involved. Priceless shrines have been built while kingdoms have been toppled. But true and timeless love isn’t about the shrines or the jewels or the inanimate gifts that commemorate and celebrate love. Both great ordinary souls have the capacity to come together in marriage and discovery and their faith in each other can move mountains and change the world. True and timeless love teaches us to be bold and considerate, patient and resilient, protective and open. Timeless love is giving, watching, protecting. It’s caring more for someone than for one’s own life.

The ancient Sumerians who are believed to be one of the first literate civilizations in the world, expressed love like this:

O my beautiful one,

I wish I were part of your affairs, like a wife.

With your hand in mine

Your love would be returned.  I implore my heart…

The Sumerians, along with many cultures over history have regarded kissing as an expression of love and have mentioned the act of kissing in their poetry as an expression of love. It has also been said that the ancient Romans elevated kissing to a romantic gesture, and with the advent of the kiss, timeless love took on added dimension; “to seal the deal” took on a whole new meaning.

Since time immemorial, people have found deep and everlasting love within the safest relationships-their best friends. Companionship, commonality, shared goals are all essential qualities in discovering and nurturing the blessing of timeless, ageless, endless love. It’s been said, “True love stories never have endings.” That’s wisdom to hold close to one’s heart to use as a guide as two people work with each other to cement their eternal, endless devotion to one another.

The French author, Antoine de Saint-Exupery said, “…For true love is inexhaustible; the more you give, the more you have. And if you go to the true fountainhead, the more water you draw, the more abundant is the flow.”

Throughout natural history, human beings tend to have a hunger for life and a thirst for love. They spend their time learning about love, hearing about love, witnessing others in love, reeling from the heartbreak of what might have seemed to be love, and yearning for the real thing. The Italian Renaissance poet Petrarch said it best almost six centuries ago, “Love is the crowning grace of humanity, the holiest right of the soul, the golden link which binds us to duty and truth, the redeeming principle that chiefly reconciles the heart to life, and is prophetic of eternal good. Six hundred years later, John Lennon simply said, “All you need is love.”