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Song of Songs gives us a series of pictures of the relationship between a man and a woman – the joy, the struggle, the complexity.”

Why is love so complex?

Daughters of Jerusalem, I charge you by the gazelles and by the does of the field:
do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.


—
Song of Songs 2:7 (NIV)



“Do not arouse or awaken love until it so desires.’ It’s almost as if she says, ‘You know, whatever this is, it’s so good, it’s so beautiful. And, we can’t do anything to mess this up.’”

Do we generally, in today’s world, treat the concept of love the same way as the people in Song of Songs?

As this sacred, beautiful, and mysterious thing?

A blue-tinted photograph of a winter landscape. The sky is a clear, deep blue. In the foreground, there are several bare, dark trees. A person is standing near a dark-colored car, which is partially visible. The overall scene is quiet and somewhat desolate.

'We'll tell somebody that we love them and in the same breath, we'll talk about how much we love a new car, or a certain pair of pants. I mean, I love my wife, and I also love tacos?'

Do you think the word "love" loses its meaning when we use it for so many things?

Does it affect our understanding of what real love is?



“Song of Songs was originally written in the Hebrew language, which has at least three different words for our English word ‘love.’”

“The first word we find is the word ‘raya.’ Raya would be translated, literally, as ‘friend,’ or a ‘companion’ – somebody you hang out with.”

kulakh yafa rayati umum ein bakh
(Transliterated Hebrew)

—
You’re beautiful from head to toe, my dear love,
beautiful beyond compare, absolutely flawless.

Song of Songs 4:7 (MSG)




“Another Hebrew word we find for love is ‘ahava.’”

“Ahava is the love of the will. Now, this is way more profound than fleeting romantic feelings. This is much more than temporary urges. Ahava is making a decision to join your life to the life of another. This is an emotion that leads to commitment.”

mayim rabim lo yukhlu lekhabot ethaahava uneharot lo yishtefuha
imyiten ish etkol hon beito baahava boz yavuzu lo
(Transliterated Hebrew)

Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away.
If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned.

Song of Songs 8:7 (NIV)



There's a third Hebrew word for love that we find in Song of Songs. It's the word 'dod.' Dod is translated in English, literally, as to 'carouse,' to 'rock,' or to 'fondle.'"

Dod is the physical, sexual element to a relationship."

yishakeni minshikot pihu kitovim dodeikha miyayin
(Transliterated Hebrew)

May he kiss me with the kisses of his mouth, for your love is better than wine.

Song of Songs 1:2 (NASB)



"We have our raya flame. We have our ahava flame. And, we have our dod flame."

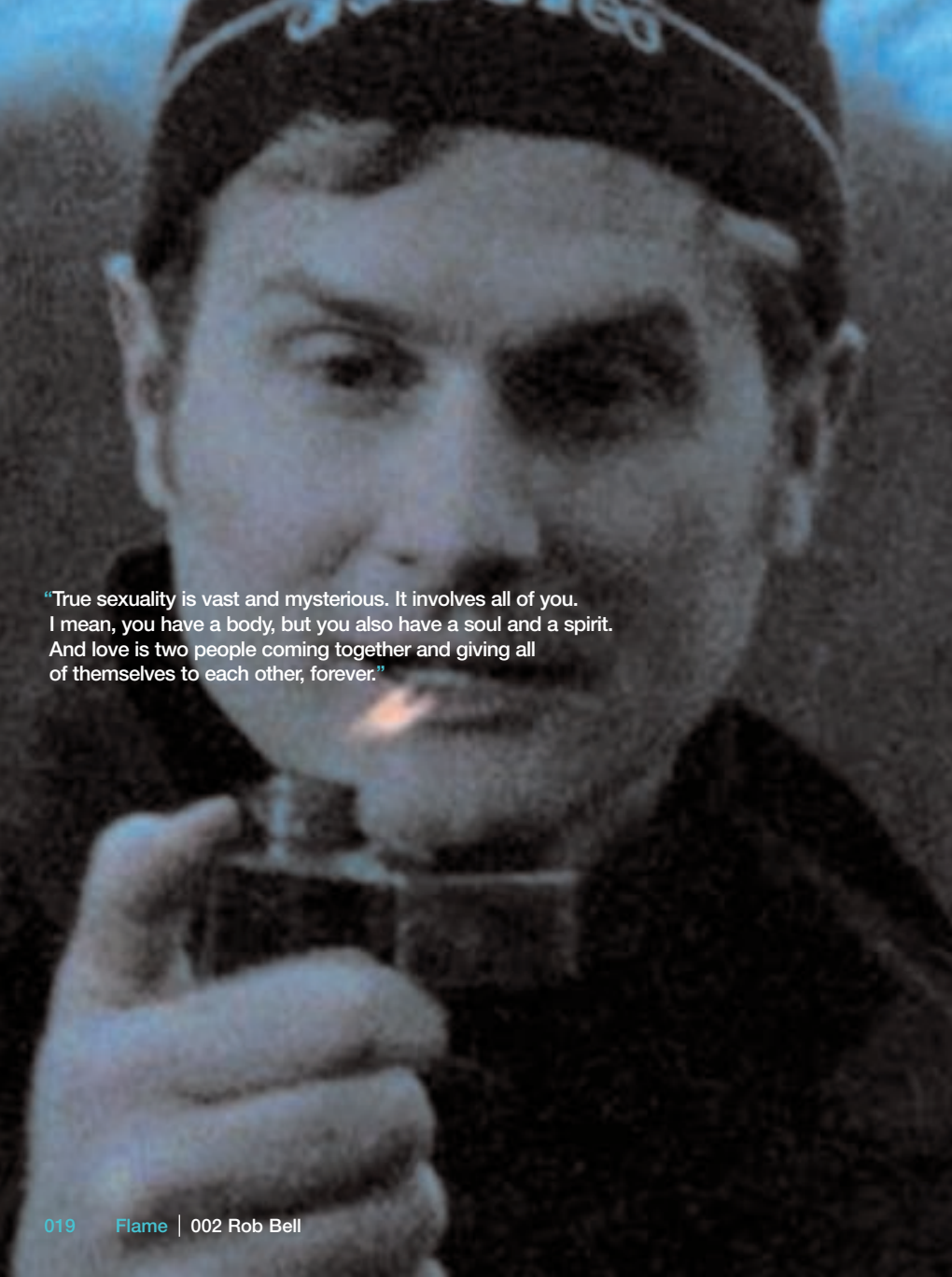
"One flame burning all by itself will never be as hot as all the flames burning together.
I mean, we were created for all the flames to burn as one."

How many relationships have you seen where all the flames are burning as one?



“When you separate the flames, it can never really satisfy.
It’s like you’re living outside of how God wired you to live.”

Do you think it’s possible to be completely satisfied without having all three flames burning?



"True sexuality is vast and mysterious. It involves all of you. I mean, you have a body, but you also have a soul and a spirit. And love is two people coming together and giving all of themselves to each other, forever."

What does it mean to you to give all of yourself to another person?

Are you giving everything you've got?

Love is patient,
love is kind and is not jealous;
love does not brag and is not arrogant,
does not act unbecomingly;
it does not seek its own,
is not provoked,
does not take into account a wrong suffered,
does not rejoice in unrighteousness,
but rejoices with the truth;
bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things.
Love never fails.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (NASB)



"May you honor the way that God created you.
May you have a profound sense of respect for the fact that you are a deeply spiritual
and mysterious being, and that love is ultimately a profoundly spiritual thing.
May you realize that the three flames are meant to burn together.
And may you discover the big flame."

The fire in the film had flames reaching heights of over 200 feet that could be seen from more than 10 miles away.



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