

# On Relationships and the Rubik's Cube

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*"Fact is," said the monkey, "neither one of us is quite sure who does what any longer. But then love's like that, don't you find?"*  
- Clive Barker, Weaveworld

I sit here, having more time to think, than thoughts to occupy it, and I find myself trying to discover things about myself and my views, that I never used to think mattered. It was during one of these times, while I was laying on my bed reading, that I saw the above quote, and glanced up and saw on my Computer monitor, the Screen Saver.

The image of a Rubik's cube solving itself presented itself, and this seemingly unrelated set of images, ideas, and thoughts, struck me in a matter, that an idea that had been fermenting below the surface of conscious thought began to surface, forming new connections, and putting words to an idea that had shaped much of my interactions with others, while remaining invisible, even to me.

Thus the mental groundwork for this treatise on Relationships completed, and I felt compelled to put to paper, a paper on what I feel human relationships should strive for.

## What is love?

Humans are selfish. Most philosophies recognize the truth to this statement. Whether we are dealing with someone we've known for our entire lives, or someone we just met on the street, it is our nature to only take actions that we feel benefits ourselves.

So what is love? An arrangement where we use the other person for what we want? An union where one partner exerts control? A joining where we do not feel we can trust for fear of the others selfish nature?

There are few who would answer in the affirmative to any of these questions, but yet, in their relationships, many seem to act in this fashion. Can they say that they love?

In our society the ideas of lust and love have become confused. Lust does not exist to join people in anything lasting. While the momentary couplings lust produces may be entertaining, fun, perhaps even pleasureable, in the end

they hold little more emotional significance than the thrill we get out of mocking someone else.

Yet those who experience lust, swear they experience love. So again, what is love? There is no coincidence that we refer to sex as making love. True love, whether it be sexual or not, is a joining. In sex we physically and chemically join our bodies for a short time. Yet, such joinings rarely result in lasting relationships, as a true relationship requires more elements than simply sex.

## Love is an Adventure

Humanity thrives on the unknown. The adrenaline we get from a experience we've never had is only matched by the knowledge that it is an experience that few, if any, have had.

Think of mountain climbers. The sense of accomplishment we stand to get from climbing a peak that has been scaled many times before, by many others, is nowhere near the thrill we would get from scaling Mt. Everest, a peak that even the most elite of climbers knows to fear.

Such it is with love, we strive to find what is new to our realm of experience and knowledge, hoping to find a few nuggets that we know no other has experienced. Going back to the sex-centric society we live in, many "love" relationships start with sex as a goal in them. When that goal has been reached, those who were joined will talk about it, sharing tales of their conquest, particularly to those whom they know have not had that victory.

It is a testament to how small a victory sex is in our society, that we talk so freely of it. Is it not as gratifying to learn something about your relationship partner that few others know? Is it not more gratifying to help build that mystery with that person? So while sex may be the most visible, and talked about aspect of a romantic relationship, it appears not to be the most important part.

## On Secrets

I feel the need to change subjects here for a minute. For the purposes of the ideas that I will be expressing here, I think an understanding of what I mean by secrets is important. I feel that our definition of secrets is far too broad.

True secrets are things like the death of your Best Friend in the third grade that you would be implicated in, if the full story ever came to light.

We each have few true secrets, few experiences so horrible, that we forget them for our own sake. Our only secrets are the ones we keep *from* ourselves. The ones we keep *to* ourselves are merely mysteries.

So why is this an important distinction? Mysteries are meant to be unraveled. We don't usually talk much about our mysteries. Our first kiss, while something we tend to remember, we don't make the cornerstone of our conversations.

These mysteries are mainly what we base our own personalities on. Some we don't talk about as much, others are more widely known.

True relationships are based around these mysteries.

In unraveling these mysteries we learn more of those whom we are in relationships with. This understanding is what we must base love on. If love is present, it does not matter if we do or do not like what the mystery represents. Love is able to see past those experiences, see how they've contributed to that person.

A relationship needs to be healthy for it to survive. Relationships need love. Love needs adventure. Solving a mystery is an adventure, experiencing something together that had not been experienced, is an adventure. If love thrives, so do the partners.

### **What's this got to do with the Rubik's Cube?**

While it may not be the most apparent connection, I think the Rubik's Cube makes a good metaphor for puzzles in life. Imagine if you will, a Rubik's Cube. 6 faces, 25 colored blocks per face. Someone has taken the cube and scrambled it to the point where no solution is readily apparent.

This is representative of a big mystery in a relationship. A puzzle that, once solved and understood, could provide quite a meal to love. Is it worth the effort?

To be honest, I've always lacked the patience to solve a Rubik's Cube. I'll pick one up, play with it for a while, but I don't generally take the time to study it, and form a plan to truly solve the puzzle before I act. This same mentality is apparent, to a degree, in my relationships with others.

I'm more likely to be patient, and study the problem, to learn something about a person. Every small mystery I solve, is like making a correct decision on the Rubik's Cube, making the image clearer, more visible.

The Rubik's Cube can be used as a metaphor for a person's soul. When we first meet a person, the Cube we have for them is a scrambled mess, and we're unable to grasp much meaning from it. Small ideas that we grasp from a glimpse at the cube, which we act upon until we have time to study it. As we unravel the mystery around a person, each face of the cube gets closer to complete, and the image of that person's soul becomes clearer.

I don't believe we actually solve someone else's "soul cube" very often. The puzzle is too difficult, even for the most patient of us. It is with those whose cube's we come closest to solving that love is strongest with.

### **Love and Romance**

Love is generic. It exists without gender, and can thrive just as well between people of the same sex as anyone. Love does not require romance, just as romance does not require love. However, neither is truly complete without the other.

The most complete romance requires the most complete love. A love that is complete, where we have completed our partner's Soul Cube. A union where the lines individuality are blurred by such an understanding.

There are few who experience such a union, though all seek it. To find it, one must be willing to explore, and be explored.

*They advanced slowly, until they were nose to nose, lip to lip. It crossed Cal's mind that maybe some erotic display was in the offing, and in a way that confounded his definition of erotic, that was true, for they continued to walk toward each other, their faces disappearing, pressing into each other.*

*Somehow in the flux they'd changed genders, to stand finally-quite separate once more-in their partner's place.*

– Clive Barker, Weaveworld (Paraphrased)

Authors Note: This paper is, in many ways still under development. I welcome any comments you may have, any references to similiar themes you have to give me. The idea is just developing, and I would like to know what you have to think.