**Love is selflessness, in the most selfish way possible**

I often say, “love is type of dependency” and people are often turned off by the word choice because it comes with the impression of helplessness or contingency of happiness. This is similar to when I use the word ‘compromise’ as it inspires a feeling of wielding or dissatisfaction. Because of said results, I’ve come to try and explain love in a different fashion by saying, ‘Love is selflessness, in the most selfish way possible.”

Whenever I think about true love, I often refer to my family members, only because I’m stuck with them good or bad and my attachment to them was not by choice but by chance and circumstance. When you have that type of bond with another human being, it goes beyond the idea of, ‘we have to get along’ because the truth is you don’t. This bond, I feel, falls under the realm of, ‘If you need me, I’ll be there.’ I hear romantics claim that the love you have for your family and what you have for your significant other is different, but I’ve yet to have someone explain the difference. For me personally, that feeling of ‘love’ is same regardless of the relationship, but the interaction is different. I’m not going to treat my older brother the same as my little sister, but I love them the same. I may get along with one more than the other, but again the feelings I have towards them are the same. Outside of siblings I love my friends as I do my parents, but again how I display this affection is different. To give an example, my body is covered in tattoos of family ideals names and dates to serve as a constant reminder of where I come from and who I represent. I would never take these same actions to display my affections for my friends neither male nor female because that type of action may be unwarranted and inappropriate causing a rift in our future interactions.

To use a metaphor, love isn’t helping someone crossing a busy street, love is helping someone cross a busy street, when you are already going in that direction. I see so many people go out of their way to help others to a point where it becomes a detriment to their own goals and self-realization. I my humble opinion, that isn’t love, that’s just stupid. Very, very stupid. No one should go out of their way, to harm themselves for the benefits of others. Self-preservation is a natural human reaction for a reason. In the extreme case of there is a gunman and he explains that either you are your loved one has to die and the only option is to volunteer one’s self, most would say, “I would pick me over my loved ones death because I love them and couldn’t live with myself.” That last four words are the issue because, that isn’t love, that is selfish. I would go as far as to say just as selfish as suicide is. But to go back to this scenario, you must first think of your responsibilities in your position; if you are a father, you have kids to feed, and potentially a wife and mortgage, is the surviving member going to take on these responsibilities? More importantly, CAN this person assume those responsibilities? If not, then you are not only hurting yourself, but others as well; again, selfish.

Lastly, I feel that in love you are not each other’s coach, you are each other’s fan. It’s not about what I want for you, it’s about what you want for yourself and if I can help/agree. If I can, and I want to, then yes I should and will, but if not, it falls into the point of the former paragraph. It really isn’t that hard of a concept to grasp. Think of your favorite celebrity and think why you are a fan of them. Probably because they do some really cool shit, that you wish you could do, or would like to help them accomplish. Pick your significant other with those same credentials; they do something you admire and you would like to help them accomplish these things (this is all granted to you are physically attracted to this person and you to get along), and you should want someone who feels the same.

At the end of the day, I’m a firm believer in the thought that if you search hard enough for something your will find it. If that’s the case, you can force that feeling all you want to, but if you force it and still get a sense of more dissatisfaction that genuine content, then you may want to re-evaluate what you found.