

**A Scripture on Love (an excerpt) taken from the Divine Romance
By Swami Paramahansa Yogananda given in 1936 to his disciples**

I sought love in many lives. I shed bitter tears of separation and repentance to know what love is. I sacrificed everything, all attachment and delusion, to learn at last that I am in love with Love-with God- alone. Then I drank love through all true hearts. I saw that He is the One Cosmic Lover, the One Fragrance that permeates all the variegated blossoms of love in the garden of life.

Many souls wonder wistfully, helplessly, why love flees from one heart to another; awakened souls realize that the heart is not fickle in loving different ones, but is loving the one God-Love that is present in all our hearts.

Friendship is the highest form of love. As such it is meant to evolve into the divine manifestation of God's eternal love. Friendship is the highest relationship, because in friendship there is no compulsion, it is born of free choice of the heart. It is God calling souls back into unity with him. The Lord ever silently whispers to you:

I am Love.

But to experience the giving and the gift of love, I divided Myself into three; love, lover, and beloved. My love is beautiful, pure, eternally joyous, and I taste it in many ways, through many forms. As father I drank the reverential love from the spring of my child's heart. As mother I drink the nectar of unconditional love from the soul-cup of the tiny baby. As child I imbibe the protecting love of the father's righteous reason. As infant I drink causeless love from the holy grail of maternal attraction. As master I drink sympathetic love from the flask of the servant's thoughtfulness. As servant I sip respectful love from the goblet of the master's appreciation. As guru-preceptor I enjoy the purest love from the chalice of the disciple's all surrendering devotion. As friend I drink from the self-bubbling fountains of spontaneous love. As a divine friend, I quaff crystal waters of cosmic love from the reservoir of God-adoring hearts.

Without speaking a word I have loved you, I have loved you always. I alone can truly say "I love you", for I loved you before you were born; My love gives you life and sustains you even at this moment.