

## The Umbrella of Love

Man is a social being who needs a healthy and successful relationship in order to experience a sense of inner **peace** and **happiness**, both physically and mentally, all throughout his/her life. A healthy and successful relationship depends on our view of others. That is, the wider our perspective of others, the more people we can attract and the stronger our relationships will be.

But

How much do we love others?

How much do we worry about them?

How much do we care for the dangers and potential harms they are exposed to?

In fact, the longevity of our relationships is dependent on these issues.

Every relationship is built upon a cornerstone. That is, it needs certain foundations in order to thrive. All strong relationships have one thing in common: **genuine love**. We should love others truly, for their own sake, rather than our own. **Genuine love** is not a love that uses other people or just keeps them in its life because it can take advantage of them. Genuine love forgets the self.

Moreover, we should keep in mind that a good beginning makes a good ending. The truth is, if a relationship starts out wrong, it rarely turns our right. When things are bad from the beginning, our relationship will often fall apart.

However, a friendly relationship is always fraught with certain dangers: sulking, disagreement, anger, misunderstanding, and jealousy. Sulking is one of those really annoying habits that repel people out of our lives. Since God breathed of His spirit into all human beings, we are created from a single soul, so **"I am you, you are me, we are all one."** According to this principle, life is just like a mirror, reflecting back to us what we do to others.

Therefore, if we fall out with friends or family, we actually fall out with our own **"true essence,"** and will be disconnected from the only true wellspring of love, that is, God. Finally, we will step outside God's circle of mercy and compassion. Consequently, we run into problems and according to the same principle, we not only get offended and go silent, but we also offend others and make them go silent.

Although our time in this life is limited, our souls need to live in peace after death. If we are depressed and too sensitive in this mortal life, we will have to carry our tainted soul to the Hereafter too. As a result, we should not let go of our family and friends in order to stay under the umbrella of God's love and live a happy and peaceful life forever.