

GAZETTE

H o l l y w o o d & W e s t w o o d

WHAT IS YOUR LOVE STORY?

By Chan-an





My girlfriend in Taiwan, her name is Sophia. I still remember the summer when I met her. She is my best friend's friend and we both knew each other but had not become friends yet. I had a dance club presentation that summer, where I met her for the first time. When I saw her face, there was only one thing that came into my mind. What a beautiful girl she is! I finished the presentation and asked for her contact information right away. I never thought she had already paid attention to me too! In the next few days, we chatted a lot. Sometimes we had a lot of conversations, other times we talked all throughout the night. I found out that she is not only beautiful but also kind and fascinating. We were dating for 16 days after we met. Up to now, we have been dating for two and a half years and we still love each other so much.





WHAT IS LOVE?

The meaning of love is so broad and deep that it is very difficult to describe in words. It is hard to generalize because there are many different cases and there are exceptions to everything.





Simply put, love to me is simply doing my best for someone without asking for anything in return. And above all I always want to make the whole world happy with love. So, I always try to live a positive and joyful life with consideration for others. Even in my daily routine I always want to bring happiness and smiles to someone. Because I always want to be that kind of person. Similarly, there are many times when I receive love and happiness from those to whom I have given love. That is evidence that love resonates with each other even if I do not want it in return.



I don't want to treat others based on profit and loss, and I don't want to live negatively. I also feel aversion to those who intentionally give me negativity. Because they have no right to hurt me. In the category of deep love, I think the ultimate love is the one that can be more important than oneself. In other words, ultimate love sometimes involves self-sacrifice. For example, my child whom I brought into the world. I always think of my child first and give priority to my child before myself. Even if I had to die to save my son, I would do it.



I always want to be such a loving person. I will try to live happily for once in my life. I assure you that love is essential and important for that. Let's create a world filled with love, without profit and loss!!!



By Kaori Toyosaki

DO YOU HAVE VALENTINE'S DAY IN YOUR COUNTRY?

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM VALENTINE'S DAY HERE?

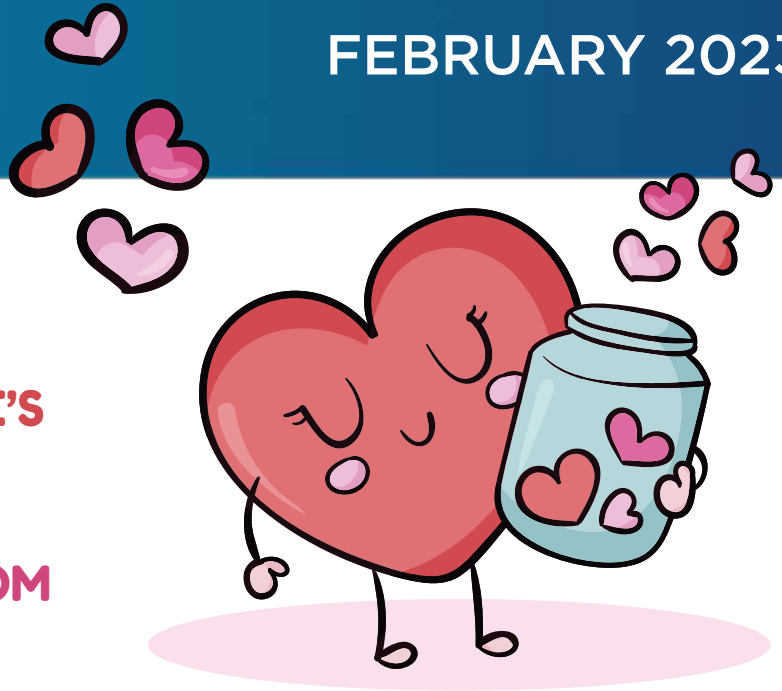
The difference between the U.S. and Japan is that in the U.S., men send things to women, while in Japan, women send things to men.

In Japan, people send chocolates and other things to their loved ones on Valentine's Day, February 14th. There are several methods to Valentine's Day presents. The first is sent from the woman's side to the man's side or to her significant other. Second, it is sent from the man's side to the woman's side. In this case, it may be sent to a man who is interested in the relationship, even if that man or woman does not have a special relationship with you. Third, sometimes women send gifts from women to women as well. In this case, we Japanese call it "friend chocolates". Of course, if a woman sends it to a man she is friends with as a friend, it is still called "friend chocolate". Chocolates for female friends are exchanged with each other on the day of the event on February 14th. The items to be given are cookies, chocolates, or other sweets. Some give handmade gifts or buy gifts. However, men who

receive the gift from a woman must return the gift one month later on March 14th. We call March 14th White Day.

I don't know about the other couples around me, but some people give food because they received food, and some people give things because they received things. Of course, sometimes men who receive food give things to women. Usually, we have to give something in return, but we don't necessarily have to. I actually gave a chocolate cake and sweet potatoes on Valentine's Day to someone I was dating. He was not able to think of a gift for me at the time, so he told me that our next date would be to go eat sweets wherever I wanted to go. I thought it was a great idea. So, I was taken to a cake shop that I had always wanted to visit!

American culture has an image of "men to women". After coming to the U.S., I thought it would be nice if there was a day in the U.S. when women gave something to men as in Japan. in the U.S.



By Minayo Senko

DO YOU HAVE VALENTINE'S DAY IN YOUR COUNTRY?

HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM VALENTINE'S DAY HERE?



In South Korea, many people, especially young people, celebrate Valentine's Day with gifts like in many other countries. However, there are a few differences compared to other places. In Korea, Valentine's Day is considered a day when only women give gifts to men, the most common item is chocolate, along with their affection. When this day is drawing near, you can see convenience stores and supermarkets that have huge displays filled with all kinds of chocolate gift boxes. So, men are always given gifts from women. On the other hand, the exact opposite happens one month later, on March 14th, which is called White Day. Now it is men's turn to give gifts. On White Day, men prepare gifts for women, but not usually chocolate but instead candy.



Needless to say, these two days are the most popular days for couples young and old to celebrate and confirm their love for each other. Besides Valentine's Day and White Day, there are several more special days to celebrate love. For example, the 14th of April, which is exactly one month after White day, is known as black day, celebrated by singles who neither give nor receive gifts on Valentine's and White Day. On this day, they eat black noodles known as Jjajangmyeon with other single friends. Likewise, there is Rose day in May and Kiss day in June. Some people criticize these special days for the reason that they are just a sales gimmick for chocolate and candy companies, and people who have not even given a thought to where these days come from would become misled consumers.

Nevertheless, the ways in which Koreans celebrate Valentine's Day and how it has evolved into other fun and special days is interesting.

By ITaegum Lee

THE DARK SIDE OF VALENTINE'S DAY



Oh Valentine's Day... what do you imagine when you think about Valentine's day? For me, it is lovely couples cuddling, chocolates and sweets, postcards, romantic dinners, and presents... to sum it up, love everywhere. Some people even think of the small cute naked baby with a bow and arrow that tries to match people in order to fall in love. That is what society "forces" us to believe is Valentine's day, but the truth is more dark and bloody than you think.


In the beginning, Valentine's Day was a pagan celebration where Romans sacrificed dogs and goats, and women lined up to slap men. However, it didn't stop there, later on, Romans decided to sacrifice two men named Valentine in order to honor the celebration every year. They also invented an odd game where men pick out a piece of paper with a woman's name from a jar. That woman was going to be his companion for the rest of the event, and with luck, for the rest of his life. Similar to speed dating that is commonplace now but this was invented centuries ago.

Luckily, all these bizarre celebrations had a twist when Shakespeare romanticized this holiday in Britain and Europe with the creation of handmade paper cards with love poems and letters. All this became very popular when the Industrial Revolution started and factories started creating cards in mass. We can thank Hallmark cards, the American company, for creating Valentine's Day festivities as we can see it now.

In summary, Valentine's Day changed from a Pagan and dark celebration, to a commercial and influential festivity where couples and families buy presents, chocolates, and cards in order to celebrate and show love and other feelings that they have for others. All this only helps the economy and businesses to sell products (more expensive than usual) and motivate people to spend their money on unnecessary things.



By Isabel Martines Baigorri



**WHAT IDEA
OF THE US DID YOU
HAVE BEFORE
ARRIVING
HERE?**



Before arriving for the first time in the United States, I already had ideas of it in my mind. Most of them were based on famous Hollywood films such as “Home Alone”. Now I can see that it is not exactly as I thought. I was shocked by New York, its contrasts really impressed me! Beautiful architecture, 5th avenue, Central Park, and Skyscrapers.

I can go by foot everywhere and to all the attractions. All that I needed was to just go out from my hotel to see amazing sights. The energy of this city makes me want to come back here again and again!

By Elena Zelenaya

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It's a really interesting and great experience for me to try learning in America. America is a totally different country for me compared to Russia. There are a lot of difficulties in coming here. For example, getting documents, renting an apartment, getting medical services. But on the other hand, there are a lot of advantages for citizens here.

Also, in the US there are great opportunities for trailing because there are so many beautiful places. If you want to see snow, it can take just 2-3 hours or if you prefer hot weather, you can just go to Miami or Hawaii, it is very easy.

If we are talking about California, it is totally different here. You can see wealthy lifestyles in Beverly Hills and at the same time see homeless people.

So America is a country of opportunity, where you can achieve everything or it can take everything because it is not easy to achieve these opportunities.

By Dina Medvedeva



WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT YOUR HOME COUNTRY?

Venezuela has diverse natural attractions. Having access to the warm beaches with crystal clear water and white sand - along with the mountains around Caracas, the city I am from - is what I miss the most. Although California has beaches, the water is cold and dark.

Around the state there are also plenty of parks and mountains but the vegetation is not so vast and looks a bit dry. On the other hand, the United States has a lot of cities to explore like Big Island in Hawaii. The landscapes and nature are just beautiful. I was so happy while I stayed there. So much to do, a lot of outdoor activities connecting with nature.

Even though I miss the nature of my city I'm glad that I'm just a five hours flight away from Hawaii. The only problem is that it is too expensive.

By Ginaris Sarra

WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT YOUR HOME COUNTRY?

What I miss the most about my home country of Switzerland is walking around without being interrupted by other people. When I ride on the subway, I don't feel safe - I always feel insecure in Los Angeles. In my village there are fewer inhabitants than here. So, for me, it was unusual seeing so many people on the streets and trains, there are so many people. You have to pay attention to your wallet, cell phone and all your stuff because of the thieves. In Switzerland, you can walk around without paying attention or worrying about getting robbed. I miss that. I was also surprised by the number of homeless here. Because Los Angeles is warm, even in the winter, homeless people can survive outside. So that's one reason why Los Angeles has so many homeless people. In Switzerland, it is really cold in autumn and winter, sometimes also in the spring. So it's hard for the homeless to survive. Maybe that's why I never see homeless people in Switzerland. Life on the streets would be really hard for them.

But not everything on the street is bad. People in L.A. always ask how you're doing, even though they don't always listen for your answer. Plus, they're very helpful, answering any questions about trains or bus stops. You can also be who you want to be here. Even if you look different - with red hair or blue hair - people don't stare at you. People in Los Angeles are open-minded - and friendly.

By Julia Sophie Brack



WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT YOUR HOME COUNTRY?

I have been here for about 11 months, and I feel like I love staying in America but there is only one thing that I really miss. It is food, of course. There are a lot of Japanese restaurants here. But there are no restaurants that I've been to and the quality is the same as in Japan. And also these restaurants only sell sushi or ramen. But I don't miss only that but also food that my mother made for me. It's kind of like home cooking. I kind of miss home cooking more than sushi or ramen.

There is one thing that is impossible to eat here and that's raw egg. Usually people eat raw egg and rice in Japan, which is really good. But because we must cook the egg I've never eaten raw egg and rice since I came here around 11 months ago.

People should try eating raw egg and rice together when they go to Japan. That's the main reason why I miss Japanese food while staying in America.

By Yna Tamai

