

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

‘What Is Love?’

In response to SGI President Ikeda’s dialogue “What is Love?” (Jan. 31 *World Tribune*) I’d like to offer the following commentary. While the notions and ideals surrounding love are indeed a universal aspect of life that has touched each and every one of us, I was a bit concerned regarding two perspectives that the discussion offered.

The first was it seemed that the article’s slant was written more for the Japanese high school membership than it was for the United States’ or other parts of the world’s membership. This is not to say that there was no merit in the angle from which the article was written; there was....

What was of more of a concern for me regarding the article’s slant was how it seemed to be somewhat biased against men. Specifically, there was the quote: “Many young women prove extremely vulnerable to the insistent advances of the opposite sex. They act as though stunned and lose their ability to make calm, rational decisions. It is precisely for this reason that young women must develop inner strength and self-respect. Since they are the ones who most often get hurt, they have every right to assert their dignity and look after their welfare. And if the young man in question does not respect this right, then he isn’t worth being with.”

Doesn’t the same thing apply for men? Men too get hurt in their relationships with women. Who’s to say “that they [women] are the ones who most often get hurt”? While there’s no denying the importance of the issues that women face, is there any less significance in the issues that men face? I see the concerns, trials, perspectives and what men go through in general regarding love, relationships and their interactions with women as having the same significance. If we’re all equal, aren’t the issues that we face of equal value?

Ultimately, isn’t what’s most important in all of this that we all gain a greater sensitivity and understanding about people in general, be we man or woman, so that we can develop our Bodhisattva nature?

I do not want to diminish the significance of any issue. However, I feel that such gender-biased statements create greater misunderstanding between the sexes and further the rift between men and women in general.

— JOHN S. RAJESKI, Berkeley, Calif.

Value From Tragedy

I can’t recall ever having been so moved by an experience (Feb. 28, “At the Crossroads of Destiny”). Joe and Donna underwent what is undoubtably every parent’s worst nightmare, facing it with such thoughtfulness, courage and determination — from beginning to end. I had to stop to wipe away tears repeatedly while reading their experience, yet I was profoundly encouraged to follow their example to fight to create value where it would seem only tragedy exists. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, Joe and Donna, for sharing your lives, and Travis’ brief but victorious one, with all of us readers.

— GINA JONES, Riverside, Calif.

Title: Mailbox: 03/28/97

Subject: World Tribune 03/28/97 n.3132 p.3 WT970328p03

Author:

Keywords: 03/28/97 January June Mailbox Opinion Tribune World