

THE ROSE WITHIN

by Sandy Brewer

Love is in the air, and not just because it's February, although how could that hurt? Romance, valentines, sweet kisses and moonlit nights. Yet, wonderful as these experiences can be, true love can't be based on external things – not even on chocolate, Hallmark cards, or a dozen roses.

Everything external is ultimately finite; true love is forever. It begins in a place deep within us. And, yes, it can involve a flower – a gorgeous red one with fragrant petals, if you choose – but it begins inside with a metaphoric one.

Bette Midler wrote and sang it best in the “The Rose.” For, especially when we're having trouble finding the greater possibilities in our lives, when things seem their gloomiest, it is essential that we know there is a seed buried so deep within us that even during the starkest winter snows it can and it will survive and then thrive. But it needs a little help from us. We have, after all, free will. With our determination and conscious intent, with our refusal to never give up, and with our stubbornness to stay with it until we have healed our ideas of lack and limitation, this seedling essence of us will blossom to its fullest. If we stay with our dream long enough and refuse to get lost in appearance, doubt, and old stories, we will ultimately be changed by the warmth of the sun's love in the spring thaw. If we choose to remember it, the unending Spirit of love within which we all dwell – that magnificent core which joins us together as a Universal family of one – will not be denied. This seed of us and our potentials, forever nurtured by the core of love that we are, can one day become the rose. It can one day blossom into the promise and fulfillment of us.

That day can be today.

The good news is the “spring” of our potential is not limited to the calendar. On the other hand, often our personal “winters” are not limited to three short months. But working for the experience of healing, rebirth, and renewal is more than worth the wait and the effort. We are all so very worth our own effort. When we change our point of view, our reality quickly follows suit.

And then, oh yes, then comes spring...

Allow a new mantra to form. The fulfillment of our dreams *is* magnetizing its way toward us. That which we are looking for is looking for us! In the Mind of God, it's already a done deal. Begin the new mantra and then repeat and repeat it. ***For every thought there is a corresponding factor. That which I am seeking is seeking me.*** The law of attraction in action!

In my own life, the flower of my spring time – the ultimate love of my external life – blossomed lusciously in my 39th year after much personal work and countless mantra repetitions. My husband, John, and I, living out a romance that has never faded, will celebrate our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary this May.

The calendar tells us now that we are rapidly moving through winter, rushing headlong into spring once again. Embrace it – the melting snows of the North, the tropical colors of the Islands, the midnight jasmine of the Southwest. The blue skies and the renewed vitality. And if there is, for whatever reason, a cloud darkening the heart of your burgeoning spring, remember there is a power within you greater than the dark, greater than the problem. For even in the appearance of the darkest winter day, the seed of the rose that holds your dreams and hopes is rising to the surface, just waiting to be recognized. Just waiting to blossom into the fulfillment of the love that you are – both internally and externally!

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