

"I have loved you from the first moment I saw you".... Prince Andrei Bolkonsky, the sad and introverted widower hero of Leo Tolstoy's epic *War and Peace* was rapturously expression his emotional longing to Natasha Rostov, the little lady with a win-some beauty. Andrei is a fictional character. A work of Tolstoy's fabulous imagination. So are Sydney Carton of *A Tale of Two Cities*, David Copperfield of *David Copperfield*, Clym Yeobright of *The Return of the Native*, Romeo of *Shakespeare and Devas* of Sarat Chatterjee. But by God! their appeal is so overpowering. Romeo and Devas are so often used to describe reckless and dejected lovers. They have become part of our vocabulary. Love indeed is an engrossing subject literature has enshrined it on the altar of great aesthetic height.

Love in a word, is the child of a basic inner need of man. It seeks sympathetic emotional support; a trustworthy partnership which puts the sense of self-worth on a firm foundation; a gratification of sexual desire; a possession which can be prized and even used; a reckless adventure which breaks the monotony of the daily grind. It's difficult to decipher the human mind in its totality. My inquisitive discourse will therefore have the imperfections of an incomplete profile.

My humble effort is more an enquiry than an analysis. Because many noted poets, writers, psychologists, sociologists, anthropologists, psychiatrists and scientists have written extensively on this interesting subject.

Love, specially in the courting stage, brings on an euphoric, and not infrequently a blissful spell. In whatever language it is expressed, the feeling has the same fascinating resonance, the imagination has the same colourful aura. Sir Walter Temple lends credibility to this view when he states with deep fervour, "The greatest pleasure of life is love".

Love as a word, has a broader meaning. It covers a wide range of emotional attachment. It is the love between men and women which draws greater attention and interest. In addition to this amorous feeling, one may love one's children, parents, friends, country, pet animals, hobbies and many others.

In describing love between men and women, particularly among young people, two words go together — romance and love. They make a splendid pair in illustrating love among this age group. Because their love is of exuberant nature in contrast to the more sedate nature of love among people who are relatively older.

Romantic love is interpreted differently by professional people with authority or their subjects. According to the *TIME* magazine story, the anthropologists observe that love, specially romantic love has always been a matter of the

head, and it's the flowering of world literature which has relocated it in the heart nearly five or six centuries ago. The holders of the scientific view further state that love is a 'cultural fantasy'. Romance is linked to the development and availability of modern amenities like, time, comfort and a certain level of refinement in the arts and letters. Romantic love cannot thrive without these nourishments. The scientists, however, concede that romantic love is real and is bred into our biology. The psychiatrists explain the euphoria of romantic love in a biochemical way, attributing it to the concentration of cousins of a chemical called amphetamines which include dopamine, norepinephrine and specially phenylethylamine.

The psychologists' observation of romantic love gives a predominant role to human mind and its acquired experiences. The father of modern psychology Sigmund Freud created a sensation by his theory on the origin and development of attraction among opposite sexes. He termed them 'Oedipus Complex' for men and 'Electra Complex' for women. A short description of the background of these two names will facilitate better comprehension of Freud's theory.

Oedipus, as we know, is a character of the Greek mythology. He was destined by the Delphic oracle to kill his father Laius, the king of Thebes, and later to marry his mother, Queen Jocasta. He was, therefore, abandoned to a jungle where he was raised by a shepherd. But it did not preclude the oracle from coming true. Oedipus grew up, met his father on the road, got into a fight and killed him, ignorant of his identity. He went on to conquer Thebes and married his mother Jocasta. When the incest came to light, Jocasta hanged herself. Oedipus tore out his eyes and left Thebes with his daughter Antigone to Athens where he died.

Electra, on the other hand, was the daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra, and the brother of Orestes. She had great love for her father. When her father was killed by her mother, she fiercely persuaded her brother Orestes to avenge the death of their father by killing Clytemnestra. Orestes did accordingly.

Oedipus complex is held to be a universal infantile experience during which in the phallic stage (three to five) the boy has sexual tendencies towards his mother which outwardly manifests in deep emotional attachment, and look on his father as a potential rival. The girl child also goes through a similar emotional attachment towards her father. On reaching adolescence, this attraction attains optimum physical and mental potency. They start searching for a replacement for their mother and father for the fulfillment of their emotional and physical need.

Adolescence or teenage

## LOVE The Interest Never Fades Away

period is a testing time of life. Romantic love holds great sway over the minds of the teenagers. The prodigious energy of the youth, the vitality of ascendant physical growth, the polychromatic expanse of imagination, the insatiable hunger for establishing self-worth, the exuberance of newly found independence, all combine to make teenagers the favoured children of romantic love. They are capable of breaking any barrier, reaching any height, going to any length and paying any price for love.

Teenage love has wondrous elements to make it into a fable, into an immensely popular tale. In such a state, the person of love is placed on a pedestal where earthly frailties have no place, where no dark traits sully the image. Love reigns supreme.

fetches, like the outpourings of someone in a trance. But can there be an aesthetically better way of describing the charm of teenage love?

Let us now judge why elderly men and women fall in love, sometimes muddling all calculations and why one falls in love with someone in particular, not with the other. The factors are almost akin to those of the teenagers except that they generally tend to be a bit more circumspect, more guarded and, in fact, a bit more easy-paced. The propelling factors in most cases are, physical beauty, the thrilling nature of the relationship, sexual attraction, similarity of taste, harmony of disposition, intellectual adaptability, similar views and attitudes, pity, kindness, sympathy and even circumstances. However piously I may try to explain,

by Syed Maqsood Jamil

To my mind the most captivating saga of teenage love is Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Romeo and Juliet were from two feuding families. The Montagues and the Capulets of Verona. There was so much rancour between the two families that any kind of exchange between the two was unthinkable. The hatred was visceral. Everything about Juliet appeared divine to Romeo. Risking the wrath of the vengeful Capulets, he stands by the side of the wall facing Juliet's window and gallantly proposes, "But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun! Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon, who is already sick and pale with grief! That thou her maid art far more fair than she, Be not her maid, since she is envious. Her vestal livery is but sick and green, and none but fools do wear it; cast it off! It is my lady: O, it is my love! O that she knew she were! She speaks, yet she says nothing. What of that? Her eye discourses; I will answer it; I am too bold, 'tis not to me she speaks: Two of the fairest stars in all the heaven, Having some business, do entreat her eyes; To twinkle in their spheres till they return! What if her eyes were there, they in her? The brightness of her cheek would shame those stars, as daylight does a lamp; her eyes in heaven would through the airy region stream so bright! That birds would sing, and think it were not night." That sounds so far

the idea of covering it with a broad sweep is an unrealistic proposition.

There are cases of love which are thoroughly confounding. The one with the good look falling in love with the unattractive, the rich falling in love with the poor, the eminent falling in love with the commoner, the virtuous falling in love with the sinner, the intellectual falling in love with one who has little interest in the acquisition of knowledge, the white falling in love with the black, the unmarried with the married etc.

The dominant social view is that it is convenient to fall in love with someone of one's own community. By that I mean, things like race, language, religion, nationality, social and financial status etc. In case of compatibility of these factors, social acceptability does not remain a remote prospect. Still men and women fall in love with each other ignoring dictates of all kind. It has happened in the past. Cultural liberalisation and greater scope for human exchange brought about by globalisation of international community, has further lessened the fear of such kind of love being eyed with disfavour. Such marriages make sensationally inflated stories in newspapers because of the element of scandal in them. These are the unsung heroes and heroines of all times.

The role of love in history is no less an interesting matter. It adds drama and colour.

There are many historical examples where a monarch has risked his empire, faced great odds, built monuments, even committed abominable crimes for love. To my mind, the brightest among them is King Edward the VIII of British Empire. He gallantly abdicated his throne to marry his woman of love, Mrs Wallis Simpson, a divorced wife of an American diplomat.

Edward the VIII reigned for only 327 days, and abdicated his throne on Dec 11, 1936, with these stirring words ".... A few hours ago, I discharged my last duty, as King and Emperor and now that I have been succeeded by my brother the Duke of York, my first words must be to declare my allegiance to him. This I do with all my heart. You all know the reasons which have impelled me to renounce the throne. But I want you to understand that in making up my mind I did not forget the country or the empire, which as Prince of Wales and lately as King, I have for twenty five years tried to serve. But you must believe me when I tell you that I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as King without the help and support of the woman I love...."

On the other hand, many mighty monarchs have committed abhorrent crimes, for their women of love, sometimes to please them, sometimes to dispense with them. Sultan Suleyman the magnificent of Ottoman Empire was much enamoured with his Georgian wife Roxelana. He had great qualities but because of his love for Roxelana, he committed despicable crimes which sullied his image. It is said that under the influence of Roxelana he assassinated his capable Prime Minister, and brother-in-law Ibrahim. Later, he committed the most barbaric crime of sentencing to death his sons Mustapha and Bayizd to pave the way for the son of Roxelana.

There is an element of possession in love, specially for the men. Getting the woman of love is a matter of great pride. It brings in a feeling of profound fulfilment. This feeling has great intensity. John Keats has so wonderfully put this feeling into an unforgettable poem. He beseeches Fanny Browne "I cry your mercy-pity-love! aye, love! Merciful love that tantalizes not./ One thought, never-wandering guileless love./ Unmasked and being seen — without a blot! Of let me have thee whole-all be mine! That shape, that fairness, that sweet minor zest! Of love, your kiss, — those hands, those eyes divine./ That warm, white, luscious, million pleased/breast./ Yourself your soul in pity, give me all./ Withhold no atom's atom or I die...."

It is also an ironical fact that on the other side of love is hatred, vengeance and morbid violence. Rejection of love, suspicion of acts of infidelity can let loose a demonic fury. It

can assume the character of malignant hatred, barbaric vengeance, and pitiless violence. We do not have to go far. Our newspapers often carry news items of ghastly violence committed against women by dejected lovers. Killing, pouring kerosene oil on the body and setting it on fire, scalding the face and the body by throwing acid are common abominations committed against hapless women, specially against teenage girls, by dejected psychopathic lovers.

Cases of suicide because of failure in love often come into news. In cases of rejection, failure or diminution of love, it is mostly the women who bear the cross, pay the penalty and suffer the most. In Bengali literature Devdas has, however, been glorified to the status of a deity. The general view, I am afraid, tends to favour the men. This is my personal assumption.

I believe my exercise in describing the unpleasant and tragic side of love will remain incomplete if I do not dwell a bit on Shakespeare's *Othello*. The inner insecurity of the black moor Othello, who was so deeply in love with Desdemona, boorishly succumbed to black suspicion. That she was carrying out an illicit love. His suspicion obsessed him like a demon. Othello ultimately strangled Desdemona to death in a burst of intense mental turmoil. His repentance was no less devastating in its effect. Othello loudly bemoaned "Whip me, ye devils, / From the possession of this heavenly sight! / Blow me about in winds, roast me in sulphur, / Wash me in steep-drawn gulfs of liquid fire! O Desdemona! Dead! Desdemona! Dead! Of!"

King Henry the VIII in spite of his good education, handsome appearance had a wicked trait of marrying women for love and later ditching them with vilest cruelty. For marrying Ann Boleyn he defied the papal excommunication, fathered a child who was to become Queen Elizabeth I. Once his love ran its course, Ann was sent to the gallows for the charge of infidelity.

Getting the woman or man of your love is only a segment of the tale called love. It is the transition from romantic love into conjugal love which puts love to a great challenge. As the Christian marriage vow says "to cherish love till death do us part". In fact, the real test of love begins after marriage. The drudgery of daily life, the boredom of proximity, the unveiling of the frailties, all contribute to the fading away of the polychromatic image of pre-nuptial love. The loved ones no longer look like defied characters enshrined on the altars of love. The dream peels away, the rugged reality of unadorned life becomes razor-sharp. The period of adjustment tests the emotional foundation of romantic love. Those who hold into each other, be it in prosperity or in

Continued on page 11

## In a Jam

by Arjuna

PEOPLE who have been to any of Asia's megacities — Bangkok, Calcutta, Tokyo, Jakarta, Manila and Taipei, to name a few — usually have mixed feelings about their visits. They are either highly critical of some places or much impressed by others.

But one thing they tend to agree on is that traffic in all these cities is horrible.

Bumper-to-bumper vehicular traffic, as well as congested infrastructure, is a norm rather than a rarity in these urban centres. And the fact that each city is bursting at the seams with humanity doesn't help the situation one bit. If migraines, anger and frustration caused by this intolerable traffic are vocalized, the sound could probably be heard halfway around the world.

Even in Phnom Penh, just emerging from a United Nations-brokered election, the traffic problem has begun to set in, leaving just about every foreigner agast. Cycles in full pedal speed pay scant regard for traffic lights even as flat-bed trailers from the countryside and other vehicles challenge them for the right of way.

Mornings and evenings are the most scary moments for anyone who has just been through the hustle and bustle of Pochengong airport. The most vivid recollection of my stay in the country is the breakneck speed at which my Checkpoint-employed friend rode his bike on a Saturday outing to Tonle Batti, a trip which fortunately allowed me to live to tell this tale.

"Farangs" (foreigners) in Bangkok no longer consider the traffic gridlock the butt of jokes as even royalty has intervened with suggestions on how to restore law and order in a country experiencing economic growth of an unprecedented kind. My eyeballs almost popped out in fear as I sat in a "tuk-tuk" (motorized scooter) and recalled the docile city I last visited ten years ago. The middle-of-the-road "Bangkok Post," after much persuasion, has even devoted a page daily on the issue of motoring woes, a big concession, indeed and proof of the gravity of the situation.

Something must be done in this "city of charm," or we may all go the way of a frustrated Thai cop who turned all the traffic lights green one day out of exasperation and ended up in a nut farm.

Trying to learn from its neighbour, Kuala Lumpur is opting to bar single-occupancy vehicles from the central business district during peak

hours. But one wonders when peak hours are as the highways are perpetually in a state of congestion. Flash-floods after a tropical downpour add fuel to fire. Car pooling, more buses, the rapid construction of roads, a Light Rapid Transit system and electric commuter trains are being introduced to ease congestion in the soon-to-be megacity.

In the Philippines, besides the Vice-President's quaint use of the English language, it is interesting to see jeepneys crammed with passengers going to work or out on some errands. The colourful and gaily-decorated motor vehicles, adapted from the American military jeeps, are worth a snapshot to send home for tourists visiting Manila, the capital city. For a minimum of six US cents, one is assured of a safe passage although not a comfortable one.

In contrast, Singapore's transport system offers prime comfort and convenience at all hours of the day or night. In fact, the transport system works to clockwork precision as with most other things in this island-state. Inhabitants of this progressive republic, long an industrialized nation, have to pay an astronomical price for a private vehicle, so much so that most people prefer to ride the bus, take the monorail or just pay charges for a cab.

Similarly sophisticated are the Japanese with a host of public modes of transport. Commuters are known to sit on the high-speed bullet trains for as long as an hour before reaching their office or homes. In between they take a nap, read a good book or simply unwind by focusing their thoughts on the passing countryside as the train powers on at speeds of up to 120 miles per hour.

In Calcutta, India, bullock carts near the Howrah Bridge reflect the poverty quite unknown to most foreigners. In a country able to send satellites into orbit, getting about on human-drawn carts is not as archaic or obsolete as a non-resident may think.

My parting shot is a savvy scoop-of-a-kind story in a Jakarta newspaper. Apparently, a tourist wanted to get to his destination and produced the address to the cable. The man took off without batting an eyelash and soon got caught in a 30-minute pile-up of vehicles before reaching the destination which turned out to be just around the corner from where the passenger took the ride. It would have taken him a mere five minutes if he walked instead of hailing the cab!

—Dephnews Asia

## Television News and Creativity

by Khurshida Haq

news, its depth, interest in it and impact of it over the people vary to an extent. Hence the world 'creativity' cannot be ignored in news either.

News writing or reporting or presentation of a news item is an art which needs special skill. A journalist should have the ability together, prepare and present news in an appropriate and interesting way. First of all, he needs to recognise news. What is news? At different ages, news experts and scholars had tried to explain this question. More than a century ago, American journalist John B. Bogart uttered the famous dictum on news: "When a dog bites a man, that is not news, but when a man bites a dog that is a news". This definition of news soon spread among the journalists and was popularised. Bogart emphasized dramatisation in

news and stated that it is often rare and unusual. However, Bogart's definition became obsolete later. Other journalists afterwards tried to define news in various ways. While some journalists said that "news is more unpredictable than the winds", others expressed the idea that "news is what will make people talk". The contemporary definitions of news are "Whatever interests the readers is news" or "news is a timely account of a current idea, event or problem that interests people." Of late the definition of news goes like this — "News is the recounting of factual information about events, situations and ideas — including opinions and interpretations calculated to help individually to cope with themselves and their environment."

However, all these definitions do not entirely clarify news. As news contains human characteristics and deals with the human mind, no scientific formula has yet been devised or evolved to define news through which news can be recognised or identified and evaluated. For this, journalist Ken Metzler has truly said — "Journalism is a window open to the world and the world can be an exciting adventure or a hopeless bore: it's up to you." This indicates that the responsibility lies with the journalist himself to recognise, judge, gather and present news. Everyday myriad of events are occurring around us. A journalist would have to sort out all those and pick up some, which seems to him significant, interesting as well as important to the public. So, it certainly proves that news represents individuality.

Nevertheless, news experts have mentioned some elements or criterion which news should carry. By this criterion News Value may also be judged. The first criteria is, news should be new, fresh and timely. The subject of news would be rare and unusual. Significant events, distinguished personalities and important institutions should get prominence in news. A journalist must be aware of the impact of news on the public. News should include public-interest topic or events. It will carry action, show concreteness or specific examples and may also give reports on conflict or controversy. We would like to see some other elements in news. These are adventurous events, like world tour on foot or armless girl performing daily activities by legs (that was shown in BTV), celebrations of the national day, civic parades, ribbon-cutting ceremonies, major religious functions and observance of great tragedies like cyclone in Chittagong or Urirchar, martyr intellectuals day and so on. Ethical or non-ethical practice of personalities or persons may also come up in news. And last but not the least category of news is self-improvement. This category includes stories on food, fashion, health, beauty, human relations, civic sense and so on and so forth. A journalist must keep in mind that all these topics must contain new ideas, new trends and new reasons.

From these criteria or elements of news we understand that news may be of many kinds, such as 'hard news', 'soft news', 'straight news', 'feature news', 'spot news' etc. These different types of news have different characteristics. A journalist has to be familiarised with those and well-acquainted with the techniques of writing.

Anyway, the problem is not reckoned to be on the project or production side, but in marketing and distribution, according to the market pundits. The market manipulators are supposed to be more powerful than the political string pullers. The price of soya oil has gone up when the duty was lowered! Here it is a topsy-turvy world — the more the supply, the higher the price.

I remember, many years ago I once purchased a can of egg powder. Nobody objected to the omelettes prepared from this powder, and nobody suspected that powder egg was being used and served. At present, I have in stock powder fruit juice, desiccated coconut, powder dental cleaner (in lieu of tooth paste), powder polish, powder soap, powder soap, powder spices, powder medicine (homeo), and powder dust. I am waiting for the marketing of powder tuition, and solid service from the public sector, without considering the liquidity problem.

## Power, Powder and Eggs

I am authorized by my private domestic home ministry to publicly raise the question of the mystery of the shortage from the retail market of the government-aided project eggs, supposed to be produced in lakhs by the hundreds of new poultry farms sprouting all over the country, according to the public speeches by our honourable ministers.

Where are the 'marketing' ministers, as we seem to have too many 'paper' planning and project publicity ministers, who are telling us of the good days to come? The other day I sent my son to buy eggs from the local grocer: Tk 13/- per half (set of four) — from 12/-, rising from the base price of 10/-. Once upon a time in the near past it was 10/- per half from the same grocer.

The origin of the eggs is not evident to the consumer from the shape, size, and colour; and the country of production is not stamped on the egg shell (no guarantee on genuine

labelling). It is all right for a school child to consume an egg at Tk 2.50. At 13/- per half, the market controllers are not in sight, and there is no official explanation. In this society, round-table conferences are not popular or successful. Nor any thing egg-shaped. Go flat out for quick profit.

Perhaps the time has come

### The Pressing Show

Chuckles

to import eggs in powder form, like the powder milk. We have a number of powder millionaires; so why not have some egg lakhpatis, to start with. Due to the reduced consumption of eggs, my secret desire to become an egg-head has been seriously impaired.

The marginal difference of 50 paise per egg makes a big dent annually. From Tk 2.50 to 3.00, it is about Tk 150 more

per head per year, or Tk 600 increase in the budget for a family of six, excluding the parents and the elderly who do not take eggs, or those willing to forego their quota.

Perhaps the bank managers would go snooping around the infertile farms to find out if the vet family planning workers have penetrated this sector also; and also find out what happened to the golden loan for creating the golden hen to produce the ordinary eggs. Are there adulterated eggs? I do not know, but some one pointed out that due to alleged high cost of feed, the colour of the yolk of some eggs is not right. On the other hand, perhaps our hens like to eat some imported feed (why not, when we have weakness for anything imported).