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you feel toward a person when you are in love? And why the sublime feeling of reward and relief when that interest is returned? That's a nut science has tried but may never fully crack. Studies show that even the worst cynics believe in "true love."

Those who seek to analyse it are trying to explain that which is perhaps not explainable, like grammar cannot explain the beauty of great literature—prosody that of a poem. Those who have been touched by love prefer to leave it in the realm of the ineffable.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

just about how much time you need to fall in love with her, or she with you.

There's nothing wrong with reveling in romance, and honouring friendship, buying flowers, writing poetry and making that impulsive trip to the other side of the world just so you can spend 24 hours in the presence of someone who's far away. They are all good for the economy, except, maybe, the poetry writing.

But it's also a good sign of the state of your relationship if the day just saunters by without you needing to give proof of your love every two hours.

What is it that makes us go so loony over love? Why is there the transcendent sense of tenderness

Love is the ultimate meaning of everything around us. It is not a mere sentiment; it is truth. It does not matter, therefore, whether we attempt to describe the passion at twenty, at thirty, or at eighty years. "He who paints it at the first period will lose some of its later, he who paints it at the last, some of its earlier excitement," wrote Emerson.

Love should fizz without champagne and grow even in hard soil. The moment its expression feels like a duty, it has lost its bearings. "Love sought is good," Shakespeare observed, "but given unsought is better."

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“ Photography Gave Meaning to My Life ”

Celebrated Canadian photographer, poet and folk singer Larry Towell, recently visited Chobi Mela VIII and shared details about his extraordinary life as an artist with *the Star*.

ANANTA YUSUF

When and how did you start photography?

I wasn't serious about photography until I visited Central America in the early 1980s. I was studying visual arts on painting and sculpture at York University in Toronto.

Ronald Regan was the president of the United States of America back then. He seemed to be trying to transform all of Central America into a smouldering landscape. In other words, one could witness revolutions and unrests in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. Landless people were fighting to change the status quo of their native lands. These people were considered as threats by the US administration,

which backed the repressive regimes of Central America and South America.

I went down to Nicaragua in 1984 to witness the ongoings there with my own eyes. There was a war going on there; the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras, funded by the United States, were fighting the ruling government. The main base of the Contras was at Honduras. These Nicaraguans were in exile who would cross the border from their base at Honduras to attack civilians and supporters of the government. We decided to interview the victims of these attacks, particularly rape survivors and relatives of the people who had been killed. The

