

# Love the One You're With

from: Maintaining Our Temples  
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Ask almost anyone you know, “What would you do if you met the man or woman of your dreams?”

It might take a while to get an answer. Not because the person needs a long time to think of the answer. But because for most people the list of things to do with a dream lover is very long.

Many of our ideas about what lovers do together come from movies, tell-lie-vision, and books. We then want our real life love to match someone else’s make-believe.

You would probably hear:

- ◇ take walks on the beach
- ◇ have dinner by candlelight
- ◇ take a trip to a tropical island
- ◇ send each other love letters
- ◇ oil each other’s body



If, however, you were to ask the same person, “Do you do any of these things now?”, he would probably say “No. I’m waiting for that ‘special person’ to do them with.”

We have to be special to ourselves before anyone else can be special to us. We have to love ourselves before we can love anyone else. We have to give love to ourselves before we can expect to get love from anyone else.

Let’s say we decide that we are going to love ourselves as we want someone else to love us. We decide to start taking walks on the beach. After all, that is what lovers do. We may find that we do not like the feel of sand under our feet. We may even realize we don’t live anywhere near a beach.



When we try eating by candlelight, we may find that we prefer more light so we can see the food on our plate.

But suppose we *know* we like eating by candlelight and walking on beaches. How can anyone else know we like doing these things if they never see us doing them?

When you go to someone’s house and see fresh flowers all over the place, you tend to believe he likes flowers.

We keep waiting for the person of our dreams to come into our lives so we can start living. We do not seem to notice that *we* are in each and every one of our dreams.

We can not maintain our temples unless we love ourselves.

When we wait for someone else to love us the way we want them to love us, we usually end up being angry, disappointed, and/or bitter. How can anyone do all of the things we want them to do, and do them all of the time?

How can we expect someone else to love us enough to do anything for us when we do not love ourselves enough to take care of our own needs?

Folk place the same value on us we place on ourselves. When we show that we do not think we are worth loving, they think we are right.

Love comes from inside ourselves and is reflected back to us through others.

