

## Taxonomy of Love

### EROS

- Believes childhood was happy—warm relationship with parents and siblings;
- Is ready for love and for the risks it will involve, but is not anxiously searching;
- Knows definitely what physical type attracts him most and is quite demanding
- Begins with a partner who is a stranger at the first encounter—“love at first sight”
- Seeks a deep, pervasive rapport with the partner as quickly as possible
- Shares development and control of the relationship
- Elicits reciprocal feelings from the beloved but does not demand them
- May be exclusive but is not possessive or fearful of rivals
- Considers love to be life’s most important activity
- Idealizes love a lot—may be the downfall of this type of love

### LUDUS

- Believes childhood was “average.” Has no complaints.
- Is not ready to commit to anyone in a love relationship
- Likes a variety of different physical types and can switch easily from one type to another
- Begins with a stranger who has physical appearance with the lover’s wide range
- Goes on with life as usual after meeting beloved—does not fall in love; no intentions for future
- Avoids seeing partner too often
- May be anxious about the future with a partner who is too intense
- Expects partner to control her/himself and *play* the game for the mutual enjoyment
- Encourages other relationships
- Thinks love is not as important as work or some other activities

### STORGE

- Comes from a happy, secure family background
- Is ready if love comes along but is not looking
- Has no conscious definition of a favored physical type
- Goes on with life as usual after becoming aware of “love”
- More of the type of love that is seen between siblings

### MANIA

- Feels childhood was unhappy; difficult relationship with parents; not content with life
- Anxious to fall in love, yet expects love to be difficult and painful
- Is uncertain what type attracts him, and is often looking for a combination of contradictory qualities—may dislike the appearance of partner
- Becomes intensely preoccupied with thoughts of the partner and need for the partner’s love
- Begins to imagine the future together with considerable anxiety and much wishful thinking
- Wants to see the partner at least daily, and is easily upset by delays and postponements
- Will create problems if there are none, to intensify feelings
- Periodically tries to calm and control his own intense feelings but can’t help her/himself
- Experiences a loss of control over his feelings and the direction of the relationship
- Tries to force the partner to show more affection and commitment
- Unable to break off the relationship
- Becomes extremely possessive
- Becomes convinced that life without the partner’s love is hardly worth living

### PRAGMA

- Feels master of life and achievement
- Looks for a compatible mate
- Is highly pragmatic in looking for a mate—i.e., who will make a good father or mother?

Source: Lee, John Alan. *Colours of Love: An Exploration of the Ways of Loving*. Toronto: New Press, 1973.