

Seven Days of True Love

By Sheila Johnson

As I write, I realize that Valentine's Day is little more than a month away. Its history carries stories of Christian martyrdom, a Roman holiday known as Lupercalia, romance, roses, splashing colors of red, hearts that don't resemble our biological heart, lucrative greeting cards, and lonely souls yearning for lovers. My personal history with Valentines (be it cards, roses, or lovers) has hit more flats than sharps, and yet I remain an optimistic, eternal romantic. Many times I have pondered the question "What is true love, and how will I know it if it should come my way?" Each time a small, quiet voice whispers the answer, "He already has Sheila. He arrived and stayed for at least seven days."

True Love arrived when darkness and light were separated and light was named 'Day', and darkness was named 'Night'. God made it so that humankind could have peace in the evening, and greet the world with "Good morning" each brand new day. That is True Love.

True Love brought us Sky who separates the waters above and below it. Sky holds the secrets of the Universe, the twinkling of every newborn baby, reflections of the sun, and God's eternal promises. This is what True Love gave you and me on the second day of Creation.

On the very next day, because True Love knew we would need healthy, strong, beautiful bodies, we were gifted every kind of seed-bearing fruit and vegetables that grow on top and underneath fertile, dry ground.

Oh, to my personal delight, on the fourth day of Creation, True Love made stars—for romance, a Sun to warm the earth, and a Moon to guide us at night and regulate the ebb and flow of the earth's bodies of water along with our own. We were blessed with seasons and days and years. Oh to be loved by God, my True Love.

On the fifth day of Creation, my True Love made for me (singing to the tune of the Twelve Days of Christmas) the mighty wings of eagles, the rhythmic chirping of mockingbirds, and intelligent echoing parrots. He added the great King salmon, the colorful mandarin, and the big fish that swallowed Jonah. God commanded all of the fish and fowl to be fruitful, for God knew there would be many of us to be fed and amazed.

On Day six, my True Love created all the characters of the *Jungle Book* and more—both wild and tame. God provided us with livestock and creatures that crawl along the earth and those who stand on two and four legs. They're our food, our protectors, our helpers, and our best friends.

On the seventh day, God created humanity. God gave us command of all of his gifts to us, but not of each other. Many of us spend a lifetime looking for our True Love when True Love has already arrived seven times into Eternity.