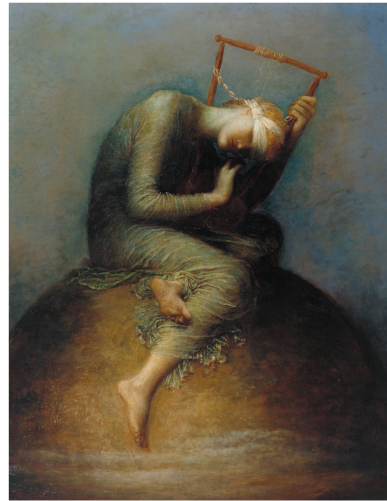


Why do People Marry?



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As people grow up, hearing fairy tales and watching romantic movies of people falling in love, assumptions are made that's just the way life is. Many words and images are imprinted into impressionable young minds. However, happily ever after dreams don't always become reality. Growing up in Asia, my father married my mother and divorced her when I was only five. He was awarded full custody of me and took me away from my mother and only saw her one more time. A month later he remarried another woman who became my stepmother. Then a few years later while living in Bahrain in the middle east, when I was 13, I watched my friend from school go through a traumatic experience in her life. One day Rayah arrived home from school and found out her parents had arranged a marriage to a 40 year old man. She had no choice if she wanted to continue seeing her family. Neither of these situations seem ideal, and have raised many questions of what marriage is really all about.

The world may look far different if love was the driving force in the world instead of lust. Children would be able to grow up and feel the nurturing love of a mother, and if time could heal all hurts from broken relationships. Is there a possibility for a child and an adult with a generational age gap to have a healthy, happy and non-threatening relationship and parents to put all their children's needs before their own.



Le Brun's painting *Madame Vigee Le Brun and Her Daughter* represents herself with her daughter. The background is set against a soft bright background and grasp of each other in a warm hug while looking towards the viewer. This symbolizes affection to a child. Moreover, Tina Turner's song "What's Love Got to Do with it" symbolizes that love is a second hand emotion because it has been given to many people. The lyric, "You must understand through the touch of your hand. Makes my pulse react. That it's only the thrill of boy meeting girl. Opposites attract. It's physical. Only logical. You must try to ignore that it means more than that ooo What's love got to do, got to do with it." describes that love in real life is not what it is supposed to be according to one's dream. Garrett W. Wheeler's poem, *My Lost Love - My Lost child* represents the burden of losing a child. The last line "But I promise we'll be together, no matter how long it seems. Just know you're always in my heart and always in my dreams." symbolizes hope of being with his child again. Another unique artwork is Watt's painting *The audacity of hope* represents the biblical figure of Hannah, "who had the audacity to hope" to continue praying to god for a child even though there was no substantial sign. The painting symbolizes That even though there might not be any sign of hope yet but to not give up. According to the Pew Research Center, by Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Nikki Graf and Gretchen Livingston, about four in ten adults marry for financial reasons. Coldplay's song "Fix You" represents true love, helping out someone from a great loss. The lyrics "Cause you lose something you can't replace. When you love someone but it goes to waste. What could it be worse?" symbolizing unrequited love is compared to losing someone you are close to can be the worst feeling ever.

In conclusion, we find there are many reasons people marry. And each reason results in a long term consequence which may affect other people. While the above examples may seem dysfunctional or foreign to some of us, they may give us reasons to search our souls and marry the person with whom we will fulfill our goals of marriage and at the same time find happiness.