

CONTRAST CONJUGIAL LOVE AND MUTUAL LOVE

“Conjugal love consists in the desire to be one in the life of the other,
but mutual love consists in desiring what is good to another rather than to oneself...”

(*Arcana Coelestia* 2738)

- A. Consider these images from nature. Which of them remind you of conjugal love? Which remind you of mutual love? Can you think of more images that seem to mirror conjugal love or mutual love?

Geese flying in a V

Two clam shells in the ocean, joined together to protect the clam

Sunshine

A hen sitting on eggs

A pair of swans that mate for life

A maple seed with its two “wings”

A stalk of wheat

The two chambers of a heart

Rain falling on a plowed field

A field of wild flowers

- B. Make a list of words that go with the idea of true marriage love. Make another list of words that go with the idea of mutual love (to do good to others because you find joy in doing it). Use these two lists of words to write two poems, one titled “Marriage Love” and the other titled “Mutual Love.”

- C. Look through the newspaper or a magazine to find stories or photos that exemplify someone demonstrating spiritual love as described in *Divine Love and Wisdom* 335:

The essence of spiritual love is to do good to others, not for one’s own sake, but for their sake. Infinitely more is it the essence of Divine love. The case is the same with the love of parents for their children, who do good to them out of love, not for their own sake but for the children’s sake. This is clearly seen in a mother’s love for her little children.