

Me Tarzan! You Jane!

By David K. Popham

Aw sweet February, the month of love, with Valentine's Day falling at its midpoint. A beckoning call, we give ourselves leave to dwell and ponder that bittersweet sting of romantic love and nuptials.

When my wife and I wedded 21 years ago it was in the full bloom of romanticized thoughts of marriage. Somewhere along the way reality seeped in. I turned out to be "no knight in shining armor" as Kerrie lovingly reminds me.

Our saving grace, even though we were in the grips of Valentine's fever, was the forethought to include a beautiful reading from *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran. Paraphrasing, he says that marriage is not two islands becoming one land mass. Rather marriage is two distinct islands whose shores are washed by the mutual waters of love.

Kerrie and I please each other the most when "she is she and when I am I," as the late Grady Nutt would put it.

Marriage has taken it on the chin for becoming the deadly art of living together instead of loving together. It follows from the heretical ritual of blowing out two candles so one can burn alone. Marriage under these conditions is nothing more than two people tolerating each other.

Faithful marriage is when we call out "Me Tarzan! You Jane!" You probably have other appropriate signifiers to indicate that you-are-you and I-am-I. The point being the space between us is the location for the real work of love, not the false notion that love is two lives dying so one can live.



Me Tarzan! You Jane! is knowing that we go farthest when we swing on our own vines.

Me Tarzan! You Jane! is realizing that supporting each other's goals is the goal of marriage.

Me Tarzan! You Jane! is laughing out loud like Abraham and Sarah 'cause we both share in God's blessing.

Me Tarzan! You Jane! is a lifetime of taking joy in each other, not a jail sentence of joint endurance.

Me Tarzan! You Jane! is she-is-she/he-is-he and I-am-I filling the space between with mutuality, love, and delight.

No doubt Kerrie will take umbrage at the caveman attitude "Me Tarzan! You Jane!" She-is-she after all. I, being no knight in shining armor, will smile back at her, grateful for Valentine's sting in my heart.

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