

...Love gives naught
but itself and takes
naught but from itself.

Love posses not nor
would it be possessed;

For love is
sufficient unto love

....

... And think not
you can direct the
course of love, for
love, if it finds you
worthy, directs your
course.

Love has no other
desire but to fulfil
itself.

But if you love and
must needs have
desires, let these be
your desires:

To melt and be like
a running brook that
sings its melody to the
night.

To know the pain of
too much tenderness.

To be wounded by
your own understanding
of love; ...

To wake at dawn with
a winged heart and give
thanks for another day
of loving;

To rest at the noon
hour and meditate
love's ecstasy;

To return home at
eventide with
gratitude;

And then to sleep
with a prayer for the
beloved in your heart
and a song of praise
upon your lips.

...Love one another,
but make not a bond of
love:

Let it rather be a
moving sea between the
shores of your souls.

... Sing and dance
together and be joyous,
but let each one of you
be [your own]

Even as the strings
of a lute [are their

own] though they quiver
with the same music.

Give your hearts,
but not into each
other's keeping.

For only the hand of
Life can contain your
hearts.

And stand together
yet no too near
together:

For the pillars of
the temple stand apart,
And the oak tree and
the cypress grow not in
each other's shadow.

Excerpts from On Love and On
Marriage,
The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran