

The history of love's special day

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Another Valentine's Day has passed us by.

We all know Valentine's Day is the day of being with someone you love — or being alone and eating candy. But did you know the true origin of Valentine's Day? Did you know it was the day when Emperor Claudius II executed two men who happened to share the name Valentine?

Romance was a minor factor in the gory truth of Valentine's Day. This is because a law was broken. The reason that Emperor Claudius put two men to death was because both men named Valentine were illegally performing marriages behind the church's back. Before one of the Valentines died, he wrote a letter to a young girl, under the now very well known phrase, "from your Valentine."

Along with Valentine's Day having a cruel history, it has also slowly become a cold holiday for marketing. Commercials start early with endless "deals" on candies to rot your teeth. Too often, love is never a company's interest, only sucking your wallet for gifts that won't last past one year.

But Valentines and love have a rich idea behind them. Love is really all about attraction. Most people immediately think of an attraction to a partner or spouse. But it's also about an attraction to family and friends — a connection with parents, siblings, and other close family members.

An easier way to look at love is to compare it to hunger. It's a drive that does not last long but seems to mean the world to you if it's not fulfilled. For some, it's a light craving. For some, it's a matter of life and death (to add to the dramatic!). This might sound depressing, but it's a slap of truth. Love is something sweet, and it's also a physical drive based on science.

In conclusion, the pink and happy holiday of love has a pretty cruel origin, which can show that sometimes even the happiest of things can have a cruel and dark base. But in spite of the candy-grab holiday that Valentine's Day has become, love itself is the most important thing of all.

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