

love is the law love under will meaning

Love is the law, love under will, is a phrase popularized by Aleister Crowley, a controversial figure in the world of occultism and philosophy. This phrase encapsulates a complex worldview that intertwines concepts of love, will, and personal freedom. To understand its meaning fully, we must delve into the context of Crowley's teachings, the philosophical implications of the phrase, and its relevance in contemporary discourse about love and personal autonomy.

Understanding Aleister Crowley

Aleister Crowley (1875-1947) was an English occultist, ceremonial magician, and writer. Known for his eccentric lifestyle and radical beliefs, he founded the religion of Thelema, which is centered around the idea of individual will and the pursuit of one's true purpose. Crowley's writings often reflect his belief in the importance of personal freedom and the idea that every individual has a unique purpose or "True Will."

Thelema and Its Core Principles

Thelema, derived from the Greek word for "will" or "intention," posits that each person has a specific purpose in life that they must discover and pursue. The core principles of Thelema can be summarized as follows:

1. Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law: This principle emphasizes the importance of individual will and the pursuit of one's true purpose.
2. Love is the law, love under will: This phrase suggests that love should guide our actions and intentions, but it must be aligned with our true will, making it an integral part of the pursuit of personal freedom and fulfillment.
3. The concept of True Will: True Will is understood as the ultimate desire or purpose of an individual, which aligns with their true nature.

The Meaning of "Love is the Law, Love Under Will"

At its core, the phrase "Love is the law, love under will" combines two powerful concepts: love and will. To dissect this further, we can look at the components of the phrase.

1. Love as a Guiding Principle

Love, in Crowley's context, transcends mere romantic or familial affection. It encompasses a broader, more universal understanding of connection and unity. Crowley believed that

love should be the guiding force behind our actions. Here are some interpretations of love in this context:

- Universal Love: Emphasizing compassion and empathy for all beings.
- Self-Love: Recognizing the importance of valuing oneself and understanding one's own needs and desires.
- Creative Love: The idea that love fuels creativity, inspiring individuals to express themselves and their true will.

2. The Concept of Will

The term "will" in this phrase refers to the idea of True Will. This is not merely about desires or whims; rather, it is a deeper understanding of one's purpose and path in life. Understanding one's True Will involves:

- Introspection: Engaging in self-reflection to discover personal desires and motivations.
- Alignment: Ensuring that one's actions and choices align with their True Will.
- Courage: The willingness to pursue one's True Will, even in the face of societal or external pressures.

3. The Interplay Between Love and Will

The phrase "love under will" implies that love should not be random or chaotic but should be directed and intentional. It suggests a structured approach to love, where individuals consciously choose how they express love in alignment with their True Will. This leads to several implications:

- Intentional Relationships: Pursuing relationships that resonate with one's True Will rather than engaging in superficial connections.
- Boundaries: Understanding that love does not mean sacrificing personal autonomy; rather, true love respects individual boundaries and encourages growth.
- Empowerment: Emphasizing that love can be a source of empowerment, guiding individuals to pursue their passions and true purposes.

The Philosophical Implications of the Phrase

The phrase "love is the law, love under will" invites a philosophical exploration of love, ethics, and individual autonomy. It raises several questions about the nature of love and how it relates to personal freedom.

1. The Ethical Dimension of Love

The idea that love is the law suggests that love is a fundamental ethical principle. It

encourages individuals to act with compassion and empathy. Some ethical considerations include:

- Moral Imperative: The belief that love should guide moral decisions, promoting kindness and understanding in interactions with others.
- Responsibility: Recognizing that with love comes responsibility, including the duty to nurture and protect those we love.
- Inclusivity: Emphasizing the importance of loving all beings, regardless of differences, and fostering a sense of community.

2. Individual Autonomy and Freedom

Crowley's teachings also highlight the importance of individual autonomy. The phrase implies that love should not restrict freedom but should coexist with it. This raises important discussions about:

- Consent: The necessity of mutual consent in love and relationships, ensuring that all parties are respected and valued.
- Personal Growth: Understanding that love should promote growth rather than dependency, allowing individuals to thrive as their authentic selves.
- Authenticity: Encouraging individuals to express love in ways that are true to their identity and values, rather than conforming to societal expectations.

Contemporary Relevance

In today's society, the phrase "love is the law, love under will" resonates with various movements advocating for personal empowerment, love in diversity, and the importance of self-expression. The relevance of Crowley's teachings can be seen in:

1. The Self-Love Movement

The self-love movement emphasizes the importance of valuing oneself as a precursor to healthy relationships. This aligns with the idea that love must begin within before it can be shared with others.

2. LGBTQ+ Rights and Acceptance

The notion of love as a guiding principle supports the fight for LGBTQ+ rights, advocating for love in all its forms and emphasizing the importance of acceptance and inclusivity.

3. Personal Development and Empowerment

Many contemporary self-help philosophies echo Crowley's belief in pursuing one's True Will, encouraging individuals to seek their passions and purpose while integrating love as a fundamental motivator.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the phrase "love is the law, love under will" serves as a profound reminder of the interplay between love and individual will. Aleister Crowley's teachings challenge us to redefine our understanding of love, urging us to approach it with intention and alignment with our True Will. By embracing love as a guiding principle in our lives, we can foster deeper connections, promote personal growth, and cultivate a more compassionate world. Whether in our relationships, ethical considerations, or personal journeys, this phrase invites us to explore the transformative power of love as we navigate our unique paths in life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does 'Love is the Law, Love under Will' mean in Thelema?

'Love is the Law, Love under Will' is a central tenet of Thelema, a spiritual philosophy developed by Aleister Crowley. It suggests that love is the fundamental principle guiding human interactions, while 'under Will' emphasizes the importance of aligning love with one's true purpose or will in life.

How can 'Love under Will' be applied in everyday life?

Applying 'Love under Will' in daily life involves acting with compassion and love while ensuring that these actions align with one's true desires and goals. It encourages individuals to pursue their passions and relationships authentically, creating a balance between personal fulfillment and the well-being of others.

Is 'Love is the Law, Love under Will' a religious belief?

'Love is the Law, Love under Will' is not strictly a religion but rather a philosophical and spiritual framework within Thelema. It encompasses various beliefs and practices, allowing individuals to interpret and apply its principles in a way that resonates with their personal spiritual journeys.

What is the significance of love in the context of 'Love

under Will'?

In the context of 'Love under Will,' love is seen as a transformative force that connects individuals and drives them toward their true purpose. It highlights the importance of love as both an emotional experience and a guiding principle that must be harmonized with one's will to create a fulfilling and meaningful life.

Can 'Love is the Law, Love under Will' be misunderstood?

Yes, 'Love is the Law, Love under Will' can be misunderstood, especially if taken out of context. Some may interpret it as a justification for hedonistic or selfish behavior, but in its true sense, it emphasizes the responsibility of love and the necessity of aligning personal desires with a higher purpose for the benefit of all.

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