

想和大家分享美國知名神學暨作家喬瑟夫坎培爾(Joseph Campbell)對婚姻關係不同於愛情的一段精闢見解。

*有關婚姻這回事，簡單地說就是關係維繫與合宜退讓；意即了解婚姻的功能和夫妻間如何相互對應、在這個機制之中扮演一個角色。有一件事情我確實理解到，相信得以維持多年婚姻的人也能理解到的是，**婚姻並非愛情**。*

***愛情和立即性的個人欲望滿足有關，相對於婚姻則是一段試煉，由妥協、時間、以及兩者反覆交疊輪迴的經驗值共同定義而來。**也正因如此，婚姻是透過一場誓言交換的聖禮來確立。在過程裡雙方放棄自己的單純，進而投入一段雙人關係。而當你付出，你並不是付出給對方，而是付出給這段關係。同時你也了解到，如同你的夥伴，你在這段關係中位置是相對等的。然後這段關係才變成生活建構，一份足以激勵和豐富生活的經驗值。但絕非是那種因為你付出給某人而感到匱乏的貧窮困境。*

***這是婚姻的挑戰所在，可也是最美麗的地方。當兩個一起成長的個體共築人生，彼此扶持產出繁花似錦的人生果實，避免陷入桎梏的婚姻原型。試想：當人們做出決定(一塊兒)去創構出令人驚艷的和意想不到的自我，而非流於一成不變印模出點心模型的制式商品，人生的完美的時分也莫過於此!***

"The whole thing in marriage is the relationship and yielding - knowing the functions, knowing that each is playing a role in an organism. One of the things I have realized - and people who have been married a long time realize - is that marriage is not a love affair.

"A love affair has to do with immediate personal satisfaction. But marriage is an ordeal; it means yielding, time and again. That's why it's a sacrament: you give up your personal simplicity to participate in a relationship. And when you're giving, you're not giving to the other person: you're giving to the relationship. And if you realize you are in the relationship just as the other person is, then it becomes life building, a life fostering and enriching experience, not an impoverishment because you're giving to **somebody else ...**

"This is the challenge of a marriage. What a beautiful thing is a life together as growing personalities, each helping the other to flower, rather than just moving into the standard archetype. It's a wonderful moment when people can make the decision to be something quite astonishing and unexpected, rather than cookie-mold products."