

The power of love has been present since the dawn of society, pushing our emotions to the farthest limits. Love has guided society through adversities and has betrayed individuals in times of despair. The power of love is so strong, its emotional grasp often transforms into physical despair. The duality of love encompasses both adoration and healing, yet sickness. In Egyptian secular poetry, the utilization of extended metaphors and conceits, such as depicting love as a debilitating sickness and the lover as a healing elixir, serves as a profound literary technique that reveals the dual nature of love and the multifaceted nature of human emotions.

The duality of love can drive people to sickness through love-induced delusion in cases of physical separation. When individuals fall in love, the implied gratification becomes a blinding force of power in one's life, inhibiting them from functioning in a normal manner. When discussing their love for their significant other, the narrator of *The Flower Song* praised the partner's existence by comparing their presence to human necessities: "Could I see you with every glance / would be better for me / Than to eat or to drink." The narrator's direct emotions about their love reveals a sense of delusion that is correlated to the narrator's emotional mentality. They are so in love, the partner's existence qualifies as their sole necessity. The physical separation of an individual from their lover creates a sense of pain so strong, it develops into physical torment. This sense of delusion is also present in the emotions of *My Brother Torments My Heart's* narrator. Her love for her "brother" creates an emotional resignation so strong, a sense of pain is inflicted in correlation to the absence of her love. When analyzing the narrator's emotions, it becomes clear that her adoration for her love "pains [her] heart," "possessing [her] by" her feelings towards him. Evidently, her love is so strong, her feelings of emotional devotion physically transform into a sense of aching.

While love can be a driving force of overwhelming mourning, the power of love can also palliate feelings of distress amongst individuals. Through the sense of home love establishes in relationships, partners are able to feel contentment through the presence of another individual. Through the words of *Sickness Invaded Me*, it becomes clear that when “[the narrator’s] body has forsaken [them],” and “[their] heart rejects [Physicians] remedies,” the only force with an invincible nature in the face of discerned sickness is the presence of their love. In the face of adversity, “the sight of her makes [the narrator] well / when she opens her eyes [the narrator’s] body is young / her speaking makes [the narrator] strong / embracing her expels [the narrators] malady.” The metaphor of his lover acting as his remedy conveys that the simplicity of confirmation in a partner's presence is powerful enough to transform feelings of malady into revived satisfaction. This appeasement is so strong, that its emotional powers transform into physical rehabilitation, replacing ailment with fulfillment.

The power of love is so strong, it grasps the ability to create and fill a void in a partner's emotional well-being. The concept of love serves as both a savior in times of distress and a betrayer in times of separation and overconsumption.