In India, there was a whole science behind conducting a marriage. When two people were to be married, it was not just the compatibility of the families or the bodies which was looked at, but a deeper energy compatibility between the two people. Only then the marriage was fixed. Most of the time, the two individuals getting married would not even have seen each other until the day of the marriage. But it did not matter because the compatibility was fixed by somebody who knew such things better than the couple themselves.

When the couple came together, a Mangal Sutra was prepared. ‘Mangal Sutra’ means ‘sacred thread’. The preparation of the sacred thread is an elaborate science. A few strands of raw cotton are taken, smeared with vermilion and turmeric, and energised in a certain way. The Mangal Sutra was prepared in such a way that once it was tied, it was for life and beyond.

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Nowadays, when people talk about love, they are only talking about the emotional part of it. Emotions say one thing today and another thing tomorrow. Today we are living in a culture where it is not necessarily so, that you have lived with one partner all your life. Things have changed—a partner comes with an expiry date. When you entered the relationship, you thought ‘this is forever,’ but within three months, you think ‘Oh! Why the hell am I with this person?’ Because it is all going by likes and dislikes—what you like and what you don’t like. In this kind of relationship, you will only suffer. When such unstable, off-and-on relationships are broken, you will go through enormous pain and suffering.

There have been many people who lived in such a way that they cannot exist without the other. Using a Mangal Sutra, people tied up two lives in a certain way. Now for these two people, there is no question of thinking, ‘Should this person be my wife or husband or not?’ This question just does not arise. The relationship just goes on. Even with death, it does not stop. There are any number of couples in India where if one of them dies, within a few months, the other one follows, even if they are healthy. This is simply because the energies were tied together. If you are bound in such a way with another human being that two beings exist as one, that is a wonderful way to exist. It is not an ultimate possibility, but it is a beautiful way to live.

Sadhguru is a yogi, mystic, a bestselling author and poet. He was conferred the Padma Vibhushan in 2017. Iska.sadhguru.org