

E-MAIL TO JARRAH FROM AYSEL

I think I can finally reach you. I called the Canels on Friday, October 30, 1998 at 7 a.m. I could still not get a hold of you, because I left a message for you to call me back. Since you did not call me back, I assumed that you were not home at all. I could not sleep last night and thought long and hard about what LOVE means to you. I think that love can be described in many ways. Perhaps we do not talk enough to each other or we talk at cross purposes. I want to tell you what love means to me: To accept the other person the way he is, to share everything that you possess with him (spiritually and physically, materially, practically in all aspects of life), to do something for the other person, that one would not even do for oneself, to be there for the other person (especially in bad times); love is to assume responsibility: To care for someone, to worry about someone... I could write a great deal more, but that would mean that I could not tell you my decision.

I will fight for you. I am also willing to live in Lebanon with you (even if you say that you would not live in Turkey, because it is not your homeland, and even if I do not agree with the argument that "the woman has to live where the man wants to live, because he is responsible", because it does not say so in the Koran, and because I do not believe that God has created this religion for men). I think that Islam sets out everything for married life and that married life is not in the hands of the husband. Islam is equal for both men and women; perhaps Islam gives the woman even more rights then you know. I do not know it either, but I do not think that God said that wives have to go along with their husbands, even if that meant hurting and offending their parents. Now, this sounds as if you would say it like that, which you do not do, but it goes into that direction and that is a fact. However, I will still choose our marriage over everything else. All I want from you is one concession: You must promise me that you do not [...] in Ciha [...]

[...] for this marriage to share my life with you and not to give you and your parents offspring. I do not think that this is the meaning of marriage.

This is my belief and I will not waiver in my opinion. I would like to ask you for one thing, though: Be honest with me, do not simply say something, if you do not fully believe it and think that I would change my mind about Cihat. Or you could still do it later, because I am unable to change anything. I can do many things, however, it is not the purpose of marriage to separate after a few years. You have time to think. I openly and honestly told you my thoughts.

I want you to see someone in me, with whom you share your thoughts, whom you must tell your thoughts if I am supposed to become your wife. I do not want to learn the truth later. It is better to tell me the truth now than to let me sense it later. Marriage is not a game. Perhaps I am more mature in some regards.

You might laugh now, but I think that we need some kind of basis. I will talk to my parents until they give me their consent, but you, as well, must promise me something. Think hard about it. If you cannot make this promise, it is better that we forget about marriage, even if it hurts a lot. I will not do everything. If I do it, I will stand fully behind it. This is how I think about us. I do not want you to say later that I should have known, and nobody forced me to do it.

I want to discuss everything now that could trouble me later, and if there is anything that you are hiding from me you should say it now, because it will come out into the open anyways, and then you will loose my trust. I must be able to trust you and you must be able to trust me.

With love,

Aysel