

Over the past few decades, it has often been said that we no longer have an addressee for our political demands. But that's not true. We have each other. What we can no longer get from the state, the party, the union, the boss, we ask for from one another. And we provide. Lacan famously defined love as giving something you don't have to someone who doesn't want it. But love is more than a YouTube link or a URL. This beautiful negative flip of what is commonly considered the most positive force in the universe helps us begin to see love's fullness and endless bounty, as based in emptiness and lack—in mutual loss. Love's joy is not to be found in fulfillment, but in recognition: even though I can never return what was taken away from you, I may be the only person alive who knows what it is. I don't have what it is you're missing, but knowing its shape already makes a world where you can live without it.

Love is the most recently introduced member in the family of inflation and bloat. It is a burst of fresh air fed straight into the bubble. It gives the Ponzi scheme at least another decade before people start to think about cashing out. Remember when you would run out of time and replace that with energy? Push a little harder and move a little faster and you can trick time, because darling you're a superhero. But when you run out of time and energy alike, you run into a problem. You need help. You need support. You need love and a bit of tenderness. Now, with the help of others, you can feed the machine again.

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What's (Love) Got to Do With It?

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Care
Intimacy
Warmth
What's Love Got to Do With It?
Affection
Endearment
Longing
Fondness
Tenderness
Lust
Attachment
Devotion
Adoration
Idolization
Passion
Ardor
Desire
Yearning
Infatuation

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