

## A Day to Celebrate

Today is a very special spot on the calendar. It's Valentine's Day, and it is an occasion for the celebration of the pursuit of romance and affection. Stories abound about the history of the holiday and the customs associated with it.

An ancient Roman feast called Lupercalia, for example, took place every February 15. The event honored Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage, and Pan, the god of nature. The Romans celebrated it as a special occasion for young people. Young men and women chose partners by drawing names by chance from a box. Then the partners exchanged gifts as a sign of affection. They usually continued to enjoy one another's company long after the festival. Many such courtships ended in marriage.

How should we today celebrate Valentine's Day? The human mind is very inventive, particularly when it comes to affairs of the heart. But, husbands, here are some suggestions that might be considered as starters to make the day successful (a wife doesn't need much coaching on this subject, I have discovered):

- Send her a rose or roses and tell her the flowers match the blush of her cheek.
- Pay her a compliment about the appearance of her dress or her hair.
- Take her out to eat at a fine restaurant.
- If you dine at home, prepare the meal for her, or at the least, help her with it.
- Then do the dishes.
- Build a cheery fire in the fireplace and relax on the carpet before it.
- Add some popcorn and some hot apple cider to season the atmosphere correctly.
- Recall some warm memories from the early days of the relationship.
- Do a little dreaming about the future.
- Throw another log on the fire.
- Sip another cup of apple cider.
- Cut off the glare of the radio or television set.
- Turn on some romantic music.

And that's as far as my suggestions will go.

Any good red-blooded American can figure out for himself where to go from there.

--Beecher Hunter