Love is a Drug Called Dopamine, Says a Scientist

Writers of novels and songs have for centuries **claimed** / that love is a drug.// Scientists have now gone a step further / to **prove** this **assertion**.// They **conducted** tests / on the romantic relationships / among prairie voles.// Different pairs of the mouse-like rodents were tested / for levels of **dopamine** / – a neuro-transmitter / that **plays a role** / in our **seeking** pleasure/ and a **craving** for **addictive** things.// It can provide an **intense** feeling of reward.// The researchers found that the voles **released** large amounts of dopamine/ when they were **physically** with their "**established** partner".// Researcher Dr Zoe Donaldson said/ parts of the voles' brains lit up "like a glow stick"/ when they were **reunited** with their mates,/ and **dimmed** when with unknown voles.//

The researchers said / their studies help to explain/ much about the **complexities** of human relationships.// They say / dopamine in our brains plays a key part/ when falling in love, / and in the **grief** / experienced when breaking up with a partner.// Dr Donaldson said: / "As humans, our entire social world/ is basically defined / by different degrees of **selective** desire / to **interact** with different people,/ whether it's your romantic partner or your close friends."// She added: / "This research suggests/ that certain people leave a unique chemical **imprint** on our brain/ that drives us to maintain these bonds over time."// Research also suggests / that women get over a breakup / and fall out of love faster / than men.//

小説や歌の執筆者たちは何世紀にも渡り主張してきた / 愛は薬物であると// 科学者たちはもう一歩さらに踏み込んだ / この主張を証明するために// 彼らは調査を行った / ロマンティックな関係について / プレーリーハタネズミの// ネズミのようなげっ歯類の違うペアが検査をされた / ドーパミンのレベルについて/（神経伝達物質 / 役割をしている / 快楽を求めること / そして中毒的なものを渇望すること// それは非常に強い見返り感をもたらす// 研究者たちは発見した / ハタネズミは大量のドーパミンを放出する / それらが身体的に「決まった相手」と一緒にいるときに// 研究者のゾーイ・ドナルドソンは言った / ハタネズミの脳の部位が「夜光スティックの様」に光る / 仲間と再会した時に / そして知らないハタネズミといるときは暗くなると//

研究者は言うには / 彼らの研究が説明の手助けになる / 人間関係の複雑さの多くついて// 彼らは言うには / 我々の脳内のドーパミンは大切な役割を果たしている / 恋に落ちる際 / それと悲しみに暮れる際 / パートナーと別れるときに経験する// Dr.ドナルドソンは言った / 「人間として我々の社会全体は / 基本的に定義される / 選択的欲求の度合いの違いによって / 異なる人間と交流したいという / 恋人であれ親友であれ」// 彼女は付け加えた / 「この研究は示唆している / 特定の人間が脳に特有の科学的な刻印を残す / 長期にわたってこのようなつながりを維持する原動力となる」// 研究はさらに示している / 女性は別れを乗り越えたり / 気持ちが冷めたりしやすい / 男性よりも//

《Vocabulary and Phrases》

claim	主張する
prove	証明する
assertion	主張
conduct	実行する
dopamine	ドーパミン
play a role	役割を果たす
seek	探す
crave	求める
addictive	中毒的な
intense	強烈な
release	放出する
physically	身体的に
established	確立された
reunite	再会する
dim	暗くなる
complexity	複雑さ
grief	悲しみ
selective	選択的な
interact	交流する
imprint	刻印

TIPS 恋は盲目　Love is blind.

あらゆる伝承、伝説、寓話、歌謡、物語、創作において、恋愛は最大にして不変不滅不朽のテーマと言えます。その研究の形も古来より様々で、近年では当然、科学的アプローチの的でもあります。

恋や愛に関することわざ、表現なども国により特色があります。言葉を知ることは文化を知ることにつながります。恋愛という普遍のテーマに共通/独特な感性を調べてみましょう。

Writers of _____ and songs have for centuries claimed that love _____. Scientists have now gone a step _____ to prove this assertion. They _____ tests on the romantic _____ among prairie voles. Different pairs of the mouse-like rodents were tested for levels of _____ – a neuro-transmitter that plays a role in _____ seeking pleasure and a craving for _____ things. It can provide an intense feeling of reward. The researchers found that the voles released _____ of dopamine when they were _____ their "established partner". _____ Dr Zoe Donaldson said parts of the voles' brains lit up "like a glow stick" when they were reunited with their mates, and dimmed when with _____.

The researchers _____ help to explain much about the complexities of human relationships. They say dopamine in our brains _____ when falling in love, and in the grief experienced when breaking up with a partner. Dr Donaldson said: "As humans, _____ is basically defined by different degrees of selective _____ to interact with different people, whether it's your romantic partner or your _____." She added: "This research suggests that certain people leave a unique chemical _____ on our brain that drives us to maintain these bonds over time." Research also suggests that _____ get over a breakup and fall out of love faster than men.

Question 1: Answer why writers says the love is a drug, based on the research of scientists.

Question 2: What are Dr Donaldson's thoughts on what basically defines human society as a whole?

Question 3: According to Dr Donaldson's research, what are the differences between men and women in love?

Summary:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Q&A Sample Answers:

Q1: This is because dopamine, which plays a role in seeking pleasure and addictions, is released in large amounts during physical contact with a partner.

Q2: It is defined by different degrees of selective desire to interact with different people, whether they are lovers or close friends.

Q3: Women get over breakups and fall in love faster than men.

Sample Summary:

Writers have long compared love to a drug. Scientists tested prairie voles' romantic relationships, finding high dopamine levels when together with their partner. This neurotransmitter, linked to pleasure and addiction, creates a strong sense of reward. The study illuminates human relationship complexities, suggesting dopamine influences falling in love and post-breakup grief. It implies certain individuals leave a lasting chemical mark on our brains, fostering long-term bonds. Additionally, research indicates women typically recover from breakups and fall out of love quicker than men.