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HOW MUCH DOES LOVE COST?

Call it extravagant showmanship but according to Donald Trump the engagement ring he gave Slovenian model, Melania Knauss, was the world's most expensive. Reportedly worth \$2M dollars it would have been valued even more highly had he not had the twelve karat flawless emerald diamond (set in platinum and from the House of Graff) engraved.

I recently read a story that prompted this article and the following question: "How much does love cost?" The story's about a lady who, after years of marriage, had been unable to conceive a child. One day her personal pain and the stigma attached to childlessness in her society drove her to desperate tears and prayers. Even her attempt to find solace in prayer proved hurtful as the priest in the temple accused her of drunkenness. "No," she reassured him, "I haven't been drinking – I've been pleading with God to answer my prayer."

In this case, her request was granted and by the next year, she'd given birth to a bouncing baby boy. Her mockers were silenced; her emptiness filled with maternal duties and her gratitude to God for hearing her cry was evident. Here's where the question of cost comes in. While still a young lad, Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, took Samuel to the temple where she reminded the priest of who she was and of her promise to God that if He would grant her a son, she would dedicate him for God's service. Briefly: Samuel, Hannah's gift from God, spent his childhood and youth living in the temple as the personal assistant to the priest, Eli. Little did any of them know that God was training Samuel to become a mighty leader, prophet and priest of Israel. They only knew the price of love.

How much does love cost? Everything. What are the rewards? Beyond comprehension!