On the 14th of February it is a special day for people who are dating. It is a time when the boy in the relationship gets the girl a present. Valentine’s Day is celebrated world-wide; but do we know the long lost story behind this special day?

**Valentine’s Day**

It all begins with a man named Saint Valentine. The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman Emperor and a humble Christian Martyr. The Emperor was Claudius II.   The Martyr was Valentinus. Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods, and had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians.   But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ; not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing his beliefs.   He was arrested and imprisoned. During the last weeks of Valentinus's life a remarkable thing happened.   Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia, might be brought to Valentinus for lessons.   She had been blind since birth.   Julia was a pretty, young girl with a quick mind.   Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her.   He described the world of nature to her.   He taught her arithmetic and told her about God.  She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength. *Father, does God really hear our prayers?* Julia asked one day. *Yes, my child. He hears each one*, her Father replied. *Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night?*  Julia asked. *I pray that I might see.   I want to see everything you've told me about Father!* Valentinus replied that *God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him*. *Oh, Father, I do believe! I do!* Julia exclaimed. She knelt and grasped his hand. They sat quietly together, each praying.   Suddenly there was a brilliant bright light in the prison cell.   Julia then screamed! *Father! Father I can see!* Julia was overwhelmed with her vision. *Praise be to God!* Valentinus stated, and he knelt in prayer.

This is the story of Saint Valentine. But the origins of romance and Valentine’s Day? Well, that still remains a mystery to all of us.

