

Brief description: This is one of our papers written on various topics that we cycled through. This paper was on our topic of erotic love where I discussed the importance of long term relationships. This artifact shows how I was able to understand the philosophy of erotic love and discuss my own point of view. The date on this paper is October 30,2017.

The Necessity of Long Term Relationships

Erotic love is an essential part of life which allows one to become complete by focusing more on others rather than one's self. This erotic love is defined as a sexual desire and deep companionship for another person. It should be noted that this idea of erotic love is not strictly sexual, yet it delves into the characteristics of desire for another's soul. This erotic love is exemplified in couples, marriages, and romantic partners. These relationships are important for the totality of life and to have someone to experience all of life's experiences with.

The idea of love is vastly argued, some believe it to be a luxury while others, like Solomon, deem that, "... erotic love is (or can be) a virtue." (Solomon, 1) This love, however is a critical part of our society in order to flourish as a human race. The totality of life can be summed into the need of everyone to succeed in their goals while remaining in good character. Long term relationships serve as an assistant in this allowing one to reach their full potential while also keeping in check the character of the person. Without these long-term relationships, a person can become distant from these virtues and not be able to receive this complete life that everyone desires.

A long-term relationship also provides a companion through life's various journeys. This is someone to walk with, to eat lunch with, to share ideas, and the list goes on. This is notably different than a friendship though because while all these activities are shared, within the long-term relationship there are romantic and sexual aspects. The necessity of long term relationships boils down to the need of affection and admiration of humans. There is a want to be with another

person and to love that other person with every fiber in your being. It is clear to note that this is not selfish, as Solomon said in “The Virtue of (Erotic) Love”, “Eros differs from agape in the prevalence of self-interested desire, but is not thereby selfish and the desire is not just sexual.” (Solomon, 5) This affection and admiration we receive is so important to human flourishing and becoming a virtuous person in the end. Aristotle gave the idea of activities being done well in order to flourish as we saw in Nicomachean Ethics. This idea of doing activities well only increasing its value as one has good, worthwhile activities being done well while also being shared with another person. This idea of sharing connects the need of long term relationships as from the moment the relationship it begins to its end, the couple completes many worthwhile activities together reaching this totality of human life.

In opposition to my argument, it can be said that long term relationships only serve as a distraction from achieving this eudemonia. The fallacy in this argument is that it is more based solely on the grounds of a relationship that has just begun rather than a long-term relationship. In a budding romance, there are high levels of affection that clouds the mind and destroys all sense of achieving life’s important virtues. This is opposite of a long-term relationship in which the couple is allowed to not only focus on each other, but also on themselves. In a healthy long-term relationship both parties are able to assist each other in reaching eudemonia, contrary to the new flourishing relationships.

In conclusion, long term relationships are very important to reach human totality and eudemonia. These relationships serve as a reminder to follow the paths to find our virtues. Without such relationships, one could become very distanced from their goals and the good virtues people strive for. These relationships also serve to give a companion to partake in activities with in order to achieve eudemonia because the only thing better than completing

worthwhile activities is sharing worthwhile activities. The opposition to this argument is based on the idea of a budding relationship rather than the long-term ones that we are discussing. Long term relationships give way to years of happiness and achieving human flourishing.