

Rejoin as One

I. Introduction

In Symposium, my opinion is that Aristophanes speech was by far the speech that expressed the most truth about the nature of love. His speech was based on a myth that had relevance to the modern reality of love. The idea that couples were split from the same body and in search of each other conceptualizes an internal drive and need to find our other half.

II. Background

In the speech of Aristophanes, he explains that “each of us is a “matching half” of a human whole, because each was sliced like a flatfish, two out of one, and each of us is always seeking the half that matches him” (27; 191E). In today's society we also feel that we have a matching half; however, we do not believe that we were cut in half by the gods. Most people believe that there is someone out there for them that compliments them and who they want to spend their life with. Aristophanes speech encompasses that idea. He talks about desiring someone, belonging with someone, sharing a life together and becoming “naturally whole” (28; 192D). Of all of the speeches, I believe that this one was the most true concerning the nature of love.

III. My Argument/ Main Points

Aristophanes speech elaborates on finding your other half and the love for that person. That idea is still relevant today. Love is a feeling and desire for someone

whether they be female or male. Aristophanes uses a myth to show why there are different types of love and the whole aspect of different types of relationships. Since “there were three kinds of human beings”, the male, female and androgynous, when they were split they longed for their other half (25; 189E). This explains why people have different preferences or orientations in the gender in which they long for.

One way the nature of love is explained by Aristophanes that is in correlation to today’s world, is that humans have a desire to find their missing half. Humans want to “join into something that is naturally whole, so that the two are made into one” (28; 192D). This desire guides humans to find the person who would complete their life and make them feel as if they were whole again. In this world there is a sense of underlying want and need to find the person whom you would show your love and devotion for. Examples of this today would include trying to meet new people, forming new friendships or starting relationships in order to find the person who best suits you. Therefore, like the myth, humans “are struck from their senses by love, by a sense of belonging to one another, and by desire, and they do not want to be separated from one another” (28; 192C). This idea explains why humans have a desire to find the person that completes them.

Humans tend to feel the need to be complete. Aristophanes speech agrees with this notion that humans “come together and melt together with the one he loves, so that one person emerges from two” (29; 193A). Once someone finds their other half they would want to merge into one person. Although this is impossible in the physical sense, it is not impossible in the metaphorical sense. Therefore, sharing things like emotions,

memories, skills, a life, ways of doing things and goals are a way to become one without physically being pushed into a single body. In this way, Aristophanes speech is the closest way to explain how the true nature of love is expressed.

V. Conclusion

Aristophanes speech was the best at defining what love's true nature really is. This speech explains why there are different sexual orientations, why we long and desire for love, and why we have the need to feel complete. His ideas are relevant today. The ideas explain modern thoughts, ideals, and a explanation of our ambitions to find love.

Works Cited

Plato. *Symposium*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc, 1989. Print