A HISTORY OF LOVE

Content
1. What is love?
2. Love’s essence
3. Greek love
4. Neighbourly love
5. The art of seduction
6. Two elements in love
IS LOVE AN OBJECT FOR RESEARCH?

Preliminary definition: The close relationship, devotional and friendly to another person by which our will and wants are bonded and through which we become responsible for his or her well being.

Theory: Philosophical texts on *eros* and on *agape*

Life: Examples from life and literature

Love in the sciences:

- **Psychology** (attachment theory)
- **Biology** (pheromones – natural selection)
- **Neurology** (dopamine rich brain regions – systems of reward and motivation)
- **Economy** (equality in income, education etc. probability of marriage)

Vice-dean Anne Marie Pahuus, Aarhus University
SEE WITH THE HEART:

Belonging together – a conscious choice of partner. But who or what chooses?

A well founded choice – founded in the person that the other is, not in the qualities or achievements of the loved person.

”Le cœur a ses raisons que la raison ne connait point” – Blaise Pascal 1669
PATIENCE, TRUST AND HOPE

” 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.
HUMAN BEINGS AS CREATURES OF GREAT LONGING

The dream of being able to unite with the greatest

Reunion, devotion and healing – the need to share with someone else the joy and sorrows of life

Longing to be who I am when I’m together with the one I love

Niels Hansen Jacobsen, *Dryaden*, 1918, bronze, 176 x 92,5 x 77 cm, KMS5930, SMK.
MOTIVATIONAL ASPECTS OF LOVE:

Passion turned inward in the Middle Ages

Blind passion and hidden love

Romantic love

Passion that grows with hindrances for love (Tristan and Iseult)

The dilemma of romanticism: Marital relations due to love and passion unsuited for marriage
COSMIC LOVE:

We connect with the missing part

To see world’s beauty in the beauty of the lover

We become like what we love

Zahrtmann, Kristian: Sokrates og Alkibiades. 1911.
FIRST TIME:

First eye contact with a baby

Attachment
SEDUCTION:
Being lifted up by love
(Teresa and Tomas)

Being seduced and used
(Cordelia and Johannes)
DESTINY:

Great love and great stories

Shoulder by shoulder in parallel lives
NEIGHBOURLY LOVE:

Agape

Unconditional and unmotivated love
LITERATURE ON LOVE


TAK!

Vice-dean Anne Marie Pahuus,
Aarhus University