

LOVE AND ITS PHILOSOPHICAL INTERPRETATION

A.V. Marchevskaya

*3rd year student, Faculty of Philosophy, Cultural studies Department**Department of Philosophy,**I.I. Mechnikov Odessa National University**Tel. +38063-843-64-23; email: alisyasharmed@bigmir.net*

Данная статья посвящена установлению сути понятия "любовь" и рассмотрению пяти различных концепций любви от Древней Греции до 20-го века. Поднят вопрос о понимании любви как философской категории, а также рассматривается понятие "эроса", любовь с богословской точки зрения и любовь в индустриальном обществе.

Ключевые слова: концепция любви, любовь в индустриальном обществе, эрос, любовь в философии.

This article deals with the establishment of the essence of the concept of "love" and consideration of five different concepts of love from ancient Greece to the 20th century. Raised the question of the meaning of love as a philosophical category, and also considers the concept of "eros", love from a theological point of view and love in the industrial society.

Keywords: the concept of love, love in an industrial society, eros, love in philosophy.

Дана стаття присвячена встановленню суті поняття "любов" і розгляду п'яти різних концепцій любові від Стародавньої Греції до 20-го століття. Порушено питання про розуміння любові як філософської категорії, а також розглядається поняття "еросу", любов з богословської точки зору і любов в індустріальному суспільстві.

Ключові слова: концепція любові, любов в індустріальному суспільстві, ерос, любов у філософії.

At present, Ukrainian society is experiencing a deep spiritual and moral crisis, connected with the broad economic, social and political transformations. The market economy and liberal values of modern Western – and after it, and Ukrainian, a society influenced by changes of interpretation the concept of “love”. These changes are related primarily to the transformation of moral values, especially notable in the Ukrainian society, in which a change of economic structure and changes in the political sphere has caused serious spiritual crisis. The market in these conditions tends to affect the morality, shaping and imposing utilitarian understanding of morality. Love in this case is often interpreted very narrowly as finding a life partner, enhance the status and is associated with a diffuse notion of “success”. It does not focus on the fact that love is a moral value, in the perception of which reflects the essence of the moral ideal of man and society. Love – a special light of spirituality, so ideas about it and its manifestations characterize the degree of spirituality and morality in society. At the same time, love is a complex socio-cultural phenomenon, is not sufficiently investigated especially in the ethical and philosophical aspects. Establishment of the place and importance of love in the categories of philosophy, its axiological and practical significance determines the relevance of the present study.

The phenomenon of love interested many philosophers from ancient times. For example, Plato in his dialogue “Feast” is trying to give an explanation of love. Love as one of the main precepts seen in the New Testament. Rene Descartes in his book “The Passion of the soul” refers to the first six love passions. Just in the same work, “The Passion of the soul”, he tries to give a scientific explanation of the phenomenon of love. [7: 628-685]. Erich Fromm’s love is considered as an art that must be constantly improved [10]. The philosophical analysis of these works and their theoretical generalization are still relevant. Analysis of the concept of “love” as a moral value is held in the historical-philosophical, ethical and cultural aspects.

Value paradigm of love as a complex integrated phenomenon, its development and present state is detected as a result of the analysis of a set of core principles that form the basic ethical values in the process of historical development, concentrating in certain historical and philosophical teachings and indicated as a cosmological, axiological, religious, theological and erotic attitudes of love as the base value. The cosmological approach, considering love as a cosmic force, forming the evolution of the universe can be traced back to the ancient philosophy, namely Plato; in the Renaissance – to Ficino. German classical philosophy presented the names of Hegel, Schopenhauer; XXth century – Erich Fromm, KS Lewis; Russian philosophy – B.C. Solovyov, H.A. Berdyaev. Axiological approach defines value paradigm of love; love is revealed in a system of values, represented by philosophies of antiquity – Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Renaissance – L.Valla and Erasmus, in German classical philosophy – Kant’s philosophy of XXth century. – M. Scheler, Erich Fromm, X. Ortega y Gasset. Religious and theological approach implementing St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas; in Russian religious philosophy – S.N Bulgakov, Vladimir Malakhov. Erotic approach is valuable in understanding the nature and content of love and is based on the teachings of Plato, T. Bacon, Hobbes, John. Locke.

A literature review on the site INION showed that the theme of love is widely studied in contemporary society. In the philosophy and sociology there are more than 1,000 works on this subject over the last 10 years. Basically, scholars investigate the problems of the role of love in gender relations and its impact on the development of a man and a society.

The object of the study is the phenomenon of love, the subject – love as a philosophical category. The purpose of the research in this work is philosophical analysis of concepts of love. It requires the formulation and implementation of the following specific tasks: 1) to consider love as a philosophical category; 2) to analyze the phenomenon of love in Plato's

dialogue “Feast”; 3) to analyze the attitude to the phenomenon of love in Russian religious philosophy, which is represented by Vladimir Solovyov; 4) to analyze the love under the concept of Erich Fromm; 5) to consider the Ukrainian philosophical concepts of love, represented in the works of Victor Malakhov.

Before proceeding to the consideration of love as such, it is necessary to define what exactly will be considered. The word “love” is now used so extensively, using it to the place and out of place, so without this specific definition is simply impossible to do. Love is the universal culture of subject series fixed in its content individually deep by individual-selective intimate feeling, vector that directed to your subject and objectified in it quest for self-contained, also love is by itself feeling of love experienced by the object, by itself [5: 578].

The ancient Greeks expressed the concept of “love” in different words: “eros”, “philia”, “agape”, “storge”. To define the level of internal tension or passion, we should make a list [1: 34]: 1) Eros (from the Greek. Eros love) is mainly sexual, passionate love, able to walk to the madness [5: 578]; 2) Philia (from the Greek. Philia) is affection to a variety of “things”. This is love to parents, to children, and love for the Motherland and love of friends (friendship), and erotic love (eros – just one of the kinds of philia), and the love of knowledge, and so on. The noun “philia” has a verb – “Filion” “to bring together – make friends – love”. There are different kinds of love. Love to the father – “Philopator”, love for the mother – “filomator”, love for children – “filopays”, love for his brother – “Philadelphia” [5: 578];

3) “Agape” (from the ancient Greek. *Αγάπη*; agape, Agapa) is soft, sacrificial, descending love for one’s neighbor. 1. Sacrificial love is with oblivion in their own interests and cares in the name of a loved one. 2. The sacrificial love, selfless dedication, dissolving in a loving caring for a loved one [2]. This understanding of love was glorified by Christianity during the late pagan culture; the early Christians were in the habit of “Agape” – fraternal meal [1: 35].

4) Storge is love-tenderness, particularly family love, love of parents to children, developed from friendship [4: 269].

Many philosophers (phenomenology, existentialism) rightly believe that Love is the answer to the problem of human existence, or at least an attempt to make such a response. Therefore, any theory of love has to begin with the theory of man, of human existence. The question whether love existed in antiquity is quite interesting. “Many philosophers, psychologists, scientists believe that in ancient times there was no love, there was only one flesh Eros, simple libido. It is unlikely that in ancient times there was real love” [3: 20]. About love now and then it is said in the most ancient myths of Greece, and in the classical era, almost twenty-five centuries ago; there was even a theory of spiritual love – Socrates and Plato. And what about Greek gods of love? Aphrodite, Eros and many other gods of love. And if there were attempts to explain the nature of love it means that we can say that in ancient times there was the love. It is worth noting that the ancient philosophers were little interested in the question what love was. In love we see no secrets. It simply exists as a space, gods, humans, plants, birds, insects, animals, and other things that exist in this world. Their ideas about love philosophers of antiquity are usually expressed using mythological images. Plato’s love – is the process of moving, rising from stage to stage of knowledge. Therefore, the dialectic of love in Plato is a dialectic of platonic Eros – Eros is knowledge. Plato traced the erotic relationship with the beauty of knowledge. Love is the highest form of knowledge of beauty. The philosophy of love in Plato organically grows into aesthetics, love is the desire for beauty, the aesthetic experience of beauty. [8]

Based on the writings of Vladimir Soloviev, “The Meaning of Love”, love emerged in a person (the nature of God) in the progress of mankind. Everyone aspires to love and reach his individual progress as far as possible, that the achievement of goals extends to infinity. Taken together people achieve human progress. The ultimate goal is love – it is not just a means of perfect union of two individuals, but means of transformation of the whole world, the destruction of its material basis [9].

American sociologist Erich Fromm calls the most essential manifestation of human positive, life-affirming instincts “passionate love”. In his book “The Art of Loving”, he gives such definition of love: “Love is the only positive answer to the question about the problem of human existence” [10: 134]. However, he continues, that the majority of people is not able to develop it to an adequate level of manhood, self-knowledge and determination. Love in general is an art that requires experience and ability to concentrate, intuition and understanding which you need to comprehend. Erich Fromm stresses the importance of love as a passion, which overcomes estrangement between people, generated by a sense of shame, guilty or anxiety. Erich Fromm identifies four elements that support the active nature of love [10]: 1) care as the active attitude to life and well-being of those we love, work for the benefit of others; 2) responsiveness as a willingness to “respond” to the call of another, request, etc .; 3) respect as the ability to see a person as he is, recognizing his individuality (and not as a need for our purposes); it is only when love is free; 4) knowledge that overcomes blindness, inability to see each other; only love is realized the thirst to know yourself and your relatives.

The only full path of knowledge is realized in the act of love. I need to know myself and the other person objective to be able to see his true nature, or, more precisely, to overcome the illusions, wrong, ugly ideas about it. Only when I perceive a living being objective, I can learn it to the most intimate essence, is what I do in love.

Vladimir Malakhov in his article “The vulnerability of Love” sees the God like the object of love. He is called the source of love. The feeling of love is represented through the prism of religion. In my opinion, for a person of the information age, this concept is very interesting and unusual [6]. You may notice that the concept of “love” had interested the mankind from ancient times. Thinkers were interested in the essence of love as it manifests itself and affects people. It should be noted that over the centuries the concept of love changed: from the identification of love with God and his influence is transferred to an independent power, power that arises between people.

In the minds of the people who lived in the ancient times, the understanding of love was strengthened as a gift of the gods, thus it acquired a sacred meaning. But with the strengthening of commodity-money relations people have also begun to use the love as a commodity, selling and buying it. This was the degradation of society. With the disappearance of the sublime love

disappear and human ideals. Do not forget that love belongs to the world of sense, and an attempt to explain its earthly categories does not lead to success. We can only hope to experience this “feeling of love”, which makes us human.

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