

On the Basis of Love: A Critical Analysis

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ABSTRACT: Love is the foundation of all humankind. However, absurdity comes from drastic and self-centered affection and conceited will that caused man's downfall and destruction. Man is indeed the sole victim of his own will. The so-called love caused both life and death in man's existence. This paper explored the nature of love, notion of courtship, extremities of cult, hyper nationalist and the other notions of love to affirm the present condition where absurdity begins. In this inquiry, the assumption on subjective love is found dangerous as evil. The analysis of this inquiry boiled down in the conclusion that people suffer due to their selfishness concealed in love which made it absurd. It is not the love that is harmful, but the will that is severe, aberrant and depraved.

KEYWORD: *absurdity, evil, love, self, will.*

I. INTRODUCTION

How should one define the most enigmatic essence of love? How should one perceive love over his/her capability to equalize it over the will? Love is described in different ways and in many forms. It is viewed by many as positive element in this world. Its power lies and lives within the will of man to exercise its natural potency. Through its driving force, one can move mountains and make rocks into finest sands. As the manner of this force allows one to be good, it has a counterpart effect to transform anyone into evil. As the old adage uttered, too much wine makes one drunken, equally speaking, too much love can kill. It is analogous to a poison that runs in the system of the body and little by little, it decays the entire self. Love has been applied as either objective or subjective matter. There can be many forms of love found in this world – love for fellowmen, for God, for country, for the self, love for excellence and love for someone special. A mere understanding of this notion may be concretely grasped to see its multifaceted shapes.

Man is originally good but innately weak. As Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860), a well-known prophet of pessimism once said that the *will* arises from *want* induced from suffering.[1] This resembles to Plato's claim that (427-347 BCE) man's hunger for pleasure is endowed by *appetite*. [2] Man's weakness which makes him vulnerable is his appetite for love that spoils and decays from within. This is rooted mainly on the traits he possesses to achieve his needs, and in order to satisfy such needs he acts to support and sustain his pleasures. He follows his urges and aspirations and fulfills his selfish desires. This action is called deliberate *will*, a desire that goes beyond the nature of being rationally good. For Schopenhauer, an individual's will is nothing but universal will.[1] This will is not represented by any temporary object but a gratification that lasts for a long period of time.[1] When man's will is induced, his actions will consequently take in effect resulting to horrible sufferings and tormenting perishes.

The will is an active faculty of choice.[3] This will of man is endowed by the judgment inferred from knowledge. As man's choice initiates, the will interacts over reason. The instinct dominates reason leading to commit absurd decision. The reason fetters as the knowledge enslaves the will, then man exercises his power to pursue his own will. Man follows his ruthless and selfish desire to achieve endless fulfillment. This resembles to mental apparatus of the individual in which Sigmund Freud (1856-1939), divided into threefold scheme namely: id, ego and super ego,[4] a repression that triggered the evil conscience to follow his own self-centered will. In this light, it can be inferred that the *will* that man uses to define his *self* and his world through a sort of action is not a mere inertia but a sole faculty of repression. Therefore, *will* is the action of man which the *bad conscience* is inwardly derived from.

The core of this inquiry is love which covers the many sides of human will, deeds, inquiry and desires. This *love* lives the *will* within man but conceals the unnoticed devastating evilness. Considering man's hunger for all his desires, it can be said that love is the most responsible drive for all his/her course of actions, frustrations, dilemmas, and pursuits that may give catastrophic effects to his/her life resulting to favorable or unfavorable consequence to his/her present state. The futile reasoning of man for shoving his/her capacity leads to more complications and downfall of the self. His/Her conscience, the most superior faculty of rational being played a major role in his/her chain of thorough and purposive actions. The primary essence of this paper centers

primarily on love as man's deep urge towards his causal substance of actions. The more man gets involved in love, the more his will becomes greater; the more man possesses this will, the more sufferings he experiences. Love is mysterious and considered as one of most intriguing issues to talk about. The questions that are worthy of discourse and greater depth of understanding are: What is love? What does it mean? What is its essence? What is the mystery behind this substance?

II. METHODOLOGY

This study utilized critical analysis method of understanding, analyzing and synthesizing issues about love to explore and affirm its present notions, facets and effects to humanity. This method was adopted from J.L. Beyer. According to [5] "a critical analysis is subjective writing because it expresses the writer's opinion or evaluation of a text which was broken down into parts". The chief intent of this inquiry is to identify and explain the problem on the notion of love that appears absurd and to provide substantial insights, inspirations and illumination to its readers.

III. ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

A. Personal Affection

Human existence begins with consciousness of something and of someone. The need to love and to be loved has already been grafted in the systemic composition of man and its transcendental effects radiate to control the physical body or the self. From childhood to adulthood with the opposite or same gender, everyone engages to natural affection. Indeed, love is an enigmatic feeling that affects the physical body. With its controlling effects, rational composition of man becomes irrational. What is unacceptable becomes acceptable moving from simplicity to complexity and changing minds to manipulate the heart that is deceitful and decaying. Great and unbeatable men from history have been defeated by this force. They combated in thousands of warfare, killed men, beasts and enemies, triumphed in battleship, and gained power but destroyed by one single possession – love. Samson, an Israelite judge and warrior was defeated when he was deceived by Delilah causing the cutting of his hair. Achilles, a demi-god and magnanimous Greek hero of the Trojan War was also slain due to his intention to save his women. According to Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900), women are destructions. This may cause dismay and provoke others, but his thought is clearly observed in the society today. As human desires to love and be loved, it also makes or breaks the one who feels it. This love hurts and ruins the self and it lets everyone to sacrifice and suffer. This kind of absurdity is common to all men. Nietzsche reflected his idea on love in one of his compositions "*Thus spoke Zarathustra*":

You crowd together with your neighbors and have beautiful words for it. But I tell you: Your love of your neighbor is bad love of yourselves.

You flee to your neighbor away from yourselves and would like to make a virtue of it: but I see through your 'selfishness'.

The 'You' is older than the 'I'; the 'You' has been consecrated, but not yet the 'I'; so man crowds towards his neighbor.

Do I exhort you to love of your neighbor? I exhort you rather to flight from your neighbor and to love of the most distant!

Higher than love of one's neighbor stands love of the most distant man and of the man of the future; higher still than love of man I account love of causes and of phantoms.

This phantoms that runs along behind you, my brother, is fairer than you; why do you not give it your flesh and bones? But you are afraid and you run to your neighbor.

You cannot endure to be alone with yourselves and do not love yourselves enough: now you want to mislead your neighbor into love and gild yourselves with the mistakes.[6]

Nietzsche emphasized that love must be exercised with objectivity over subjectivity; a love that is constant and free from biases, from selfishness and absurdity. Buddhism exhorts not to cling thyself to such kind of inclination.[7] Love in its purest nature offers holistic sacredness to entire humanity and it does imply no harm to the self except the intention that becomes more personal with selfish desire. The desire to love someone may be deceiving and often misleading if led by the selfish will which causes one to fall into indignation and exasperation. A sole virtue can be transformed into perversion of lust. Most often a person does good deeds to his neighbor making him/her believe in the good intention being shown. However, behind that virtue of a person conceals his hidden filth and desire for his neighbor[6] that is deliberately extreme to fulfill the lust of the flesh. The vulnerable self despises and worsens the love for itself and engages to lust. Abstinence cannot be endured by the self. Personal interests confine mind to think less rational and fall into the loops of absurdity.

B. Courtship

Courtship is regarded as man's way or attempt to convince someone to believe in the same level of likeness and attraction to fall both parties into affection. The concept of courtship is mostly inspired by cultural orientation

that is rooted in tradition and religious customs. The practice of courtship only appears in the sight of the people who want to betray others; who want to deceive a heart to prove that the one who shows it is capable and worthy of something he has been aspiring. There is futile pretension in it and this is complete absurdity. The biochemical reaction of man, as society fondly called it “magic” between two lovers creates infatuation where they both share a common feeling. Information from the human brain is sent to the most parts of the body via electrical impulses or codes.[8] This information is sent to the brain to initiate actions[8] and carry out the will. The enigmatic affection of lovers is not triggered by the process of courtship but rather induced by immediate appetite. The gaze sequences an affection that is a natural instinct of species in his desire for sex that sustains pleasure and lustful needs. On the contrary, if the process does not come from the biochemical substance, this is only merchandizing or economic survival [9] that is presently practiced in the community as a means of practicality to life, security and assurance for stability.

C. Cultism

Cultism is manifested by certain religious group of people that extremely and fanatically admires and follows certain practices and customs. This religious guild is seen as a portion of massive religious groups. These followers were described as deeply devoted members of a religious guild but greatly deceived by their leaders.[10] Thus, it is observed that majority of the people live in delusional beliefs suffer from the distortions of reality and perversion of truths.

Ignorance exists but not a probable justification of human existence. Many have abused the state of being ignorant by taking advantage of the other, making them slaves of their power, controlling and depriving them of their natural faculty, and brainwashing them to manipulate their will to choose and be free. The French philosopher, Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980), postulates that when an individual chooses in the course of making himself or pursuing his being, he chooses not only for himself but also for all people.[11] Man is therefore, responsible not only for his own individuality but also for the sake of the majority. Existentialists believe that man possesses his own will and should use it responsibly. People are influenced by different sorts of elements such as belief, education, possession, appearance, and power, but the most influential tool being used today to move people is religion. Notable thinkers and scholars provided compendium of proofs on this confidential issue, and all fall into common ground, the absurdity of man.

A sort of love that has a deceiving face coated with goodwill entices all to get entrapped. Religions have used this as a fishing net to attract people, to propagate their clans and conquer the world. These religious predators roar to their strongest utterance to get what they selfishly want. They wear the mask of fraudulence to lure others for their sake and for their own advantage. In love, the self must be responsible to the dictates of his own subjective emotions through substance. These beasts have no rights to despise the sacredness of “love” against the will. Of all the forms of love, the love of God seems to be the most unfathomable. It is absolute, limitless, and sacrificial. Because of man’s limited understanding of God’s love, he made a permissive way to interpret its depth and breadth. He used his will and faculties to get advantage of it. People get deceived through the impostor projection of this love. The word of God is sacred and holy, most revered testament ever written in the history but now made as poisonous substance by those ambitious beasts to control and exterminate their congregation. Many have been entrapped and hypnotized and other could not find a way out to escape. The German philosopher Karl Marx (1818- 1883) postulates that “*religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world and the soul of soulless condition. It is the opium of the people*”.[12] Religious institutions make people believe in their salvation after life,[10] that by good works they will be saved and that by staying in their religion they remain saved. This is totally absurd. People created religious antidote to cure their anxious state and sufferings in this physical world.[10] Through this state, instead people fight for reason they intended to surrender and worse they blindly follow the predators of the present society. From this idea, the love of God had been turned into something dangerous, poisonous and poignant making it as a deadly instrument to deceive others.

D. Nationalism

Nationalism means loyalty and devotion for the nation. It is a desire by certain people to form a separate and independent nation of their own. Thus, it is the love expressed for one’s country. Heroes had laid down their lives for freedom. They sacrificed their physical body for others to be freed from the shackles of slavery. They defeated the most notorious slanderer and defied death so others could live. Nietzsche justified voluntary death as an optimistic act. He argued that the best thing is to die in the battle and to squander a great soul.[6] Opposing is the way towards harmony. Jesus Christ is the best example and perfect representation of love through death. He was also known as the second Adam. He came for the purpose of love by redeeming human race from the wages of sin and eternal punishment. The physical death of his body is the rise of a substance that will remain forever and that is His spirit. It is believed this is where the noble heroes of the past had clung their passion to die for others.

Man is created with a deliberate composition of the self. His will is accorded to his desires that determine his actions. In his search for power, he risks his very own life. As he pursues his desires for possession, he loses his soul and in profound strive for progress, he spoils his physical world. It is of paramount understanding that man never achieves optimum level of satisfaction. As he gains, he also craves for more abundant profit. There is unending search for meaning, hunger for pleasure and irresolvable indigence from his chaotic world.

Beyond patriotism, there is an inevitable temptation of the self. In reality, leaders of communities who swear in the name of God and law abuse their power and position. These leaders who are held responsible for the execution and maintenance of peace and order and public safety are the constant participants in illegal doings.[13]Police officers, barangay officials, from councilors to municipal leaders have taken their part in corruption, robbery, illegal drugs and briberies.

Love is virtuous but terribly dangerous. When applied to the self, it doubles the risk and it can become more jeopardous. The German leader Adolf Hitler attempted to establish a totalitarian government from Nazi ideology, innovation to fascism to build a new nation in accordance to his will. The Nazi's own concern with unity is "one empire, one people, one leader".[14] He attempted to control nations and concerned only in *superior* race. Hitler misunderstood the metaphorical readings of Nietzsche. Nietzsche's aim in his writings was just a mere manifestation on the idea of genealogy of morals. He intended to clarify his ideas concerning the evolution of morality of humanity. On the other hand, the interest of Hitler became more personal and savage. His eagerness to achieve his ambition resulted to a terrible genocide, a massive massacre of the Jews race which grounded on Christianity and a manifestation of the slave morality.

If the Nazis shocked the west, the Japanese assailed the east. No words can define the brutality of what the Japanese soldiers did in several parts of the east, especially to the heart of mainland China- *Nanking*. According to Iris Chang, author of the "*The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*", the Japanese teachers mold the young men, preparing them psychologically for a future invasion of the Chinese mainland.[15]These Japanese teachers who were military officers taught their students about their duty to help Japan fulfill its "*divine destiny*" of conquering Asia.[15]Leaders aimed to stand up to the world's nations as a people second to none.[15]The atrocities committed by imperial Japanese army in Nanking incident during World War II is a forgotten holocaust. It is a shattering past, a hidden story that can be described as one of the ruthless, vicious but notorious crime ever done in history. Accordingly, killing went nonstop, from morning until night as thousands of Chinese (soldier and civilian) were massacred. Women were raped and enslaved and other victims were experimented alive by Unit 731 (Biological and Chemical Warfare Research and Development Unit).

Kozo Takokoro, a former soldier in the 114th Division of the imperial Japanese army attested and confirmed the crimes and brutality of the Japanese.[15]He revealed: "*No matter how young or old, they all could not escape the fate of being raped. We sent out coal trucks from Hsiakwan to the city streets and villages to seize a lot of women. And then each of them was allocated to 15 to 20 soldiers for sexual intercourse and abuse.*"[15]Another former soldier who spoke about his past professed that he had once been a ruthless murderer. Hakudo Nagatomi, a doctor in Japan. Nagatomi said that, "*Few know that soldiers impaled babies on bayonets and tossed them still alive into pots of boiling water.*"[15] Nagatomi added, "*They gang-raped women from the ages of twelve to eighty and then killed them when they could no longer satisfy sexual requirements. I beheaded people, starved them to death, burned them, and buried them alive, over two hundred in all. It is terrible that I could turn into an animal and do these things. There are really no words to explain what I was doing. I was truly a devil.*"[15]This horrible tragedy of the Nanking incident may be hidden and faded by time but it will never be forgotten. It cannot be healed by time nor concealed by distance. Its scars are imprinted in the history and the bloodshed and terrible aches caused by suppression will ever remain. The wounds brought by such wars, in which Japanese army believed an obedience in their duty, in order to fulfill the *divine destiny* of their beloved country, will never heal and nor find a relief by the devastating pain that had been inflicted to the victims. Sun Zi warned us that:

"Anger may in time change to gladness; vexation may be succeeded by content. But a kingdom that has once been destroyed can never come again into being; nor the dead ever be brought back to life."[16]

War is inevitable and it is the sadistic reality and nature of man. It can result to severe destruction not only his life but also his being. Sun Zi stresses to be wise in war while exhorting for peace. Sun Zi's main concern was to think before we act, calculate consequences and examine our decisions. What we did in past may echo in the present and can result to suffering in the future. The absurd perception on love can also lead to savage and harsh impulse of man. Remarkable chaos surpassed civilizations. Thousands of lives were sacrificed, blood was shed and people were punished and enslaved. The selfish behavior of humankind resulted to bitter wars due to failure in politics dictated by the self.

E. Substance

Why does love create a backfire effect to the pressing dilemmas and sufferings of our society in spite of its power to renew the broken spirit and revive the dying soul? The notion of Nietzsche about love is paradoxical. Man can deliberate his actions either good or evil. Such show of kindness is coated with good intentions to conceal pretensions and fulfill hideous desires. Doing good for others is not always necessary and pure. Utterance from good tongues is not always worthy of hearing as it can also harm the deepest soul of man and break one's spirit. The very existence of man in this world invokes that he is rationally good and has intuitive sage. What makes man evil is his capability to permissively deliberate his own will. This is not a mere inertia but an active instinct of man which is called *repression*, [17] a concept of alteration of good and evil. The morals of man are deceitful and desperately wicked.

Nietzsche postulated that love is composed of seven devils [6] such as envy, greed, wrath, pride, lust, gluttony, and sloth. The examples above along with the concept of love exemplify these seven devils. Love for neighbor is lust while love for country includes pride, greed, and wrath. The love for God is dominated by greedy and pretentious goodwill from the predators of religion and politics who are slothful and terribly maleficent. Love for the self is associated with an impulse of desire, pleasure, and lust. The ingredient employed in love depends on their aim or intentions. This kind of love is classified as subjective in which selfishness desires its own pleasures.

The love that is grounded on virtues and morality allow human to be free from selfish desires. This form of love seems hard to achieve because only few are willing to give without essential benefits. Few are willing to gamble in the name of love. They are considered coward and greedy in the arena of the game. Similarly, only few can love without expecting in return, with the absence of the seven devils, and only the chosen few can love like Jesus. Who would dare to emulate it? None. Those devils defeat us for we let pessimism to fulfill our pleasures choosing lust and sexual urges than fidelity and purity and pursuing greediness over godly gratitude and contentment.

It is absurd to allow such devils to reside in the self. Love becomes poisonous, harmful, threatening and dangerous when it delves into evil desires. The contrast between genuine and evil love brings tragic outcomes if not controlled by the utmost intention of the will. The intention of heroes, warriors, statesmen, patriots, nationalists and Jesus Christ to typify love is defeated, in effect, the self is deprived of the opportunity on existence.

The action of man refers to his *will*. This *will* therefore is defined as man's aim for selfish desires that is anchored on love—love for power, love for position, love for possession and love for the self. This will refers to man's faculty of choice, [3] the impulse leading to the so-called *bad conscience*. This kind of conscience is the result of repression from active instincts [17] of man. It is the ego that dictates the human choice, and it is also the super ego that auxiliaries the passion of choice. Once man commits himself to the state of repression, he becomes irrational animal possessing bad conscience, self-centeredness and greedy desires.

It is crystal clear to affirm that the causes of evil and the suffering of man are anchored on the creation of the “*self*”, the kind of self that spoils love to become conceited and threatening. Love may harm either the self or others if one gets attached to it and becomes uncontrolled and irrational of his/her will. Siddhartha Gautama (530-480 BCE) “*Buddha*” (The Enlightened One) - postulated “*Anatta*” (no self/soul) and asserted that life is infinite and there is no static being but rather a process of becoming. [7] Everything is continuously changing and nothing is permanent. *Anatta* is aimed at uprooting the human bondage to the self that Buddhism was thought to be the true source of *Dukkha* (suffering). [7] A subjective love that starts from clinging to something or grows from perverted will entraps one to be imprisoned in his/her own devastating and decaying love. If one frees himself from clinging to it and overcomes his/her cravings in the filth of desire, pleasure and selfishness, no one will be entombed and buried in state of *Dukkha*. So why someone should suffer and become a victim of love?

IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

This paper examined and revealed the different notions of love. The affection of a person for his neighbor can harm both self and will of others and lead to destructive end. The love for one's neighbor weakens and rots the strongest heart of a warrior. The paper also discussed that the genuine love is objective when it is constant and free from biases or selfishness.

Courtship appears to be futile and absurd when affection is centered solely on infatuation. The cause of affection between two lovers is through biochemical reaction. Thus, it is a natural appetite to have pleasure for sex. However, courtship might be pragmatic in terms of economic survival and security for future stability.

The admiration and concern of religious guild or cult become extremely dangerous and alarming. The devotion for its belief caused exaggeration and drastic effects which bring nothing but mere devastation, doubts and danger in the lives of their followers. Indeed, the love for their followers are mere outcomes of their selfishness and extreme deceitfulness.

The nationalist appears to have serious patriotic impulse but desirous to have more personal self-centered ambitions and gains. Often, people do not explicitly concern about their country or independence but acquisitive and covetous for power, position, possession for personal advantage.

The content of love is composed of seven devils called the deadly sins. The occurrence of love is mostly derived from such elements. Thus, the love for fellowman, for God, for country, for the self, for excellence and for someone special is nothing but an outburst of a mere subjective aim- pleasure. Man is often conquered by his best enemy which is the very self. Man is intoxicated in the excessive love that led to be dominated by his emotion or appetite. Hence, Nietzsche stressed that the will- devil must be overpowered. Gautama Buddha also amplified the doctrine of *anatta* or non-self which explains that there is no permanent and unchanging self. In order to avoid clinging, breaking a chain from one's selfishness must be done. The genuine love that allows one to stand and be just is the love that benefits the many over the chosen few, a love that save the entire humanity.

The present investigation reveals that man is conquered by his own selfishness and is drunk of his excessive appetite for love and lust. This results to a drastic impact to society. The love brought by the seven devils would become severe if it is not controlled properly. What is more absurd is the fact that all are victims of their own will and they suffer because of the force they possess called love. Nevertheless, it is not love that is harmful but the will that is severe and dangerous.

Lastly, there is undeniable realization why a person becomes confused in many certain perspectives of love which are hard to comprehend. A realization on absurdities on man's will in concealing evils, confining progress, perverting truth over ignorance, distorting of realities and continuous illumination of illusions hinder all to reach the truth. Moreover, although everyone knows the limits of reason, one may believe or not that the *truth* cannot be answered by reason, and can only be found within the *self*. Despite torment, trial, testing and temptations, life is still meant to live; a gift to be enjoyed with its ups and downs, from its tribulation and triumphs, and from its vanity as well as victory. After all, love is one great gift that has ever been bestowed to mankind.

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