

Love as an entity essay

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There are different varieties of love, each with its own capabilities to invoke powerful emotions.

An idealistic love is a form of love which in many ways is quixotic and lacking essential attributes, proof of which can be found in the works of Christopher Marlowe and Sir Walter Raleigh. Another potent form of love is pure love which is unconditional and timeless as expressed by Shakespeare and Elizabeth Berrett Browning. On a different note, a twisted love is flawed and bound to fail as revealed by Robert Browning. In Marlowe's "The Passionate Shepherd and His Love" and Raleigh's "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd," an idealistic yet inadequate love is displayed between a Shepherd and his Lover. Love cannot be bought. Even with "buckles of the purest gold," the Shepherd could not win his lover over (1. 20). The Shepherd tries to show his love in the form of material goods, but unfortunately a relationship built on materialism does not make for a resilient relationship.

Trust is one of the many prerequisites of love. Raleigh feels that the Nymph wants to believe the Shepherd's words, the Nymph however has a hard time believing that "truth exists in every shepherd's tongue" (1. 2). Trust in words is a virtue that is built over time and cannot simply be fabricated without a connection. Stability is another necessity closely tied to trust.

The Nymph questions their relationship and wonders if love will still be able to breed even after their youth (1. 21). Without the promise of emotional security, the Nymph refuses to commit to an unguided relationship. By making up for the shortcomings of an idealistic relationship, a genuine love

is allowed to blossom. Pure love can overcome obstacles as depicted through Shakespeare's "Sonnet 130," "Sonnet 18," and Elizabeth Browning's "Sonnet 43.

"The idea of beauty varies from person to person. Shakespeare acknowledges in his "Sonnet 130" that even though "music hath a more pleasing sound" than his lover's voice; her voice carries its own unique beauty (1. 10). Shakespeare embraces his lover's flaws as beautiful and is able to turn her imperfections into art. Incidentally, true love is also able to be revived in the form of art. In Shakespeare's "Sonnet 18," he "gives life to [his lover]" in the form of his timeless words of devotion (1. 14).

By reminding people of future generations of his eternal love for this woman, he once again gives life to their once forgotten love. In addition to revitalization, loyalty is another timeless trait of true love. Elizabeth Browning's "Sonnet 43" considers love to not only last a lifetime, but to reach its "[zenith] after death" (1. 14). In most cases, relationships do not prove to be flawless or untainted; at times relationships can stray into the domain of the unnaturally warped.

Twisted relationships of unhealthy and immoral behaviors are found in Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess" and "Porphyria's Lover." A relationship in which a couple is unable to vent their angers to each other is unhealthy. In "My Last Duchess," the Duke had a bad habit of keeping his anger about his Duchess's smile within; he eventually becomes determined to end her life and make "all smiles stop" (605).

By holding in his anger and allowing it to build up, he eventually could not take it anymore and released his anger in the form of carnage; ironically similar to William Blake's "A Poison Tree". Having possessive characteristics is another unhealthy trait of a twisted relationship. In "Porphyria's Lover," the man feels power over Porphyria as she worships him and he claims her to be "Mine, mine, and fair" (l. 36). By allowing him to deem himself superior, Porphyria is cast aside and simply viewed as an object or trophy. In addition to being possessive, Porphyria's Lover is also gravely egotistic. The man basks in his glory as he tightens his grasp "around her neck" (l. 47).

Even after strangling her to death, Porphyria's lover seems to still be infatuated with her. Surprisingly, traces of egotism can be found in the two male lovers of Browning's ironic story titles of self love after killing their lovers; twisted love becomes evident simply by crossing the thin border which separates pure and twisted love. The different variations of love are although different are closely related. As seen in "The Passionate Shepherd and His Love" and "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd," idealistic love is a form of pure love but however lacks some essential traits such as trust and emotional stability. On the other hand, pure love is powerful, tolerant, and timeless as seen in the sonnets of Shakespeare and Elizabeth Browning. Lastly, twisted love is a flawed form of love that at times becomes closely tied to sin and death as depicted in "My Last Duchess" and "Porphyria's Lover." In the end, love is a power that encompasses almost all aspects of life, any situation as simple as letter, picture or relationship carries with it a story that speaks of a love.