

LOVING, SCIENCE OF.....Elliott #487

My good friends Jerry and Elizabeth Jud did, after long research that deserves the term "science," TRAINING IN THE ART OF LOVING (United Church Press/74). Now (Oct/74 PSYCHOLOGY TODAY) Jn. Alan Lee, sociologist of Toronto University, has done a book on the taxonomy or typology of loving, using color coding....This thinksheet intends (a) to display the options/tensions in Lee's model and (b) provide a Christian model of the same components [without pejorative reference to Lee's model]....Lee's intention is to reduce misunderstandings through displaying the love-styles (presumably related to one's "nature" as distinct from others' "natures"). My intention is, additionally, to reveal the riches of love as the exfoliation of the divine nature and as invitation to praise, to filling the covenant-glory of God.

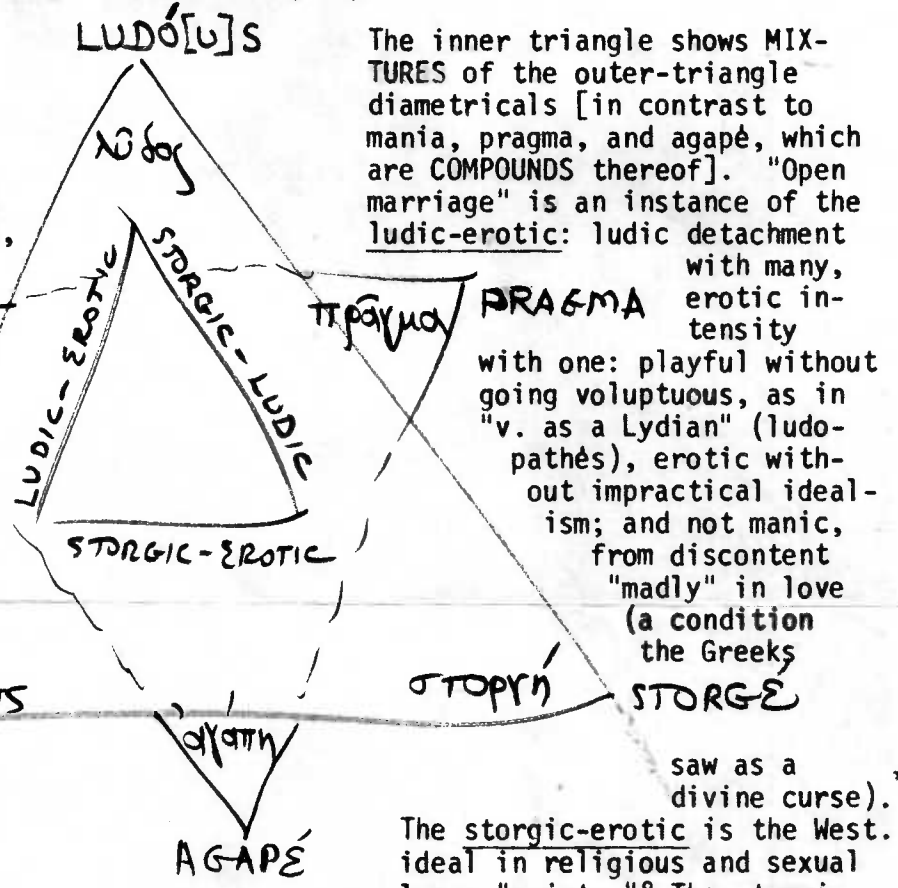
Star-points opposite from each other are at maximum distance for understanding. Dutiful storgé can't "dig" out-of-control mania, and vice versa. Idealistic-romantic eros thinks pragma grotesquely businesslike, and pragma thinks eros irres-

MANIA  
responsibly dreamy. Agapé thinks ludos a philandering cop-out on "real" love, and ludos considers agapé a masochistic cop-out on self-love, the sacrifice of game in the interest of gift, self-giving.

[Work at the negative dialectics on the intermediate triangle.]

[\*But "open marriage" is in default vis-a-vis the monotheistic-monogamic.]

[°Please add the ludic!]

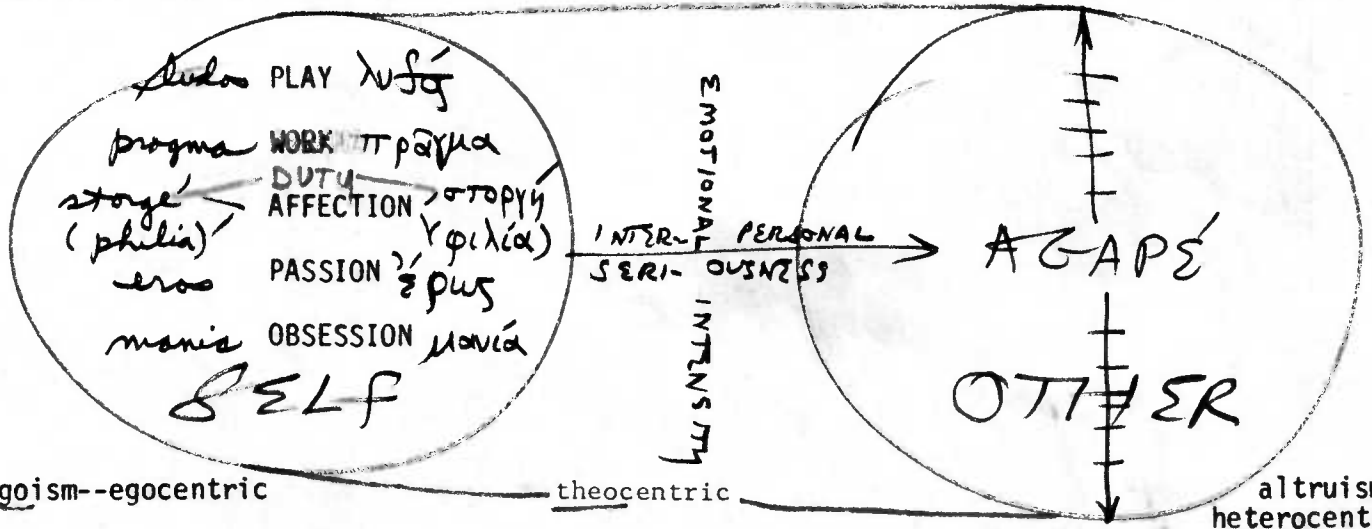


The inner triangle shows MIXTURES of the outer-triangle diametricals [in contrast to mania, pragma, and agapé, which are COMPOUNDS thereof]. "Open marriage" is an instance of the ludic-erotic: ludic detachment with many, erotic intensity with one: playful without going voluptuous, as in "v. as a Lydian" (ludopathés), erotic without impractical idealism; and not manic, from discontent "madly" in love (a condition the Greeks saw as a divine curse).

The storgic-erotic is the West ideal in religious and sexual love: "saints."° The storgic-ludic is not computer-pragmatic ("love with a shopping list," or arranged marriage), but balances the ludic (the least stable relationship) and the storgic (the most stable relationship).

This diagram displays, modifies, and critiques Lee.

In this diagram I suggest separating the agapaic from the other love-components.



egoism--egocentric

theocentric

altruism--heterocentric

## Graph Your Own Style of Loving

Consider each characteristic as it applies to a current relationship that you define as love, or to a previous one if that is more applicable. For each, note whether the trait is *almost always* true (AA), *usually* true (U), *rarely* true (R), or *almost never* true (AN).

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|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b> You consider your childhood less happy than the average of peers R AN U</p> <p><b>2</b> You were discontent with life (work, etc.) at time your encounter began R AN U R</p> <p><b>3</b> You have never been in love before this relationship U R AN R</p> <p><b>4</b> You want to be in love or have love as security R AN AA AN AN U</p> <p><b>5</b> You have a clearly defined ideal image of your desired partner AA AN AN AN U AN R AA</p> <p><b>6</b> You felt a strong gut attraction to your beloved on the first encounter AA R AN R AN</p> <p><b>7</b> You are preoccupied with thoughts about the beloved AA AN AN AA R</p> <p><b>8</b> You believe your partner's interest is at least as great as yours U R AN R U</p> <p><b>9</b> You are eager to see your beloved almost every day; this was true from the beginning AA AN R AA R AN R</p> <p><b>10</b> You soon believed this could become a permanent relationship AA AN R AN R AA AN U</p> <p><b>11</b> You see "warning signs" of trouble but ignore them R R AA AN R R</p> <p><b>12</b> You deliberately restrain frequency of contact with partner AN AA R R R R U</p> <p><b>13</b> You restrict discussion of your feelings with beloved R AA U U R U U</p> <p><b>14</b> You restrict display of your feelings with beloved R AA R U R U U</p> <p><b>15</b> You discuss future plans with beloved AA R R AN AA</p> <p><b>16</b> You discuss wide range of topics, experiences with partner AA R U R AA</p> <p><b>17</b> You try to control relationship, but feel you've lost control AN AN AN AA AN AN</p> | <p><b>18</b> You lose ability to be first to terminate relationship AN AN AA R U R R</p> <p><b>19</b> You try to force beloved to show more feeling, commitment AN AN AA AN R</p> <p><b>20</b> You analyze the relationship, weigh it in your mind AN U R R AA</p> <p><b>21</b> You believe in the sincerity of your partner AA U R U AA</p> <p><b>22</b> You blame partner for difficulties of your relationship R U R U R AN</p> <p><b>23</b> You are jealous and possessive but not to the point of angry conflict U AN R R AN</p> <p><b>24</b> You are jealous to the point of conflict, scenes, threats, etc. AN AN AN AA R AN AN AN</p> <p><b>25</b> Tactile, sensual contact is very important to you AA AN U AN R</p> <p><b>26</b> Sexual intimacy was achieved early, rapidly in the relationship AA AN AN U R U</p> <p><b>27</b> You take the quality of sexual rapport as a test of love AA U AN U AN U R</p> <p><b>28</b> You are willing to work out sex problems, improve technique U R R U R U</p> <p><b>29</b> You have a continued high rate of sex, tactile contact throughout the relationship U R R U R R</p> <p><b>30</b> You declare your love first, well ahead of partner AN R AA AA</p> <p><b>31</b> You consider love life your most important activity, even essential AA AN R AA AA R R</p> <p><b>32</b> You are prepared to "give all" for love once under way U AN U AA R AA R R</p> <p><b>33</b> You are willing to suffer abuse, even ridicule from partner AN R AA R AN</p> <p><b>34</b> Your relationship is marked by frequent differences of opinion, anxiety R AA R AA R R R</p> <p><b>35</b> The relationship ends with lasting bitterness, trauma for you AN R R AA R AN R R</p> |
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Eros  
 Ludus  
 Storge  
 Mania  
 Ludic Eros  
 Storgic Eros  
 Storgic Ludus  
 Pragma  
 HAGAPE

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To diagnose your style of love, look for patterns across characteristics. If you consider your childhood less happy than that of your friends, were discontent with life when you fell in love, and very much want to be in love, you have "symptoms" that are rarely typical of eros and almost never true of storge, but which do suggest mania. Where a trait did not especially apply to a type of love, the space in that column is blank. Storge, for instance, is not the *presence* of many symptoms of love, but precisely their absence: it is cool, abiding affection rather than *Sturm und Drang*.

*OVER*