

DISPUTATION CLXXIX

February 15, 2018

Dear Peucinians:

Love is on the mind this week due to Valentine's Day, a chance for Lindt, Tiffany & Co., and Hallmark to get out of the red. Images of love, romance, *eros*, and affection are all around us—but do these images suggest that love is of a particular nature? The terms “soulmate,” “the one,” and “true love” weigh heavily on our psyche; the political, religious, and social institutions of our society recognize and laud romantic partnerships that consist of *pairs*—typically heterosexual ones. But what is love? How does non-monogamy work, what is its appeal, and what can we learn from it? What undergirds a happy relationship? How do we conceive of sex, and are we right? Ought we try—something else?

RESOLVED: CONSIDER NON-MONOGRAMY

A Forum presented by Mikhail Bulgakov '18

This week we will be engaging with a format new to most of you. The Forum functions much like a Roundtable: the one host will give an oration at the opening of the disputation that will supply us with background information and a broad range of concerns to begin the discussion. Unlike in a Roundtable, the resolved statement in a Forum is not a thesis or an imperative that we can vote on; nevertheless, we will debate the topic—and its associates—as deeply as any other. Instead of voting at the end of the night, we will only ask questions.

We cannot not find answers alone, and the necessary questions are difficult even to articulate. We must look honestly within ourselves and share what we find. So: what is right, what is wrong? Give me a sign...

Thursday, February 15, 7:45 p.m.
Third Floor of Massachusetts Hall
Semi-formal attire

PLSH,
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

P.S. Given the intimacy of the topic, I ask that you please use discretion when discussing this Forum after the fact; in particular, please refrain from naming or outing people without their consent.

P.P.S. Please review the brief list of terms, attached, provided by Mikhail Bulgakov, which will speed up the “background” portion of the Forum.

*Odi et amo. quare id faciam fortasse requiris
nescio, sed fieri sentio et excrucior.*
—C. Valerius Catullus, *Carmina* 85

I hate and I love. Perhaps you ask why I do this;
I don't know, but I feel it happening, and I am tortured.
trans. Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Ἔρος δ' ἐτίναξέ μοι
φρένας, ὡς ἄνεμος κατ' ὄρος δρύσιν ἐμπέτων.
—Sappho, fr. 26

Eros shook my mind
like a mountain wind falling on oak trees.
trans. Anne Carson, If Not, Winter: Fragments of Sappho, 2002



Frederic Leighton, *Idyll*, 1880