

## Disputation CCXIII

February 13, 2020

Dear Peucinians,

There's now a warrant out for your heroes: no longer will they be permitted to corrupt your mind with lofty aspirations! Next on trial: sexual media for public consumption. Yes, that's right, we're disputing porn. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, and a certain spirit of Greek *eros* in the air, we shall consider whether pornography elevates or debases the feelings we have for each other.

### **RESOLVED: PORNOGRAPHY HARMS SOCIETY**

**Affirmative: Giambattista Vico '21**

**Negative: e e cummings '22**

Plain and simple, it is disgusting to view another human as a means to your own physical pleasure, and not as an end in him or herself. Pornography exploits and objectifies its actors, and addicts and degrades its viewers to a taste for simple, animal lust. In general, we should question all forms of passion which direct us to the worldly and the bodily, rather than the transcendent. With the advance of digital technology, our desire for authentic human relationships risks diversion in fantasy-driven simulacra. We may soon reach a point where simulated sex eclipses the desire for a real human embrace, and the affinity of souls which results. The power of porn should disturb you, prompt concern for your fellows, and the impressionable souls of the next generation.

If pornography presently inflicts damage upon society, this is merely a function of its content, and not the form itself. Porn is not essentially exploitative or superficial, and we can make it to inspire better sex and better relationships. Humans have long depicted the erotic for the purposes of arousal: we find this in pottery and painting, books and film. Pornography can be art, it can inspire beauty. Furthermore, porn can help people to explore their own desires, and can form a healthy outlet for natural human passions. Consumption of porn is a matter of free choice, and you should feel obligated to preserve this for others—even if you yourself do not wish to partake.

Should we protect porn as a legitimate form of human expression? Does porn empower the self or corrupt it? Can human relationships be transcendent? Many college communities now find themselves [joining the debate](#). It is time we did so as well.

**Thursday, February 13th, 7:45 PM**

**Massachusetts Hall, Third Floor\***

**Semi-Formal Attire**

Sincerely yours,

Gilgamesh

*Pinos Loquentes Semper Habemus*

\* This room can be reached only by stairs. Please contact me if you wish to attend and this presents a difficulty for you.