

DE ARTE HONESTE AMANDI

[The Art of Courtly Love], Book Two: On the Rules of Love

1. Marriage is no real excuse for not loving.
2. He who is not jealous cannot love.
3. No one can be bound by a double love.
4. It is well known that love is always increasing or decreasing.
5. That which a lover takes against his will of his beloved has no relish.
6. Boys do not love until they arrive at the age of maturity.
7. When one lover dies, a widowhood of two years is required of the survivor.
8. No one should be deprived of love without the very best of reasons.
9. No one can love unless he is impelled by the persuasion of love.
10. Love is always a stranger in the home of avarice.
11. It is not proper to love any woman whom one should be ashamed to seek to marry.
12. A true lover does not desire to embrace in love anyone except his beloved.
13. When made public love rarely endures.
14. The easy attainment of love makes it of little value; difficulty of attainment makes it prized.
15. Every lover regularly turns pale in the presence of his beloved.
16. When a lover suddenly catches sight of his beloved his heart palpitates.
17. A new love puts to flight an old one.
18. Good character alone makes any man worthy of love.
19. If love diminishes, it quickly fails and rarely revives.
20. A man in love is always apprehensive.
21. Real jealousy always increases the feeling of love.
22. Jealousy, and therefore love, are increased when one suspects his beloved.
23. He whom the thought of love vexes, eats and sleeps very little.
24. Every act of a lover ends with in the thought of his beloved.
25. A true lover considers nothing good except what he thinks will please his beloved.
26. Love can deny nothing to love.
27. A lover can never have enough of the solaces of his beloved.
28. A slight presumption causes a lover to suspect his beloved.
29. A man who is vexed by too much passion usually does not love.
30. A true lover is constantly and without intermission possessed by the thought of his beloved.
31. Nothing forbids one woman being loved by two men or one man by two women.

De Arte Honestae Amicitiae

The Art of Courtly Love

Consider these five points from the reading:

He who is not jealous cannot love.

Real jealousy always increases the feeling of love.

Jealousy, and therefore love, are increased when one suspects his beloved.

A slight presumption causes a lover to suspect his beloved.

Love is always a stranger in the home of avarice.

Discuss:

- How has the modern perception of jealousy changed since medieval times?
- Why do you think this change has occurred?
- The medieval mind sees a direct connection between jealousy and love. Why would there be such a need for rampant jealousy?
- Trusting your beloved is never mentioned. Why is this so?
- Is Trust a modern virtue, and if so, why has it become one?
- Medieval lovers are almost encouraged to mistrust their beloved? Why?
- The last line says that love does not live with Avarice. Jealousy seems a different form of Avarice. Is there a clear distinction? Why?
- If you completed trusted your beloved, would the medieval mind say that you are not truly in love? Support your answer.

Consider these points from the reading:

When one lover dies, a widowhood of two years is required of the survivor.

Nothing forbids one woman being loved by two men or one man by two women.

A new love puts to flight an old one.

Questions:

- Did the medieval mind thought that love was eternal? Why?
- Did the medieval mind believe in pre-destined love? Why?
- Why does the medieval mind presume that the love of a deceased beloved will fade? Is it because of a loss of jealousy, the fuel of love? Why or why not?

Consider these points from the reading:

It is not proper to love any woman whom one should be ashamed to seek to marry.

A true lover does not desire to embrace in love anyone except his beloved.

Every lover regularly turns pale in the presence of his beloved.

When a lover catches sight of his beloved his heart palpitates.

Questions:

- Which of these standards have changed in the modern world? Why have they changed?
Which of these standards have not changed in the modern world? Why have they not changed?
- Which do you believe *should* be true, and why?
- Which do you believe *should* remain untrue, and why?

Consider the following point:

The easy attainment of love makes it of little value; difficulty of attainment makes it prized.

Questions:

- Is this philosophy summed up in the modern phrase “play hard-to-get”? Why or why not?
- Does this rule negate “love at first sight”? Why or why not?
- Does this rule accidentally negate any of the other rules? Why or why not?

Consider the following points:

When made public love rarely endures.

Love can deny nothing to love.

No one can be bound to a double love.

Marriage is no real excuse for not loving.

Good character alone makes any man worthy of love.

Questions:

- Are these lines encouraging adulterous affairs? Why or why not?
- Which of these lines do you believe were directed at medieval women or wives in particular? Why?
- What if your love exists outside your marriage? Which of these rules provides for that situation? Why?