

An Epicurean Understanding of Valentine's Day: Love, Romance, and Free-will

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Maybe I'll add a thought to this conversation- I'm far too young to be married and haven't had a romantic relationship before, so I'm having the viewpoint of an "outsider". Even so, I think that this gives me a unique opportunity to see the situation from a different viewpoint than you 😊

At least as far as I can judge, I see the concept of marriage as... strange. I understand that there may be many advantages- I immediately think of security. But it seems to me that a romantic relationship is a big, big liability, because you aren't free. You are constantly responsible for another person, and this person is also responsible for you. There may be rare cases when there are two absolutely compatible persons, who will understand each other without words and who form a whole one- basically the concept of Plato. But, I dare to say, that this is rare, and that most marriages inevitably come into the stage when the two people married realize that they don't want to be around each other anymore. But when these people have a house? Or kids? Then they have to stay together... and thats really toxic.

So my stance would be that romantic relationships can be really fulfilling and life-improving. But by marrying, the person essentially gives up their ataraxia for an unknown future. A bad deal, in my opinion, as long as you aren't 100% certain that the person you're marrying will stay the same kind, nice and great person for the rest of your life. And I think that its obvious that it simply can't be the case: people always change over time. So why bound yourself "until death tears us apart"? Enjoy life, build relationships, but always know that you'd be able to survive on your own. Thats what freedom is, in my opinion 😊