

AUTHENTIC

LOVE

AN EXISTENTIAL

VISION

by

James

Park

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INTRODUCTION

"Authentic love" is NOT synonymous with "real", "genuine", or "true love", expressions usually referring to romantic love, which is demolished in Chapter 1. Rather, Authenticity or self-creation is a special form of human existence, which facilitates the emergence of free, open, creative loving relationships. Hence this book might have been called Love Among Self-Creating Persons. Chapter 2 attempts to explain the structure of Authentic Existence, but after it was written, I decided that a much fuller treatment was required, so I began work on another book (projected for 1980), tentatively entitled: Authentic Existence: Becoming More Autonomous and Self-Creating.

Hundreds of people in my Authentic love classes in the Minnesota Free University have already responded to this existential vision of love. Some have found it too idealistic and even unattainable, but others have been inspired to become more Authentic so they can love beyond insecurity, possessiveness, using, and jealousy.

This book presents a vision of what loving relationships can become rather than dwelling on the interpersonal problems commonly experienced in love. The analysis and critique of unliberated love has been well performed by others, so instead of rehashing what everyone already knows, I hope to stimulate some original thinking and encourage people to create their own unique, Authentic loving relationships.

James Park Minneapolis, Minnesota April 9, 1976

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HOW THIS BOOK CAME TO BE

The writing began in October of 1972 in connection with a class in the Minnesota Free University called "Writing a Book on Love". Most of the present chapters were drafted that first quarter, one chapter per week. Now, 3-1/2 years—and several drafts—later, the writing is finished. Each quarter (with one or two exceptions) over these years, I have offered my course on Authentic love again, revising the chapters while preparing to discuss them in class. Feedback and additional comments from the members of these classes helped to shape the final form of Authentic Love: An Existential Vision.

The printed book itself was also produced by me. I composed the pages on my second-hand IBM Executive typewriter, photographed them at a local basement printshop, corrected the negatives, taped them into the masking sheets, made the offset printing plates, and ran the press that ultimately printed these pages. Then I folded and collated the pages, and I hope to bind and trim the books myself. So, basically, the volume you hold in your hands was a do-it-yourself project.

The printing of the first edition took place over a period of a year and a half, one section of the book appearing each quarter. This permitted me to sell one section (usually two chapters) to help pay for the printing of the next. And the first section was almost sold out (partly because it was used in some courses in local colleges) and had to be reprinted before the book could be put together. But this also permitted me to include the extensive table of contents and the introduction—8 pages added at the front of the book—and to make some minor changes in the first two chapters.

This method of do-it-yourself publishing creates very direct communication between author and reader. Not only does this enable me to control the content of my books but also the form in which these words appear on the page—lines and pages divided according to meaning rather than some rigid mechanical scheme.

All the middlemen of the publishing industry are also eliminated, enabling me to price all my books according to the direct costs of production. If they sell steadily, their prices will go down rather than up because the printing plates in my closet can print many more copies.

If this book has helped you to rethink your loving relationships, recommend it to one or two of your friends. Such recommendations will be the primary way that others will hear about it. Your comments and suggestions for improving the content will always be gratefully received and carefully read. Perhaps some experience or insight of yours could be added to a future edition.

Everyone is encouraged to order directly from me (see address in front). I will mail out your book(s) the same day I receive your order.

Handwritten by James D. Hunt 11.25.77