

AD V ROOTS
LOVE & MORALS

Love, in particular marital and parental love, has played hardly any role in ethical theories - perhaps because most moral philosophers have not been family men. Yet, love is a powerful moral lever: without it the lover can hardly be expected to make any sacrifices for his lover, and the mother would regard most child rearing as a heavy and disagreeable chore; the sick and the infirm would be left to at the mercy of mercenary professional care, which rarely goes beyond the call of duty: only a relative, or a very devout person, can provide the necessary care.

Love renders duty pleasurable, or at least lighter, and often unnecessary: it is not one's duty but one's pleasure to be concerned for one's beloved. Moreover, where there is no love duty can be a heavy burden, often difficult to carry. Witness the tragedies of the loveless spouse & the unwanted child,

