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Title: This Side of Immanence Itself: Separation, Transcendence, and Apology— The Work of the Couple

Abstract

Drawing on a specific personal experience, this paper explores several key concepts from Emmanuel Levinas’ *Totality and Infinity* (1969) in terms of their potential applications in formulating new understandings of disputes within romantic coupledom, and of the relational work of romantic couples in general. The merger between lived experience and Levinasian ethics aims at starting a conversation about the ways in which many of Levinas’ concepts— those such as absolute alterity, recollection, transcendence, and apology— might be translated into tools for couples to use in examining the deeper significance within their relational conflict and approaching reconciliation.

Key words: Levinasian ethics, romantic couples, relationships, conflict, reconciliation.