Remarks on the Language of Love: A Semantic Exploration

原著論文

Remarks on the Language of *Love*: A Semantic Exploration

Masanori Kameda

Section of Linguistics, Centre for Integrated Humanities and Sciences

ἐὰν ἀγάπην μὴ ἔχω, οὐθέν εἰμι (I *Corinthians*, 13: 2).[1]

1.0. Introduction

1.1. *Love* questions all of us concerning our humanity, *the quality of being human*. It has been the mother of virtues[2] and the root of all virtues,[3] and has been the very basis for moral principles and natural law and a persuasive force for peace and unity throughout human history. Nowadays, however, the noblest *raison d'etre* of love is gravely diminished under the inhuman powers[4] represented by such as AI (Artificial Intelligence),[5] which will unquestionably overtake human intelligence in the very near future, become humans' *biggest existential threat*,[6] gradually devalue and dehumanize humans,[7] and eventually compel humans to redefine what *being human* is.

1.2. Love essentially requires individuals to build up a substantial and interpersonal relationship, while the inhuman,

---

[1] *New Advent* (http://www.newadvent.org) and *Perseus Digital Library* (http://www.perseus.tufts.edu) provided by Tufts University. In case of necessity, I modified these texts along Aland B. et al. (20084th) *The Greek New Testament*. Stuttgart: United Bible Societies.

[2] ʽCaritas dicitur finis aliarum virtutum quia omnes alias virtutes ordinat ad finem suum. Et quia mater est quae in se concipit ex alio, ex hac ratione dicitur mater aliarum virtutum' (Aquinas S. T. (1952) *Summa Theologiae*. Taurini: Marietti, II-II, q. 23, art 8, ad 3 sol).

[3] ʽCaritas comparator fundamento et radici' (*Summa Theologiae*. II-II, q. 23, art 8, ad 2 sol).

[4] ʽMedical science has long since introduced the inhuman into the human (think of heart pace-makers, to take an uncontroversial, and widely used, example of the conjunction of man and machine, or kidney dialysis machines)' (Sim S. (2001) *Lyotard and the Inhuman*. Duxford, Cambridge: Icon Books. p. 8). Sim asks: (1) Do we become less than human if key parts of our bodies are not 'natural' tissue? (2) How many synthetic body parts can we tolerate without losing 'what is "proper" to human kind' in the process? (ibid., p. 21).

[5] The inhuman power including AI, Genetics, Nanotechnology and Robotics will, in the words of Heidegger, 'increasingly dislodge [humans]: and uproot [them] from the earth/ cf. [die Technik] den Menshen immer mehr von der Erde losreißt und entwurzelt' (Heidegger M. (1956) 'Nur noch ein Gott kann uns retten.' *Der Spiegel*, Nr. 23/ 1976. S. 206. *Only a God Can Save Us: The Spiegel interview in 23 September 1966.* tr. by Richardson W., 1981, p. 11, modified). Heidegger was aware that '[humans] are posed, enjoined and challenged by a power that becomes manifest in the essence of [technology] – a power that [humans] do not control /Der Mensh ist gestellet, beansprucht und herausgefordert von einer Macht, die im Wesen der Technik offenbar wird und die er selbest nich beherrscht' (S. 209; Richardson W. (1981), p. 12, modified).

[6] Hawking S. (2 December 2014) *Artificial Intelligence could end human kind*, BBC News, Technology; Kaczynski T. (19 September1995) 'Industrial Society and Its Future.' *The New York Times.*

[7] Kurzweil R. (2005) *The Singularity Is Near: When Humans Transcend Biology*. London: Penguin Books. Kurzweil, advocating that humans need to interface their brains and machines to go beyond their biological limitations (cf. p. 194), writes about a possible scenario of how Genetics, Nanotechnology and Robotics are gradually establishing a future dystopia where humans will become 'more nonbiological than biological' (p. 309, cf. p. 299) and '[n]onbiological intelligence is considered human' (p. 317, cf. p. 9). To actualize his scenario, scanning the brain to upload our intelligence, personality, and skills to a nonbiological computer system is necessary (p. 198, 201). However, as he points out, 'the most important question will be whether or not an uploaded human brain is really you' (p. 201, cf. pp. 383-4). Quite realistic and noteworthy reactions against the dystopia Kurzweil designs are: Gleiser M. (2009) 'Mastering Death'. *Edge* (https://www.edge.org), pp. 1-3; Joy B. (2014) 'Why the future doesn't need us', *WIRED*, p. 1, 3, 6. The conditions of *love* humans are supposed to face in the future dystopia, where genetic engineering and the inhuman power system dominate, are remarkably described in the novels by Huxley A. (2004) *Brave New World*. London: Vintage, and Bradbury R. (2008) *Fahrenheit 451*. London: Harper Voyager.

whose nature is in its function,[8] promotes the uniformity of all and drags them into a social system, in which a totalitarian dystopia is overwhelming.

1.3. The central issue – and this includes everything humans are concerned about, not excepting scholarly works[9] – of the inhuman in the present capitalistic system, in which AI is awesomely functioning, seems to be gravely affected by the idea of *investment and efficacy*, whose catchphrase is: *Will it be a profitable project*? Love is also severely affected by the idea of profit-and-loss calculation and self-interest. Considering such human conditions, it will be quite natural to ask: *Can love, a proof of being human, endure*?

1.4. In this essay, I therefore would like to reconfirm the significance of *love* in the system of Christian language, examining (1) its syntactic and semantic characteristics so as to give a special emphasis to the *Johannine* documents which most scholars date to about 90-100 CE[10] and (2) how *the semantic force*, which *the language of love creates*, persuades each individual to take an existential response. And in this I will examine the works of Dostoevsky, because he is still a contemporary in the sense that he had the same critical mind concerning the possibility of love as people of today have. I will look at his masterpiece *The Karamazov Brothers* published between 1879-1880 and his diary under the date of 16 April 1864,[11] in which his existential questions about the possibilities of love are markedly reflected.

2.0. Syntax and semantics of the language of *love*

2.1: I *John* 4: 7. ᵃἀγαπητοί, ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους, ᵇὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστιν, καὶ ᶜπᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ γεγέννηται καὶ γινώσκει τὸν θεόν. (Carissimi, *diligamus* nos invicem: quia *caritas ex Deo est*. Et omnis qui *diligit*, ex Deo natus est, et cognoscit Deum. [12]/ Beloved, let us love one another; for love is *of* God, and everyone who *loves* is born of God and knows God.[13])

2.12. Syntax

2.121. ᵃἀγαπητοί, ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους: ἀγαπητοί (N. m. pl. vocative) + ἀγαπῶμεν (subjunctive. 1ˢᵗ person pl. present.

---

[8] 'Es funktioniert alles. Das ist gerade das Unheimlich/ Everything is functioning. That is precisely what is awesome' (Heidegger M. (1956), S. 206; Richardson W. (1981), p. 11).
[9] Lyotard J-H. (1984) *The Postmodern Condition*: *A Report on Knowledge*. tr. by Bennington G. and Massumi B., Mineapolis: Univ. of Minesota Press, p. 46. Lyotard further says: 'in the discourse of today's financial backers of research, the only credible goal is power. Scientists, technicians, and instruments are purchased not to find truth, but to augment power' (p. 45-6, cf. pp. 48-9).
[10] *NSRV* (2010⁴): *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (New Revised Standard Version⁴ᵗʰ) New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2010, p. 1879, 2137.
[11] Dostoevsky F. (2008) *The Karamazov Brothers*. tr. by Ignat Avsey, Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press. Dostoyevsky F. (2003) *The Brothers Karamazov*. tr. by McDuff D, London: Penguin Books.
[12] *Vulgata*: *Biblia Sacra iuxta Vulgatam Versionem*. (1975²ⁿᵈ) Stuttgart: Wüttemberger Bibelanstalt, vol., II.
[13] *KJV*:*The Holy Bible* (King James Version). London: Oxford Univ. Press, sine die; *NSRV* (2010⁴)

exhortation: *let us love*) + ἀλλήλους (pl. accusative of ἄλλος: other), ὅτι (Conj. as a causal particle: *for that, because*) + ἡ (Art. f.) + ἀγάπη (N. f. sg, nominative: lov*e*) + ἐκ (Prep. used with the genitive case) + τοῦ (Art. m. genitive) + θεοῦ (N. m. sg. genitive) + ἐστιν (V. 3rd person sg, present). Syntactically, the subjunctive use of ἀγαπάω with ἀλλήλους (1st Person. pl.) expresses an earnest exhortation urging someone to do something or to take an action.[14]

2.122. [b]ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστιν: [s[SC ὅτι][NP[Art ἡ][N ἀγάπη]][VP[V ἐστιν][PP[P ἐκ][NP[Art τοῦ][N θεοῦ]]]
KJV[15] and *NRSV* interpret the preposition ἐκ in the because clause, [b]ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστιν as *of* (Love is *of* God), and C. H. Dodd[16] as *belongs to* (Love *belongs to* God); however, as R. E. Brown points out, ἐκ evidently denotes that 'the origin of *love* is primary'.[17] It should be simply translated into *from* (*Love* is *from* God). The same interpretation is found in the *ESV* (English Standard Version[18]) and *NIV* (New International Version[19]).

2.123. In the *Vulgata*,[20] the Latin version of the Bible, ἀγάπη is usually translated as *caritas*, which is sometimes replaced with *dilectio*. In 4:7[a], for example, ἀγαπῶμεν (subjunctive. 1st person pl. present. exhortation: *let us love*) is translated as *diligamus* (V. 1st person pl. of *diligere*).

2.124. [c]πᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ γεγέννηται καὶ γινώσκει τὸν θεόν: πᾶς (Determiner: *all, every*) + ὁ (Determiner, Art. m. sg) + ἀγαπῶν (ptc. m. sg. act. nominative of ἀγαπάω). πᾶς here functions as a universal quantifier, therefore [b]πᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν, [NP[Q πᾶς][Art ὁ][N ἀγαπῶν]] is translatable into: *omnis qui diligit* (*Vulgata*); *every one that loveth* (*KJV*); *whoever loves* (*ESV*); and *everyone who loves* (*NIV* and *NRSV*). However, *he who loves* in *RSV* (Revised Standard Version[21]), which takes no account of the syntactic role of πᾶς, is not acceptable. γεγέννηται (perfect. passive of γεννά) + γινώσκει (3rd person. sg. present. indicative of f γινώσκω) + τὸν (Determiner. Art. m. sg. accusative) + θεόν (N. m. sg. accusative of θεός).

2.13. Semantics

The semantic domain of the language of *love* is where it holds its own authentic meaning, that is, the referential system of Christian language. Lexically, the word *love* in that system is derived from the Greek word ἀγάπη that means *Christian love*, mainly of God or Christ or fellow Christians[22] and that is generally contrasted with ἔρως (L.

---

[14] Cf. Nunn H. P. V. (1983[Rep.]) *A Short Syntax of New Testament Greek*. London and New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, n. 119.
[15] *KJV, NSRV* (2010[4])
[16] Dodd C. H. (1966) *The Johannine Epistles*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, p. 106.
[17] Brown E. R. (1982), p. 513.
[18] Wheaton, Il: Crossway, 2011[Revised].
[19] Nashville, TN: Biblica, 2011.
[20] *Vulgata* (1975[2nd]), vol., II. Cf. Gilson E. (1994) *The Christian Philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas*. Notre Dame, Indiana: Univ. of Notre Dame Press, p. 273.
[21] New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1977.
[22] Bauer W. et al. (1979[2nd]) *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. London and Chicago: The Univ. of Chicago Press, pp. 5-6; *A Patristic Greek Lexicon* (2014[25th]) ed. by Lamp GWH, Oxford: Clarendon Press,

amor), earthly or sexual love[23] in the New Testament Greek.

2.131. It is syntactically very clear that ἀγαπῶμεν (*Let us love*) resulted from the semantic force the language of love creates, (in this case, [b]ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστιν). That is, [a]ἀγαπητοί, ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους resulted from [b]ὅτι ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστιν. This reveals that *love* is a *given* or, in the words of E. R. Brown, 'a reality from above'.[24] It is neither what humans learned from experience nor the consequence they have finally attained by scientific or philosophical argumentations. This means that the language of *love* is, from the first, only object-linguistically referable in the system of Christian language (cf. **2.223ff**).[25] This gives the reason why Aquinas (c. 1225-74) states in his work *Quaestiones Disputatae de Caritate*: (1) *Caritas hominibus a Deo infunditur* (Love is founded in humans by God).[26] (2) *Caritas non est aliquid creatum in anima, sed est ipse Spiritus Sanctus mentem inhabitans* (Love is *not something created* in the soul, but is the Holy Spirit Himself [*caritas increata:* uncreated Love[27]] dwelling in the mind).[28] (3) It is the Holy Spirit that 'moves a human's soul to the act of love (*Spiritus sanctus movens animam ad actum delectionis.*[29])'. (4) *Actus caritatis in homine non ex aliquot habitu interior procedat naturali potentiae superadditio, sed ex motione Spiritus sancti,…*(The act of love in a human does not proceed from an interior habit superadded to a natural potency, but proceeds from the movement of the Holy Spirit).[30]

2.132. The very essence of the descriptions in [b]πᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ γεγέννηται καὶ γινώσκει τὸν θεόν, because the determiner πᾶς logically functions as *a universal quantifier* (cf. **2.124**), can be rendered into the following logical formula: ∀x(x is a person who loves God → (x is born of God ∧ x knows God)). This means: in ∀x(x is a person who loves God → (x is born of God ∧ x knows God))/ (∀x)(Lxg → (Bx ∧ Kxg)), (*x is a person who loves God*) is a sufficient condition for (*x is born of God ∧ x knows God*), and therefore *if x is a person who loves God*, it is necessarily true that *x is born of God and knows God*.

---

pp. 7-8; *OED* (2009, 2nd edition on CD-ROM, v. 4.0): *Oxford English Dictionary* (2009nd edition on CD-ROM), v. 4.0, Oxford University Press. The study that gives us a general survey of *love* in the Bible is: Morris L. (1981) *Testament of Love*: *A Study of Love in the Bible*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.
[23] *OED* (2009, 2nd edition on CD-ROM, v. 4.0); Brown E. R. (1982) *The Epistles of John*. London: Geoffrey Chapman, p. 254.
[24] Brown E. R. (1982), p. 547.
[25] Bohenski J. M. (1965) *The Logic of Religion*. New York: New York Univ. Press, p. 55.
[26] Aquinas S.T. (1965) *Quaestiones Disputatae de Caritate*. Taurini et Romae: Marietti, art VI, resp; *On Charity*, tr. by Kendzierski L. H. (1960) Milwaukee: Marqutte Unive. Press, p. 54, modified.
[27] Aquinas S. T. (1965) *De Caritate*, art I, resp.
[28] Aquinas S. T. (1965) *De Caritate*, art IV, resp; Kendzierski L. H. (1960), p. 76, modified. William of St Thierry (between 1075 and 1080–1148), Aquinas's forerunner states: 'love itself has been planted [in us] by the Creator of nature (Ipse enim amor a Creatore inditus.)' (*De Natura et Dignitate Amoris* in J. P. Migne, *Patrologiae cursus completes, series Latina,* Paris, 1884-64, vol. 184: 379-408; *The Nature and Dignity of love*, tr, by Thomas X. D., Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1981), and 'love is given by God alone (a Deo enim solo amor datur)'.
[29] Aquinas S. T. (1965) *De Caritate*, art I, resp; Kendzierski L. H. (1960), p. 22, modified.
[30] Aquinas S. T. (1965) *De Caritate*, art I, resp; Kendzierski L. H. (1960), p. 21, modified. Cf. 'Spiritus sanctus movet animam nostrum ad diligendum Deum et proximum (The Holy Spirit moves our soul to love God and neighbor)' (Aquinas S. T. (1952) *Summa Theologiae*. I, q. 20, ad 4, sol).

[Cf. **I** *John* **3:14-15**. ªἡμεῖς οἴδαμεν ὅτι μεταβεβήκαμεν ἐκ τοῦ θανάτου εἰς τὴν ζωήν, ᵇὅτι ἀγαπῶμεν τοὺς ἀδελφούς: ὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν μένει ἐν τῷ θανάτῳ. ᶜπᾶς ὁ μισῶν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ ἀνθρωποκτόνος ἐστίν (Nos scimus quoniam translati sumus de morte ad vitam, quoniam diligimus *fratres*. Qui non diligit, manet in morte: omnis qui odit fratrem suum, *homicida* est. / We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are *murderers*[31] [*murdering human beings*[32]]. What is noticeable here is that ᶜπᾶς ὁ μισῶν, [NP[Q πᾶς][Art ὁ][N μισῶν]] is semantically equivalent to πᾶς ὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν, [NP[Q πᾶς][Art ὁ][Neg μὴ][N ἀγαπῶν]][33] and ἀνθρωποκτόνος, [NP[N ἀνθρωποκτόνος]] and expressed in the following universally quantified logical formula: ∀x(x is a person who hates his brother → x is a murderer): $(\forall x)(Hxf \to Mx)$. Here I follow the *Vulgata* in which ἀδελφός is translated into *frater*, which means *a brother or a sister*. NRSV also translates ἀδελφός into a *brother or sister*, which seems to be a reflection of contemporary inclusive language. Semantically, 'x hates his brother (a brother or a sister)' is equivalent to 'x does not love his brother' and therefore it is necessary that x is a murderer: $(\forall x)(Hxf \to Mx) \equiv \neg(\forall x)(Lxf \to Mx)$.]

2.2. I *John* **4: 8.** (cf. 4:16). ªὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν οὐκ ἔγνω τὸν θεόν, ᵇὅτι ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν. (Qui non diligit, non novit Deum: quoniam Deus caritas est.[34]/ He who does not love does not know God; for *God is love*. [35])

2.21. Syntax

2.211. ªὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν οὐκ ἔγνω τὸν θεόν: ὁ (Determiner. Art. m. nominative) + μὴ (a particle of negation) + ἀγαπῶν (1ˢᵗ person. m. sg. participle of ἀγαπάω) + οὐκ (Adv. before vowel: *not*) + ἔγνω (3ʳᵈ person sg. 2ⁿᵈ aorist. indicative of γιγνώσκω) + τὸν (Art. m. accusative case) + θεόν (N. m. sg. accusative). The syntactic structure of ªὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν οὐκ ἔγνω τὸν θεόν is: [S[[NP[Art ὁ][Neg μὴ][N ἀγαπῶν]][VP[VP[Neg οὐκ][V ἔγνω][NP[Art τὸν][N θεόν]]]]. Though ªὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν, [NP[Art ὁ][Neg μὴ][N ἀγαπῶν]]is literally translatable into *he who does not love*, as *NRSV*, *ESV* and *NIV*, we had better consider the context of the universally quantified statement, ᶜπᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ γεγέννηται καὶ γινώσκει τὸν θεόν in 4:7 and translate ªὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν into *whoever/ everyone who/ does not love*.

2.212. ᵇὅτι ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν: [S[sc ὅτι] [NP[Art ὁ][N θεὸς]][VP[V ἐστίν][NP[N ἀγάπη]]]

ὅτι (Conj: *because, for*) + ὁ (Art. m. nominative) + θεὸς (N. m. nominative) + ἀγάπη (N. m. nominative) + ἀγάπη (N. f. sg.) + ἐστίν (V. 3ʳᵈ person sg, present of εἰμί). The Noun-phrase, ὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν functions as the subject. ἀγάπη (C)

---

[31] *NSRV* (2010⁴)

[32] The original meaning of ἀνθρωποκτόνος is *murdering men*, *a homicide* (Liddell and Scotts (1899) *Greek-English Lexicon*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, p. 71r). In the context of I *John* 3:14-15, it is interpreted as *murderers* [N-Count].

[33] Aquinas S. T. (1965) *De Caritate*. Art. VI, ad 6 Sol; Kendzierski L. H. (1960), p. 55: *Caritatis oppositum generale est odium* (The opposite of love is hate).

[34] *Vulgata* (1975²ⁿᵈ), vol II.

[35] *NSRV* (2010⁴)

governed by V (ἐστίν] completes the meaning of the predicate. Here, the word ἀγάπη is not metaphorically but analogically used. ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν is is therefore an analogical statement[36] which we can literally talk about.

2.22. Semantics

2.221. In connection with **2.132**, what the author states in [a]ὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν οὐκ ἔγνω τὸν θεόν will be clarified: ¬∀x (x is a person who loves God → x knows God)/ ¬∀x(Lxg → Kxg), that is, the inverse of ∀x(x is a person who loves God → x knows God)/ ∀x(Lxg → Kxg). ∀x(x is a person who knows God → x loves God)/ ∀x(Kxg → Lxg), which is the converse statement of ∀x(x is a person who loves God → x knows God)/ ∀x(Lxg → Kxg), however, may or may not be true. In ∀x (x is a person who loves God → x knows God)/ ∀x (Lxg → Kxg), knowing God is a necessary condition for loving Him,[37] while loving Him is a necessary and sufficient condition for knowing him as stated in I John 4:7, [b]πᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ …γινώσκει τὸν θεόν. Knowing God is, therefore, semantically not equivalent to loving Him; because knowing God does not necessarily lead humans to loving Him. This reveals that loving God, because it is 'not measured by knowledge',[38] does not expect humans to be highly intellectual (cf. I Corinthians 8: 1).

2.222. The direct reason why the one who does not love does not know God ([a]ὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν οὐκ ἔγνω τὸν θεόν) is given in the subordinate clause [b]ὅτι ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν: it is because *God is love* or *because He is love*. We can trace this following the referential structure of I *John* 4:7–8: (A) ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν, and (B) ἡ ἀγάπη ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστιν. That is why the statements: (C) ἡμεῖς ἠγαπήκαμεν τὸν θεόν, ἀλλ' ὅτι αὐτὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς and (D) that πᾶς ὁ ἀγαπῶν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ γεγέννηται καὶ γινώσκει τὸν θεόν are not absurd. This means: a loving activity itself is rooted in the divine love itself and *a God-given authentic way* of knowing God (cf. **2.221**).

2.223. As I mentioned, *love* is only object-linguistically referable in the system of Christian language in **2.131**. Also ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν is a statement that is only object-linguistically referable. And the referential structure of I *John* 4:7–8 in **2.222** shows that ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν works as an *axiom* like *God exists, God is one* (ὁ δὲ θεὸς εἷς ἐστιν) and *God is good* which requires 'no formal demonstration to prove its truth, but, in the system of Christian language, is received and assented to as soon as mentioned'[39] and from which other statements can be, without any absurdities, deduced.

2.224. ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν (4:8[b]) is therefore the best available answer to *Why does God love*? That is, *God is love because He is Love*. *God is Love* is semantically equivalent to the following tautological statements: ① *God is love*

[36] McCabe H. (1992) 'The Logic of Mysticism', *Religion and Philosophy* (Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement: 31) ed. by M. Warner, Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, pp. 56-57, 58.
[37] Gilson E. (1994), pp. 276.
[38] Gilson E. (1994), pp. 275, modified.
[39] *OED* (2009, 2nd edition on CD-ROM, v. 4.0), modified. Cf. 'a Deo revelata, suscipienda per fidem (what was revealed by God must be accepted by faith)' (Aquinas S. T. (1952) *Summa Theologiae*. I, q. 1, art 1, sol. ad 1); cf. Allwood J. et al. (1997[rep.]) *Logic in Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, p. 45; cf. Bohenski J. M. (1965), p. 55.

because He is love or ② *God is loving because He is loving*. There is however a troublesome problem: the logical status of *because* is not generally considered to be a logical connective.

2.225. If ① and ② are semantically acceptable, they will, as W. V. O. Quine points out, 'require not only truth of the components but also some sort of causal connection between the matters which the two components describe'.[40] The logical status of ① and ② can be, following Quine, made clear: firstly, each of them is considered to be a given truth in the indicative mood (cf. **2.212**) and, secondly, gives a semantically acceptable *causal structure* to the statements, ① and ②.

2.226. Both ① and ② are tautological statements, which are *not nonsensical* but *unconditionally true*.[41] Suppose *p* stands for *God is love*, then the logical formula of *God is love because He is love* is: $p \equiv p$. The tautological statement $p \equiv p$ reveals: it is not a description of what the world would be alike, and the truth-condition it states does not depend on how the world is. *The loving activity of God therefore does not depend on what the world would be like or how the world is*. God loves regardless of how this world is and will be because *loving is His nature*. Giving Himself ceaselessly is *of* His nature.[42] *God is love* because 'His essence is to love'.[43] This is why Aquinas states: *Deus non solum causaliter dicitur dilectio vel caritas,…sed etiam essentialiter* (God is said to be love not only causally but also essentially).[44] *[I]psa essentia divina caritas est, sicut et sapientia est, et sicut bonitas est* (The Divine Essence Itself is love, even as It is wisdom and goodness).[45] *Deus diligit omnia ex caritate* (God loves every [existing] thing out of love).[46]

2.3. I John 4: 10: ᵃἐν τούτῳ ἐστὶν ἡ ἀγάπη, ᵇοὐχ ὅτι ἡμεῖς ἠγαπήκαμεν τὸν θεόν, ᶜ⁻ᵃἀλλ' ὅτι αὐτὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς καὶ ᶜ⁻ᵇἀπέστειλεν τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἱλασμὸν περὶ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν. (In hoc est caritas: non quasi nos dilexerimus Deum, sed quoniam ipse prior dilexit nos, et misit Filium suum propitiationem pro peccatis nostris. /In this is love, not that we *loved*[47] God but He *loved* us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.[48]).

---

[40] Quine W. V. O. (1980Revised) *Elementary Logic*. Massachusetts and London: Harvard Univ. Press, p. 23.
[41] Wittgenstein L. (1974 Revised) *Tractatus-Logico-Philosophicus*. London and New York: Routledge, n. 4.461, 4.4611.
[42] Morris L. (1981), p. 137; 'Deus Omnia existential amat. Nam omnia existential, inquantum sunt, bona sunt (God loves all existing things. For all existing things, in so far as they exist, are good)' (Aquinas S. T. (2012) *Summa Theologiae*, I, q. 20, resp).
[43] Dodd C. H. (1966), p. 109; cf. *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament*. ed. by Balz et al. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publish Company, 1999, vol I., p. 12.
[44] Aquinas S. T. (1965) *De Caritate*, art I, ad 5, sol; Kendzierski L. H. (1960), p. 23. A useful contemporary introduction to Aquinas is: Davies B. (1993) *The Thought of Tomas Aquinas*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, pp. 150-151.
[45] Aquinas S. T. (1952) *Summa Theologiae*, II-II, q. 23, art 2, ad 1 sol, modified. This is because God is not only His own essence, but also His own existence. His essence is His existence. (ibid., I, q. 3, art 4).
[46] Aquinas S. T. (1965) *De Caritate*, art VII, ad 2, sol; Kendzierski L. H. (1960), p. 62.
[47] *KJV; NSRV* (2010⁴)
[48] *NSRV* (2010⁴)

2.31. Syntax

2.311. [a]ἐν τούτῳ ἐστὶν ἡ ἀγάπη: [PP[P ἐν][Pron τούτῳ][VP[V ἐστὶν][NP[Art ἡ][N ἀγάπη]]]

ἐν (Prep. dative) + τούτῳ (indicative pron. dative) + ἐστὶν (3rd person sg.) + ἡ (Art. f.) + ἀγάπη (N. f. sg. nominative).

2.312. [b]οὐχ ὅτι ἡμεῖς ἠγαπήκαμεν τὸν θεόν: [S[Neg οὐχ][SC ὅτι][NP[N ἡμεῖς][VP[V ἠγαπήκαμεν][NP[Art τὸν][N θεόν]]]]

οὐχ (Adv. before vowel: *not*) + ὅτι (Conj: *that* + ἡμεῖς (Personal pron. 1st person pl.) + ἠγαπήκαμεν (1st person pl, perfect act. indicative of ἀγαπάω) + τὸν (Art. m. accusative) + θεόν (N. m. sg. accusative).

2.313. [c]ἀλλ' ὅτι αὐτὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς: ἀλλ' (Conj. before vowel: *but*) + ὅτι (Conj. *that*) + αὐτὸς (Personal pro. 1st person sg: *he*) + ἠγάπησεν (3rd person sg. aorist. act. indicative of ἀγαπάω: *He loved*.)) + ἡμᾶς (Personal pron. 1st person pl. accusative of ἐγώ). ἠγαπήκαμεν in [c]ἀλλ' ὅτι αὐτὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς should be, – because it is 1st person plural, present perfect tense of ἀγαπάω – translated into *we have loved*, while ἠγάπησεν (3rd person singular. aorist) simply describes an action in past tense (*He loved*). [Cf. *John* 15:9−10: καθὼς ἠγάπησέν με ὁ πατήρ, κἀγὼ ὑμᾶς ἠγάπησα (Sicut dilexit me Pater, et ego dilexi vos/ As the Father *has loved* me, so I have loved you); καὶ + ἀπέστειλεν (3rd person. sg. *narrative perfect* with aorist[49]); τὸν+ υἱὸν(m. sg. accusative) + αὐτοῦ ἱλασμὸν (sg. accusative. derived from V. ἱλάσκομαι: make an atonement) + περὶ τῶν (Prep. with genitives: on account of, for) + ἁμαρτιῶν (f. sg. genitives: sin) + ἡμῶν (Personal Pron. pl. genitives).

2.32. Semantics

2.321. *Love* has its origin in *God Himself who is essentially love* (cf. **2.226**). *God loved us* (αὐτὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς) expressed in the aorist tense reveals that the divine love for human has *a temporal precedence over* humans' love for Him (cf. [b]οὐχ ὅτι ἡμεῖς ἠγαπήκαμεν τὸν θεόν). The *Vulgata* therefore, considering this, translates [c]ἀλλ' ὅτι αὐτὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς as follows: sed quoniam ipse *prior dilexit* nos (because *he hath first loved* us[50]). In this context, it becomes clear that *love* is in origin not 'a virtue of humans considered as human but of humans considered as *becoming* through participation in grace, like to God and the Son of God (*Caritas non est virtus hominis in quantum est homo caritas non est virtus hominis in quantum est homo, sed in quantum per participationem gratiae fit Deus et filius Dei*)'.[51]

---

[49] Moulton J. H. (1998) *A Grammar of New Testament Greek*. Vol., III. Syntax, Edinburgh: T & T Clark, pp. 69-70.
[50] *The Douay-Rheims Bible* (1899 Edition), Baltimore: John Murphy Company.
[51] Aquinas S. T. (1965) *De Caritate*, art II, ad 15, sol; Kendzierski L. H. (1960), p. 32, modified. Aquinas continues that 'actus caritatis in homine non ex aliquot habitu interior procedat naturali potentiae superadditio, sed ex motione Spiritus sancti (The act of Love in man does not proceed from an interior habit superadded [add something to what has already been added] to a natural

2.3211. Concerning the temporal precedence of divine love over human's love for Him, see *John* 15:12-13 (cf. 13:34): ᵃΑὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ἐντολὴ ἡ ἐμή, ᵇἵνα ἀγαπᾶτε ἀλλήλους ᶜκαθὼς ἠγάπησα ὑμᾶς (Hoc est præceptum meum, ut diligatis invicem, sicut dilexi vos/ This is my commandment, that you love one another as *I have loved you*).

2.3212. **Syntax**: ᵃΑὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ἐντολὴ ἡ ἐμή: αὕτη (Demonstrative pron. f. of οὖτος: this) + ἐστὶν + ἡ (Art. f. nominative) + ἐντολὴ (N. f. sg. f. nominative: commandment) + ἡ (Art. f. nominative) + ἐμή (f. sg. nominative of ἔμος), ᵇἵνα ἀγαπᾶτε ἀλλήλους καθὼς ἠγάπησα ὑμᾶς, [s[AdvP[Adv καθὼς]][NP[N (ἐγώ)]][VP[V ἠγάπησα][NP[N ὑμᾶς]]]]: ἵνα (Conj.) + ἀγαπᾶτε (subjunctive mood. 2nd person pl. of ἀγαπάω) + ἀλλήλους (cf. I *John* 4: 7) + ᶜκαθὼς (Adv: as, just as) + ἠγάπησα (1st person sg. aorist. indicative. active of ἀγαπάω) + ὑμᾶς (Personal pron. accusative. pl. of σύ). The conjunction, ἵνα 'takes the place of the epexegetic (an additional word to clarify meaning) infinitive,[52]' which enables us to translate αὕτη ἐστὶν ἡ ἐντολὴ ἡ ἐμή into: This is my commandment. ἠγάπησα (1st person singular. aorist. indicative of ἀγαπάω) usually does not contain any reference to duration or completion of the action, but describes a series of actions[53] or is considered to be aorist perfect, which means 'a true resultative perfect denoting a past action of which the results still vividly survive'.[54] In either case, ἠγάπησα can be interpreted as *I have loved* in English tense (cf. ἠγάπησεν: 3rd person sg. aorist of ἀγαπάω).

2.3213. ᶜ⁻ᵃἀλλ' ὅτι αὐτὸς ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς καὶ ᶜ⁻ᵇἀπέστειλεν τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἱλασμὸν περὶ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν confirms the reality humans have to face up to is *sin*, which is contrary to *love*. Though 'the perfection of love requires that humans be entirely free from sin (*Perfectio caritatis requirit quod homo sit omnino absque peccato*),' it is [however] not possible in this life (*hoc non potest esse in hac vita*).'[55]

2.3214. Nevertheless, what ᶜ⁻ᵇἀπέστειλεν τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἱλασμὸν περὶ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν indicates is that the divine love towards human existence is bottomless (cf. **2.26**). In the words of Aquinas, 'God loves sinners *insofar as they are existing natures (Deus peccatores, inquantum sunt naturae quaedam, amat*[56])', for 'their existing is His love in operation'.[57]

3.0. How the semantic force, which the language of *Love* creates, actually works upon us

---

potency, but proceeds from the movement of the Holy Spirit)'. In biblical tradition, *love* holds a unique position among theological virtues: 'νυνὶ δὲ μένει πίστις, ἐλπίς, ἀγάπη, τὰ τρία ταῦτα: μείζων δὲ τούτων ἡ ἀγάπη' (I Corinthianas 13. 13).
[52] Zerwick M. S.J. (1963) *Biblical Greek. Rome:* Pontifical Biblical Institute, n. 410.
[53] Nunn H. P. V. (1983Rep.), n. 92f; Zerwick. (1963), n. 242f.
[54] Moulton J. H. (1998), Vol. III., p. 69, 72.
[55] Aquinas S. T. (1965) *De Caritate*, art x, contra; Kendzierski L. H. (1960), p. 82.
[56] Aquinas S. T. (1952) *Summa Theologiae*, I, q. 20, ad 4 sol, cf. II-II, q 23, art 1, ad 2, sol. Here, I read *naturae quaedam* as *existing natures,* following *Summa Theologiae* published by The Aquinas Institute for the Study of Sacred Doctrine, Lander, Wyoming, 2012, p. 230.
[57] Davies B. (1993), p. 151.

3.1. In this section, how the semantic force, which the language of *love* creates, persuades each individual to take an existential response will be investigated, taking Dostoevsky's masterpiece *The Karamazov Brothers* and his diary as examples. In these two works his main ideas about humanity, the world (the earth) and God and their interrelationships are clearly manifested.

3.2. In the system of Christian language, well-known spiritual counsels such as (1) ᵃἀγαπητοί, ἀγαπῶμεν ἀλλήλους (Beloved, let us love one another) (**2.1** and **2.121,** and I *John* 4:11); (2) ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον (Art + πλησίον: one's neighbour, friend) σου ὡς σεαυτόνis (You shall love your neighbour as yourself.[58]); and (3) ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἐχθροὺς ὑμῶν καὶ προσεύχεσθε ὑπὲρ τῶν διωκόντων ὑμᾶς (Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who persecute and insult you.[59]) are, as mentioned previously (cf. **2.1, 2.122, 2.131, 2.225-6, 2.312-3**), all originated from the semantic force the language of *love* creates, more specifically the semantic force of ὁ θεὸς ἀγάπη ἐστίν, [s[NP[Art ὁ][N θεὸς]][VP[V ἐστίν][NP[N ἀγάπη]] creates (cf. **2.122, 2.222-2.223** and **2.131**). [60]

3.3. How did the semantic force the language of *love* creates actually work upon Dostoevsky? To investigate this question, the following passage from *The Karamazov Brothers* is noteworthy:

…there was absolutely nothing in the whole world [earth][61] to induce [compel] men [human beings] to love their fellow men, that there was absolutely no law of nature to make man love humanity, and that if love did exist and had existed at all in the world up to now, then it was not by virtue of the natural law, but entirely because man believed in his own immortality. He (Ivan) added as an aside that it was precisely that which constituted the natural law, namely, that once man's faith in his own immortality was destroyed, not only would his capacity for love be exhausted, but so would the vital forces that sustained life on this earth. And furthermore, nothing would be immortal then, everything would be permitted, even anthropophagy. And finally, as though all this were not enough, he declared that for every

---

[58] *Deuteronomy* 6:5 in LXX (*Sptuaginta*. Stuttgart: Wüttenbergische Bibelanstalt, 1982, vol. I), *Matthew* 22: 39, *Mark*, 12: 31, *Luke* 10:27.

[59] *Matthew* 5: 44. Aquinas says: (1) 'diligere inimicum videtur impossibile, cum sit contra inclinationem naturae (to love an enemy seems to be impossible, since it is contrary to the inclination of nature)' (*De Caritate*, art. VIII, ad 13). sol). (2) 'diligere inimicum, in quantum inimicus est, est difficile, vel etiam impossibile; sed diligere inimicum propter aliquid magis amatum, est facile; et sic id quod in se videtur impossibile, caritad Dei facit facile (To love an enemy as enemy is difficult, even impossible. But to love an enemy because of some greater love is easy. That is why the love of God makes easy that which seems to be impossible in itself)' (ad 13. sol). (3) 'amicitia caritatis se extendit etiam adinimicos, quos diligimus ex caritate in ordine as Deum, ad quem principaliter habetur amicitia caritatis (The friendship of love extends even to our enemies, whom we love out of love in relation to God, to Whom the friendship of Love is chiefly directed)' (ibid., art. IV, ad 4. sol).

[60] As MacIntyre A. pointed out in his insightful book *After Virtue: A Study in Moral Theory* (London: Duckworth, 1985[2nd]), 'charity [love] as a theological virtue was about which Aristotle knew nothing. 'Aristotle in considering the nature of friendship had concluded that a good man could not be the friend of a bad man; and since the bond of authentic friendship is shared allegiance to the good, this is unsurprising. But *at the centre of biblical religion is the conception of a love for those who sin*. …in the culture of the Bible, in contrast to that of Aristotle, an alternative response became available, that of *forgiveness*' (p. 174). 'Charity [love] is not of course, from the biblical point of view, just one more virtue to be added to the list. Its inclusion alters the conception of the good for man in a radical view; for the community in which the good is achieved has to be one of reconciliation' (ibid., p. 174). [*All italics and insertions are mine.*]

[61] The words enclosed with square brackets are all quotations from Dostoyevsky F. (2003), p. 94.

individual, such as you and me, for example, who does not believe either in God or in his own immortality, the natural law is bound immediately to become complete opposite of the religion-based law that preceded it, and that egoism, even extending to the perpetration of crime, would not only be permissible but would be recognized as the essential, the most rational, and even the noblest *raison d'etre* of human condition.[62]

3.31. Dostoevsky also stands in the same position as stated in **2.1f**, **2.131** and **2.222-3**: *Love*, a *given* or 'a reality from above' is neither what humans learned from experience or the consequence they have finally attained by scientific and philosophical argumentations. *Love* is, in other words, neither the one deducible from a social contract among humans nor the ideal humans had actualized by appealing to the law. Dostoevsky 'denies that there is in human natural ground for love (cf. **2.211f**, **2.321**).'[63] On the contrary, love is the very basis of all of moral principles and natural law.[64]

3.32. Rearranging Dostoevsky's main argument in the form of the present tense, it will be as follows:

① There is absolutely nothing in the whole world to compel humans to love their fellow humans.

② If humans love their fellow humans, it is because of faith in their own immortality.

③ Therefore, if once humans' faith in their own immortality is destroyed, nothing will be immoral,[65] then, everything will be permitted, even anthropophagy.

---

[62] Dostoevsky F. (2008), p. 87; cf. p.71, 168-169, 330, 398,739, 744, 758, 793, 813. (*All italics are mine.*) The very essence of this passage was already stated in his *Writer's Diary* in December, 1876**:** (1) 'the fundamental and the loftiest idea of human existence is the necessity and the inevitability of (p. 733) the conviction that the human soul is immortal. Underlying this confession of a man who is going to die "by logical suicide" is the necessity of the immediate conclusion, here and now, that without faith in one's soul and its immortality, human existence is unnatural, unthinkable, and unbearable. …Faith in immortality does not exist for him' (Dostoevsky F, *A Writer's Diary*, vol.1, tr. and annotated by Lantz K., Evanston, Il: Northwestern Univ. Press, 1994, pp. 732-3). (2) 'Neither a person nor a nation can exist without some higher idea. And there is *only one* higher idea on earth, and it is the idea of the immortality of the human soul, for all other "higher" ideas of life by which human might live *derive from that idea alone*' (ibid. p. 734). '[L]*ove for humanity is even entirely unthinkable, incomprehensible, and utterly impossible without faith in the immortality of the human soul to go along with it*. The result, clearly, is that when the idea of immortality is lost, suicide becomes an absolute and inescapable necessity for any person who has even developed slightly above the animal level. On the other hand, immortality, promising eternal life, binds people all the more firmly to earth. Without the conviction of his immortality, the links between the person and the earth are broken; they grow more fragile, they decay, and the loss of a higher meaning of life (experienced at least in the form of unconscious anguish) surely brings suicide in its wake.…my October article: "*If the conviction of immortality is so essential for human existence, then it follows that it is the normal state of humanity; and if that is the case, then the very immortality of the human soul exists with certainty.*" In short, the idea of immortality is life itself, life in the full sense; it is its final formula and humanity's principal source of truth and understanding' (ibid. p. 736). *All italics are mine*.

[63] Scanlan J. P. 'Dostoevsky's Argument for Immortality,' *The Russian Review*, January 2000, 59, No. 1, p. 15. Scanlan continues that Dostoevsky 'rejects as plainly as one could wish the Enlightenment thesis of the "natural goodness" of man – he does not, of course, mean that man is incapable of love or of the cooperation and social order that love makes possible. He means only that such things do not come "naturally," are not products of man's participation in the material world. Humans also have a spiritual character, which one is affirming when one accepts the thesis of immortality' (ibid. p. 15).

[64] '…in political and legal philosophy and theology, doctrines based on the theory that there are certain unchanging laws which pertain to man's nature, which can be discovered by reason, and to which man-made laws should conform [to obey a rule, law, etc/ to agree with or match something]; freq. contrasted with positive laws; also (with hyphen) attrib.// as implanted by nature in the human mind, or as capable of being demonstrated by reason' (*OED* (2009, 2nd edition on CD-ROM, v. 4.0)).

[65] '…without love there is no morality – is for Dostoevsky simply a corollary of his ethical theory. For Dostoevsky it is essentially axiomatic that without love of others there are no moral standards, since love (p. 16) of others is the *sole* moral standard; without it, "everything is permitted." Ivan's argument, then, presupposes Dostoevsky's ethical theory and can be no more convincing than that theory' (Scanlan J. P. (January 2000), pp. 15-6).

3.33. J.P. Scanlan abridges the logic of Dostoevsky's argumentation: 'immortality and morality are connected through the explicit mediation of the concept of love. *Without immortality there is no love; and, without love there is no morality* ("everything is permitted"). On the tacit assumption, then, that the denial of morality is an "absurdity," the truth of immortality follows by *reductio ad absurdum*'.[66]

3.34. How does the truth of immortality, namely, *Without immortality there is no love; and, without love there is no morality* follow by *reduction ad absurdum* in Dostoevsky's argumentation? To answer this question, firstly we need to take the following steps:

3.341. *Immortality*, that is, *the immortality of the human soul* presupposes that *God is immortal*, because the immortality of the human soul is possible only insofar as the human soul can participate in the immortality of God. To deny the immortality of the human soul is therefore to deny its precondition, *God is immortal*.

3.342. The precondition that *God is immortal* (cf. I *Timothy* 6: 16: ὁ μόνος[67] ἔχων ἀθανασίαν, [S[NP[Art ὁ][N μόνος]][VP[V ἔχων][NP[N ἀθανασία]]]] (qui solus habet immortalitatem/ the only one who has *immortality*) can be logically translatable to: *There is exactly one God, and God is immortal*: $(\exists x \forall y \ (x = y \equiv x \text{ is God}) \land \forall x \ (x \text{ is God} \rightarrow x \text{ is immortal}))$.

3.343. Then, it becomes possible to examine the semantic structure of *If God is not immortal, everything is permissible. However, it is false that everything is permissible. Therefore it is false that God is not immortal* because it leads to a *reductio ad absurdum* (a method of proving the falsity of a premise by showing that its logical consequence is absurd or contradictory).[68]

3.344. Suppose P/ $(\exists x)Ig$ stands for *God is immortal*; Q/ $(\forall y)Py$ for *Everything is permissible*; $\neg Q/ \neg(\forall y)Py \equiv (\exists y)Py$ for *It is false that everything is permissible*; and $\neg(\neg P)/ \neg(\exists x)\neg Ig$ for *It is false that God is not immortal*. The semantic structure of *If God is not immortal, everything is permissible. However, it is false that everything is permissible. Therefore it is false that God is not immortal* will be expressed as $((\neg P \rightarrow Q) \land \neg Q) \rightarrow \neg(\neg P)$ or $((\neg(\exists x)Ig \rightarrow (\forall y)Py) \land \neg(\forall y) Py) \rightarrow \neg(\exists x) \neg Ig$.

3.345. Finally, we can consider the following indirect reasoning:

---

[66] Scanlan J. P. (January 2000), p. 14.
[67] μόνος with the preceding article ὁ (m. sg. nominative) can be translated into *the only one who* (Bauer W. et al. (1979[2nd]), p. 527).
[68] *OED* (2009, 2nd edition on CD-ROM, v. 4.0); Hodges W. (2001 2nd) *Logic*. London: Penguin Books, p. 39.

$((\neg P \to Q) \land \neg Q) \to \neg(\neg P)$

(1)   Impl.(**f**)

(2)   Conj.(**t**)   Neg Neg(**f**)

(3)   Impl(**t**)   Neg(**f**)

(4)   Neg(**f**)   **t**

3.346. On level (1), we assume the main truth-value of the **Implication** ($\to$) to be **f**, since its antecedent, $((\neg P \to Q) \land \neg Q)$ is true but its consequence, $\neg(\neg P)$ is false. This is indicated on level (2): the truth-value of **Conjunction** ($\land$) to be **f**, and P with double **Negation** ($\neg\neg$) to be **f**. Level (3) shows that the truth-value of the **Implication** and Q with single **Negation** ($\neg$) to be **t** and **f**, respectively. On level (4), the truth-value **f** must be assigned to P with single **Negation** ($\neg$), and **t** to Q. However, as level (3) and (4) show, the truth-value of Q is both **t** and **f**. That is, the first assumption whose truth-value is **f** leads to a *reductio ad absurdum*. This means: $((\neg P \to Q) \land \neg Q) \to \neg(\neg P)$, which is a tautology, is unconditionally true [69]

3.4. The last step to be taken is to examine the semantic structure of *Without immortality there is no love; and, without love there is no morality* which can be reformulated to: If *immortality* exists, then *love* must exist; and if *love* exists, then *morality* exists. Suppose A stands for *Immortality exists* $((\exists x)Ei)$; B for *Love exists* $((\exists y)Ec)$; and C for *Morality exists* $((\exists z)Em)$, then $\neg(A \land \neg B) \land \neg(B \land \neg C)$ or $(\neg((\exists x)Ei \land \neg(\exists y)Ec) \land (\neg((\exists y)Ec \land \neg(\exists z)Em))$.

3.41. Does $\neg(A \land \neg B) \land \neg(B \land \neg C)$ / $(\neg((\exists x)Ei \land \neg(\exists y)Ec) \land (\neg((\exists y)Ec \land \neg(\exists z)Em))$ lead to reduction ad absurdum?

$\neg(A \land \neg B) \land \neg(B \land \neg C)$

(1)   Conj(**f**)

(2) Neg(**f**)   Neg(**f**)

(3)   Conj(**t**)   Conj(**t**)

(4)   **t**   **ff**   **t**   **ff**

3.42. On level (1), we assume the main truth-value of the **Conjunction** ($\land$) to be **f**, since the truth-value of **Negation** ($\neg$) before each of $(A \land \neg B)$ and $(B \land \neg C)$ is **f**, which is indicated on level (2). Level (3) shows that **Conjunction** ($\land$) in each of the **Conjunctions** $(A \land \neg B)$ and $(B \land \neg C)$ is **t**. Level (4) shows: the truth-value of A, **Negation** ($\neg$),

---

[69] Here, I am indebted to Allwood J. et al. ((1997) *Logic in Linguistics*. pp. 53-5) for the description of indirect reasoning.

and B inside (A ∧ ¬B) is **t**, **f**, **f**, respectively; the truth-value of B, **Negation** (¬), and C inside the **Conjunction** (B ∧ ¬C) is **t**, **f**, **f**, respectively. As level (4) shows, the truth-value of B is both **f** and **t**. That is, the first assumption whose truth-value is **f** leads to a *reductio ad absurdum*. That is, ¬(A ∧ ¬B) ∧ ¬(B ∧ ¬C) is logically consistent.

4.0. Actual human conditions under the semantic force the language of love creates

4.1. In his diary[70] written on the occasion of his first wife's death (16 April 1864), Dostoevsky, who is our contemporary – in the sense people today are excessively self-conscious and obsessed by egoism and cannot sacrifice themselves in love to others – reveals the actual human conditions under the semantic force the language of love creates. He writes:

To love a person *as oneself*, according to Christ's commandment, is impossible. The law of individuality on earth binds, while *the Self*[71] hinders. Only Christ could do it, but Christ was of eternity, was an eternal idea towards which man strives and, according to the law of nature, must strive. Nevertheless, since the appearance of Christ as *man's ideal in the flesh*, it has become as clear that the highest, final development of the individual must be a stage (as the ultimate conclusion of that development, as the point of achievement of that goal), where man recognizes and is convinced with the full strength of his nature, that the highest use man can make of his individuality, of the fullness of the development of his Self, is just this – to annihilate this Self, to give it up altogether, undividedly and unconditionally, to all and every one. And that is the greatest happiness.] [72]…["Love everyone as thyself." *This is impossible on earth because it contradicts the law governing the development of the individuality and the attainment of that ultimate goal by which man is bound*. Consequently, the law is not, as the anti-Christs assert, an ideal one, but is the law of our ideal.] [73]….[Thus, on earth man strives toward an ideal which is opposed to his nature. If a person does not comply with the law of striving for the ideal, that is to say, *does not sacrifice one's Self in love to others or to another creature* (Masa[74]), the person feels suffering and calls this condition sin. Thus, we must incessantly feel suffering which is counterbalanced by the paradisiacal joys of complying with the law –through sacrifice. *It is in this that earthly balance is found. Otherwise life would be senseless/ [meaningless]*.[75]

4.2. Putting Dostoevsky's argument into shape, it becomes clear that his argument consists of the following main

[70] Linnér S, 'Dostoevslij on Realism', *Acta Universitatis Stockhomiensis*, Stockholm Slavic Studies, 1. Stockholm, Uppsala: Almqvist & Wiksell, 1967, pp. 90-92; Nathan Rosen and K. Onasch, 'The defective Memory of the Ridiculous Man', *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*, Leiden: Brill, vo. 12(3), (Fall, 1978), pp. 323-338.
[71] Here, *the Self* can be paraphrased as *the ego* or *I. All italics are mine.*
[72] Linnér S (1967), p. 90.
[73] Linnér S (1967), p. 91.
[74] *Masa* is the nickname of Dostoevsky's first wife, *Maria Dimitrievna Isayeva*.
[75] Linnér S (1967), p. 92, modified. *All italics and the insertions [ ] are mine.*

statements:

① To love a person as oneself is to sacrifice one's self in love to others.

② To love a person as oneself is opposed to human nature and therefore impossible.

③ This is why humans feel suffering and call this human condition *sin* (cf. **2.132**, **2.3213**). (This means: *sin* is the human condition against *God Who is Love and Who sustains human beings in love*.)

④ It is however in this that earthly balance is found. If not, human life would be meaningless.

4.3. The point of crucial importance in his argument is deep-rooted in his assertion: *Without immortality there is no love; and, without love there is no morality* ($\neg(A \wedge \neg B) \wedge \neg(B \wedge \neg C)$). This leads to a *reductio ad absurdum* (cf. **3.4** – **3.42**). Without taking this procedure, it is utterly meaningless to refer to the earthly balance between what the semantic force of the language of *love* persuades humans to do and the reality of their human condition (cf. ② and ③ in **4.2**).

4.31. What Dostoevsky focuses on is: why it is meaningful that humans approach the ideal of love throughout their earthly lives (cf. **2.122**, **2.131**, **2.226**). That is, without this approach, humans will lose (a) the place where they can actualize their existential possibilities of staying human, and (b) eventually will face the dystopia where 'nothing would be immortal [and then] everything would be permitted, even anthropophagy'[76] (cf. **3.3ff**).

5.0. Concluding remarks

Love, a *given*, is objective-linguistically referable language in the system of Christian language (cf. **2.131**, **2.226**) and closely interwoven with Christian belief, in the *immortality* of the human soul (cf. **3.32ff**). In this system, the semantic force, which the language of love creates, works as the moral and spiritual strength that illumines the real state of humans. This questions every person of their humanity/ what *being human* is and shows them *a way of self-transcendence* to participate in *immortality* through their own earthly life. This is in which every person can be selflessly concerned for the well-being of others struggling with their *egoism/ egotism* that deters them from loving others. This is how the semantic force, which the language of love creates, breaks through the power that dehumanizes humans.

---

[76] Dostoevsky F. (2008), p. 87.