

2021 Jul 22 Heidegger, Arendt, Augustine

"for how have you accepted me into your love -- beloved. Do you know that this is the most difficult thing a human is given to do? For anything else, there are methods, aids, limits, and understanding -- here alone, everything means: to be IN one's love = to be forced into one's innermost existence. *Amo* means *volo ut sis*, Augustine once said: I love you -- I want you to be what you are."

- Heidegger to Arendt (13 May 1925),
ed, Ursula Ludz, Letters 1925-1975. [four months into their relationship, she 19, his student, he 36, married - 8 months after she enrolled in his philosophy class]

"The quotation stayed with H.A. her whole life". Ludz, Notes, p.223

"This mere existence, that is, all that which is mysteriously given us by birth and which includes the shape of our bodies and the talents of our minds, can be adequately dealt with only by the unpredictable hazards of friendship and sympathy, or by the great and incalculable grace of love, which says with Augustine, 'Volo ut sis (I want you to be),' without being able to give any particular reason for such supreme and unsurpassable affirmation.

Hannah Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism, 1951

"There is a sense that my love brings you into being. . . . A relation, not an emotion."
- Steven Ray Orr, "Amo: Volo ut sis (28 Nov 2018), stephenrayorr.com