

In a Word

Intimacy and independence
- Robert Stirnberg

1

Intimate Committed Passionate
in up to six combinations

styles of stories about
feelings for attitudes toward
typologies taxonomies

biological maneuvers
evolutionary outcomes

Love by the numbers, any combination
from none to three by the power of two
from zed to the holy tetragrammaton
of Pythagoras a universe

of two times two times two an octave
too high above or too low below to be heard
even by those with ears to hear

2

eros/amor quest for the beloved
image the lover has in mind embodied

orexis/appetitus a moving toward
a compulsion a craving to have and to hold

hedone/voluptas sensual pleasure
for better or worse the opposite of pain

epithymia pangs of desire
hunger lust *concupiscentia*

mania/insania obsession
jealousy possession by imbecile demons

pleonexia/cupiditas
a clinging to recreating the mundane

philos/amicitia affection
fellowship, a lasting bond of trust

agape/caritas feeling love
without expecting reciprocity

pothos/desiderium a fond
regret a yearning after a longing for

storge/dilectio natural delight
in kindred and spousal companions

eleos/misericordia
loving-kindness mercy in action

pragma/pragmatica taking to heart
the loved one's cultural situation

eusebeia/pietas awe
reverence service to the divine

anamchara/psykikos philos
a meeting of minds, a bonding of essences

loid/ludus a playful lightheartedness
lovers might well adopt to their greater joy

3

According to the *Nicomachean Ethics*
there are four main categories
our psychosocial scientists call
Attachment Love, Compassionate Love,
Companionate Love and Romantic Love

and a fifth for good measure — Self Love,
philautia, which runs the ethical gamut
from self-respect and self-esteem to *hubris*
epitomized by the infatuated boy
who fell in love with his own reflection in water.