

Erotic Love and Friendship

a reflection of memory
- Ploutarchos

Erotic love and friendship
aphrodisia, philia
satisfied lust and altruism

both are divine inspirations
made one when conjugal love
is graced with reciprocity

(equal subjects equally loving,
love objects equally loved)
pleasure for and pleasure in

the tendance of one another's soul
toward their mutual goal using
their wits to frustrate the cloying and deforming

effects of cohabitation and routine
for though the Egyptian priests say
Isis is both moon and Aphrodite

and Helios-Eros-Osiris is one
(receiving her love passively
returning it actively he came

to judge the quick and the dead), the sun
belongs to the visible and Eros
to the intelligible sphere while she

is a figure of the soul seeking
in the beautiful not a passive ideal
but a lover to love her as she

sibling and spouse loves him
a paradigm of love reborn
of one and the same mind.