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The Necessity of Privacy

... ist nichts so wichtig als der Wille, auch im Eros immer den ganzen Menschen erfassen und sich ihm mitteilen zu wollen. Mitteilen; das ist und bleibt das Entscheidende im Geschlechtlichen, im Seelischen und Geistigen.»

From «Rückblicke und Ausblicke», Der Kreis, June 1954.

It would appear both patronising and impertinent for me to say how deeply I myself believe in this ideal, as set out above. But, taking the above quotation as well as the entire correspondence into consideration, may I submit, solely as a qualifying corollary to these remarks, a point which does not seem to be mentioned, and which, though perhaps of minor importance, may be worth bearing in mind by those of us who have found, or who seek to find, their ideal life-companions?

No matter how deep and sincere in all respects a mutual attachment may become, are there not times we all consciously or unconsciously crave for a period, however brief, not of physical, mental or spiritual LONELINESS, but rather of PRIVACY?

And do not these brief interludes strengthen and equip us all the better for our sharing our interests, and our joys and sorrows with our Dear Friend?

Do you not consider that many otherwise happy unions have been rent asunder, not only by the selfishness of either or both parties, but by the «getting on each other's nerves» through the continued lack of such moments of Privacy?

While mutual forbearance is essential for a successful and happy life-partnership, just as it is in the case of married couples, do you not think that these periods of privacy would help each party the better to exercise such forbearance?

I have no doubt that you have already thought of this aspect, but I feel that, should you think it worth while, to make my queries available to readers, might it not possibly help the actual or impending parties to a Union, to draw attention to their respective selves from this angle, with a view to their better mutual adjustment? P.H.B.

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