

Twelfth Night: Act 2 Scene 1

WS 1: What is love?

1)

- “I may bare my evils alone.” (CSS, II, i, l. 4)
- “bad recompense for your love” (CSS, II, i, l. 5)
- “If the heavens had been pleased, would we have so ended!” (CSS, II, I, l. 14-15)
- Sebastian holds his sister in high regard and praises her intellect and beauty (CSS, II, i, l. 19-21).
- He cries because he thinks Viola is dead (CSS, II, i, l. 22-23).
- “If you will not murder me for my love, let me be your servant.” (CSS, II, i, l. 26)
- “My bosom is full of kindness.” (CSS, II, i, l. 28-29)
- “But come what may I do adore thee so that danger shall seem sport, and I will go.” (CSS, II, i, l. 35-36)

2)

By saying that he will bare his evils alone, Sebastian wants to **protect** Antonio from his misfortune and sadness. He sees him as a **good friend** and does not want to burden him → *philia*. The same can be said for the **bad recompense for your love**. What kind of love he tries not to recompense in a bad way stays unknown for now. Sebastian is devastated that he lost Viola and wishes that they could have **died together**. The way he talks about her and is **proud** of her shows his **love for his sister** → *storge*. Antonio indirectly says that he loves Sebastian and that he wants to serve him. This love is Agape because he **does not want anything in return** just to stay by his side. Sebastian’s parting words that his bosom is full of kindness shows his **gratitude and affection** towards Antonio → *philia*. Antonio’s **willingness to follow** Sebastian, even though it is **dangerous for him** is another case of Agape as that shows how selfless his love is.



3)

l. 26: “murder me for my love” murder is a very passionate act - full of hate not love – but strong, passionate feelings nonetheless. Antonio could be thinking of murder because he too is very passionate about Sebastian → *eros*. This passion with no regard for his own safety can also be seen in lines 33-36 (burning love).

l. 15-16: Antonio saved Sebastian’s life this action could also form a kind of love between the two, something like gratitude and a deep sense of being connected to the other.

l. 30-31: Sebastian is nearly crying as he is about to leave. He is in a bad emotional state and will start to cry when he parts ways with Antonio because he insists on leaving Antonio behind. Maybe he has fallen in love with Antonio but does not want to burden him with his misery or is afraid that he does not feel the same way so he would rather not have him around and be even more miserable → romantic love.

