

## Iris Murdoch and Domestic Violence

1. [Eros is] the continuous operation of spiritual energy, desire, intellect, love, as it moves among and responds to particular objects of attention, the force of magnetism and attraction which joins us to the world, making it a better or worse world: good and bad desires with good and bad objects (Murdoch, *Metaphysics as a Guide to Morals* 496).
2. A love relationship can occasion extreme selfishness and possessive violence, the attempt to dominate that other place so that it be no longer separate; or it can prompt a process of unselfing wherein the lover learns to see, and cherish and respect, what is not himself. (Murdoch, *Metaphysics as a Guide to Morals* 33)
3. The direction of attention is, contrary to nature, outward, away from self, which reduces all to a false unity, towards the great surprising variety of the world, and the ability so to direct attention is love. (*Sovereignty of Good* 65)
4. Love is the extremely difficult realization that something other than oneself is real (Murdoch, 'The Sublime and the Good' 215)
5. [W]hat role in [...] an interchange of ideas is played by strategies of deceit, blackmail, emotional bullying, punches on the nose, etc. [...] Clausewitz's mot about war as the continuation of diplomacy by other means has its own point; but it does not *weaken* the enormous contrast between human relations ruled by ideas of justice and those governed by force. (Winch, *On the Idea of a Social Science and its Relation to Philosophy*, p.xviii)
6. We have reasons to believe, to act, to feel. We deal in reasons at every turn – for example I have reason to believe you covered me in an emergency, reason to feel grateful and so reason to thank you in some more or less substantial way. What we make of a person turns on how that person responds or fails to respond to reasons in one or other of these three domains – belief, feeling, and action. Personality is the manner of one's responsiveness to reasons. (Skorupski, *The Domain of Reasons* 26)