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Passions in Christina Wasa, Queen of Sweden (1626–1689)

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Christina Wasa, Queen of Sweden argues that the passions are a necessary and vital component of human moral personality. She rejects the neo-Stoic ideal of a rational tranquility undisturbed by passion as a dull, empty, and impractical goal. While the passions can move the moral agent to the practice of virtue, the passions can also facilitate vice. Avarice and envy are common examples of such destructive combinations of passion and vice. Love constitutes the most powerful of passions; however, enduring love is rare because it is difficult to sustain the romantic passion which erupts between two human beings. Only the love of God, eternally faithful to the covenant, can ultimately satisfy the human person. Queen Christina criticizes the romantic practices of her society for suffocating authentic love. The practice of arranged marriages for economic or social gain is particularly antithetical to the passion and virtue of love. So loveless does she consider most marriages that she praises the single life as a superior vocational choice.

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