

It was a good morning for Big Cat, sipping his coffee with a loaded M16. "Good to go kid?" he asked Bmont-Balla, "let's do it," he said. While searching the vast jungles for Matty D Himself, they encountered a swarm of flesh hungry dead folk climbing through windows. This was something they could handle, because they were zombie slaying pros. "That was cool!" Matty D Himself yelled while they reloaded their automatic weapons to prepare for the next round. Sticking together and communicating through their headsets, Big Cat and his friends would spend the rest of the day killing hundreds of malicious zombies. However, it was time for Brendan to take a break, put down the Xbox controller and smoke a joint with his real life friends Ben, Pat, and Jared. Brendan's relationship with his Xbox friends and his real life friends is a common case of men in the 20th century forming their friendships based on activities. Tracing the trajectory of friendships over time, it is found that men in ancient times had a much deeper foundation of friendship.

Men In ancient times valued their friendships so much they would consider each other "soul mates." Man on man friendships were fulfilled with emotion without sexual intimacy. Deresiewics writes in Faux Friendship that. "Friendship, for the ancients, was

rare, precious, hard won." P.471. The relationships between men in ancient times held more value and content simply because finding a friend was rare. When a man found a friend, they spent a great amount of time and effort into deepening the relationship. In an excerpt from "Of Friendship," Montaigne writes, "We sought one another long before we met, and by the characters we heard of one another, which wrought upon our affection more than, in reason, mere reports should do: I think by some secret appointment of heaven. We embraced in our names, and at our first meeting, which was accidentally at a great city entertainment, we found ourselves so mutually taken with one another, so acquainted, and so endeared betwixt ourselves, that thenceforward nothing was so near to us as one another." This shows how these extremely intense and intimate relationships were very rare but formed through common interests.

In ancient times, men cherished their relationships with other men over their relationship with their wives. Montaigne wrote, "to say truth, the ordinary talent of women is not such as is sufficient to maintain the conference and communication required to the support of this sacred tie; nor do they appear to be endued with constancy of mind, to sustain the pinch of so hard and durable a knot." This shows that not only did men prefer to have a stronger relationship with another man; they believed that women were incapable of even developing such a bond. This would be considered strange to men in the 20th century because today men consider their wives as soul mates and males as friends. In "The Four Loves" C.S Lewis wrote that "we admit of

course that besides a wife and family a man needs a few "friends." He also said that friendship today is "something quite marginal, not a main course in life's banquet; a diversion; something that fills up the chinks of one's time." Today, men put more effort into their family and wives, and spend free time with the guys.

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Male friendships have changed drastically as it approached the 20th century. Men spend less time alone in a room holding hands and speaking romantically with each other. Instead, men focus on doing "manly" activities together such as playing sports, video games, or having beers at a bar. Lewis writes about this difference and says that "Lovers are normally face to face, absorbed in each other; Friends are normally side by side, absorbed in some common interest." Balancing work and family, men rarely have the time necessary to develop such a deep relationship with another person besides his wife. Lewis wrote, "We can live and breed without friendship."

Tracing the Trajectory of male friendship I have found that it has transformed from an ancient romantic and affectionate relationship to a 20th century friendship based on common activities. In their time, it was ordinary for Achilles' bond with Petroclus to be superior to marriage. Today, however, Brendan and Pat will spend their time together playing video games, then go home to have intense romantic conversations with their girlfriends. (S)

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