What Is Philosophy?

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by Michael Munro

This small book, or extended essay, abstains from work. A seminar? An article, or book chapter? Not in the least. Nor may the individual pieces that compose this book be so developed. While it is clear that ‘philosophy’ comes from the Greek ‘philosophia,’ love of wisdom, what is not at all clear is what that phrase means. In the connection it articulates between love and wisdom, what, more precisely, does philosophy name? Munro explores here how philosophy is an art of living in which to be a philosopher is to first be capable of the non-philosophical life and to feel the absence of the philosophical life bear on one’s own. What would it be to think philosophy not as the conjunction of love with wisdom, but rather, as what follows from the incommensurability of these two elements?

Michael Munro practices philosophy in its absence, and does so happily in Edmonds, Washington with his family, whom he thanks for everything. He has no university affiliation, no awards, nor other publications. His work is approved by the Interzone Bureau of Vagabond Thinker-Lovers.

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