

Journey into the Night (1921)

F.W. Murnau (1888-1931)

OVERVIEW

Auteur: Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau was a German film director, screenwriter, and producer. Murnau had an obsession with film since his childhood. He studied philology at the University of Berlin; and art history, and literature at the University of Heidelberg. In WWI, Murnau served as a company commander. He joined the Imperial German Flying Corps and flew missions. After the end of WWI, he established his film studio with Conrad Veidt. His noteworthy films are *Der Januskopft* (1920), an adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's 1886 novella *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; *Journey into the Night* (1921), a drama film; *The Haunted Castle* (1921), a silent mystery film; *Phantom* (1922); *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror* (1922), an adaptation of Bram Stoker's *Dracula*; *The Last Laugh* (1924); *Faust* (1926); *Tartuffe* (1926); *Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans* (1927); *City Girl* (1930); and *Tabu: A Story of the South Seas* (1931). Murnau died in a car accident in 1931.

Film: *Journey into the Night (Der Gang in die Nacht)* is a 1921 silent drama film. *Journey into the Night* is a play in 5 acts. The surviving prints of the film make it the earliest surviving F.W. Murnau film. The scenario was written by Harriet Bloch and Carl Mayer. It was produced by Sascha Goron. Max Lutze is the cinematographer. The release date of the film is 21 January 1921. The film stars Olaf Fønss as Dr. Eigil Börne, Erna Morena as Hélène, Conrad Veidt as the painter, and Gudrun Bruun-Stefenssen as Lily. The filming location was in Cserépy-Atelier, Berlin, Germany.

Historical background: Harriet Bloch's work *Der Sieger* was the basis for Carl Mayer's screenplay for the 1920 film. Harriet Bloch, born on July 26, 1881, and died on April 1, 1975, was a Danish woman author and screenwriter, active in the cinema from 1911 to 1923. During her career, she wrote over 100 screenplays, some of which were never produced. Her scripts were made into films in Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and beyond. Frequent topics of her film were infidelity, love intrigues, gender issues, and love entanglements among the upper classes of society.

CHARACTERS

<i>Eigil:</i>	An upright doctor who is engaged to Hélène, and later on falls in love with Lily
<i>Lily:</i>	A joyful cabaret dancer who falls in love first with Eigil, later on with the painter
<i>The painter:</i>	A mysterious man who has been blind all his life and gets operated on by Eigil
<i>Hélène:</i>	Fiancée of Eigil, a sickly and melancholic person
<i>Servants:</i>	Servants of the houses of Lily and Hélène
<i>Eigil's assistant:</i>	Eigil's assistance in his office

SYNOPSIS

Dr. Eigil Börne has been engaged to Hélène for a long time. The couple goes to a cabaret to celebrate Hélène's birthday. There, Eigil sees Lily, the ferocious and joyful cabaret dancer who later pretends to sprain her ankle so that Eigil attends to her. Eigil falls in love with her at that encounter. He breaks his engagement to Hélène and marries Lily. Eigil and Lily go to live in the countryside. Later, a mysterious blind painter comes to the village. Eigil operates on him, so he gains his sight. Eigil learns that Hélène's health is failing, so he goes to the city to see her. Meanwhile, the painter and Lily have an affair. When Eigil comes back and sees Lily's betrayal, he abandons her. Later, the painter's eye condition gets progressively worse. Lily, desperate, goes to Eigil so he can heal the painter once again. Eigil angrily refuses. He says that she cannot truly love anyone and she should kill herself if she truly wishes that Dr.

Börne heal her lover. Lily leaves without uttering a word. Soon Eigil goes to Lily's house only to learn she has committed suicide. The painter refuses treatment as he prefers to stay in the dark rather than be without Lily. Eigil, realizing what he has done, out of feelings of guilt, commits suicide as well.

SCENES

ACT I

Hélène is in love with Eigil A woman, Eigil's fiancée Hélène is melancholically looking out the window behind the curtains. She sees from behind the curtains that her fiancée is coming, so she goes to another room to prepare. Eigil comes and waits for Hélène. When she comes he tells her that he has a lot of work to do which saddens her. He kisses her and tells her that he must leave now. He holds her hand and then leaves for work. Meanwhile, Hélène is writing a diary entry. The entry goes as follows: 'February 25. Eigil is now a professor. Increasingly he is reaching the rank of doctor and scientist...a position he always wanted since our childhood together. This preoccupation with fame has only deepened since our engagement. And yet, the more he approaches this goal, the more inhibited becomes my passion for him of which he probably knows nothing, because I am always afraid my love will distract him.'



Visiting the Cabaret At Helene's birthday party, Börne is reluctantly persuaded to visit the cabaret. The cabaret singer Lily looks at the audience through the curtains. In particular, she directs her gaze to Eigil who seems bored. When the show begins, Lily presents an aesthetic dance, however, Eigil seems not to be interested in the dance at all and tries not to look her way. She asks one of the staff who the disinterested-looking man is. She learns that he is a famous doctor. After finding out about this, she smiles confidently.



Lily pretends to hurt her ankle and Eigil comes to examine Lily Next, the second part of the show begins. As she performs beautifully, Eigil cannot look at her. At the end of the performance, however, she falls suddenly to the ground and apparently, hurts her ankle. They call for a doctor. Eigil comes to her room to look at her ankle. Soon, we the viewers see that she is only pretending to have hurt her ankle whereas, in truth, she has done this act intentionally to meet the doctor. We see her smiling as Eigil tends to Lily's ankle. After Eigil is finished with his medical examination and is about to go, Lily says: 'I am terrified. Please be sure to check on me again tomorrow.' Eigil first hesitates but he finally agrees to do so. After he leaves, Lily runs to the door and looks at him from behind the door. She starts dancing in the room to the shock and surprise of her assistant-servant. She looks exhilarated.



Eigil falls in love with Lily The next evening, Eigil visits Lily's house to check on her. When he examines her ankle, she breaks into a peal of laughter and says that she has almost no pain anymore. Hearing this, the doctor wishes to leave. But she stops him and tells him that he doesn't have to go in this nasty weather. She asks him to drink a cup of tea. Then she asks him to tell her something about himself. Eigil thinks that she would be bored by what he would tell, but she insists that he does tell her things. He starts telling about his work life which soon starts to bore Lily. The servant brings their tea and they start drinking it. Lily asks whether he did not like her as an artist: 'I danced! Everyone was excited, only you sat



gloomily!' She imitates his gestures at the theatre and they both break into a burst of laughter. It is late and the doctor wishes to leave. Lily tells him that he has an ugly-looking necktie. He laughs at this joke and wishes her goodbye. He kisses her hand before she goes which almost makes her faint.

Eigil asks H el ene to release them H el ene is waiting for Eigil near the window pane. Eigil comes. He looks nervous and tense. He tells H el ene that he has come to fix their wedding day. After a while, he says: 'Release us, H el ene!' H el ene can barely speak: 'Eigil...how...has...this...happened...to...you?' He answers that he does not know. She is devastated to learn that Eigil does not want to be with her anymore. He leaves H el ene's house and comes to his own house.



ACT II

Eigil and Lily are married Lily reads a letter that says: 'Thus I cannot see you anymore.' She cries desperately. Then, Lily visits Eigil. In the next scene, Eigil is studying in his room. The servant notifies him that someone has come. He responds angrily, but in the end, he accepts the visitor who turns out to be Lily. She has a smiling look on her face and tells him that it cannot be true that he does not want to see her anymore. Eigil is very angry and does not look at her. She asks smilingly why he does not look at her. When he finally looks at her, he tells her that he loves her and kisses her. We see a train riding. Next is a scene with a beautiful natural background. We see Eigil and Lily at the top of a cliff joyfully viewing the area. The wind blows heavily. They kiss each other and turn to their house.



Eigil is a land doctor now Eigil sitting with a thoughtful look on his face. Lily comes and asks him what happened. In the letter he is reading, what is written can be partly seen: 'and precisely on the occasion of the last doctor's conference, the general regret was expressed that you, dear colleague B orne, have left our capital since your marriage, so suddenly, to work only as a country doctor'. Lily takes a look at the letter for a few moments, then puts it away, kisses and hugs Eigil. She looks overly joyful. Her attitude reveals that she does not want Eigil to be concerned about such matters as his occupation. The servant says the dinner is ready, so they go to have dinner.



H el ene reads Eigil's letters We see H el ene reading Eigil's previous letter which is about his eternal love for her. She looks at these letters with a wistful and melancholic look on her face, but then tears them and throws them into the fireplace.



Eigil and Lily have dinner Eigil and Lily seem very happy as they have dinner and drink their wines. Eigil has to go to his patients. Lily tells him to not take too long with his visits. They kiss each other. Lily waves him goodbye.



Lily has a fun time Lily tries out different pieces of cloth. She is accompanied by another woman servant. They have a lot of fun together. The servant notifies Eigil that a sick peasant woman has been waiting there for half an hour. The sick peasant does not wish to show her face. She has a problem with her ankle. It soon turns out that the sick peasant is Lily herself as we see her laughing face behind the head cloth she is wearing. As Eigil looks at the ankle that has been wrapped in bandages, he finds a letter there which goes:

'Eigil, I only want the truth between us! When I first saw you, I knew I'd love you forever. My injury back then was just an excuse, and likewise now. I've always been afraid to make that confession. I am glad it is out.' Then Lily shows her face and they both break into a burst of laughter and hug each other.



A mysterious blind man arrives A mysterious man arrives at the village by boat. The man is blind. As Lily waves goodbye to Eigil, she sees the blind man coming and she gawks at him. One morning Eigil encounters the blind man as he is sitting in front of a painting. Eigil asks the blind man what the name of the painting is. The blind painter proclaims: 'Thanks be to God for the gift of sight!'



ACT III

HELENE IS SICK

Hélène has been ill As he leaves the house, he gets a letter that says that Hélène has been getting weaker day by day and now she is sick and completely exhausted. I felt compelled to tell you about it...' Eigil looks very worried and disturbed by the news.



Eigil visits the blind man Eigil goes to the house of the blind man. A woman who is possibly a servant there says to him: 'You are a noble person. Because you help the blind man, who is as good as a saint!' Eigil looks at the piece of the letter that is about Hélène's ill condition. He seems internally conflicted about what to do.

Lily's dance in the storm The weather gets worse. There is a heavy wind and the clouds had been gathering in the sky. Lily is sleeping in her room. She wakes up because of the storm. She is very afraid because of the lightning and the storm. She shouts and calls for Eigil. Then she goes downstairs and asks the servant the whereabouts of Eigil. The servant says: 'At six o'clock the professor wants to lead the blind man to the light for the first time in five days after the operation.' She looks at the clock. Lily is still scared because of the bad weather. The storm gets worse. Lily is still scared but she finds a solution. She wears her show costume which makes her feel powerful and stable. She starts to dance joyfully. Soon she gets exhilarated and rapturous. She opens the windows and keeps on dancing vibrantly. Eigil arrives at home and walks upstairs. He is surprised at her in this state of frenzy. She shouts that she loves him and she is happy that he is here.



ACT IV

Helen gets sicker Eigil goes to the house of the blind man. A woman who is possibly a servant there says to him: 'You are a noble person. Because you help the blind man, who is as good as a saint!' Eigil looks at the piece of the letter that is about H el ene's ill condition. He seems internally conflicted about what to do. Eigil has come to the town and goes to see Helene. He learns from the servant that he has come in vain, as H el ene cannot see him.



The painter is healed The painter has been lying in a darkened room on the first floor of the house for days. Before Eigil leaves the house, he says to his servant: 'Exactly six o'clock we want to see if the healing of the blind man was successful.' The storm has ended. The sky is clear and it is six o'clock. The doctor wakes up the patient and takes the bandage off. The painter wakes up dramatically, holds his hand up, profoundly happy to have gained eyesight, and thanks the doctor.



Lily and the painter meet Lily is nervous as she waits for the blind painter to come. She tries to arrange the lights as they might disturb the newly healed man. Then the blind man and Eigil come into the room. The painter and Lily seem both nervous to have met each other. Next, they sit at the dinner table. The painter tells that he must go away from here that day. Eigil tells him that he has to stay for another four weeks: 'As a doctor, it is the minimum I request for your further treatment.' They shake their hands and leave the dinner table.



Lily falls in love with the painter The painter is sitting in his room with a rather sad and thoughtful look on his face. His servant is preparing the bed. All of a sudden, he screams: 'If only...! had...never...seen...!'. Next, the painter is sitting near the cliff. Lily comes to his house. Not finding him, she walks to the cliff he is sitting on. When he sees her, he passionately kisses her hand. We the viewers understand that they are in love with each other.



Lily betrays Eigil Eigil comes back to the village. He sees Lily and the painter together walking the hill path. He understands that Lily has betrayed him. Lily says to him: 'You gave him the light!' She tries to thank him, but he gets furious about how she could betray him. It is as if he is driven to madness. He tries to slap the painter, but Lily stands in front of him and protects him.



ACT V

H el ene dies H el ene is lying sick in her bed. Her servant is reading the newspaper to her. Suddenly she sits upright and takes the newspaper from her servant. In it it is written: 'Professor Eigil B orne, who, as is well known, devoted himself for months entirely to ophthalmology, and blessed and healed hundreds of people, was recently...' Helene is happy to have read about him. We see H el ene in her bed, looking sickly. She looks at the newspaper article that talks about Eigil and smiles at it. Then she goes back to sleep.



H el ene is smiling, she caresses the piece of newspaper. Then she goes into a deep sleep, it can be inferred that she dies.

Eigil is driven to madness Eigil leaves and starts wandering around the hills. We see him crying out in despair and agony. Soon he falls to his knees and beats the ground. Finally, he goes back into the house. He can barely stand upright. He sees Lily's dress, and he hugs and smells it desperately. He starts crying uncontrollably. Then he stops and starts looking in the chest for Lily's dresses. He finds the dress she wore when he first saw her at the cabaret and hugs it. Then he falls to the the chair. He calls for patients. He has a contemptuous and hateful look on his face. A patient is thankful that he has cured him. As he tries to kiss his hand, he steps back and gets angry, and says that there is no need to thank him as this is his duty. The patient then leaves. Eigil collapses to his chair.



The painter's eye condition gets worse Even though Lily and the painter are happy together, the painter's eye sight gets progressively worse. He tries to open and read a book, but cannot do that. Then he screams in agony which Lily hears and comes near him to console him.



Lily comes to Eigil to ask for help for the painter Lily goes to Eigil's office. First, Eigil is shocked to see her, and thinks that she has come for him, is almost about to faint, and hugs her. However, soon he realizes that she has not come for him and gets very serious. He asks her what she wants. Lily says to him that the painter is blinded again: 'Only you can save him!' Hearing that she is asking for help for her lover. He screams furiously: 'No!' 'So, you love...him? Could you ever truly love?' He finally says in anger: 'Kill yourself, then I will heal him.' Lily is devastated, but then a glimmer of hope appears on her face, then she leaves without saying anything. Eigil screams in his office. Then he faints.



Lily's suicide After Eigil wakes up, he remembers what he said to Lily and directly runs to her house. Next, we see the painter who mourns Lily who has committed suicide by poisoning herself. Eigil knocks on the door many times. However, the painter who cannot see anymore can only slowly walk and open the door. When he comes in, he sees that Lily has committed suicide and screams in agony.



Eigil commits suicide Eigil returns to his house. He walks upstairs. He lifts his hands as Lily did in her cabaret show the first time he saw her. We see Eigil in his chair. He also seems to have committed suicide. In his hand is the painter's letter to him. The painter's letter says: 'I do not accuse you. None of us is guilty. The laws are above us. No need to try to heal me again. For a short time, you gave me light. I was able to see her. I return to my night.'



CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Eigil (*Upright, Fickle, Angry*)

Character Dr. Eigil Börne is the protagonist of the film. He is an upright and straight-laced doctor who loves his work. He is engaged to Hélène at the beginning of the film. However, the circumstances he finds himself in and chancy situations make his life turn upside down. He breaks his engagement to Hélène and marries Lily. The tragedy of his life turns out to be, however, that just as he capriciously changes his loyalties, so does Lily when she falls in love with the mysterious painter.

Upright: He is an upright person, that is someone honest and high-principled. He cares a lot about his work and studies for long hours. He devotes himself to medicine which has been his passion ever since childhood. Later on in the film, Eigil focuses on ophthalmology and treats hundreds of patients, including the mysterious painter who gains his eyesight.

Fickle: Although Eigil is an honest, principled, and upright man; his nature is fickle. His affection toward Hélène changes when he sees Lily in the cabaret performance. He then abruptly breaks his engagement to Hélène which, as a result, destroys her health and life. His fickle behavior thus creates a tragedy in Hélène's life even though Hélène only plays a minor part in the film. Because of his uprightness, however, he wishes to pay a visit to her when he finds out about her illness. Nevertheless, this later regret does not better the damage he has caused in Hélène's life.

Angry: Throughout most of the film, Eigil looks like a calm man. Be that as it may, after he finds out about Lily's betrayal, he becomes a very angry man who does not have anything in his life except his work. When a patient of his wishes to kiss his hand as a sign of gratitude, he declines this angrily. The reason for that is Lily also wanted to kiss his hand because he has healed her lover, the painter. Thus, it can be said that his angry nature shows itself after being betrayed and rejected by Lily. One important point to note is that when Lily comes to Eigil to ask for help with the worsening condition of the painter's eye, Eigil forgets his duties as a doctor and reacts very capriciously toward Lily's ask for help. Here it can be said that his anger clouds his judgment, therefore he forgets his duties to heal his patients.

Lily (*Joyful, Impulsive, Fickle*)

Character Lily is a joyful and enthusiastic cabaret dancer. We first see her as she beautifully performs her part in the show. Eigil is interested in her from the first moment he sees her, but he tries to deny his feelings. Thus, her charm and passion for dance make her memorable and charismatic for the audiences and these qualities of hers impress Eigil too. Despite her joy and enthusiasm for living, however, the fates have other plans for her. She first falls in love with Eigil. Later on, her affections change. The mysterious painter impresses her and she becomes infatuated with him. Her capricious nature thus sets the stage for the tragedy to occur.

Joyful: Lily is a joyful and happy person. She is happy when she dances, when she starts talking to Eigil, and in many other areas of her life too. One memorable scene where her joyfulness and mischievousness come to forefront is when she tries out different pieces of cloth, accompanied by her servant. She does this so as to dress up as a peasant for a joke and makes Eigil laugh. Her joyful nature brightens the film's otherwise heavy, melancholic, and tragic atmosphere.

Impulsive: Lily is an impulsive character. She acts uninhibitedly and passionately. Her impulsiveness is best seen in her actions and body gestures. Other than her physical appearance and movements, she also makes rash and capricious decisions which bring us to her fickleness.

Fickle: Fickleness, that is changeability, especially as regards one's loyalties or affections, is a quality of Lily as much as it is a quality of Eigil. She first becomes infatuated with the doctor and marries him. Later, they move to the countryside together. Yet, the appearance of the mysterious, blind painter changes everything. This time she falls deeply in love with the painter and leaves Eigil. Her fickleness is essentially of the same nature as that of Eigil who leaves his fiancée Hélène for her.

Hélène (*Sensitive, Loyal*)

Character Hélène is the fiancée of Eigil. She has a mild personality and is not as fierce and passionate as Lily. However, she also has passionate feelings about Eigil. It is only that she does not show these feelings outwardly. We find out about her inner world in the diary entry that she writes about Eigil. She is afraid that her love will distract him from his medical pursuits, so she decides to stay in the background and not express her feelings toward him. However, she is unaware that soon a tragedy is to occur and she will be forever separate from Eigil.

Sensitive: Hélène is sensitive. Her world collapses when she learns that Eigil does not want to be with her anymore and wants her to release them. Soon, she gets ill and her illness gets progressively worse day by day. Her unfulfilled love costs her life at the very end of the film. Considering how she gets weaker day by day because of her love for Eigil, it can be concluded that in terms of the intensity of feelings, both Hélène and Lily feel too much. It is only how these feelings get expressed that is different between the two of them.

Loyal: Hélène is a loyal person. After Eigil leaves her, she does not think for a moment that she might be with someone else. She waits for Eigil, she reads newspaper articles about him, thinking perhaps that one day he might return to her. It might be said that her love makes her delusional and damages both her physical and mental health. Nevertheless, because she has had a deep affection for Eigil ever since her childhood, she remains loyal to him until her death.

The painter (*Mysterious, Loving*)

Character The unnamed painter is a mysterious, blind man who has lived alone for years near the village. Not much is known about him, except that he is passionate about painting. After he comes to the village, Lily soon becomes interested in him. Soon she becomes infatuated with him and leaves Eigil for the mysterious painter. His arrival at the village by boat is an iconic scene that connotes mystifying feelings.

Mysterious: The blind painter is indeed a mysterious man. He is supposed to have been blind all his life. The first scene when he gets better after his operation is truly remarkable. He holds up his hands in a dramatic way and then falls toward Eigil in a gesture of gratitude. What makes him enigmatic is not only the air of bizarreness surrounding him but also the fact that we do not know many details about his life.

Loving: The painter is a loving man. He falls in love with Lily the first moment he sees her. He has, however, many moral scruples about this relationship as he does not want to destroy the marriage of Eigil and Lily. Nevertheless, love triumphs over marriage and he has an affair with Lily. After Lily's suicide, he is devastated; but he does not show anger toward Eigil which shows us the viewer his maturity. He even writes a letter for Eigil indicating that he blames no one. All these qualities of his show us that he is a forgiving and loving man.

THEMES

PSYCHOLOGY (Sadness, Regret, Guilt)

Sadness The saddest character in the film may be seen as Hélène. She is the only one who does not find happiness in the entirety of the film. At the very beginning of the film, we see her looking out the window for Eigil who always has a lot of work to do. Even though they are engaged, they do not seem to be very close to one another. Later on, Eigil leaves her for Lily which completely damages Lily's physical and mental health. She becomes ill and bedridden. She becomes delusional and the only thing she can hold onto is the newspaper articles about Eigil being successful. She smiles when she reads such articles because this is the only thing in her hand that she can hold onto. Her sadness can thus be considered more intense than any of the characters in the film. The other characters' lives are indeed tragic too.

However, they all feel real happiness and love, both Eigil and Lily, and Lily and the mysterious painter which is something that H el ene does not get the chance to live.

Regret Regret is an emotion that we see in Eigil when he finds out that Lily has committed suicide because of his words. Even though he is regretful, there is not anything that he can do to bring her back to life. The blind man writes to him in this letter that he does not have to operate on him anymore. This means that Eigil cannot do anything anymore to improve the tragic situation. Because of his deep regret and guilt, he decides that the best course of action he can take is that of committing suicide. Of course, he could have chosen to lead a life of virtue by helping his patients and remembering the good days he had with Lily, however, his feelings of regret and guilt do not let him to do so.

Guilt Eigil is the one character that has the most feelings of guilt. He feels, first of all, guilty, because he has left H el ene and H el ene has become severely ill because of him. Second of all, his angry and contemptuous words cause Lily to commit suicide. After he finds out about Lily's suicide, Eigil feels incredibly guilty and therefore punishes himself by committing suicide as well. Here, one possibility that does not happen in the course of the film may strike the viewers as interesting: Had Eigil been mature enough, he might have accepted Lily's love for the painter, just as H el ene had to accept Eigil's love for Lily. Had he been mature enough, he might further have remembered his occupational duties and saved the painter once again. Then none of the tragedy would have occurred. However, because of his angry and capricious nature, the tragedy takes its course, and the feelings of guilt he has, cause his suicide.

FLAW (Anger)

Anger Eigil looks like a calm and happy man throughout most of the film. However, after Lily rejects him, he becomes a completely different, angry person. His anger is most visible when he first sees the painter and Lily together walking the earthy road. Another instance of his anger is when Lily comes to him to ask for help to heal the painter. He behaves rather contemptuously toward her and utters unacceptable statements about her. This angry and unprincipled behavior shows us his egocentric and thoughtless nature even though he is a successful doctor. He cannot understand that the capriciousness Lily exhibited as she left him is of the *exact* same nature as *his own* capriciousness when he had left H el ene. It can finally be said that his anger brings the downfall of many of the characters in the film, the painter, Lily, and also of his own.

Eigil tells Lily to kill herself and that he will only then heal her blind lover. This assertion is Eigil's way of *punishing* Lily as he forgets about his medical duties and his anger clouds his better judgement. Lily, of course, is not threatened; but she thinks that suicide is a viable option for her if this is what it takes for the painter to gain his sight once again. Therefore, out of her love for the mysterious painter, she commits suicide. Her suicide becomes a real *punishment* for Eigil who cannot accept the fact that it was his very words that made her commit suicide. His conscience does not let him live anymore and he *punishes* himself as well by killing himself as Lily killed herself.

RELATIONSHIP (Marriage, Love, Loyalty, Betrayal)

Marriage Marriage is an important topic of the film. Marriage is a union between people that establishes both rights and *obligations* between them. One of these obligations is to stay loyal to one another. Marriage necessitates certain duties and sets of behavior. In this film, we see the engagement of H el ene and Eigil being broken because Eigil was infatuated with Lily. They had been long engaged to one another which means that their engagement was almost like a marriage that was broken because of the disloyalty of Eigil. Lily and Eigil's marriage, on the other hand, seems perfect at first sight. It seems that they are soulmates for each other. However, the magic of this marriage also gets broken as the mysterious painter arrives in the village. Lily is now the disloyal one, who betrays Eigil and breaks her promises. These acts of disloyalty and betrayal make us the viewers all question the importance of the institution of marriage and the important obligations it brings with it.

Love Love is perhaps the most significant topic of the film. Love triumphs all over concerns, all institutions, marriage included. The love that Eigil feels for Lily causes him to break his engagement to

Hélène and marry her. The love that Lily feels toward the mysterious, blind painter, on the other hand, causes her to betray Eigil and have an affair with him. The blind painter's love toward Lily causes him to forego a second eye operation. What can we conclude about love based on this film? It is certainly a fickle thing. It contains a lot of uncertainty as we can never be certain about or know in advance who we will fall in love with. It also causes tragedies and makes us viewers question many philosophical and psychological topics such as loyalty, betrayal, and the institution of marriage. Perhaps it is up to each viewer himself or herself to come to his or her conclusion about the significance of love. Perhaps the only thing we can say about love is that it is a very powerful force in this existence, as intricately shown in this film.

Unrequited Love When the partner falls in love with somebody else, the separated partner suffers. The love becomes unrequited love. Unrequited love causes jealousy, anger, and loss of self-worth. Helene and Eigni reacts to the unrequited love in different ways. Helene continues to love Eigni but Eigni reacts with anger and jealousy to the loss of Lily as partner.

Loyalty Hélène and the blind painter are the loyal characters in the film. Hélène, even though Eigil leaves her, becomes committed to him until the very end of her life. She is always loyal and consoles herself with the newspaper articles and stories she read about Eigil. The blind painter is always loyal to Lily as well. From the first moment he sees her he falls in love with her. After Lily commits suicide, the painter no more wishes to get operated on to regain his eyesight. The reason he does not wish to gain his eyesight back is the loyalty and devotion he feels toward Lily. Lily has been the light of his life and with her gone, there is no point in seeing the world or existence anymore. In contrast to these characters, Eigil and Lily are the disloyal or fickle ones. Eigil leaves Hélène for Lily and Lily leaves Eigil for the blind painter. They are both disloyal in their engagements and marriage. To speak charitably of them, it can be said that it was not their fault that they became infatuated with other people, because as alluded to before, "*The heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of...*". Nevertheless, their disloyal behavior is not without its consequences and starts a chain of tragic events which lead to the downfall of everyone involved in the story.

Betrayal Eigil betrays Hélène and Lily betrays Eigil. However, Hélène's and Eigil's reactions to betrayal are very different from one another. Hélène is an internalizer which means that she does not blame Eigil for his behavior and endures her problems and suffering in silence. Eigil, on the other hand, is an externalizer who looks for someone to blame when things go wrong, and it is rarely themselves. Eigil blames Lily for all that goes wrong. It seems that he does not show the same amount of tolerance to Lily and the painter that he once expected from Hélène when he betrayed her. His betrayal is not without its consequences. When Lily, the woman he is infatuated with, commits suicide in the end because of his harsh words, he cannot take it any longer and commits suicide too.

CHANGE (Transience)

Transience (Feelings) *Falling in love and falling out of love* are seen in this movie several times. One case is that Eigil and Hélène. Although Hélène has loved him since his childhood, he leaves her because he is infatuated with Lily. Eigil falls out of love with Helene and falls in love with Lily. Even though this is not a criminal case, and "*The heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of... We know the truth not only by the reason, but by the heart.*" as said by Blaise Pascal in his *Pensées*; it can nevertheless be said that the decision of Eigil to leave Hélène destroys her life in every way possible, and thus constitutes an injustice against her. A parallel case of injustice is that done by Lily to Eigil. Lily, even though she is married to Eigil, falls in love with the mysterious, blind painter and falls out of love with Eigil. She leaves Eigil for him. What Eigil does to Hélène, Lily does to Eigil.