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Relationships between people and landscapes are complex and dynamic in nature. Through exploring aspects of remembered, real and imagined experiences ~~landscapes~~ in the texts, The Art of Travel by Alain de Botton and The Important Places by Forest Woodward and Anarty Bayi, one is able to observe the effects that these experiences of ~~landscapes~~ ~~these~~ landscapes can have. Thus it can be said that 'Experiences of landscapes may be diverse, but the influence on identity is always profound.'

This experience ~~and~~ effect of a remembered landscape can be explored within The Art of Travel. De Botton begins with describing his home town London, as a "barren" wasteland, in its "gradual decline like a person into old age". The use of simile provides insight to de Botton's relationship with the land. However, it is later recognised through juxtaposing the beautiful weather of last summer with the present winter weather, that this relationship is clearly affected by de Botton's ~~own~~ memories of better experiences. Thus it can be seen that de Botton's relationship with the landscape is a dynamic one that is significantly



influenced by past experience. As a result, indicating how 'Experiences of landscapes may be diverse, but the influence on identity is always profound.'

Similarly, it is this remembered landscape that is explored within The Art of Travel, however it is viewed in a longing to rediscover past connections and relationships within the landscapes experienced many years ago. This longer to redevelop relationships is immediately apparent through the use of peaceful music, a montage of photos, and the use of first person narration which creates a personal tone; immediately conveying the landscapes importance. This feeling is further amplified through saying, "I remember..." thus indicating a fondness of past experiences. ~~The way is evident~~ It is these past experiences that shape the narrators identity in the years to come.

In contrast, it is shown that de Botton is content to experience the land through his imagination unlike demonstrated within the important places. The willingness to do so alludes

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to de Botton's unwillingness to experience disappointment. This is described as de Botton sits on a beach in the Bahamas, seeing the landscape as a "desolate" stretch of mud. He then contrasts this to viewing the travel brochure depicting beautiful beaches with "turquoise" coloured oceans. This represents the need for past experiences of ~~the~~ landscapes in order to prevent dissatisfaction.

An alternative is suggested by de Botton in saying it is better to view art before visiting a landscape as it teaches one to depict the natural beauty, and allows a more accurate ~~and~~ beautified past experience to occur and thus a positive influence on identity and relationships. This is represented through Van Gogh's painting of the olive trees. Prior to viewing the painting, de Botton saw "stunted olive trees", following his viewing he saw a "ferociousness" that he had not previously seen. Thus indicating how different past experiences affect relationships with the land and thus influence identity.



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This experience of past landscapes is further amplified within The Important Places, as the narrator describes his dad's deep connection to the landscape. He described this as, ~~something~~ "dad looked on the river as an old friend" giving him a certain "twinkle" in his eyes that he had not before seen. This indicates how his father's past experiences with the landscape have shaped his identity even within his old age. The connections are reborn, representing their timelessness and "strong influence on identity."

As demonstrated, the relationships between people and landscapes are complex and dynamic in nature. These relationships are influenced by experiences past and present, as well as anticipating what is to come. ~~These~~ In doing so, it can be said that "Experiences of landscape may be diverse, but the influence on identity is always profound."