

Symposium 13

Love, Sex and Passion: The Anatomy of Desire

March 6-7

Sunday Morning Introduction

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When we speak of Desire and how it manifests through our passions, our loves and through our sexuality, we can too quickly focus on its drive to attach us to others and objects, to carry forth our aims. In doing so, we easily overlook the real potential of our Desires to deepen our capacity for awareness and for appreciation of more soulful living – indeed, we sell ourselves just short of the true depth enhancing possibilities that Desire offers.

Desire grows and comes into awareness through our silence; through our solitude, and in waiting. It is pictured for us in our dreams, in our artwork, and within our imaginations. Desire gestates in the heart. When we keep vigil over our desires, we may experience our own capacity for true faith.

We feel our Desire most poignantly in our longings -- we know too well how Desire becomes an agonizing companion in the dark nights of our lives. Patience is the virtue that bears forth the fullness of Desiring. And it is this fullness that can be too quickly fobbed off. We are easily seduced by sexual aims and addictions. We seek fulfillment through object acquisitions; too often we try to consummate our desires through others alone.

In our poem, by Stanley Kunitz, (in brochure) we are reminded that it is when we are alone, with our ruminations and meditations, that we become most acutely aware of our

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desiring. And we are also reminded (again in our brochure) of the latin roots of our word, desiderare, which suggests 'awaiting what the stars will bring.' It is this dimensionality of Desiring that recalls to us the stories of a Promised Land... and of the Annunciation – both great promises of Desire and its fulfillment – in faith and with patience.

In our own lust for consummating the pangs of our Desires, we may quickly quench their thirst with objects and others; in false starts that throw us off course. To be sure, we are grown through these points of contact between desire and objects, desire and subjects, others and aims... Yet, it is this very contact, at once primal and transcendent, that is not an end in itself -- but a means to another place.

The consummation of our desire ushers us into the agonies and the ecstasies that cut the paths through which we navigate our own lives -- through despairs and fulfillments -- as we manifest our deepest dreams... So, Dream ON!