



The Path of Service, a Primer
Part I: The Mental, Physical and Spiritual Disciplines
of Service and Surrender
By mercedes

Introduction: Service as a Path

I consider service to be a path of awakening, with the goal of personal transformation into what we are destined and called to be.

As we attend to the wishes and needs of another, seeking to learn all that we can of them, we come to a greater awareness of ourselves and more clearly see the divinity in each of us.

When we enter the state of belonging to another, it becomes possible to realize our state of simultaneously belonging to and being at one with the universe. The realization that we are not fundamentally different from those we serve can be both humbling and exalting.

Through greater awareness, we can realize the god and/or goddess in ourselves as well as understand our own part in something much greater than our individual selves.

Now, I know many of you have never considered

White Socks
By Jaime Nemitz

*A story about TRUST:
Building blocks of a fragile Union!*

Once upon a time there was a submissive in my orbit and she asked me, "Is there something specific that You would like me to wear?"

WHITE SOCKS!

your own inclinations to service to be something so profound and life altering.

But I also know that most service-oriented submissives genuinely wish to continue refining and improving themselves. It is to these passionate and driven people that I direct these conversations. I would invite you all to consider the possibility that in opening yourselves to these conversations, you might find ways to refine and improve your own service, and perhaps even develop an altered and more passionate world-view in regard to your own path.

As we move on, I will first lay out some key theories I hold about living authentically as servants.

From there, we will branch into what I consider to be the disciplines that allow us to achieve our potential and to put these ideas into practice, not just theory.

Idea #1 - The one we serve is the key to
(Continued on page 2)

Upon taking her question seriously I told her to wear a very specific outfit... that included white socks. Very carefully her outfit was crafted to include the colors of the leather pride flag,... detailed but not overly so. So that she could within the parameters of my instruction choose an outfit that made her feel good and sexy and girly. There were a few specifics in the instructions...
(Continued on page 4)

Inside this issue:

The Path of Service, a Primer Part I: The Mental, Physical and Spiritual Disciplines of Service and Surrender <i>Mercedes</i>	1
White Socks <i>Jaime Nemitz</i>	1
Personal Responsibility in BDSM <i>ZooDirt & Kyphi</i>	4
Community Service <i>Kassie</i>	6
Nine Fold Path Seminars <i>This Month in NC & GA</i>	8
The Role of Slavery in Modern Society <i>mari</i>	9
A Dominant's View of Service <i>Mermaid Master</i>	10
A Series: The Glorified Bottom <i>Kathryn_Tact</i>	13
For Pig <i>Bootpig</i>	15



The Path of Service

(Continued from page 1)

our service.

I consider this the first idea, because it is central to everything. To serve selflessly, one must yield to the one we serve and put them at the center of our universe. This may be for an evening "in scene", or ongoing if we are in a live-in (24/7) relationship. -Ultimately, there is a full spectrum in between but, when we are serving, it must absolutely be authentic and focused on the one we serve.

There is only one way to serve and that is the way required by the one we are serving. All we can do when seeking to learn and improve our service through study and practice is to create a set of tools that will allow us to be easily shaped and realigned by the one(s) to whom we give ourselves.

It is a fallacy that when we consider "training", we often dwell on changing the servant's behavior. I firmly believe that the key to effectively changing a servant's behavior is to align their worldview with that of the one they serve - by disciplining ourselves to function in a head-space where the thoughts and wishes of that person are ever placed before the thoughts created by our own experiences, assumptions and interpretations.

Idea #2 – One must know oneself, in order to give of oneself.

How many of us would present a wrapped gift to the one we serve, in which we had no clue about what was actually contained inside? Yet, I continually see those who wish to serve not doing any work to understand who they are and what their intentions are before they offer themselves to another.

As humans, we are shaped by an extensive collection of experiences and events. Our life experiences result in the development of a worldview, one marked by rules, assumptions and interpretations based on our own personal logic. We do this without thinking from birth forward as it is the way in which we all make sense of the world in which we live.

Most of us, however, have never considered the substance of our own worldview and are unaware of the filtering and conditioned responses that occur within us on a moment to moment basis. We are not present in our own minds 99% of the time. If we wish to be able to achieve Idea #1 successfully, we must consciously be aware of our own worldview in order to achieve realignment to that of the one we serve.

Additionally, we will soon be covering the concept of serving with intent. We can put intent into anything we do as a means to creating something extraordinary. At the same time though, we often unconsciously put obstacles into our service without any degree of awareness. These obstacles are often negative and originate from poor self-esteem, greed, anger or resentment.

Allowing yourself to be controlled by unconscious intention can easily sabotage the success of one's service. We must know ourselves to become aware of, and ultimately replace negative sources of intention with more positive, productive sources.

Idea #3 – As servants, we are personally responsible for our own success.

I firmly believe that when choosing to serve and surrender, we must acknowledge and accept that we are the most integral part of our own success. This means that we take personal responsibility and hold ourselves accountable for:

- * Choosing the person or persons whom we serve.
- * How we choose to experience and act on what we feel and/or think.
- * The fact that we have chosen to serve and surrender.
- * Our own happiness and self-respect.
- * Our own emotional, physical, spiritual and financial well-being.
- * Knowing our own strengths, weaknesses, boundaries and needs.
- * Working out our own anger, hostility, wounds and insecurities from past experiences and events.

We cannot rely on the ones we serve to take care of these things for us.

Ultimately, we are adults and must hold ourselves accountable for our actions. Most of the servants I know, including myself, have been in relationships where we have not held ourselves accountable at this level.

What were the results of this?

- * Inability to make ourselves vulnerable, trust the one(s) we serve and truly surrender.
- * Inability to make decisions for ourselves, pushing this onto the one(s) we serve.
- * Internalized resentment that our needs are not being met or that our boundaries are being crossed.
- * Emotional and/or physical stress and damage.

(Continued on page 3)



The Path of Service

I'm sure everyone recognizes some of these symptoms in previous relationships. I think it's quite obvious that by not taking on personal responsibility, any service relationship we attempt to begin will be doomed to failure. We owe it to both the ones we serve, and ourselves to take inventory of our own issues and manage them. Being a servant does not take away this responsibility; in fact it actually increases it. Service relationships involve great trust and vulnerability and in order to be successful in them, we absolutely must adhere to these guidelines.

Idea #4 – We have much to learn from those who have traveled the path before us.

While we have much to learn from those we would serve, consider the possibility that there is as much to learn from those who have traveled their own path of service. This is not a new concept. Guy Baldwin wrote an essay on this in his book, "Slavecraft". While some of us may serve those who have attended others in their own lives, others may not get that opportunity. Those who have never served may not have a visceral connection to providing service, and may find it a mystical experience that they could not begin to connect with.

Just as in any profession or art, the sharing of experiences with peers, the study of role models, and even the more formalized concept of being mentored proves invaluable to teach us those things that we would otherwise have to learn through trial, error, sweat and pain. In my early years on this path, I was often threatened by the thought of other, more senior servants. I was jealous of (their grace, their ease, their security in their purpose?) and intimidated by their mere presence. I greedily coveted the time and attentions of those I would serve, rather than offering my time to my peers and those from whom I had so much to learn.

While trying to find myself and to grow into the servant I wanted to be, I eventually found myself drawn to those who had already chosen service as a vocation and spiritual path. I learned so much from their patience, attention to detail, stories and attitudes. Watching one person in particular at work taught me more than any book could have. Soon I found myself creating a network of servants, submissives and slaves with which I continue to correspond, discuss and collaborate. Now, I find myself also sharing with newer servants - teaching them the things I have learned in my own life. Without these relationships, I would be much poorer and would not be nearly as far on my own path as I am today.

Idea #5 – One must discipline the mind, body and spirit in harmony in order to reach our highest potential.

This fifth idea was created in order to realize the first four ideas on

a path to service. All of the concepts discussed so far, and many more, are somewhat abstract. To realize them takes time, study and practice - there must be a holistic focus in order to achieve the fullest potential possible to us. In order to achieve this, I have listed out each discipline, categorizing them as mental, physical or spiritual.

The Discipline of Intention

The Discipline of Devotion

The Discipline of Community Service

The Discipline of Mindfulness

The Discipline of Meditation

The Discipline of Study

The Discipline of Healthy Living

The Discipline of Practice

The Discipline of Yoga

About Mercedes:

Mercedes has been exploring and following the path of service and Surrender since 1997 and is delighted to continue to do so. She is happily owned and serving in San Francisco, her adopted hometown. Throughout her time in service, she has been trained in, and performed the duties of majordomo, butler, chauffeur, ladies maid, personal attendant and house-girl.

Mercedes has taught at such groups and events as The Exiles, TES and TESFest, SMOdyssey, Camp Crucible and the Society of Janus on the topics of service, submission and queer politics. Mercedes is the creator and manager of www.passionateservice.com, an educational resource for those who give or receive service in D/s relationships.

To learn more about Mercedes, please go to:

<http://www.passionateservice.com>



White Socks

(Continued from page 1)

ON purpose.

WHITE SOCKS!

We arrived seperately at the event.... she looked amazing... HOT sexy Lovely... ripe for a beating... Of course my toys were in my small sack on my shoulder... cause I fully intended to cane her to tears... but... well... in a long and wonderful gaping oggling of this cutie pie... IMAGINE my emotions when I saw that she did NOT have on

WHITE SOCKS!

My brain... knew it was a big deal... my heart was disappointed still to this day is.... my libido was crushed... because I KNEW that I had to then take a stand and ignore my desire to beat her... my desire to make her scream. DAMN IT... it was only

WHITE SOCKS!

But the point of the matter is little steps of trust... if I knew then that she had been paying attention... that she had WANTED to be so pleasing that she would wear WHITE SOCKS.... then I could have found TRUST.... but. NO... It was not just

WHITE SOCKS!

It was a building block of TRUST! If I could not count on her (or any in her shoes) to listen and obey simple instructions like "wear white socks" then could I count on her to listen and obey more challenging direction?

Trust is a fragile union... sometimes started with WHITE SOCKS!

About Jaime:

Jaime Nemitz has been an active participant in the Leather tribe for about 10 years. Her involvement has run the gamut from event organizer, to workshop presenter, to munch host, to mentor and author. She identifies as a Dominant Leatherdyke and a gleeful sadist. A native of Austin, Texas, Jaime now makes her home in Albuquerque, New Mexico with her partner Lori Ellison. For those interested, Jaime flags left: mint green; red; black. You can learn more about her on her LiveJournal under the user-name: NoirLoba

Personal Responsibility in BDSM By ZooDirt and Kyphi

It is our individual responsibility to make sure decisions we make are based on sound foundations. If a poor decision is made, it must be faced as such, learned from and then steps taken to insure a better decision will be arrived at next time.

The following items are some of my own personal criteria for sound decision making in not only the BD/SM arena, but life in general. While the instances listed are related to our life-style specifically, the philosophies can be carried into everyday life as well.

Item #1 > *Our personal motivation:*

What is it that motivates us to pursue something? In order to really understand our individual place in any circumstance, we first must know what WE wish to extract from the situation. It is our own personal responsibility to bring to the table as much honesty and self-awareness as we can in order to find what we want in this life.

Retrospect and honest assessment of our past failures and successes is an important tool we can use to avoid problems in the future. Be honest with yourself about your own shortcomings.

Be honest with others about these issues. It will help *them* to make a better decision as to compatibility for any given situation. You hold 50 percent of the cards, so don't hide them expecting someone to 'figure you out'.

Item #2 > *Our level of knowledge/experience:*

What do we know? How long have we been associated with a given activity? Often times the difference between a successful rendezvous and a calamity can be our own expectations and understanding of a given situation.

Watching something happen and actually doing it are two different things. This can work both ways too... A given activity might look horrible to us, but in fact we might find it very exciting in practice.

It's always good to seek out a level of experience that



Personal Responsibility in BDSM

(Continued from page 4)

matches our goals rather than trying out people/scenes in a haphazard way. For some, the thrill is the unknown... However, we still are responsible to make informed choices and decisions as to who we play with and what we do when we do play.

Item #3> Terms and negotiations:

This really is a subset of item #2 in many ways. You and I are responsible for understanding what we talk about. We are responsible for asking questions, going over ground until there is little or no doubt that all parties agree on what the terms mean. Our expectations are frequently

Based on **our** own understanding of a topic.

(From Kyphi) -- and this means YOU also submissives and bottoms. Never assume anything. Make the word 'clarify' your best friend. Dominants and tops are not little gods who know what you need/want or read minds. YOU

Have to know what YOU want, not expect to be told what you want.)

For example, a couple may decide that they want to do some 'edgeplay' for a scene. Who is responsible for determining what 'edgeplay' means in concrete terms?

Everyone involved shares this responsibility. Person "A" might have a concept of edgeplay that is completely different than person "B". If the terms are not explored as to definition and scope, the scene stands a better than even chance of becoming a huge letdown at best, and chaotic and horrifying at worst.

Item #4> Who to trust, and when to trust:

This is one of the biggies. Trusting based on 'feelings' or 'clever words' is foolish at best and dangerous at worst. Trust is something that is built over time, based on what we **SEE** happen, not what we **WANT** to happen.

Nothing happens 'cause you want it to happen. It happens because you **MAKE** it happen. To arbitrarily trust a so-called experienced dom or top based on their presentation of their knowledge and expertise is crazy. Any great difference in experience level can lead to misunderstandings and problems.

To summarize: YOU are responsible to:

1> Understand and state your motivations. You can't expect anyone to intuitively know your own motivation. Motivation is a primary component of compatibility.

2> Be aware of your own experiences and limitations. Over/understating your experience will often result in disappointments/disaster.

3> Negotiate wisely and honestly. Don't hurry into a situation for the thrill before you have done your homework with your partner.

4> Trust what you SEE and not what you FEEL or WISH. Wanting something does not make it magically appear.

You are responsible for your own actions, and to make decisions based on what you see others do and understanding **your** place within that structure, be it temporary or long-term.

Copyright ZD/K 2000

About ZooDirt and Kyphi:

ZooDirt and Kyphi live in Casa Grande, AZ. They are a dominant couple who have lived for the past almost eight years in a structured relationship in which Kyphi is the subordinate partner. "Our BDSM philosophy is one of practicality and simplicity liberally sprinkled with healthy doses of common sense."



Community Service

By Kassie

What do you do when the leadership of your local community is questionable? How do you identify and fix internal corruption from people who call themselves "Master" this and "Mistress" that, who seem to be able to parrot the lingo and convince those who are new and afraid and seeking refuge that like Coke, they are the real thing?

For many of us our primary experiences in BDSM, especially with regard to organizations, have to some degree, split us as a community. While the internet has been a wonderful tool of communication, it has not always been the best thing for our community.

Our history, our lore, tells of a time when, in order to connect with other leather folks, one had to make the right connections, meet the right people, by persevering enough to get real references from real people, in order to be vetted and admitted to what was once a rather exclusive club. The internet has changed everything, allowing someone with a simple curiosity to let their fingers do the typing and come up with an infinite amount of resources in every neck of the woods. While access can mean the difference between a lonely, confused existence and the freedom to be who we are, access is not enough. Access must be coupled with responsible leadership in order for it to be an asset, rather than a liability.

But how could information and access be a negative thing, especially for the leather/BDSM community? Information and access are only as good as the leadership that controls it, and if the leadership is not appropriate for the leather community, then you have a real problem.

So, yes, I am saying that there are folks among us who are not appropriate for our organizations, and certainly not appropriate for leadership.

Back in the day, a few of us would sit around and look at the cartoons in "Screw the Roses, Send me the Thorns" and talk about the folks we knew in the community who resembled the cartoon parodies in the book. But somehow, books have gone out of fashion and the internet has become the tome, and it seems that references have gone by the wayside as well. And this is a huge problem, in my opinion.

Let's take the mixing and melding of alternative lifestyles. I recall, with much affection, the early days of my involvement in my local community. The organization I joined and belonged to for 8 years had a mission, and that mission had everything to do with Education, Community and a safe place to play within the guidelines of SSC. This was a no penetration, BDSM club and it served its purpose and very well at that. While many of us certainly were to

some degree celebrating our sexuality and sexiness vis a vis what we did and how we played at parties, the mission of this organization was not to find someone to have kinky sex with; what you did with who you met there outside of the space was your concern, not the organization's.

So what happens when people who are entrenched in another lifestyle, decide to branch out, learn to wield a whip, toss the title "Master" or "Mistress" on their name and come in with a history and references, if any, that cannot be tracked? What happens when these people rise to leadership in our organizations, and not for the better? What happens when these people appoint themselves the welcome wagon to the new and the scared and indoctrinate them the wrong way? Who stands up to these people and asks the hard questions, challenging their assumed authority?

When the current leadership of my organization signed the lease on a space I knew we couldn't afford, I was afraid that would lead to a crisis for the organization. In order to offset this enormous cost, the leadership changed the membership structure and raised dues, which in turn priced many older members out of the ball park. But unfortunately, we had no good retention program for new and existing members, and we were losing members as fast as we were signing them up, and of course, we were in a continual financial crisis.

The solution? One of the things that occurred was anyone with a check, even though they looked like they were going to end up stuffing submissives into 50 gallon drums, automatically got in. Our recruitment was driven by the bottom line, not whether someone was appropriate or belonged in a BDSM organization. Too, when the President of the Board of Directors is a swinger, and the swingers are looking for a space, by God, rent to them! And, because you rewrote the bylaws last year so that the membership was there to pay dues and had no say or power to remove a Board member but for an election, do it right under their noses without any discussion. And while you are at it, take money out of the organization's coffers to put in ceiling fans and start to make plans to install a bar for the swinger's group so that they are comfortable. Oh, and of course, even though your organization has a no-penetration rule,

the swingers will be free to fornicate in your space.

So, in order to save ourselves financially, the leadership decided that strangers could fuck on our furniture.

A small group of us caught wind of this and organized enough members against this idea to thwart it before it actually happened. But this victory came with some heavy consequences. Because I was not 'submissive' enough, and because I was proactive and un-

(Continued on page 7)



Community Service

(Continued from page 6)

willing to let this happen without a fight, the Board of Directors decided not to renew my membership when it came up for renewal because they gave themselves this power when they re-wrote the bylaws in the fall.

Whether you are top or bottom, master or slave or somewhere in between, it is all of our responsibility to serve our community, paying homage to those who labored hard to begin our local organizations and serve those yet to join by upholding our core values and not allowing these people who are not appropriate for leadership in our community to rise to power because it's easier or perhaps we feel like we've done our part in the past. A simple act of service, in my opinion, is to get to know the people well who join our organizations and give back the treasured teachings that we learned, rather than relying on someone else to educate new members in our values. Remember that sometimes, it is each of our job to speak up, question practices that don't seem to jive with our understanding of this lifestyle, and participate in our community in ways that may not be convenient at the time, but will make it stronger and serve it much better and will uphold the foundation upon which it was built.

So the moral of this tale? In an effort to serve my community, I fought the law, and the law won. For now.

About Kassie:

Kassie has been in the lifestyle for over 8 years and a member of both the Rochester Kink Society and PEP Buffalo in that time. While she is the owned property of Sir Mike of Rochester, NY, she continues to enjoy serving the greater community as a bootblack and an advocate and educator on service related topics.

Know The Difference!

National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

(Although this is past, it still bears a remarkable level of importance in our community, and remains included in this issue)

As you may know, **October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. This month offers the unique opportunity for concerned individuals to help increase public awareness about the seriousness of domestic violence.

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the National Leather Association- International Domestic Violence Project is pleased to announce its first official annual National Domestic Violence Awareness initiative. Since 1998 each of the projects volunteers has been committed to educating individuals about the difference between consensual SM and domestic violence, assault, and abuse. The work of these dedicated individuals has also created the much needed groundwork so that we can now get appropriate intervention and help from general public agencies, shelters, and law enforcement.

The month of October provides an excellent opportunity for our leather/SM/Fetish community to come together and demonstrate their support in ending intimate partner abuse. More importantly, each individual's participation shows support to the victims who are among us. All of the work that needs to be done can not be done in a month. However, participation by the individuals within our community is the first step to realizing the seriousness of domestic violence and the prevalence of this epidemic in our community.

We ask you to consider supporting the community and NLA-I DVP during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. You can review the NLA-I DVP website at:

<http://www.nlaidvproject.us> . You can also download a "NLA-I DVP Information Packet" on the NLA-I DVP website. This packet contains information about the project, what you can do to help the project, and information about intimate partner abuse.

Please feel free to forward this letter to other groups and individuals so that we may get the word out about NLA-I DVP. If I can provide you with additional information concerning NLA-I DVP or National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, please feel free to contact me at: dvchair@nla-i.com .

On behalf of the NLA-I DVP I would like to thank you for your consideration of this special request and your help with eliminating intimate partner abuse.

Thank you,
Seraphina



The Role of Slavery in Modern Society

By mari

It may seem mystifying to many that any modern woman (or man) would voluntarily subject themselves to the concept of being owned by another person.

This seems to contradict every ideal of modern Western and even Eastern society by surrendering essential personal freedoms to someone else. Women's liberation and a general move toward more democratic thought in our culture would seem to be totally at odds with anyone willingly agreeing to obey at all times the wishes of a Master. But it is not so much of an enigma to me based on the internal process this slave has personally gone thru.

I think there are two main reasons for the viability of slavery in our modern world. One is a general need over time in humans to seek out structure, to find those parameters that define one's existence, and as well, to emphasize the natural proclivities of one gender over another, i.e. the biological imperatives that make certain approaches more likely; and the other is that at the present time, the pressure placed on modern women, and men, in their interactions with each other and the world as a whole is sufficiently 'liberated' that it can become a very confusing place.

In the first case, men are biologically designed to be more forceful physically and to 'go out there' and face the world in a rather independent, focused (tunnel-visioned at times) way, the entire brain moving into a very concentrated usually physically oriented method of 'attack'. This requires that there be someone 'watching their backs' so to speak, not so much for direct physical support (although that may be necessary depending on the scale of the issue) as in providing the constancy of sometimes intangible support in the background. This means that the Master/Male needs the autonomy since He is out facing the theoretical immediate 'dangers' and must be able to respond decisively and without hesitation brought about by uncertainty as to the support He will receive. The female, capable of this in a less focused way, must multitask more effectively in order to preserve what the Male protects – a future, the culture, the young, the 'homefires', all the things that require great capacity to balance emotional and physical needs but does not necessarily require instantaneous decisiveness or aggressiveness. The Master MUST know that His decision 'in the field' will be backed up and therefore is not 'better' but must make quicker decisions which are followed with unquestioning loyalty.

The other aspect deals with the modern world's pressures. The more that women are placed in a position in society where they are bearing the burdens of traditional male roles as WELL as still maintaining the traditional duties of the nurturer, the more need there is for a place they can go where they are relieved of some of these burdens. The structure of slavery allows the female slave to be protected and given the freedom to simply be the nurturer, not the protector as well. It affords an opportunity for her to have influence in a way more suited to her basic nature – through cooperativeness and attending to the pleasure of those around her, while the Master fulfills what needs He has to nurture by caring for her and yet is freed to do what He does best – protect, decide quickly, take action with certainty. He is able to make the important decisions for the M/s couple with no wasted time or bickering; she is able to express her femininity in its ultimate pure form and have no doubts that she will be in a secure constant environment in which to do that.

About mari:

While i have not been in the BDSM community in a formal sense for that long (about 2 years) i like many have been submissive all my life and have had the good fortune to meet and become the property of my wonderful Master Seoladh. Both He and my Mentor felt i was a perfect fit for this lifestyle and i do know the peace i have found in following it's precepts.

i am a jill of all trades, currently operating my own studio, teaching musical theater performance and directing plays and musicals. i have a strong background in the biological sciences, psychology of language, and the social sciences, and not surprisingly have worked in service industries for many years, including design of software systems for service clients. i'm a mother of two just about grown children who have a pretty good understanding of what mom is into without having to pay too much attention to it if they choose not to. Originally from NJ, i have lived near Toronto, Ontario, Canada for many years.



A Dominant's View of Service

By Mermaid Master

I am the Master in a Master/Slave relationship.

This is simply one of the more extreme types of D/s relationships. My property's obligation is to serve me in whatever manner I wish. If I had my way, I would simply relax and let her do all the work. Before becoming involved in this lifestyle, that was my picture of such a relationship. I anticipated telling her generally what I wanted and expected and she would do it or be punished. Would that it were so easy. Instead, I have learned that because this is indeed a relationship between two people, there are some very practical matters that cannot be overcome by edict.

In the September, 2005 issue of *Simply Service*, Anton's girl jessie talked about the fact that sometimes she wanted to obey and for various reasons could not. That is, in fact, for me the biggest obstacle of all to overcome. It is not at all uncommon for my slave, Mermaid, to want to obey me but for a variety of reasons simply may not be able to do so. Underlying this article is that premise. How does a dominant go about enabling a submissive to obey?

When my Mermaid and I first began this path, the real obstacle for me was in what to focus on. As I said, it seemed easy to start. I told her what to do and she did it. At least she did it if she was agreeable to doing it. Again, one of the things that jessie's article brought out was that even if a submissive obeys, that doesn't necessarily mean she will do it immediately and cheerfully. I was appalled. She had consented to be a slave and in my mind, that meant that she was supposed to be perfect at this, instantly and without any effort on my part. (If you are a submissive reading this, you can stop laughing now.) Together we discussed this and worked on it and I gradually backed off, more and more. As our relationship became increasingly that of equals, it also deteriorated. It was not what either of us wanted.

My problem was simple. What did I do if she didn't obey me. I could, in theory, punish her but I really had no interest in ruling out of fear even if I did do that. I wanted her to obey because she was a slave, not because I was bigger and stronger and could beat her. One day I had a revelation, helped in no small part by reading this e-zine and other materials written by submissives. I realized that while she might not for various reasons obey immediately, cheerfully and willingly, in the end, she would always obey. It might take a little time to work her into it but she would obey because it was in her nature to be submissive to me. She might take some time but she would obey. That allowed me to relax and again take on the role of

her Master.

I started to look at what was interfering with her obedience. To me, obedience is the cornerstone of slavery.

The first thing I realized was that it was necessary for me to be clear with her on what I wanted. I much prefer that she read my mind to save me the trouble and since she is an Empath, she can, in fact, do that to a degree. (That was an extra-cost option when I bought her at Slaves-R-Us but I thought it was worth adding.) Still, that is not totally reliable and so I worked on trying to be clearer.

That led me smack into my next obstacle. I discovered that I wasn't always clear in my own mind on what I wanted. In fact, being a rather ordinary mortal, I sometimes wanted two mutually contradictory things at the same time. Alas, while she was very, very good at satisfying my desires, she couldn't comply with that. For some time, we focused on the basics of obedience. The goal was immediate, unthinking obedience to my orders.

Much of what is generally called "slave training" but is more appropriately called slave development centers on the military model which is intended to produce just that.

In the military, instant obedience can be a matter of survival and therefore it is essential and much of the training is devoted to achieving it. In BDSM fiction, that is achieved by brutally crushing any resistance to the Master through physical punishment. In real life, this does not work as the criminal penal system has discovered.

As she gradually got better at doing what I wanted, I discovered that I didn't care as much about instant obedience as I thought I would. In fact, if I could get that now, today, it is not something I would value greatly. That does not mean that I expect her to just ignore me or do whatever she wants to do. She is still my slave and I am still her Master. But instant, unconditional obedience is no longer something I am working toward in any and all circumstances.

What I am working toward is a special kind of service.

I have discovered that as I clarified what I wanted, it wasn't
(Continued on page 10)



A Dominant's View of Service

(Continued from page 9)

enough for me to just have obedience although that is a foundation for anything else in a D/s relationship. However, to understand what I am looking for, I would like to offer my personal definition of a slave and a Master. This is far from the only one around and I offer it only because it is what I use to define my relationship.

Definition of a slave:

A slave is a woman driven by a strong inner desire to commit to a relationship with a Master, with who she is able to give herself to completely, in body, mind and spirit.

Their relationship is characterized by the following: She has no limits on what can be done to her by her Master; she has consented to obey her Master in every respect; she has consented to and given him complete control of her life with the clear understanding that he may exercise that control in any manner he wishes, whether she agrees with him or not; that any and all of the areas where he does exercise control may be changed at any time, unilaterally by him, without need for her further consent; and that this control may be enforced by any physical or mental measures he may see fit to use. In summary, she exists for his pleasure.

Further, this pleasure focuses on restricting her in various physical, emotional and mental ways that demand submission on her part. This is accomplished by the forging of mental/emotional "chains" that consist of three fundamental and undeniable desires: the desire to serve, the desire to obey and the desire to remain his slave, no matter what.

Definition of a Master:

A Master is a man driven by a strong inner desire to commit to a relationship with a slave who is able to give herself to him completely, in body, mind and spirit. He feels an inner drive to have ownership of another human being with all the rights and responsibilities that ownership carries.

Their relationship is characterized by the following:

The slave has no limits on what can be done to her by her Master but his limits are based on doing nothing that would deliberately or recklessly risk injury to her; he demands that

she obey him in every respect; he has a deep inner drive to assume and accept complete control of her life with the clear understanding that he may exercise that control in any manner he wishes, whether she agrees with him or not; that any and all of the areas where he does exercise control may be changed at any time, unilaterally by him, without need for her further consent; and that this control may be enforced by any physical or mental measures he may see fit to use in order to bring himself pleasure and make her thrive mentally, physically and emotionally. In summary, she exists for his pleasure and he exists for them both to thrive and grow.

Further, his pleasure focuses on restricting her in various physical, emotional and mental ways that demand submission on her part. This is accomplished by the forging of mental/emotional "chains" that consist of two fundamental and undeniable drives: the drive to control her in every respect that he wishes and the drive to keep her as his slave, no matter what. Finally, along with as near total power over her as possible, he also willingly accepts as near total responsibility for what goes on in their lives as possible.

As the reader will see, there are two themes that run through these definitions: the demand for obedience and the goal of making them both thrive.

I believe an excellent analogy to a D/s relationship is that of growing roses. Rose bushes need to be pruned regularly in order to get the plants to blossom. They also require a lot of care and attention to grow strong and produce the best blossoms. You can't just put them in the ground, say "Grow!" and expect to get a good result. I think M/s relationships are the same.

However, as I said before, in my own relationship I have found that just getting obedience is still not enough. Fortunately, early on I established the principle that as the Master, I had the right to change my mind about things so that I could pursue something or some way I wanted Mermaid to behave, decide I didn't like it, and change it.

Although it is not inherently or automatically a part of a D/s or Master/slave relationship, BDSM plays a major role for us. Most people who enjoy BDSM are familiar with the idea of subspace, that special kind of consciousness that happens in an intense scene. It is a highly addictive state which, once experienced, is usually sought after. What I have discovered is that there is a related kind of consciousness that we call "slave



A Dominant's View of Service

headspace". While not quite as intense as subspace, it seems to be much longer lasting and more all pervasive. I have found that it is the induction of slave headspace in Mermaid that is what I really want.

This is a difficult thing to achieve. One of the ways that we have discovered to both accomplish that and for me to be able to tell how much she has achieved it at any time is the use of language.

The use of protocol is typical in most D/s relationships to some degree. Subs may be required to ask for permission to do things, they may have restrictions of what they can or cannot do, they may be required to behave in certain ritual ways. This is all a part of protocol.

Typically in a Master/slave relationship, protocol becomes a very major part of what is done and taught. Different Masters have different requirements for what is included in a slave protocol. Modern D/s relationships, especially M/s relationships have been heavily influenced by the GOR novels of John Norman. One of the key characteristics of a Gorean slave is the requirement that she not think of herself as anything but property. This is a rather extreme concept and is rejected by many subs. Even highly submissive women often take offense at the idea that they are property in the same way as a family pet.

Whether you agree with this concept or not, the idea is encouraged and to help convey it, these slaves are not permitted to use the pronouns "I", "me" or "my" because they imply that the person using it is a person, not a thing, an object, a possession. This might be a horrifying idea to some, even a form of abuse, but something interesting happens when it is accepted. At first it is a definite struggle with constant mistakes. But gradually the slave learns how to talk this way. However, this brings in some powerful forces.

Adults think in words. Many people mistakenly believe they also often think in pictures but that is actually not possible except for the most concrete, low intelligence people, none of whom read Simply Service. This is not to say you can't think in terms of a picture as a symbol. But beyond that, thought, real thought, is done in words. So when a very important class of words is removed from a person's vocabulary, at first they may still think in those terms but, just as with learning a foreign language, after a while, she begins to think in those terms. This produces a shift in what we can loosely call consciousness into what we call slave headspace. It is the achievement of this

consciousness or attitude or whatever you wish to call it that is my real goal.

When my slave is deeply into that headspace, any resistance and struggle ceases. She becomes whatever I want her to be. Instead of service being something she does because she has to or because I insist, service becomes an incredible joy. And that is the kind of service that I really want. In other words, just doing things for me is not enough. I want a change in her fundamental being. I want the special energy that flows when I can totally control not just her actions but her thinking as well.

In order to achieve this, it is necessary for me to be in a complementary headspace. This is not always easy for me. As a man, I have been socialized to be gentle with women. With a slave, however, this kind of treatment tells her that she is not wanted or valued as a slave. To change this, I try to remind myself that she is a slave. To do this, I use language that is comparable to what I want her to use. Just as she is not permitted to use "I", "me", "my" or similar construction, I try to use substitutes for "you", "your" or other words that indicate she is a woman. She is a slave, property and even though I am aware that she is a person, I cannot talk to her as one and expect her to get into that deep slave headspace that I want her to achieve.

This, of course, leads into how that can be achieved and even whether it is practical to have her in that state all the time. I invite your comments about this and may address it in a future article.

About Mermaid Master:

Mermaid Master, in real life, is a Ph.D. psychologist and therapist. He has been active in the on-line community. He invites you to contact him through Simply Service or at mermaidmaster@yahoo.com.



Letters from the Front: A Glorified Bottom Thrown into Service

By Kathryn Tact

“Letters from the Front: A Glorified Bottom Thrown into Service” is a set of diary entries by a fictional character. Like most fiction, it is based on the truth but I assure you, the truth is always much more strange than the fiction.

~~~~~  
Day 1: January 29, 2006

Dear Diary,

He asked me to wear his collar tonight. And it made me want to lose my dinner.

Me? I'm a glorified bottom. No, no, it's true. Yes, I got involved with the SM scene when I was about 20 and I tried my hand at an M/s relationship a couple of years later but it never really fit. Lip service and pretty memories, and don't get me wrong, he was a wonderful man but he was just that to me, a man. So onto the next...and so he lasted just under three years with no overt SM dynamic.

Well, ok, I did his laundry and cooked him French toast at 7 AM on the weekend mornings when I wanted to do nothing other than sleep but those are the things you do when you love someone or at least that is what I told myself. And it worked. We attended some SM events together, and we played very, very rarely but overall in our own way we were happy. He made sure to remind me everyday I wasn't submissive and I made sure to tell him that being dominant had nothing to do with the fact that he had a large cock.

So, obviously, we weren't a great match but it worked while we were together and then it was over. And now there is Sir.

From an amusing IM that I sent him a couple of weeks after breaking up with the well-hung-hottie-ex spawned the position I am in now. All I wanted to do was get laid and played because it had been far too long since the latter and the former is always a plus. I think there may be something wrong with him though that I hadn't noticed before—he thinks I'm a slave. We spent a few months casually seeing each other and playing and banging. Overtime he added more structure to our friendly relationship, some of it asked for, some of it not, most of it un-welcome but most of it secretly appreciated. And now, this is where we are.

I avoided the question the majority of the night. I hemmed. I hawed. I put him off as long as I could to the point where he got fed up with me. He finally told me “you suck at making your own decisions, you're mine now. Understand?” I nodded, I think I may

have uttered “Yes, Sir” though I couldn't be sure at this point. Eventually we went to bed, did I mention some other woman I barely know was on the other side of him in my bed?

I think I may have gotten myself in over my head but I can still claim a lack of culpability. After all, it was his decision that I am his, not mine.

Either that or I can pretend it's all a bad dream.

Love,

Glorified Bottom

~~~~~  
Day 4: February 4, 2006

Dear Diary,

It's not a dream. Apparently I've gone from glorified bottom to an “owned slave”.

He wants me to change my collarme dot com profile to read “slave” on it and it's such a small thing but I can't seem to bring myself to do it. I'm a computer addict who has stayed off the internet nearly all day, when I wasn't at work of course, to avoid having to do this.

I have seen myself a certain way for many years, overtime slowly hiding beneath layers and layers of self defense mechanisms. It is less of a response to being actually hurt though I have been hurt in the past and more of an offensive attack. Keep them away before they even start to get close or get to know too much about me.

Not that I don't like knowing about other people but I'm much more comfortable being a lesser known entity. I used to make jokes about how it was easier to get into my pants than my head, easier to get into my head than my heart but once you had my heart you were welcome to all three. I suppose nothing much has changed there and while I find myself still having problems sharing, I'm more likely to do so these days.

Then again, I don't always do it in a productive manner. I'm a bot-tler. I bottle things up inside of me to the point where I burst. It isn't particularly pretty and I have done it to Sir a couple of times



Letters from the Front: A Glorified Bottom Thrown into Service

now. He isn't impressed. Then again, neither am I.

Sure, I'm just a glorified bottom but if I'm going to pretend to be something else, I should at least pretend to do it well. I must work on this positive and effective communication between a Master and his property thing.

Note to self: How do you say "no way am I dressing up like the Bobsey Twins, you butthead!" and not get in trouble?

Love,
Glorified Bottom

~~~~~

Day 5: February 5, 2006

Dear Diary,

Ok. Apparently I couldn't come up with the right way to tell him I didn't want to dress like the Other.

He had told me he picked out this white jacket and even though he didn't have a picture of it, just from the explanation of it, besides being something I would never wear on my own, I really don't like dressing like other people. Ok, that's not exactly true. Friends and I have dressed alike before but the Other isn't my friend. Not exactly. We just both happen to be in service to the same man.

Did I mention I'm not polygamous? Not really at least, I'm more like openly monogamous-ish. I want to have a primary relationship with someone, I want to be their primary relationship but outright "sharing" is so strange.

All of these different thoughts keep slamming into me out of nowhere and each time I think I get one cleared up another rears its ugly head.

But since he wants me to be polygamous and I'm interested enough and inspired enough by my connection with him, because if you've been around the scene as long as I have finding someone you have a connection with who is funny, good looking and smart is rather hard to do, I have to figure this out. Did I mention he's really amazing to scene with? Geez!

I understand that the Other and I serve very different purposes specifically. Yes, we both serve him but we both are good at different things, there are different areas at which we excel and that's good. It hasn't become a competition of any sorts of which you occasionally hear about from polygamous SM relationships but...if we're so different, and he tells me that he appreciates that in us...

Why does he want us to dress alike?

And why do they have to be such ugly jackets?

I refused to put on the jacket when I got to the event, I wouldn't even touch it. I glared at it. The jacket represented some picture perfect slave in my mind and I'm not her. I don't even know if I can ever be her or if I even want to be her. Sir promptly ignored me. He wouldn't speak to me during the social portions of the event, nor would he touch me, he barely looked at me. As I stood on the deck, listening to the conversations around me, I realized it didn't matter so much who I was, or what I wanted to be, or even who I thought I could or couldn't be...what mattered was simply what he wanted right then and there. Well, that, and I wanted him to speak to me again. I suppose you could say it was the first time he effectively "punished" me because within an hour I was shrugging on the jacket, trying to not cry.

The moment the jacket was on, he smiled at me and included me in the conversation he was having.

I may just be a glorified bottom but there is much less glory within it if he's not actively in my world I'm finding.

Love,  
Glorified Bottom

PS: I still don't like the jacket. I wonder if I could get away with dying it pink. I rather like pink. I think if I bothered to bring up the idea to him, he'd figure out a way to use my blood as the dye. One day I will make sure that the filter between my brain and mouth starts working...

*About Kathryn Tact*

*Kathryn Tact is a twenty-something sadomasochist living in eastern North Carolina. She's participated in the scene since 2000, and values the contacts she's made, many of whom have deeply impacted her life. Among her passions are her friends, her writing and her shoes as well as coveting other people's footwear. Current projects include helping to produce North Carolina's first "all edge" event, NiCE, which can*



## Quietly Refocusing

By: BootPig

Many of you have written, and it is so appreciated. I wanted this to be a regular thing, but as you're aware, so many things influence our time and service and we end up prioritizing. Sometimes badly. This is more of a "journal" type of sharing, rather than an article of knowledge. I don't know that I'm sharing much more than my reality.

Lately, my focus has been on returning to some service basics. I've been in service for years. I think burn-out is a real thing that can affect many of us, but it is such a bad, bad thing to mention. Often when I see experienced service people mention burn-out, the immediate reaction from others is almost blame. A panic-stricken bit of advice, "Well, do this, this and that". Almost like if we acknowledge that burn-out occurs, then we have to also admit that it could happen to us.

I think burn-out is alive and well. I think I've been in it. I think I'm coming out the other side of it though.

What I discovered is that I can only do so many things at once. Sounds like common sense, right? I had no idea. I had blissfully gone along saying "yes, yes, yes, yes" and getting things done, that I really had no idea that there could eventually be a "No, I can't do that" moment. It came. I shifted from a focus of doing the "most right thing at the moment" to a focus of "dammit, how fast can I get this done and get to the next thing?" Not a really inspired way of being in service nor passing along love and kindness. I can be very abrupt when I'm trying to get something done and getting tasks done just isn't worth alienating people.

Work has been demanding. School, demanding. Life, demanding. Sir? Not demanding. I am fortunate to be in service to someone that isn't demanding in that way. Is this a bad thing? I don't think so. I think there is way too much horsepooey out there about Dominants that won't tolerate a slave that is distracted or having a hard time. They stamp their feet and explain how it will REALLY be. Then I find out, they haven't had someone in service for years. They don't really know what happens when it is day-in, day-out.

Sir will often choose to do without rather than push me into an area when I don't have the reserves to go there. He also teaches valuable lessons by letting me wear myself out. Maybe this is the dreaded setting-up-for-failure scenario that people envision, but it does work for me. Now, I know that I do have reasonable boundaries to what I can do at once. I know that I will wear out. I know that it will impact my service in a way that doesn't make either of us happy. This is good information to have.

One of the things about being bull-headed, is that if you stop me before I find that edge on my own, then I really don't believe it exists. I'm the kid that touched the hot stove. I would be obedient to a command and stop as asked, but in the back of my head I would wonder if the danger was really there. Well, it is. I'm now aware of it.

Having been to that edge I've discovered that my focus belongs at home, on him. I am very content with building a warm, cozy home. Strangely enough, that was never a goal for me. Ever. I've always been career-driven, externally focused. I thought a calm and happy home would bore me to death. It doesn't. I'm finding, after a number of years on this earth, that a safe haven in the home is a beautiful thing. I want to just be quiet. Be. Being.

So, I'll go back and read the prior issues and remind myself that it is ok to stumble in service and get back up and try again. The good news about a project like this, is that I have a remarkable archive of advice to help me move forward. I'll remind myself that the only person demanding perfection out of me, is me. I'll stop and remember that he still makes me tremble and I love him and can't imagine not being in service. I'll read your words of encouragement and remember that it is ok to be a slave AND be human.

And we'll keep having the newsletter, because I need it as much as anyone else does. And maybe we'll have it more often because frankly, I want to do the things that bring me joy, not just things checked off on a list that may not even matter in the grand scheme of things.

Thank you all for being a part of this, waiting it out, and sending encouraging words.

Much love,  
BootPig



## The Fine Print

*Simply Service*, Copyright 2006. All Rights Reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, in whole or in part, without the express written permission of the Editor, and authors of articles. The newsletter may be forwarded and shared in entirety with all credits retained.

Subscribing to *Simply Service* is done by sending an email to [SimplyService-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:SimplyService-subscribe@yahogroups.com). You will receive all past issues automatically, and 1 email per month with the new issue.

The list is closed to any other traffic to avoid clogging your mailbox. If you set your list settings to Digest, Special Notices or Web Only, the attachment will be stripped.

You can also access issues via the "Files" section of the Yahoo group, or on my website at <http://www.bootpig.net>

~~~~~

Thank you again for all of your support and encouragement. Please do consider writing and sharing your lives and experiences with all of us.

Much love and respect,

BootPig