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The Priesthood is a Condition of a Soul on Fire with Love.

Thus begins and ends Nema's essay on *The Priesthood*¹. For me, the 3 grades of *Initiate*, *Adept*, and *Priest* are a continuous un-folding and remembrance² of the flower of my essential being. I am most definitely a Priest. I also seek new initiations into all traditions which interest me. All the while, I continue to work on my adeptship in those traditions in which I am already an initiate, but not yet a Priest.

Sexually, I am a Priest. From my perspective, monogamous relationships are very useful in providing a safe stable environment for couples to nurture one-another and raise children when our magical tribes are dispersed and that protection is needed to nurture ideals which might otherwise be lost within mainstream culture. But now, as magical communities are beginning to spring-up and sexuality is beginning to express itself, the need for monogamy is beginning to fade. For many, the time is not yet ripe for abandoning the protective atmosphere of the dyadic relationship. But for some of us, it is now time to begin experimentation on alternative modes of inter-personal relationships.

Personally, I have no need to pair-bond to a particular mate. I am part of an open and ever-expanding magical family within a community which accepts me as a pagan and as a magickian. Although I have no need to create a nuclear family, this does not mean that I am devoid of meaningful relationships. On the contrary, I have on-going relationships with most everyone I have ever made love with. Some of these relationships remain sexual, while others are (at present) platonic. I perceive myself as being married to the Fire which exists at the core of every one of my lovers. *Sex*, *Entheogenic Sacraments*, and *Ritual* are the fun and useful tools by which I access/share/communicate with my lovers.

I am a member of the sterile Priestcraft of *Black Isis* and a Sovereign of the *XI0 Sanctuary*. Biologically, I sire no children. But I am by no means barren. My magical family grows daily at an exponential rate. My sterility is a matter of personal magical choice. The world is already full enough and as I am an immortalist, I have no need to grow replacements. My genes are nothing special, whereas my ideas are priceless. I propagate thru memes (idea seeds), not genes. I am a contagious ease in the spirit of the world soul.

I have noticed that many relationships seem to be based on shoring-up one another's weaknesses. For me, such a dependence within magical family is based (for me, anyway) upon individual strengths. I do not seek a 'soulmate' to make me whole. I am already whole in-&-of myself, and I share my totality with my lovers in the on-going Celebration of Life. As a Priest, I am married to Fire. To phrase it another way, I am celibate, but by no means chaste. To me as a Sexual Priest, my Magick is an orgasmic celebration of Life wherein I utilize sexual energy as the sacrament with which I learn/teach/share/communicate with the world. To me, sexual fluids are the alchemical medicines by which sexual eases are propagated and community is bonded together. I celebrate the Mass with all whom I am able to relate on the level of sexual energy.

What does all this have to do with you? For many, the transition from nuclear family to tribal sexuality is one of gradual experimentation. I and my family at *Math of the CHRYSTAL HUMM* are specialists in alchemy (both sexual & antheogenic) who live in an on-going magical community. We have more opportunity to experiment than those who feel they need to hide their magicks in their daily lives. We our Will to share our experiments with others of similar Will. We who are married to Fire are an on-going experiment in tribal sexuality. We Pagan Shinites dance the Dances of Life as we commune with other partners who are at-cause of their own personal universes. We encourage you to observe us, interact with us in accord with Will, and experiment on your own to discover/create those sexual dances which are right for you.

Our work is to create/facilitate/encourage pagan gatherings (be they brief evening rituals or week-long festivals) which take place 'between-the-worlds', where past commitments and future aspirations are meaningless. Within our Circles, celibacy, monogamy, hererosexuality, homosexuality, virginity, cronehood, and all other forms of personal sexual conduct are matters of conscious personal choice, rather than habits, obligations, or taboos.

Within such an environment, chanting, drumming, dance, antheogenic sacrament, and all forms of ritual expression are employed to dissolve the rational mind, ego, and creative self into a trans-rational energy soup which mingles/communicates with all the other energy soup in the circle. Out of this primal (yet prescient) soup emerge dramatic archetypes which interact with each other in a spontaneous enactment of the on-going saga of Alternity.

Sexuality is but one facet of this saga, but one which strongly attracts my attention. I see/hear/feel/taste/interact with sexual energy directly. Sexual union is but one way in which this dance can be actualized. To me the form of the dance is very important, but within circle I am far more open to experimentation than at any other time. I am a soul on fire with love. As a Priest of Fire, my love ever seeks new expression. The all-consuming fire of Love ever ates me from my self-imposed limitations. To me, this is the essence of my sexual Priestcraft and the mode by which I seek to evolve within my personal universe.

The Priestcraft is a condition of a soul on Fire with Love.

Notes:

1. *The Priesthood: Parameters and Responsibilities* by NEMA is available thru *Black Moon Publishing*, Box 1343, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45201 for \$5 postpaid. To keep abreast of the cutting-edge of magical philosophy, ask for information on the *Black Moon Archives*.
2. I use *remembrance* in the Egyptian sense of the word. In the legend of Osiris, the divine King was slain & his body scattered throughout the world. Osiris's lovers, Isis & Nephthys, gathered up the pieces of his corpse & eventually resurrected as King of the Afterlife, but he was unable to return to this plane of existence. This parable reminds me that it is only thru re-membering the sexual aspects of spirituality that we can rise into the land of the living and work our Will amongst the race of mortals.