

Simply Service

Ritualizing the Ordinary

slave jean

Remember a time when all of your energy, thoughts and time seemed to revolve around the Master (or Mistress)? Work seemed to be a short bump in the span of life that was flying at warp-speed while you inhaled the essence of your master's interests. Her joys became yours as easily as the air that you breathed because you were focused so fully on her. Even while at work, you were able to think about your master and successfully complete your tasks. There didn't seem to be any conflict – your ability to juggle your attention was accomplished easily and without much effort, if any conscious effort was even involved. Such is one of the "magical" properties of new service – new devotion to a master or mistress.

Yet over time that apparent duplication of time/energy seems to disappear. We know in our heads and hearts that we are as devoted as ever to whom we've pledged ourselves, but time doesn't fly like it once did. We find ourselves working more diligently at our service tasks. We my tend to rearrange our priorities and place employment goals over master's goals; we may tend to place family goals over those of our mistress; we may even set the goals that our master or mistress laid out for us above the daily tasks that he or she also lays out for us. In other words – all of our priorities may be turned around.

Recovering the privilege of service through ritualizing the details in service is one way to energize and recover service energy in long-term relationships. Recognition of the problem is the initial step in recovering the "magic" in service. It

doesn't take extra time or hours of contemplation to step onto this recovery path either. Through this manner, rediscovery of energy in service is accomplished through the use of *mantras* during the most ordinary times of service.

A mantra is a powerful word or phrase that may or may not have meaning in the same way as a sentence. The term is a Sanskrit word *mantram* that combines the root *manas* (mind) with *tram* (protection) giving the literal meaning of "mind-protection". In Buddhism, a mantra has been used as a teaching method. For example, while a young monk was sweeping or doing laundry, he was told to recite a simple phrase continuously. The concept of using a "chant" or "mind protection" while performing a task is ancient across many religions and works for us in our practice of service as well. (This link offers more information about Buddhism and mantras http://www.khandro.net/practice_mantra.htm)

If we associate a mantra with the task or activity and a rededication of our service to our master/mistress, we can elevate our time spent on that event. The mental energy that we focus on the daily tasks and is then set free. Through the use of simple mantras we are mentally and spiritually aware of the actions we are taking as a choice in a path of our life. This attention returns to us that "magic" we experienced upon our first devoted service. And yet, we are not returned to the same place in the "magical experience" of joy and swift time, but we find a new richer connection in our service.

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Ritualizing the Ordinary

(Continued from page 1)

What are some mantras and what are some ordinary services in which they can be used? In what ways can they be put into practice? The following are some examples from my experience. I use them to show the detail that can be used in making choices for the master and using mantras with each choice. Even if the choices are made by the master and not left for you to make, each addition can be accompanied by the mantra utterance. As you will see, the examples are very simple. Service used for mantra offering and energy renewal does not need to be "lofty service." It is in the daily dull service done well that we can find our path worn smooth.

The following examples are only that – examples. The number of mantras you can use, the opportunities for using them, or choices within the opportunities, is infinitely variable. Looking within your own service relationship will show other selections open to you at this moment in time, which will differ from other moments in time. As a result, mantras will change as you change. They can be as specific as the sentences below or as formless as wordless-syllables that arise from your heart, but filled with inner meaning. Either way, the ritualizing is the mantra chant with each choice made in an activity. Since all activities are filled with choices, our renewal of energy and ritual comes from re-examining all of our activities and renewing our service in the choices within them. We see anew all of the choices we make for our master "without thought" and put "ritual energy" into them.

Mantras

1. I serve my master with joy.
2. My master has chosen me; I am worthy to serve.
3. Service is a privilege.
4. My health is good; I serve at the pleasure of my master.
5. Service. Service. Sir. Sir.

Foods

What are the favorite kinds of lunch foods or for late night snack foods? How can you make them special? **With each choice you make, you utter your mantra:**

Sandwich specialties

What meats? What thickness of them? What combinations?

What cheeses with what meats?

Are the sandwiches toasted? open-faced to melt the cheese? closed?

How much lettuce? leaf-style or sliced-thin?

Use mayo? flavored mayo? vinegar-oil combinations?

Add onions, pepperocinis, jalapeno, - what level of "heat" spice?

Spread mustard – yellow? brown? dijon? spiced? whole-ground?

Sprinkle salt, pepper, Italian-spice? oregano? herb de'provence?

Of course, the bread has already been selected. I keep specialty sandwich breads in the freezer such as Kaiser rolls, Brotchen, Rye, or other varieties that we may not use often enough to finish a full loaf upon initial purchase. If I treat myself to the same bread choice when serving my master, then I can internalize a mantra of "crumbs" from master's table.

Pickles kept in the pantry can also be used for such ordinary occasions? Does your Master or mistress like all flavors: sweet, bread'n'butter, dill, dill+other flavors? You have those selections to go through and add to the plate.

Salad Specialties

Vegetable, Fruit, or Pasta?

Lettuce salad or vegetable salad like a Broccoli salad?

Which vegetable inclusions are favorites in dinner salads? Does he like "spring greens" or are the delicacies lost on him and iceberg leaves are "the only real lettuce" for him? Which salad dressings are favorites?

"Service used for mantra offering and energy renewal does not need to be 'lofty service'"

Ritualizing the Ordinary

Rather than just tossing a lump of lettuce into a bowl, how much about the master's preferences in salads do you know? If he appreciates the differences in various lettuces, then are there usually two different lettuces in the refrigerator? If not, why not? Let us say finances prevent purchasing a red-leaf lettuce this week, but not a green-curly leaf lettuce to accompany the always-present iceberg lettuce. Now, the iceberg lettuce is a shopping reminder of preference differences between you and the master. The master sees iceberg lettuce as a staple of every salad while you consider it a weed left in one grocer's garden and picked at the wrong time. In the ripping of the iceberg leaves to form the main salad, you utter your mantra and visualize the salad in a metaphoric fashion...the master holding the primary body of the relationship and with each vegetable you choose to add, consider a new facet of either your own characteristic, a family-member's or your master's. Notice I didn't suggest you choose a new characteristic. After we've been in a family for a few years we usually know each other's personalities well enough to know the range of characteristics, however, we tend to look at the characteristics of those personalities from the same perspective. When we are engaged in the ordinary – in the repetitive and mundane – our minds are free to refocus. If we make those ordinary times – even those extremely ordinary times such as selecting inclusive items for a dinner or lunch salad – mantra or ritual moments, then we have numerous opportunities for personal growth as well as for growth within our service.

Dining Service

Who gets served first? How?
 Who gets plates cleared? How?
 Drinks? With ice cubes? Crushed? Glass?

Cans?

Errands & Tasks

Vitamins & Other prescription drugs?
 Notes for during the day to accompany the notes? If you pack a lunch for your master, do you drop a note into his lunch? Do you find a way to put a special treat into his/her lunch for a surprise?

What is the method by which you report task and errand accomplishment? As Bootpig as stated in her articles, her master doesn't micromanage her tasks. She is expected to manage them at the detail level, but she IS responsible for the smooth management of the family. I would assume there is some reporting procedure at some level. And, since the details are left at her level, she has even more choices to make that benefit from a mantra of service. Mantras are useful at any level of choice. They offer a renewal of commitment – whether we have been given large global tasks in which we must break them down into smaller tasks or whether we are receiving the most menial tasks possible. The mantra added to the carrying out of the task helps our focus dedicate it to the one we serve and all of our energy associated with that task be held true as well. In this fashion, we find ourselves renewed in service energy in a far richer dimension than carrying out the task alone creates.

With this in mind, mantras can assist in preparing a service-person prior to a task. When a person or slave is to make appointments for the master/mistress, taking a moment prior to the call to set the inner self with a mantra helps the service focus on what is best within the service. How do you notify the master or mistress of the appointment? How do you remind him/her? In other words, the mantra brings to the service-person a different dimension of service that has potential to impact

"In this fashion, we find ourselves renewed in service energy in a far richer dimension than carrying out the task alone creates."

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The Pick-a-Pair Game: Discovering Leather Care as Service

As most people who've met me know, I'm a leather fetishist who also happens to adore leather shoes and boots. I have been since I was a very small child. At the age of about 5 or 6 my father taught me how to shine my shoes, and I loved it. When I came into the leather community I was very excited to learn what the community's ways and preferences around such things were. Along the way, there developed a game between myself and a female Top I loved; I'll just call her Sir.

The first time I played with Sir, we had set the evening up as a bootblackening scene, but it morphed into something else. I had been wanting to care for her leathers for quite some time. To me, it was something that I could do to serve a dominant I was attracted to in a respectful and sexy way, while still leaving the level of intimacy in the act up to them, it meets an actual need, and it can be really hot! That first night, we had to put aside the thought of boot blackening, and spend time in other ways. The only leather care I did that night was helping her get dressed to go to a dungeon. But eventually, the opportunity came along to actually nurture her through her shoes.

Every time I would visit Sir after that, I would find some of her shoes about the house. When Sir arrives home she tends to kick off her shoes, and place them on the stairs to bring up later. When she did not need me elsewhere, I would take the shoes out onto her porch, along with my bootblack supplies, and care for each worn leather shoe.

At first it just seemed a nice way to serve unobtrusively. I held up a pair of shoes, looked into her eyes and she nodded. After a few visits, I started finding shoes left on the stairs and thought Sir had left them out for my care, so just took them onto the porch like a little elf, and cared for them before she woke. When Sir woke she was quite pleased, but felt the need to make it clear that in the future I could

care for any of her shoes at any time unless they were "her leathers" and then She preferred to be wearing them. Most times She would tell me to "pick a pair" although occasionally I've woken up at the crack of dawn and disappeared to the porch with a dozen pairs. Eventually Sir dubbed this "The Pick a Pair Game."

Clear boundaries are always important to me in knowing how someone wants their leathers handled, since often leather is what we wear to feel sexy and powerful and that is such a personal thing. For some, there is strong ritual attached to leather, to others it's just a type of clothing that protects our bodies from the elements. With Sir, it was a bit of each.

Some people heard about me caring for Sir's shoes that are not "leathers" and just did not understand. To me, it seemed all the more a clear service to her. They are not fetish wear, or shoes that I know she's done amazingly sexy and sadistic things to me in. They have never threatened my carotid artery with their spiked heels, nor been shoved into my mouth. They are simply the shoes she wears daily. Every shoe I ever cared for was not sexy; in fact, a few were so worn they were practically falling apart. Sometimes a little spit and glue have come in handy more than knowing how to look sexy moving about on the floor while shining shoes.

So if it's not to turn Sir on by massaging her feet through her leather boots, why would I want to touch and care for shoes that are not my own? Do I have a fetish for the everyday footwear found in women's closets? Not exactly. Although a well-made shoe on a beautiful foot is something I find hot no matter what the gender of the wearer. But where's the power exchange if I'm not sitting at her feet, and if at first Sir may not have even realized who was doing this?

For me, the thrill is mixed and varied. Part

The Pick-a-Pair Game

of the joy is in knowing that things are taken care of without Sir even having to ask. Or in the moment that she finds all the cleaned and repaired shoes lined up in her closet. I find pleasure in the joy on her face when she finds a pair of shoes she thought would need to be discarded, have been repaired and look better than they have in years. And sometimes, it's in the pleasure on her face when she finds a new pair of laces where before they were torn.

Knowing that the people I serve are well cared for is a major turn on for me. Spiritually, emotionally, and yes even at times, physically. I couldn't bear to ignore the clothes on their backs. To me, caring for shoes is only one small part of it. But there is only so much room in one entry, so Bootpig has asked me to break my thoughts on leather care into several articles. I suppose you could consider this the appetizer.

For now, let me just end with a note on the four things I find most useful in the actual leather care service I give:
Saddle Soap (this and a bottle of water or spit, and I'm ready to go)
Leather conditioner (I prefer Kiwi Leather Revitalizer)
Neutral (clear) wax shoe polish
And a buff rag (the kind that is rough on one side, soft on the other)

Although there are other things which are high on my list, those are the four that I have found are needed almost every time I do leather care. Not to mention it's just hella hot to massage leather conditioner into someone's leather pants while they wear them. WOOF!

From the Editor:

Bootblacking and LeatherCare resources:

Http://www.bootdog.com
Home page for Andrew "Bootdog" Johnson—current PacWest Bootblack 2004

Http://www.bootpig.net
Home page for Linda "Bootpig" Hall.
Bootblacking 101 on CD-Rom available on website at: <http://www.bootpig.net/cdrom.htm>

BootblackForum-
subscribe@yahoogroups.com
A forum of hundreds of bootblacks across the world

Http://www.izzythebootblack.com
Home Page of current International Ms. Bootblack, Izzy

<http://www.geocities.com/alleycatoronto/>
Ian "black" Turner's homepage — an amazing bootblack!

If you're interested in finding a local bootblack or leathercare specialist to talk to, meet, learn from, please email me and I'll see what I can do about finding someone in your area!

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The Write Stuff: Written Communication in Service (Part II)

morgana

Please note that Part I appears in the April 2005 issue

I have been decluttering my life of late – an empowering, cleansing process. Using the “if it isn’t useful it had better be beautiful” rule I have gradually shed many possessions of my 40-year-long lifetime as a hoarder. (I blame my mother, like cellulite and shoulders that slope too much for spaghetti straps – it’s genetic).

Gone are school reports from when I was 8 (“eager to please, lacks focus occasionally” hmmm), dress patterns for wraparound shorts which I drafted when I was 11 and scrapbooks of my rock heroes The Bay City Rollers (who? I hear you say). Gone are boxes of clothes I was always going to fit into again “one day” and shoes I was keeping for the next time the fashion for red satin cork-heeled platform ballet sandals rolled around.

One thing, though, which I will never discard, though, is that shoe-box full of handwritten cards and letters in the back of the wardrobe. And I am willing to bet that nearly every one of you has one too.

The written word is precious, special. You can read it over and over again and cherish it time after time, knowing that someone cared enough to take the time to write.

Writing is not an automatic response. It requires thought, concentration and effort. Best of all I feel it carries a weight with it than underlines the relationship between writer and recipient.

Just as my service is not restricted to my owner (although it is him I serve primarily I also ‘serve’ my family, friends and community) my use of written communication in service encompasses more than journals and petitions as I mentioned last time.

So now I am going to talk about the lost art of writing thank-you notes. Now, I don’t mean buying a greeting card with a suitable message and adding your name. Not matter how poetically expressed, they are always someone else’s.

I don’t believe you have to be a “natural writer” to learn how to put your gratitude into words and I am not going you tell you what to say, that has to come from the heart.

I do, however, have a few tips to make your thank you notes memorable.

- **Be timely:** I send thank you notes for all sorts of things – gifts, meals, visits, kindnesses, sometimes just to thank someone for being them. If the note is for a gift, meal or visit it should be sent as soon as possible. I know you are all incredibly busy but so was the person who spent their time getting you a gift, making you a meal or accommodating you in their home. Being thoughtful is something we have to choose to make time for.
- **Pretty ‘em up:** Paper matters. I collect pretty pieces of paper and card (many recycled from gift packages; it’s amazing what a warm iron can do as long as you peel off the sticky tape first). Even the most expensive writing papers are affordable in small quantities – cut A4 sheets in half for perfect gift card sized sheets. Calligraphy and art suppliers are good sources of quality papers and parchments but most stationery retailers (try Staples) carry a good color range. Watch out for pretty notepaper at sales, too. I also buy blank greeting cards which I can use for other correspondence as well as thank you notes. When I send a blank greeting card I never write in it – I write on a piece of paper slipped inside it, adding a request to recycle the card (I consider environmental sustainability service to the Earth)
- **Practice makes perfect:** Make a draft first. It is rare that I say what I really want to the first time around so I scribble it out on a notepad first and edit it. Taking the time to find the right words is

“Being thoughtful is something we have to choose to make time for”

The Write Stuff: Part II

important and part of the effort that makes a hand-written thank you so special. Don't worry too much about your handwriting as long as it is legible (and when it isn't haste is often the problem as your draft will tell you - without wasting your quality notepaper). Finding a good pen that you like to write with will help immeasurably. A good pen (and good does not necessarily equate to expensive) can improve the worst writing.

- **Grammar isn't a scary old lady:** Basic grammar is not difficult, at the very least make sure you use capital letters, commas and full points (and don't over-use exclamation marks!!!!). Thank-you notes are not text messages or emails, don't use abbreviations like LOL. There is no shame in using a thesaurus or dictionary and no excuse for misspelled words. If your grammar skills are really bad get someone else to proofread your note for you. There is even a website which does this: <http://www.wordwizard.com/pscribe/default.asp>. Just post a rough draft and other club members will help you redraft it.
- **How not to begin:** "I have been meaning to write you for a long time but haven't had a minute to spare" or "Just a quick note to say thanks" hardly conveys the respect and gratitude that is my goal when showing gratitude in a written form. If my owner were to walk into the room and I received him stretched out and yawning on the sofa, he would point out the rudeness of such behavior; to begin a thank note in this way is mentally reclining and yawning and no less disrespectful.
- **Get personal:** If you are saying thank-you for a gift, mention it by name. Tell the recipient how much use/pleasure you have had from it. If you are saying

thank-you for a meal mention an aspect of the hospitality that was a highlight. Spell their name right.

- **Think outside the box:** Don't restrict your thanks to friends and family. Thank your doctor, dentist or health care; thank someone for a compliment or praise; thank a tradesman for a job well; thank that work colleague for her referral to that great hairdresser; thank someone for volunteer work.

Saying thanks is a far less tough task than writing a note to comfort someone at a time of grief and/or loss. I wanted to touch briefly on this as many people are uncomfortable dealing with the emotions involved.

I believe the sending of your sympathetic thoughts is one of the greatest ways to use written communication in service, I know that in times of grief in my life I have been deeply touched by friends who took the time to write to me.

At the time I probably couldn't have told you a word they said – it was enough that they had sent support, strength and love to me.

Keep the wording simple and keep it short; grief is rather like a snowstorm, when it hits it is very disorienting and confusion. A short note will be read and digested where a longer one may overwhelm.

I have one that simply reads: "How lonely you must feel but you are not alone in your sorrow". It's dog-eared and faded and one of my most treasured possessions – and the most cried-over and smiled-over item in that shoe-box.

"I believe the sending of your sympathetic thoughts is one of the greatest ways to use written communication in service"

Mental Orgasm: The Phenomenon of Brain Sex (Part II)

Wyllo

Part I (Adrenalin Based appears in the April 2005 issue. Part III will be in June 2005's issue)

Emotional Based

Within a relationship there are so many dynamics that can affect the basic level of trust, honor and respect, but none more so than the emotional needs of both partners. The emotional needs are what hold the relationship together and ultimately direct both parties to the same goal; a long lasting, fulfilling relationship.

When the emotional needs are not addressed by one or both partners the relationship will usually dissolve. A lack of emotional stimulation can affect the attractiveness of a partner since love, lust, and trust are all emotionally based and intertwined with all other feelings. If one of the major components is ignored then the rest are sure to wane.

An emotionally based relationship will only flourish if both parties are willing to keep the levels of emotion at peak performance. There are books and videos aimed at rekindling such romance into relationships because, as humans, we often forget about what we may consider the simplest feelings not realizing our partner may consider them to be major feelings. Communication of these feelings is probably the hardest aspect of any relationship but once the communication is opened a new level of awareness of each other is inevitable.

The wonderful aspect of emotionally based relationships is that they have wonderful rituals that are common to them. For example kneeling at a dominant's feet, serving drinks and foods in a professional manner, using your manners when speaking and being spoken too, and many other forms of servitude, can be very emotionally stimulating and create a fabulous connection between the dominant and the submissive. Often you will see these couples speak without words. They know each other well enough to be able to have signals that are usually not noticeable to the untrained eye. A simple hand gesture or a movement of the body by the dominant is all that is needed to set the submissive in motion to act upon the request.

Servitude in itself is stimulation and encompasses many emotions that can be seen in the eyes of the submissive as a wonderful glint of accomplishment and pride. Having these accomplishments acknowledged (be it a smile, a nod, or a verbal approval) will have this type of submissive glowing and standing tall. Add into this a romantic, emotional level and you have someone that would give their life for their dominant. Now, I do not mean that they will allow their dominant to kill them or harm them deliberately but rather put themselves in peril to protect their dominant. The bond between the two now becomes so trusting and loving that they truly believe they cannot live without each other.

This is one of the aspects that attracted me to emotional relationships. Although I also require pain, I could not fathom a long term relationship without emotional attachment. If need be, I think I could survive solely on it but that would not be a preference. There are many service oriented submissives that have pain play as a reward for good behavior. I am one of them. My need for love, trust and romance supercedes my need for pain, however.

I have spoken to a few bottoms that said they were very stimulated when talking to a dominant online but when they met them in person and had a scene with them it just did not result in the same emotional responses. Some dominants feel a strong leaning to the sexual aspect and forget the brain needs just as much stimulation. In person many will forgo the emotional aspect that they developed online with their bottom to strict physical interaction. This becomes the issue.

Talking to those that associate better with the online scening has taught me that some people can survive very easily without meeting anyone in person. I had a very hard time understanding how one could achieve the sub or top space online that I have only experienced in person. Now that I understand more

“Servitude in itself is stimulation and encompasses many emotions that can be seen in the eyes of the submissive as a wonderful glint of accomplishment and pride”

Mental Orgasm: The Phenomenon of Brain Sex (Part II)

about how the mind can be a stimulant on its own I can finally be more accepting of the online communities that many seek out to fulfill their needs. Although physical, emotional and mental stimulation are what I require, perhaps they only need the emotional stimulation to achieve the same goal. I will never be able to participate to that level as it still does not give me even close to the same results but at least I can have some level of empathy for those heartbroken by a broken emotional tie with someone that they have never met in person. This will not change my mind about the 'Velcro collar' world online but at least for those that take it more seriously I can understand at a new level of acceptance.

I highly respect professional dominatrix' for their particular skill. It is a very difficult task to accomplish when you see several different people in a day and have to be able to read them well enough to give them what they came for and not confuse their desires with that of the person that came before them. Knowing what the bottom wants, giving it to them in a manner they are able to understand then changing gears for the next client must be very emotionally and mentally draining. It is no wonder that many of them burn out often throughout a year. Although their relationships are rarely on a long term level, they learn quickly that they cannot let their own emotions overshadow that of the clients. They need to have a very high level of control in their own personal lives so that their professional lives are strictly on a business level. However, many end up with their clients gaining feelings of desire and affection for them to the point that the client anticipates a long term relationship. Knowing how to deal with these situations and emotional feelings from their clients is also a respected skill. Most do not interact sexually with their clients as it can change the dynamic of their relationship beyond what it should be for this very reason.

I had one relationship in which my partner wanted sex several times a day. This

was not a hard task to accomplish and for over two years I was able to meet this need but found little satisfaction in it. When I found a new partner that was mentally and emotionally dominant I found this much harder to keep up to and was finding every day a new challenge. The structured relationship was more taxing because I had to account for every move, thought and idea that was presented. This was my draw to the domination and submission aspect without sexual activity being the primary goal. Of course sex was still part of the relationship but it was not the main focus. The main focus was now the relationship and it brought with it the stimulation for my brain that I desired much more.

Adding in the emotional aspect was a total turn around for me. At this point I had actually not experienced any high level of pain play (which came a few years later) as I was still frightened off by the 'abuse' aspect that I had not overcome. My desire to please my partner was much more difficult as I found myself needing different responses from my partner. Acceptance and approval became my primary goal. Physical interaction was on a much different level such as a hug or stroking of my hair as I sat at his feet were acknowledgements of approval and much desired responses. Upon hearing him tell me that I was a good girl, did a good job, or rewarding me with a night on the town, created a feeling of contentment and satisfaction that inspired me to further advance my capabilities. I rearranged my work schedule to accommodate his needs and was very happy overall because of it.

In comparison, I also have been in platonic, non-romantic relationships in which I was fully in servitude. These relationships had their own rewards and I was content overall but the lack of a romantic aspect of the relationship did leave me wanting for more. In a strictly service based relationship the rewards are much the same but the emotional aspect is void. Your desire to please is still present but perhaps more so because their verbal response is

"The structured relationship was more taxing because I had to account for every move, thought and idea that was presented."

Mental Orgasm: The Phenomenon of Brain Sex (Part II)

the only way of gauging if you have pleased your dominant. If you have, then you may be rewarded with a scene or are given privileges that you had requested or perhaps gain a symbol of reward such as leather. You do develop a form of trust and respect for your top but never to the extent in which you would with a more romantically and emotionally based relationship. I guess the best comparison I can give for this type of relationship would be having a job in which you truly love what you do and have a lot of respect for your boss. You don't want to leave the job because you are content and happy with what you do and who you work for but you know that there is something just beyond that position somewhere else that will give you complete contentment and satisfaction. You are playing a role within this type of relationship rather than being the role.

This type of relationship becomes strictly mentally based in nature. But that is another story...

Part III of this Series will be in June 2005's issue!

Part I: April 2005

Part II: Current Issue

Part III: June 2005

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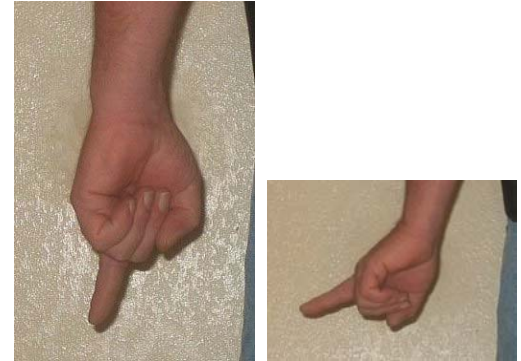
Making it look like Magic: Hand Signals by Linda “Bootpig” Hall

There are times when I watch others in service, and have been watched by others, where actions appear to be instinctual and perfectly suited to the occasion. Sometimes, that is because the pair (or more) involved are in tune and very good at anticipating needs. Sometimes, hand signals are at work, deftly giving commands without interrupting conversations or attracting attention.

This is one of the more common practices that I get asked about. I find them to be very useful in understanding what He wants from across a crowded room, or while in “working” position off of His left shoulder. I don’t have to worry about how loud the music is, though sometimes I have to worry about how well-lit the space is. Dark bars can make it difficult! There is no secret code of hand signals, this isn’t eons of practice I’m sharing, its just the hand signals used in this house. That’s it.

A little basic background on our practices, the primary “working” position is 1/2 step behind and to the left of his shoulder. The edge of my right shoulder will be in line with the edge of His left shoulder. When I step forward, my foot goes into the space that his foot just left. This results in a “schooling” motion, like watching fish move as a group. I’m close enough to pick up the movement signals, and I’m in His peripheral vision. He does NOT like lagging about so we’re out of His visual field. The other person with us will be to His right. They follow my lead. Hand signals are given with the left hand., I see them and act on them, and the other person follows my lead. If he wants the person on his right to do something without my involvement, then the signal comes from the right hand. If all looks very graceful, with practice.

Some hand signals are simply instinctual. If your Dominant snaps their fingers and points down in front of their position, I would imagine most of us would hit the deck with little schooling or coaching. Others have very specific meanings and purposes. They are practically never used at home. He simply tells us what He wants. In public, for example, an event, they are very handy. Since this is about basics of hand signals, the details of certain body postures referenced will not be gone into. That’s a



This is a two-part signal that happens quickly. It cues a “Standing Present”, a mid-formal body posture for something like an introduction or just to notify you that protocol has just been moved up a notch.



This is a two-part signal that happens quickly. It cues a “Kneeling Present”, a very formal body posture for something like introductions, or resting without a completely relaxed kneel.

If the hand only went palm down, but didn’t turn out, I would know it was ok to kneel, sit on the floor in a resting position that was comfortable. Consequently, anyone else with us in a service capacity, would also assume a kneeling present or relaxed kneeling/sitting position.

More formal body positions such as a kneeling present, or standing present, may absolutely not be broken without a command to “Continue”. A resting kneel/sitting position may be shifted, at will but discreetly, for comfort.

“This results in a ‘schooling’ motion, like watching fish move as a group”

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Making it look like Magic: Hand Signals by Linda "Bootpig" Hall



I'll bet if someone you were walking behind did this, you would automatically stop. See? You know hand signals already. This one serves a dual purpose. If we are in motion, then I stop (He may or may not continue moving). If we are not in motion, it means "Be Quiet". He almost never shushes someone so its certain there is an outstanding reason that he needs you to be quiet this INSTANT. Not at the end of the sentence, or story, but the minute you see this signal.



This follows the command above and simply means, "Continue". Either movement or talking, but you've been released from the former command.



Rock! Paper! Scissors!
Just Kidding. A relatively universal sign for "Light me a cigarette". Nice for Him when He's wrapped up in a conversation and has no desire to discontinue it to give one of us an order. He will open and close the fingers so we know He's "talking" to us. Hand signals have to be precise in order to avoid confusion.



Drink. If the thumb and forefinger are open, as in the first picture, then He wants coffee. If they are closed, its water, or some other appropriate drink, based on our knowledge of His personal preferences.



"Hand signals have to be precise in order to avoid confusion."

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***Jean** has lived as slave to Tom for 8 years. They own a home in AZ and both hold professional occupations. While she realized over the course of their first 3 years that those days were the pre-requisite for becoming comfortable with the idea of a Master/slave/service-based relationship; it was the next 5 years that confirmed her desire to embrace service within the guardianship of one man, to the decisions, pathways, play, and ideas he endeavors and anoints*

***morgana** has explored a meandering path of power exchange for 9 years. She currently serves in the household of two Dominant male Sadists, one human, one feline - and lives an obscenely happy life in the seaside subtropical paradise of Katikati, New Zealand. She believes in Slow Food, spontaneous acts of kindness and actively pursuing a goal of excellence in service.*

***Linda "Bootpig" Hall** has been in service relationships for more than eight years. Currently she is an alpha slave in service to Whipmaster Bob Clark. She believes in service as a spiritual calling, akin to the religious devoted pursuing life as a monk or a nun, and its responsibilities ripple far beyond the individual relationship of Master/slave and into a greater realm of constant mindfulness of service. She has taught on service oriented slavery throughout the country at events like Great Lakes Leather, Together in Leather, Desert Dominion, South Plains Leather Fest and more.*

She is the twisted mind behind the development of Simply Service.

She can be reached at msolympusleather2003@cox.net or <http://www.bootpig.net> (Currently being updated, don't panic if its not there)

***Wyllo** is a Canadian currently living with her dominant in the United States. A 20+ year veteran in the Leather lifestyle, she has experience primarily in service-based relationships, many of them platonic in nature.*

Her strengths include protocols, masochism and the role of "alpha slave" for large gatherings. She offers training one on one about basic protocols and pain tolerance (using spirituality as the anchor) for beginners and experienced slaves. She believes that BDSM can be a very spiritual experience for many people and using this as a technique in helping newcomers to pain play. She is aiming at learning as much as possible about every aspect involved in this chosen lifestyle and then sharing it with others (<http://leatherandlight.com>) as she considers knowledge only second to spirituality.

She is currently self-employed developing adult alternative websites, focusing on sales and promotion

***Sean K. Michael** is a switchy, transgendered guy, who recently won the title of U.S. Daddy 2005 at the Southwest Leather Conference. He is a service-oriented slave, as well as Daddy to his bois, Carlie (U.S. boy 2005), and Patch (International Puppy 2003). The bois and Shawn live in Southern California. You can learn more about them at their website: <http://www.3bois.com>*