



Simply Service

Written by and for those in service-oriented relationships

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Ledgerbook Service By jezzie, property of Anton

I think many of us in long-term service relationships fall into the bad habit of thinking of our submission or service as an account that the master can borrow against. Say there's 100 units of submission/obedience/service in the account, and it replenishes at a rate of 10 units per day. As long as the top doesn't use up more than 10 units daily, our submission feels bottomless. But once they start withdrawing submission too fast? We run out of submission, and they're in debt. And the resentments get ugly.

Want dinner on the table at 6 PM sharp? Three units. Your feet rubbed? One more. Tell me to stop whining when I want to whine? Oh, that's gonna cost you another two units of submission, 'cause I really wanted to whine. We're up to six. If you spend more than four more units today, you're borrowing against tomorrow's submission.

Want a blowjob tonight? Yes, Daddy, thank you for the chance to serve. Want a blow job every night for a week? Um, okay, Daddy. I'm here to serve you. Want three blowjobs a day every day for a month? What do you think I am, a fucking vacuum? I have other demands

Eulogy for O By slave a

It was 1999. Master and I had broken up and I had left Phoenix for greener pastures in Atlanta. We were just NOT making it as a Dom sub couple. We'd been trying for five years. I had insisted he make me safe. I had insisted he be predictable, consistent. I had insisted he be responsible for me. If I behaved badly it was because he did not have me enough under control. Well, he did what he could with those demands and expectations. Of course then he wasn't "dom" enough for me. I was bored with being "safe" and of course thought it my right to remain out of control. If he'd been "dom" enough he would've gotten me under control, right?

in my life, y'know!

My flippant little illustration might make it seem like a conscious and quantified process, which isn't true. It's much more insidious and subtle than that. No, no one is doing math over the course of the day. But I think, often, that people do have their ledgerbooks balances silently shifting this way and that in the back of their minds.

In the last few years I've been trying to burn the ledgerbook. I don't like it. I don't like it when my owner wants me to do something, and I express some difficulty, and I see him looking at me with that calculating look in his eye: how much is pressing this going to cost? How much submission would he have to give up tomorrow in order to get what he wants tonight? How close to zero is his account?

Doing away with the ledgerbook has required some serious shifts in thinking.

1.) I *want* to submit. Every time he makes a demand on me, it costs me some energy, but in return I get the chance to experience control. If I keep in the front of my mind the fact

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So I left. I had some friends in Atlanta I saw occasionally, acquired some temp work and exercised a lot. One of those friends said to me, "I have someone I need you to meet". So we went to an evening at PEP and the speaker that night was a tiny little Italian woman who introduced herself as O.

And O did she tell a story. She told of being indoctrinated into the leather scene in the late sixties. She spoke of Hellfire, scat baths, in house training facilities that slaves were left at for days on end, gang bangs and passing around that would make the pubes on the

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Ledgerbook Service

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that *I like to serve and be controlled*, then I remember that I'm getting something out of every demand he makes. There is no way to accumulate debt when the account is inherently balanced with every transaction.

I think that last part bears repeating. When the dynamic is functioning smoothly, ***there is no way to accumulate debt, because the account is inherently balanced with every transaction.***

2.) The only measure of my ability to provide this moment's service is how available I am in this moment. Have I made dinner every night this week? Beside the point. If making dinner every night (plus the many other things I've done) has made me too tired to provide this moment's service, then it's the tiredness, *not* the million things that made me tired, that are relevant. I don't have to mention how much service I've given recently because that's beside the point. It's the *tiredness* that matters. Am I not too tired? Then I provide the service. Am I too tired? Then I talk to him about my tiredness... throwing past service in his face is only invoking the ledgerbook.

In this way, every act of service is about what's going on in the moment, not about past and future service. I serve to the capacity of my resources and motivation in each moment.

3.) If I do feel too taxed to obey, I can convey my difficulty with a particular demand without pulling out the ledgerbook. I can say, "Daddy, I feel too tired to do that right now." I don't have to say, "I've given you five blowjobs this week already! How many do you expect? When am I good enough? I'm not sure I want to obey you if you're going to be this inconsiderate. I thought you were supposed to take care of me!" I can express my difficulty without pulling out resentments over yesterday's difficulty, or making predictions about tomorrow's difficulty.

A wonderful thing about doing away with the ledgerbook is that, now that the "cost" of pushing me to the limit is so reduced, my owner and I hope to become more free to explore the limits of my submission without anxiety over finding the edge. If he pushes me too far, then a particular act of service may not come through. We no longer deplete the account down to empty and have to deal with major meltdown over whether I want to obey and serve or not.

Ledgerbook thinking is slow to change. I still often react to a demand by instinctively calculating the cost, and have to slow down and deliberately choose to think about the interaction differently. I've been working on this a long time, and I'm still nowhere near as consistent as I want to be.

It's easy to revert. Humans have limitations, and when demands from work and family and friends pile up, I'm quick to

flip from perceiving chances to serve as an *opportunity* to perceiving them as a *burden*. Psychological gymnastics can go a long way to flipping my perception back to the way we want it, but no amount of psychological gymnastics are going to allow me to overcome all my limitations when my resources are spread too thin. But time- and energy-management are different issues that can be addressed, often, rather more easily and concretely than ledgerbook thinking can.

Changing an entire pattern of thinking takes mindfulness, persistence, and patience. Well-practiced and oft-repeated beliefs become habitual in the exact same way that other practiced and repeated behaviors become habitual, and changing habitual thinking involves all the same aggravations and backsliding as changing other habits. It is not enough to recognize and decide to reject ledgerbook thinking... there must be a commitment to changing it that will persist through the months and years as the thinking resurfaces.

I remember, when I was new to D/s, hearing other service boys and girls go on about service being its own reward. I was often torn between the urge to roll my eyes on one hand, and on the other hand was a panicked but repressed fear that maybe they were telling the literal truth and I just wasn't cut out for this slaving business if I didn't instinctively feel the same way.

Well, I'm still not to the point where I can honestly say that I always find service to be its own reward regardless of how exhausted I am or how many other demands are being made on me. But as I try to retrain myself away from ledgerbook accounting of services rendered, more and more I find myself able to appreciate the opportunities that my owner provides for me to serve, sometimes even in circumstances where I once would have assumed that no one could *genuinely* be glad to do it. I'm not there yet, wherever there is, but it looks a lot less distant when I'm not peering at it over the top edge of a ledgerbook.

Anton's girl jessie has been in service to him for more than 7 years. They reside in San Francisco, California. She maintains a website at <http://www.jessie.org>



Eulogy for O

(Continued from page 1)

cleanest shaved slut around curl.

And she spoke of commitment and how much weight rests on the slaves to make all this work, and no, not just setting up juice and coffee tables or standing at the door taking money or pushing the broom at 5 AM, but the commitment to the dynamic. She spoke of the responsibility of a slave and the art of keeping the dynamic going. I listened.

It was a new experience. I hadn't listened to much in a while, and this information was very different from the het male top fem sub information I'd been spoon fed in my local scene and on line.

Within two weeks I was skidding out emotionally. Alone, afraid, probably horny so I called my friend. She said, "Go see O."

So I did.

I told her my story. She told me I was crazy. She was right.

She was extremely frustrated with my version of D/s and how it should go. She hollered at me, right out of the gate. She told me I was no slave and that I didn't have a clue. She was right.

She told me in that first meeting that anyone who laid such rigid demands on people would be better off picking up a flogger and joining the other side. She was right.

She told me in that first meeting that if I was legally married and had children with that man that I shouldn't be in Atlanta alone looking for my heart's desire. She was right.

I asked her if she would train me. She laughed, went and got her Master at the time to interview me and I heard her animated and rather loud voice badmouthing me in her report to him.

"Well, let me talk to her", he said. He grilled me, interrogated me, tricked me, harangued at me and finally asked me "Why are you here?"

By this time I was in tears. I was on my knees in front of his chair. I lifted my arms and looked up at the ceiling and said, "I don't know who I am and I don't know what to do, but I do know that with the right training I could be of great value." I was right.

O jumped off her chair and pointed at me and yelled, "That's it, there it is, the diamond in the rough." From that point forward I was her diamond.

They called Master to garner permission to train me. He said, "Do what you want. I don't want her unless she is changed." They hung up the phone and O said, "So I'll change you."

And she did.

I wore that training collar for nine months. I learned unfathomable amounts of useful information from slave O. We turned

my attitudes about service and submission one hundred and eighty degrees from the list I shared with you in the opening paragraph. She taught me different modalities of behavior so I could fluidly shift from one to another to keep myself safe and keep the Master slave dynamic going even when threatened, scared or annoyed. She taught me how to present my desires, for a slave with no desires cannot be controlled. She taught me when to be vulnerable and when to be tough, when to be tasteful and when to be bawdy. In short, she taught me an entirely new language of love.

I don't know why the slave community keeps turning to dominants for training. I don't know why we even turn to them for love and care. And I certainly cannot fathom why we would turn to them for understanding or support. Does the mouse ask the cat how he can survive it? Does the gazelle ask the leopard to appreciate its grace? Does the lamb really lie down with the lion?

I turned to a slave. She told me I was a diamond. She was right.

I stayed in touch with her for a couple of years.

O dropped below the radar again after what was probably her third scandal in the scene. People who take risks make mistakes, and even if they haven't they are badmouthed and not believed and convicted anyway. She had risen up three times. She never stopped teaching. Oh she offended, absolutely! But she was committed to Leather and she was committed to teaching. She never stopped loving and believing in every single member of this community and the potential for outrageous relating that Leather provides.

When I left her in 2000, she handed me the flag. She was tired. She made me promise to teach. She made me promise not to just go home and mend my marriage but to reach out my hand, take the risk of ridicule and contempt and share the message that slaves are not subjects of Masters. Slaves are a viable and independent life form. Stop the frenetic hunt for the perfect Master who will pay the bills and make you feel safe. Serve. Serve in the line of fire. Serve in the worst kind of danger. Serve because that's all you can do.

O died this year and I just found out last night. O was my leather momma. O changed my life. O saved my marriage. O gave my children back their mother. O served me as I have never been served by any other teacher, relative or friend. I will not allow her message of solidarity amongst slaves die with her.

All of us here at Simply Service are simply looking for each other. And we're all right here, waiting for the opportunity to serve one another. Let's take that opportunity, right now, and for just a moment remember one of the old timers who gave until she could no more. Thank you BootPig for the venue for us to find each other. It's priceless.



Pantheon of Leather XV

Awards Nominations Nomination Deadline October 31, 2005

The Pantheon of Leather Community Service Awards will be presented in an Academy Awards-style format at the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago, IL on Saturday afternoon February 18, 2006. The entire Leather community is invited to participate in the first round of the awards process by submitting nominations.

Any member of the Leather community is eligible to win awards with the exception of those listed in the next paragraph. The selection panel will determine winners based on community service in the last year. Club officers, organizers, business owners, titleholders, behind-the-scenes workers, philanthropists, writers, columnists, authors, artists, producers, Leather/latex artisans and the like are sought as nominees. We are looking for nominees who have made contributions that have directly affected the Leather community in a positive way.

Who Is Not Eligible:

Members of the Pantheon of Leather XVI (2006) Selection Panel are not eligible for any of the nominated awards except for Community Choice (Man) and Community Choice (Woman) unless they won that award in the past two years. 2005 winners who are not on the selection panel are eligible in other categories than in the one they won in 2005 and 2004. (No repeat winners in any category for two years.)

The 2006 Selection Panel includes Kendra McClain, Wally Sherwood, David S. Kloss, Viola Johnson, Carlos Larranaga, Roger Hickey, Al Santora, Randie Smith, Paul Ciantar, Bruce Ross, Jim Raymond, Mark Bozif, Jim "Tug" Taylor, Robert Napolitano, Fetish Diva Midori, Andy Mangels, Stephen Bloom, Dan Azevedo, Scott Parker, Graylin Thornton, Skip Chasey, Lady Dawn, Rick Storer and Alex Wisniowski.

Properly submitted nominations will be passed on to a selection panel comprised of individuals who received awards the previous year. This panel will vote and decide this year's recipients.

This is an award, not a contest, and with the exception of Community Choice (Woman and Man), the number of nominations a person receives does not influence the award. It is the individual's commitment and contribution to the leather community that counts. Therefore, please do not return to this site and submit multiple nominations for the same person in the same category. You may return and submit additional nominations for other people, however.

The Community Choice award is a popularity award. The total number of votes will determine the winners. Please vote only once each for Male and Female, multiple votes in either category from a single individual will be discarded.

NOTE: New Rule

Deceased persons are to be nominated in the Forbearer category only. Such nominations made in other categories will be moved to Forbearer category.

You do not have to nominate someone in every category; partial nomination forms will be accepted.

Please take note of the recipients of each award for the last two years, shown next to each category on the form - they are NOT eligible this year!

For further information on prior winners, and the nomination process, as well as information on your region, please go to:

[Http://www.pantheonofleather.com](http://www.pantheonofleather.com)

Categories:

Woman of the Year
 Man of the Year
 Community Choice Award (Man)
 Community Choice Award (Woman)
 Lifetime Achievement Award
 President's Choice Award (Selected and Presented by Dave Rhodes, Publisher, Leather Journal)
 Forbear Award
 Non Profit Association of the Year
 Large Club of the Year
 Large Event of the Year
 Small Club of the Year
 Small Event of the Year
 Business of the Year
 Businessperson of the Year
 Couple of the Year
 International Award
 Canadian Award
 Florida Award
 Mid-Atlantic Award
 Midwest Award
 Northeast Award
 New England Award
 Northern California Award
 Northwest Award
 Rocky Mountain Regional Award
 South Central Regional Award
 Southeast Award
 Southern California Award

[Http://www.pantheonofleather.com](http://www.pantheonofleather.com)



From the Editor, From the Readers

Hi all,

What a great response to August's issue we had! There were several lovely letters to various contributors discussing their work, and we have several new contributors this month as a result of the call for submissions. As I mentioned in that post, new points of view are always welcome and will keep future issues coming.

Great Lakes Leather was phenomenal! We had a great time, and we're looking forward to being in Austin next weekend for the GWNN Anniversary Bash and then Folsom Fringe! Yay September!

We had great responses to our Readers Write column, and have a new series of questions for September, so we'll look forward to hearing from you.

Much love and respect,

Linda "BootPig" Hall

Msolympusleather2003@cox.net

Letters to the Editor:

As usual you have put together a highly informative, and very helpful issue. While all the articles were excellent, and the Grace in Service article deserves special mention as really highlighting an aspect of WISTWD that is often overlooked, the article by Sazmira, Consideration 101, struck a particularly strong chord for me.

I have often had to present to submissives the idea that while wanting to please is a good start, it is not the end of the road. There is the actually succeeding in pleasing part too! Startlingly this has not often been an easy thing to get across.

I suppose the big issue is the emotional attachment that the slave has to her own plans, and ideas, for what will be helpful. When the plan does not succeed she can't deal with the blow to her pride or aspiration.

What I find interesting is that in the article the Master just takes what will work for him and proceeds with his work. While my style is usually to try to explain what is wrong -- and how to fix it. The result is usually some kind of emotional outburst.

Well, anyway, thanks again for a great series of articles.

Michael

Sadist, Top leaning toward Master

Garuda_dragon@yahoo.com

[contact information included by permission]

Little Snips and Pieces of other Letters:

"I am finding the service articles particularly useful and constructive. I never really defined "service" in my own personal life but used the "I know it because I do it" model."

"[In reference to the newsletter] I can safely say that yours is one of the best I've run across. It's virtually all substance rather than fluff. The ratio of fluff to substance in most leather and BDSM newsletters is quite high. Needless to say, I've found the substance to be invaluable to me from the point of view of educating myself."

Deadline for October's issue will be Monday, October 3rd. We welcome your articles and essays for inclusion in future issues.



Humidity and Leather Toys—Flirting with Disaster

By elegant, Southeast Bootblack 2005

We averted summer disaster in our basement leather workshop this year. I was doing some general straightening up one day and met up with a horrid opponent of leather crafters: mildew. Even with good air circulation, a clean environment and proper storage of materials and supplies this frustrating fungus had quietly begun an invasion. I took emergency action and the leather was saved.

The following week I was walking through the grocery store and my eye caught a display of picnic and grilling accessories beside the butcher department....kabob skewers, tongs, condiment dispensers, sturdy aprons and heavy-duty leather potholders with a lovely white stenciled lace design. WAIT...that was no stenciled design..that was mildew!

Blame the current weather of constant rain, soaring heat and high humidity for this large-scale invasion of molds and mildews but don't blame the weather for ruin of your leather toys, clothing and shoes because proper care and storage can be a barrier to this earthy enemy.

Mildew is a thin, often whitish to bluish-green growth produced by molds. Molds are fungi and grow rampantly under the right conditions: those that cause mildew only need moisture and a certain temperature in order to grow. As the tiny fungi mature, they bloom and burst to spew billions of microscopic spores into the air. Rub a patch of mold or mildew and you send those spores forth to multiply throughout the air and onto everything around. Mildew flourishes in areas that are damp, warm, poorly lighted or where air is not circulated: closets, basements, crawl spaces, toy boxes, car trunks, closed cabinets etc. They grow on cellulose and protein products such as cotton, linen, wood, paper, silk, leather and wool. In addition to an unpleasant musty odor, molds and mildew cause considerable damage if permitted to grow. They discolor their food source and sometimes eat into them until the source rots and falls apart.

Prevention is the best mildew policy for your leather toys, clothing and accessories. If these items are kept clean, well ventilated, dry and free from other contaminated items, your chances of having a mildew invasion are greatly lessened.

PREVENTION

Keep items clean! Sweat, blood, oils and other body fluids can supply enough food for mildew to start growing. Even ordinary substances such as alcoholic beverages,

sodas and juice, gasoline and body lotions can damage leather clothing and shoes. Thoroughly clean leather after each use. Wipe down with a clean, damp cloth and sanitize if necessary. Let items dry thoroughly in a well-ventilated area before storing.

STORAGE

Leather is porous and needs to breathe. You should store your leather in an airy, dry area that is not too hot or cold and certainly not damp. Do not impede air circulation by hanging toys and clothing in a tightly packed closet. Do not store in direct contact with the flow of heating vents or near heating units and avoid direct sunlight as this will dry and fade leather. Always use sturdy, padded hangers to help preserve the shape of your leather clothing and if you choose to cover leather items use a breathable material like a cotton sheet. Avoid storing any leather items in plastic bags, plastic containers, tight drawers, car trunks, bathrooms or packed tightly into a toybag or toybox.

MILDEW REMOVAL

Mildew can attack even with proper cleaning and storage. If you discover that lovely lacey stenciling on your leathers the first step is to REMOVE the affected item outside gently and carefully. That way, you'll avoid filling the air with mold spores that will simply infect other items in the confined space.

Have a supply of old soft rags that you are willing to throw out. Start wiping away any surface mold with a wet rag. Wipe and capture as much of the mold as you can then throw the rag away. Don't rinse and reuse your rags. That only spreads the mold spores. Use an old toothbrush to clean stitching lines and crevices. Finish cleaning the leather using a water-based, pH neutral product to float away any remaining organic surface dirt that could support mold and mildew growth.

Some traditional leather cleaners contain glycerin and are not a good choice for moldy leather. Glycerin acts as a humectant, which means it tends to attract and hold moisture from the air. While that property may help leather fibers remain flexible, it also provides a lovely location for future mold and mildew growth



Humidity and Leather Toys—Flirting with Disaster

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Dry the leather in the sun to take advantage of the disinfectant properties of the sun's ultraviolet light. (Hint: Do this on a breezy day so that there is less time the leather needs to remain in the sunlight)

Vinegar, household bleach or alcohol can also be used to remove mold and mildew from leather but do know that they can all damage the fibers, will cause excess drying of the leather and could cause extreme discoloration. For heavily mildewed leather I suggest a 50/50 mix of 70% isopropyl alcohol and water. After washing the leather as noted above spray a fine mist of the alcohol solution over the leather, wipe with a clean soft cloth and let air dry in the sun.

You will need to recondition your leather after removing mold and mildew. You have removed the villain but you have also removed the natural and impregnated leather oils that keep quality leather in top-quality condition! For superior results take your leather clothing and boots to an experienced bootblack for quality care.

Avert your own leather disaster by taking care of your toys, clothing, boots, shoes and accessories. A bit of regular maintenance and cleaning can help your items last as long as your own skin.

Elegant

~Slave to Master Archer

~Southeast Bootblack 2005



Time Management By Mistress Grace

Everyone I've ever heard teach time management -- and I've been to many seminars because My father is very interested in leadership (and I've tagged along with him) -- starts with the principle "what do you want people to say about you after you've passed away." Purpose is one of the key beats of everyone's hearts. It's what drives U/us to pursue educations and better jobs, explore new countries and create new products -- we want to know we made a difference.

I would encourage everyone who is seriously wondering about Time Management to sit down and think about this scenario. Write down what you want to be remembered for this will help you when you sit down to make some needed priorities. Also, write down what you would want your Mistress (or whatever title He or She goes by) to say about you (should She/He outlive you).

The next step I would recommend is that you keep a journal of your time for the next week. figure out how much time you actually spend on things -- don't just guess. When I did this exercise I was shocked to find out how much of My time I wasted (thinking it was only a couple minutes a day).

With these two pieces of information figure out what your goal is in time management. Do you want to change your current situation? Do you want to simplify your life, do you want to keep on task? The why is what will point you to what specific steps you need to take in your own life. If you want to change your lifestyle and habits I would highly recommend having either your Dominant or someone who can help keep you accountable for your time. Set realistic goals, you're not going to change a lifetime of habits in one day. As the old saying goes, the best way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time and the best way to change a lifestyle of time management (or lack there of) is one area at a time.

My dad has taught time management for years. One of his favorite stories to help people understand time management came from Stephen Covey who was trying to illustrate how to make priorities. Picture several jars lined up on your desk. One had large rocks, another smaller ones, one had sand, another water and then a larger empty jar.

If you tried putting in the sand and then the rocks and then something else into the larger jar, you'd never fit it all in. But if you place the large rocks first, then the smaller ones, then the sand and then the water, all will fit neatly into place.

Same is true with time management. For those who are in a D/s relationship it's important to communicate with your Dominant and figure out what are the "large rocks" -- the priorities that MUST be done every day and every week. Big ones in My personal life are work (those rocks can't move in My schedule), time with the teenagers I work with as a volunteer, classes for graduate school and spending time with My submissives. For My father it was things like spending time with family, work, time refreshing himself

spiritually.

Once these large "rocks" are in place if necessary black them out in your schedule and on your calendar. And I mean every large rock, if you listed family as one of your large rocks, then black out time for them in your schedule. My family growing up had "family day" where my dad would take the family out for an activity. My father also took My mother on a "date night" (Tuesday nights) and now on a date lunch (every Wednesday).

Next pick the "small rocks". These are things that are not absolutely necessary but should be a part of you living a healthy well-rounded lifestyle. My personal "small rocks" are things like exercise, learning a new program, vacations, etc.

As you can see also from the illustration there are a few large rocks, more smaller rocks and when you get to sand there's literally thousands of things that you could/want to do. But once you get those few large rocks in place you can always add more things, but if you start with the sand things, you may never get those rocks in place.

If you are in a D/s relationship make sure that you communicate well with your Dominant on the areas in your life that you need to put first. Even I understand that My sub's children come first. If this is not something that you have discussed at length with your Dominant, make sure you do, it will save a lot of heart and headache later. One Domme friend of Mine didn't understand that her submissive needed to be in control of his life when it came to his kids and She wound up hurt when She tired to make rules and priorities there and he bucked under them. When in reality he just simply needed to be in control there because it was a Dominant role for him (over his children) and to be submissive threw him into too much confusion.

Another caution is to make sure that you make room in your life for things that you enjoy. Hobbies are a key part of people's lives that a lot of people forget to give priority. Not only do hobbies give you a great stress reliever but they keep your mind active and sharp and ready to serve.

***Mistress Grace** has been in the scene for three years officially, but She's been playing slave games since She was five! She currently owns a male submissive (michael), a male slave (jack) and two female submissives (needsa & anne). She is a sensual and strict Domme who enjoys spanking, cyber and real life, bondage, foot worship and many other areas. She's active in Her local scene and loves learning new realms of BDSM and D/s. When She's not tying someone up and teasing them mercilessly She works in graphics. She's been a published writer since age nine and enjoys kinky writing as well as vanilla.*



Politely Encouraging Departure, or “Go Home Please!”

By sazmira

Sometimes being of service can be a surprising thing indeed. I was pondering bizarre services the other day as I shooed out-of-town guests out the door after a two-night visit. One of the Great Big Deals with service oriented folk, and truthfully most *normal* people, is making guests feel welcome and happy to be in your home. Hence the reason there are a thousand and one articles and books devoted to the subject. I've often been tempted to write my own book titled, “Go home! Please.” Because there just aren't that many references available for making people leave.

You see, in my house, things are a bit different: we don't really like having people in our home too terribly often or for too terribly long. My husband and I are creatures of habit. Change to our normal routine within our home is viewed as a very bad thing and overnight guests usually disrupt our normal routine. So, while people are always welcome to come over and visit for a few hours or the occasional overnight, the duration must be fairly short and the end constantly in sight. We'll happily entertain you and be perfect hosts for the duration. Just make sure you go home in a timely fashion or I'll be forced to demonstrate my “make-you-think-it's-your-idea-to-leave” technique.

One of my services to my husband is making guests want to leave our home. Being able to do this without causing hard feelings and without being overtly rude can be truly more of an art form than making people feel welcome.

How do you get rid of guests without being blatantly rude? Before I start discussing “get out” techniques, you must remember that all this has to appear perfectly normal to you and your household. If you start giving off some weird vibe, guests will pick up on it and be upset. **We don't want to upset the guests; we just want them to go home.** You also don't have to do *all* of these things. Usually a couple at a time is enough to drive them away within hours.

The most important thing about getting people to not want to stay at your house is: you have to make the house just a *little* uncomfortable. All that feng shui stuff about flowing lines? It really does work – especially in the opposite direction. Keep things off balance and un-centered. Avoid the natural flow of the room. Try having a couple of paintings and pictures just a wee bit off plum. (Side note: my artistic husband hates this technique but will suffer for the benefit of our anti-social family.)

Clutter is your friend.

You know those big soft comfortable chairs? Don't buy those. (If you do insist on buying comfortable chairs, keep them in the bedroom or den. Anywhere guests *won't* be.) Don't have too much furniture in general. If you have enough places for everyone who might visit to sit or lounge, they'll be encouraged to sit and lounge for vast amounts of time rather

than going home to their own comfy furnishings.

No matter how many chairs are available, make sure *you* don't have a place to sit. *You* sit on the floor. It will make them feel slightly guilty and want to leave so you can sit your poor tired self on the uncomfortable furniture. They'll never know you don't actually mind sitting on the floor.

Closed doors are *not* inviting. Particularly if there are more closed doors in your house than open doors. I've been known to close every door in the house except the front door and the bathroom door. There have been friends over the years that have been in my house a thousand times that have never seen anything except those two rooms. They never stay more than about three hours at a time.

You must always offer guests something to drink. I believe that is almost a Divine Commandment in the southern United States. However, if you want to encourage short visits, don't have a thousand different choices of sodas and juices. In my house, the typical choices are: apple juice, Diet Mt. Dew, milk, coffee, and sometimes tea. That's it. I almost never offer alcohol to guests unless I want them to stay for an extended period of time. Drunk people can't drive home. (Unless it is a Planned Event – which is totally different thing requiring a whole other set of departure and department rules.)

Food is a variable option. If I like the guests, and there is an end in sight, I'll cook lots of food and have various and assorted snacks and sweets available. If I'm ready for them to go home, there will be *no* food in sight.

An insolent cat is a must have for all anti-social households. If the guests are staying overnight, or heaven forbid over many nights, one of the most effective techniques for encouraging their departure is to exhaust them. Plan shopping trips, zoo trips, and theme park trips. Come up with a thousand things they just have to see and *do*. Run them around town until their feet beg for mercy.

Another way to exhaust guests is for *you* to run around like a chicken with its head cut off. I typically wait on guests hand and foot. If they need a drink, I get up and get it. If they need a napkin, I go to the other room to get it. If they need *anything*, it is always in another room and I always go get it. All my jumping up and down and running about wears out a guest very quickly.

Make them talk lots. No sitting and idly watching television: that would give them time to rest and recover, which would encourage them to stay. We want them tired and out of sorts so they'll *leave*. Forcing the conversation to constantly evolve and move requires thought on the part of a guest.

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Keep it up long enough, and they'll start begging to go home.

If you can't do mindless blather and fast-paced incoherent chatter, practice your best blank smile and polite nod. Long awkward silences are slightly rude but they do tend to work to encourage departure. Just make sure the television is *off*. When the time comes, finally, that they decide they are ready to go away? Protest a little. "Oh, no! Stick around, we're not doing anything." Express sadness that your visit with them is at an end. But don't protest *too* much or act *too* sad or they might decide to stay. That would be a complete failure of service in an anti-social family like mine.

There are plenty more subtle ways to encourage departure. Pretty much, anything you can do to make people tired and just slightly on edge will work. The key to making them *happy* to go home is that you do it in a very natural, friendly, and eager to please manner. Never, EVER be rude unless they've committed an offense that requires justifiable rudeness. The goal is to make them pleased with their visit but happy to leave.

Of course, if you had a normal household - rather than an anti-social household - you could also do almost the exact opposite of everything I've said in here to make your home a happily inviting home where people would love to visit and stay for days on end.

Sazmira is a 34 year old service-oriented wildchild, beloved pet of sadists, adored friend, and general free spirit with a huge heart and a bent towards slavery even if she won't admit it.



Our Readers Write!

Last month we started "Readers Write" with the question:

"What do we do as servants when we perceive that the Master/Owner is not doing his or her job? (Notice I said *we perceive*) Just because we think he's not doing his job, that doesn't necessarily mean that's the case. But my question is about how to deal with that perception. We always want to think that the Master is omniscient but what happens when the reality of the fact that Masters are human too creeps into the illusion?"

The responses are listed below.

September's question (or rather, series of questions) comes all the way from Australia to us:

"Is the search for approval from the most dominant person in one's life a lack of self esteem? When it goes to extreme psychological repercussions when approval is not certain or gained, such as anxiety disorders or panic attacks? Is there a balance between gratifying the desire to serve and gratifying the need to be approved of, appreciated, is there a difference between the two? Does one exist without the other? How does one become the dominant significant self to oneself to improve self esteem and not have to rely upon a dominant significant Other to bolster ones own approval rating?" (Feel free to answer all or part, as this is a rather huge series of questions)

The hope is that this will encourage more readers to try their hand at contributing to the newsletter, as this is by and for all service-oriented people. Please feel free to contribute responses or new questions. Please mark your subject line "READERS WRITE!" so we get to those responses quickly! All orientations and identifications are welcome to respond, so let's hear from the Top types too!

Responses can be sent to:
msolympusleather2003@cox.net

Responses to August's question

"I see this as two questions. The first is: "What do we do as servants when we perceive that the Master/Owner is not doing his or her job?" There are as many possible answers to that question as there are words in the dictionary. From the belligerent, "who are you to dictate the Master/Owner's job much less to criticize him for the way he is doing it" to "when you have a problem the best thing is to talk about it with your Master." In truth, the answer is always and forever going to be "it depends on your relationship".

For me, I tend to email him in a very matter of fact way to avoid my tendency toward histrionic martyrdom. I simply state, "This is what I'm having a problem with and this is why this is a problem for me." I don't offer possible solutions and I don't tell him what he should do to fix the problem. I just state my issue and the reasons for it.

The second question, "...what happens when the reality of the fact that Masters are human too creeps into the illusion?" is a very important question. Do you remember the first time you saw your parents cry? Do you remember the first time you saw your teacher outside of the classroom? For me, those were catastrophic moments where worlds collided. Not only did my authority figure have a life outside of me, they had a life similar to mine complete with thoughts, feelings, and emotions. The one dimensional authority figure became a person complete with flaws and imperfections. For me, that realization was one of the first steps to growing up.

How to deal with those imperfections internally is a matter of accepting the Master/Owner's humanity. By not acknowledging them or worse still not accepting them, you are in essence taking away their right to humanity. I suggest turning the situation around and staring at yourself in the same situation. Internally, how would you want him to deal with your humanity – meaning the personality flaws within you that will not be changed regardless of all self-improvement techniques in the world?"



“I think it is very healthy for the relationship that the slave see the Master as human and not perfect.

If I had the perception he was not doing his job - I would slow down and figure out why I have that perceptio. Because for me it most likely would be because of my own feelings - something going on with me rather than really him.

Such as maybe he is very busy at work and we have not had much quality time so I am feeling neglected. Well, that is not his fault. And most likely he is not happy about spending time with me. So, I need to slow down and do what ever I can to accept the situation because it not his fault and it is my feelings on the situation causing the struggles.

Things I do to help me when I am struggling...

**meditate*

**do mantras - remind myself who I am*

**journal*

**do things that focus purely on direct serve to Master - such as giving him a massage, making a very special meal, soaking his feet and giving him a pedicure*

** sometimes doing something purely for myself works too - such as taking a long hot bath, reading a good book, drawing or enjoying time at any of my hobbies. “*

“If Master is performing, to the best of their ability, to uphold his or her responsibility, control and relationship agreement and the slave continues to feel that there is something lacking from the Master then it is up to the slave to determine the extent of that problem.

If it falls within the realm of Master is not doing anything different yet the slave is having problems, then its the slaves duty to resolve the problem to the best of their ability. Such as if there is a pattern to the discontent, every three months or after a major holiday, then I believe the slave should focus on overcoming that short term discontent until the feelings pass, if not deal with the underlying issue that causes the discontent to being with. A class at Thunder addressed some techniques of dealing with the short term difficulties with service. Including creating fantasies, remembering the good times and simply accepting that it is your job.

If it comes to the point of simply realizing that the Master and slave are walking on now separate paths, then the Master and/or slave need to determine how

best to resolve the relationship so that each can continue on their own path. Never a happy solution, but all to obvious the only solution that is left.

Does the continuing service to this Master further the emotional, physical, mental and spiritual fulfillment of the slave, of the individual and of the Master?”

“We, as servants/submissives/slaves, have a very vivid mind that has a process we go through every so often, called "assumption city" and as soon as we tend to meander out of our focused state, we sometimes perceive that our Master/Owner is not doing his/her job. We are normal human beings that are usually strong personality people in our own right, and sometimes have the urge to wonder why our Master/Owner isn't doing _____ as they said they would. Well, most of the time they are, just not on our timetable but theirs. They just may be doing it THEIR WAY instead of how we perceive something should be followed through and done. Our minds then tend to wonder why aren't they doing this - this way? Why aren't they following through now? Don't they realize this? Didn't they say that they would be in charge and take care of this? They've always taken care of everything in the past, what's going on now? HmMMMMM

We seem to be creatures of habit. Because of our strong personalities, and ability to make sound judgements and decisions, (which is one of the reasons we were very selectively chosen by our Masters/Owners in the first place) we tend to sometimes forget :

- 1. That we have made a decision to relinquish decision making and taking care of ourselves to them, unless we are asked to complete an assignment that is requested of us.*
- 2. They are human too! We are not the only ones who can claim that fact.....and they can make mistakes also, not often, but its possible.*
- 3. As long as we keep communication open within our relationship with the Master/Owner, it is not our concern, is it.....not our responsibility. We just worry too much that something isn't happening as fast as we think it should.*
- 4. We've been told over and over again, that our well*

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being is now their responsibility and not ours. They haven't done a bad job, have they? Hmmmmm

5. Time to relax, breathe and focus and remember who we are, what we are, and who we belong to. Time to remember what they have told us in their commitments to us.

6. Ok, one more deep breath.....we're back on track and where we need to be to be ok within ourselves. :)”

“In theory wouldn't we like to be able to say that we keep our doubts to ourselves and know that 'He' knows and is doing what is best for us, and for the relationship. That is fine in theory, but it is a fantasy not meant to meet the real world we all live in.

We as slaves are hardly shrinking violets, or ignorant. We have opinions and questions, and at least my circumstances i have always had a forum by which these are allowed to be voiced without punishment, as long as i remain respectful in the manner i pose them.

For example, most often for me, it is via journaling, that i am permitted to voice any concerns, doubts, desires, needs, etc that I have and perceive as not being met. It is still His call if we go into a discussion about these concerns, and what if any actions will be taken as a result. As i said the only formal rule governing this type of relating of my concerns, is that i can't be punished as long as i remain respectful in the manner in which i approach it.

ie -- Damn my Master, really need to learn how many times i can cum, and oh yeah let me do that one some more. --- for this entry i would anticipate punishment in some form.

On the other hand -- having always been highly multi-orgasmic, i am finding it difficult to adjust to the orgasm restrictions/denial that Master has placed upon me. -- This should prompt either a change or a discussion at the very least.

Then i must admit that i will often turn to others in Master/slave relationships, for counsel and advice regarding my concerns. i admit that i often need the validation that my concern is valid, before I will actually bring it up to Him. Which i know is a fault i need to

work on.

Finally if all else has failed to calm my concerns, i will approach Him and seek to open a discussion. Any one who takes me on as a slave, will know long before a collaring that i have to understand something in order to abide by it. Even if i don't understand or agree with my own perceived role, i must understand what i am to learn/gain from a particular activity. That is just the way i am wired.

For those of you that responded to this month's question, thank you so much. I know it's a new feature, and it will take awhile to grow and find its way, much like the newsletter has.



Are You Experienced?

By Kassie

Experience is one of the most discussed parts of the scene, and a question frequently asked of people with regard to theirs. But what really determines someone's experience level? Can new people who've just come into the scene actually have relevant experience to survive in the multitudes of us who can serve or bottom to those with years around the single tail or the rope?

But what is *experience*, and what does it really mean? Sometimes the most experienced have only that, experience and nothing else to go with it. The most experienced submissives can be the toughest ones to train, to get rid of the training you don't want, in order to incorporate those traits that you do. Starting with a blank canvass can be much easier than trying to re-train someone to a dominant's liking.

Recently, this question of experience became paramount in my life. As a submissive in the scene 7 years, I've had a lot of experience. I am currently in a committed D/s relationship with a Dominant who has recently come into the scene, having been a more private player before hand. I've served different Tops in different capacities over the years, and have taken up boot-blacking in the last year. Certainly, this gives me a bank of relevant experience and somehow qualifies me as a leader in my community, doesn't it? And surely Sir's lack of experience does in some measure qualify him as a 'newbie'? If things were that simple.

I've bottomed to things he's never done. I've been cut, set afire, poked, bruised, and reduced to tears in the name of pleasure. I know all the protocols, and how to interact with dominants and submissives I'm friendly with and those I've just met. I can be respectful and pleasing at parties, serve in various ways, and put on a good show. In other words, I learned to do all the 'parlor' tricks with style and grace.

But what happens when you are away from the parties? What happens when after all these years you are with someone who's more than just a guy with a flogger? What happens when he has an innate desire to move the theory into actual practice?

I had a particularly exhausting week recently. I'd made a lot of professional decisions, and had to take control over several things in my personal life that left me drained and yearning to give up the control and serve my Sir. I wrote him a note, expressing that I needed to

feel owned, to give up control, to be steeped for a period of time in complete service to him. I made it clear to him that what we did wasn't important, he could even have me do something I disliked. I said that what ever he chose wasn't important, what was important was that he was in control. We discussed this, he asked a lot of probing questions and within the span of about 6 separate e-mails, and we were ready to embark upon an evening of submission and service.

I was told that once I hit the door, I was all his. He would control everything and I would be his slave. I couldn't wait for Friday night to come. To be his, completely.

And come that Friday night did. Driving over, I was nervous, but not afraid. I knew this man, and trusted this man, and I was confident that he would probably want me to kneel at his feet while he petted my head and told me what a good girl I was, how much he adored me and that I was his property. Those notions swirled in my head and made me giddy and my heart race to be with him.

Once there, he opened the door and smiled at me. As the door closed he told me to drop my things right there and get to my knees. He looked at me and began to talk about the fact that my good friend had just traveled 2000 miles to serve her Dom, and that I'd only come 10 minutes. I was so shocked that he was comparing me to her, and my basic instinct was to tell him to go fuck himself, but I bit my tongue hard and continued to hear him out. "I expect you to follow my orders and be pleasant," he said. Ok, who stole my Sir and put this bastard in his place? I opened my mouth to speak and he tapped my lips with 2 fingers and said "you are not to speak. Come with me," he said and lead me to the bathroom, where there were 2 Q-tips on the bathroom counter and a plastic cup. "I want you to go to where the bleach is, fill it 2 fingers worth, come back here and put water up to here, and clean the tub with these," he said, pointing to the Q-tips. My insides were shaking at this point, but I reminded myself that I did ask for this. I did ask him to put me under his control and decide what I was to do. Without a word, I turned and went to get the bleach and returned, filled the cup with water and began to clean the tub with the swabs. "Oh, and wash the walls of the shower down with this," he said, pointing to a scrub sponge. He then turned and left.

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And I proceeded to clean the tub. I felt him in the doorway at one point, but refused to turn and look at him. I was steaming inside. This wasn't what I wanted. I'm not some scullery girl who's dying wish is to clean my Dom's bathroom with a Q-tip. Who did he think I was?

Apparently, he thought I was his submissive, for as he watched me wash down the walls of the shower with the scouring pad he provided, he said "You need to get rid of those clothes. Come with me." Oh thank god, I thought. He finally sees how much this sucks and wasn't exactly what I was looking for and now he's going to tell me what a good girl I am and pet me, right? Wrong. "Kneel," he said as we were in the living room, in front of the open sliding glass door and big bay window. "I want you to remove your clothes, fold them neatly on the couch, and get inside the shower and clean it good, including the doors." Oh he's kidding right? I already took a shower and I put perfume on. My perfume is going to wash down the drain! I looked up at him and the look on his face said that this was not a democracy and that I should probably not negotiate. It also said how much he was enjoying this, being in complete control.

So I folded my clothes, got into the shower, washed the walls and the doors down, and was then presented with a small brush and dust pan to sweep the floor with. This activity culminated with the vacuum to get into the corners with. It took everything I had not to cry. I wanted my Sir back.

But, he was there all along. The gypsies hadn't stolen him nor had he been abducted by aliens. This was simply a side of him I'd never seen.

After I was finished, and he inspected, he explained that this exercise was not about how well I did the tasks, but that I did exactly what he wanted, without negotiation, without any lip. This I understood, but it wasn't what I wanted.

He could see my head was going a million miles an hour and that I was a little more than a tad pouty. "I don't understand why you are so sullen," he said. Gee, I dunno, I'm always feeling very sexy and vibrant when I clean a bathroom, in the raw, with Q-tips. I wanted to say that, but I didn't. What I said was "this wasn't exactly what I was expecting." He went on to ask what I was expecting, and I painted the Fairy tale fantasy I had in my head, where perhaps I would worship him and he'd praise me. "You are kidding," he said. I shook my head no. "You've been in the scene a long time, why is it that you are having such a hard time with

this?" he asked me. "I've never actually done this," I said, which again shocked him.

Ok, so I can bottom to the best of them, and take a lot of pain. That's the easy part. I can be respectful and pleasant and follow scene protocol. But real service to one man who I adore and am committed to, in any fashion he wants, which could reduce me to a common maid, nope, no experience here. It's one thing to admit this to one's self; it's an entirely different thing to admit this to one's Sir. But I did. And I was embarrassed. And it was probably one of the hardest things I've ever done.

Because I'm the 'experienced' one in our relationship, frankly, I get away with a lot. It's not like I wake up in the morning and think "Ok, how can I subtly manipulate him so that everything we do is fun and sexy and I get my needs filled?" But being the one with the 'experience' I've managed to dictate a lot of things, because I've been the one in the 'know'. I never meant to top him from the bottom actively, but it became clear that there had been some of that going on up to this point. That particularly party was definitely over on this Friday night.

My ego was shattered. My fall back position wasn't even enough anymore. The fact of the matter was this: I was not trained, and certainly not trained for anything like he'd lain out or expected. And the absolute last thing I wanted to do was reveal that. But I was in a corner, and like it or not, it was fairly evident I didn't have the answers for this one. And Sir, with all his lack of references and traceable, relevant scene experience, did.

He knows what he wants. Ultimately, he wants a slave. I've never in 7 years thought I could be a slave, not really. Again, I could role play it for a period of time, but to actually 'be' someone's slave was never really something I much aspired to. But for Sir, who I trust and love and am absolutely naked with, I am willing to be trained to be his slave. We've all heard the 'natural' argument, where some people prance around, trying to elevate themselves by stating that they are a 'born slave.' Ok, whatever. I've never felt that there's been any competition between those who believe that they were born and someone like me. But it doesn't matter whether it's nature or nurture really. What matters is that I am willing to learn to serve my Sir to the best of my abilities and in a way that he desires and finds pleasurable. And that is something that I need to learn through training.

Sir's level of experience really has no relevance here,

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no bearing. How long I've been actively in the BDSM scene matters not one iota in this situation. He knows what he wants, and who he wants, and he's willing to train her, me, to be that. And in that, we'll have experience that no one else could ever have, because it's about the training of one unique person by another, and the sum of that can only be known inwardly by those who experience it.



Humility

By sweetkahi

Humility - Part in a series on the traits of a slave. Personal mileage may vary.

The dictionary defines humility as "the quality or state of being humble" and humble as "1 :not proud or haughty : not arrogant or assertive 2 : reflecting, expressing, or offered in a spirit of deference or submission 3 : ranking low in a hierarchy or scale"

Not exactly a very strong platform to begin with, humility is one of the characteristics we are often fond of in admiring in others, yet often struggle to fulfill in ourselves. The American society teaches that we take credit for our work and to show pride in our achievements. There is a fine line between pride in our abilities and arrogance in our manner.

Humility is being aware of your place in the bigger picture. Knowing that the person you choose to surrender to is making the right choices. It is about not throwing a tantrum because he doesn't want to put his shoes on now, and doesn't want to make dinner and movie plans when i want to. It's about showing gratitude and grace when proven wrong as much as it is when proven right.

Humility is not pushing aside the good things you do. It is about not about needing external gratification. It is not about needing to feel controlled every step of the way, but it is remembering that what you do is what is allowed to be done. It's remembering to count to ten when what you want isn't what they want.

Humility in service includes the ability to serve for sake of providing the service. Humility reminds us that our services are voluntary, given freely without conditions. We do not serve for the plaque on the wall or the pat on the ass. Not that these aren't appreciated, but the reward is not the goal. Humility is about being happy behind the scene. To provide service as service is accepted and not as I think it should be given.

Ways To Humble Yourself, as adapted from Alfred Ells, M.C.

1. Routinely confess your failures. - All of us fall short of perfection. However, too few of us have a routine practice of rigorous self-honesty examination. Weekly, even daily, review of our heart and behavior.

2. Acknowledge your failures to others. - A true test

of our willingness to humble ourselves is being willing to share with others the weaknesses we confess. Wisdom, however, dictates that we do so with others that we trust.

3. Take wrong patiently. - Patiently responding to the unjust accusations and actions of others demonstrates our strength of character and provides an opportunity to put on humility.

4. Actively submit to authority...the good and the bad! - How purposely and actively do you work on submission to those whom are placed as authorities in your life? Submit to authority with an open and present mind.

5. Receive correction and feedback from others graciously. - Look for the kernel of truth in what people offer you, even if it comes from a dubious source.

6. Accept a lowly place. - If you find yourself wanting others to recognize your contribution or become offended when others are honored or chosen, then pride is present. Purpose to support others being recognized, rather than you. Accept and look for the lowly place; it is the place of humility.

7. Be quick to forgive. - Forgiveness is possibly one of the greatest acts of humility we can do. To forgive is to acknowledge a wrong that has been done us and also to further release our right of repayment for the wrong.

8. Cultivate a grateful heart. - The more we develop an attitude of gratitude for the gift of life, the more true our perspective of self. A grateful heart is a humble heart.

9. Purpose to speak well of others. - Saying negative things about others puts them "one down" and us "one up"...a form of pride. Speaking well of others edifies them and builds them up instead of us.

>From quoteworld.org.

"To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors nobleness." -- Benjamin Franklin

"Build me a son, O Lord, who will be strong enough to know when he is weak, and brave enough to face himself when he is afraid, one who will be proud and

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unbending in honest defeat, and humble and gentle in victory." -- Douglas Macarthur

"God, give me courage to do what I can, humility to admit what I can't, and wisdom to know the difference." -- B. J. Gupta

"Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self; it is no humility for a man to think less of himself than he ought, though it might rather puzzle him to do that." -- Charles Haddon Spurgeon

Jennifer, aka *sweetkahi*, has been active in the **BDSM** community for the last eight years. She lives in Denver Colorado and attends several **BDSM** events throughout the United States. She is service oriented and has had two successful Master/slave relationships. She learns something new everyday and loves to share, educate and discuss her journey.



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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,

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