

Section 13 – Tomorrow and the Day After

It Was Always About Sex

Along with survival, the genetic imperative to procreate is the strongest instinct of all living things. Because it is so important to the continuance of species, sex is connected with the pleasure centres in the brain. It is hard to imagine a stronger method of mass subjugation than taking over control of this primary instinct.

In the patriarchal monotheisms, sex, that natural agent for emotional bonding, for building trust, generosity, comfort and security, became something to be ashamed of. Sex was not to be indulged in for pleasure but only for the mechanical production of children. Women's role was to ensure patriliney, and through it the patriarchy. They became property, with all aspects of their lives strictly controlled.

As the patriarchy developed, the domination, objectification, commodification, exploitation and degradation of women that began in the first cities of Sumer continued, and mutated. The virgin/whore duality emerged. Any deviation from the chaste, obedient, 'honourable' category immediately cast a woman into the opposite category. The 'honour' applied to the man who 'owned' her and she could be punished brutally for any harm that befell her.

The modern patriarchy continues to treat women as objects. Where one version of oppression hides women away and makes them feel invisible, another version strips them bare and makes them feel unworthy. Pornography, freely available to anyone with an Internet connection, along with mainstream advertising, music videos and other media, reinforce stereotypical, unrealistic and often unattainable ideals of what the patriarchy thinks women's bodies should look like and how women should behave. Young women and young men, growing up surrounded by such images, come to accept these perceptions as normal. The innate, real Goddess is obscured, and the manufactured doll becomes the ideal, for both women and men. This plays perfectly into the patriarchal consumer model. The patriarchy is a system. It is not equivalent to 'men'. Many modern men understand that the system is deeply flawed and that they too are oppressed by it. Sex is natural and has no intrinsic moral parameter, yet men's sexual desire, sexuality and sexual pleasure have been perverted by the patriarchy into sins to be guilty and ashamed of. Their normal sexual interest, blocked from healthy expression, has devolved into prurience and aggression.

The patriarchy reinforces its oppression of women not only through pay differentials, 'glass ceilings' and limited access to power, but equally through light sentences for rape and spousal abuse, and through shaming and harassment via social media. In many parts of the 'civilised' West, women cannot go for a walk after dark because both girls and boys have been raised to understand that if a woman does so and is attacked it is 'her own fault'.

Within this system, only the patriarchal organisations such as church or state may sanction sex, through marriage. The patriarchy has strict rules about how and with whom we are permitted to have sex, and enforces these. It deems sex with partners of the same gender, sex outside of marriage or sex with people who do not conform to its norms, 'unacceptable'. It does this in order to cause feelings of guilt and shame, to invoke condemnation of the individuals concerned and, ultimately, to enforce control over them. This applies most visibly to the captains of politics and industry, who are acting within a culture controlled by the patriarchy and are expected to uphold its rules, but it affects everyone. Throughout society, sexual behaviour is judged either acceptable, and condoned, or unacceptable, and punished and the standard of judgement is the patriarchy's arbitrary codes.

Controlling all aspects of sexuality is a principal tool of the patriarchy. Lesbian, bisexual, gay and trans people fundamentally challenge the patriarchy by expressing sexualities and gender identities that do not conform to its rigidly-enforced binary model. The patriarchy's instinctive reaction to these has traditionally been violent punishment. Under the rule of Sharia, Islam's legal code, homosexual men are routinely judicially murdered. The non-Islamic world is equally culpable. In Africa today, nations including Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria are enacting draconian legislation that would make homosexual behaviour punishable by life imprisonment or even death. In Russia, laws punishing homosexuals are harshly enforced, and even where the legal codes are less definitive, beatings and killings of LGBT people continue apace. Transpeople are brutally murdered or driven to suicide by a vicious, intolerant mindset that insists that it is necessary to kill or repress anyone who varies from its arbitrary norms of gender expression. Others are forced to live lives of misery and fear, just for being who they are. Behind these abuses of basic human rights we see the familiar faces of patriarchal religion and state.

In the end, none of this is about Heaven and eternal glory, but about money, power and plunder here on Earth. It is about the will of men to rule over others. If political power were not their end, then why would it be necessary for clerics to condemn and kill those with whom they disagree about something as entirely personal as sex? Why would they need to put pressure on governing bodies to enact their judgements and punishments? If they know the Truth and others do not, then surely they serve no end by hurting those who do not follow their arbitrary rules. Their followers will be rewarded in their Heaven and the rest of us will not. If their end were not temporal power, then they would leave it at that, smug in their self-righteousness.

But temporal power is the end; control over others is the purpose; exploitation of the planet, and everyone who lives on it, is the goal.