

# The Politics of Pleasure & Pain

"Scene takes place in the bathroom. Slave is chained to the toilet and lies on the floor. Mistress is perched upon the sink.

**SUPERIOR:** How many gallons can you drink?

**MASOCHIST:** As many as you will give me, Mistress.

**S:** You are a toilet — you love being a toilet.

**M:** Yes, yes, anything you say.

**S:** It's true. Your highest ambition is to be installed in the ladies' room at Grand Central Station.

**M:** Will you watch me clean out the urinals with my tongue?

**S:** Women don't use urinals, fool.

**M:** I'm sorry, Mistress. I'm just a toilet.

**S:** You're the type who thinks it would be heavenly to have hundreds of strange women squatting over your face, using you as their sewer. Admit it, vileness.

**M:** It's true. Please, Mistress, let me kiss your ass, oh my beautiful Mistress, let me eat your

**S:** (Kicks him.) Don't say 'my' Mistress. I own you, thing. As for kissing even the bottom of my shoe, your mouth is too dirty. Who knows what you licked today, the gutters you crawl in, so shamelessly. I don't want to catch your diseases, you disease!

**M:** Please Mistress, use me as your toilet, piss on me. I want to eat your shit.

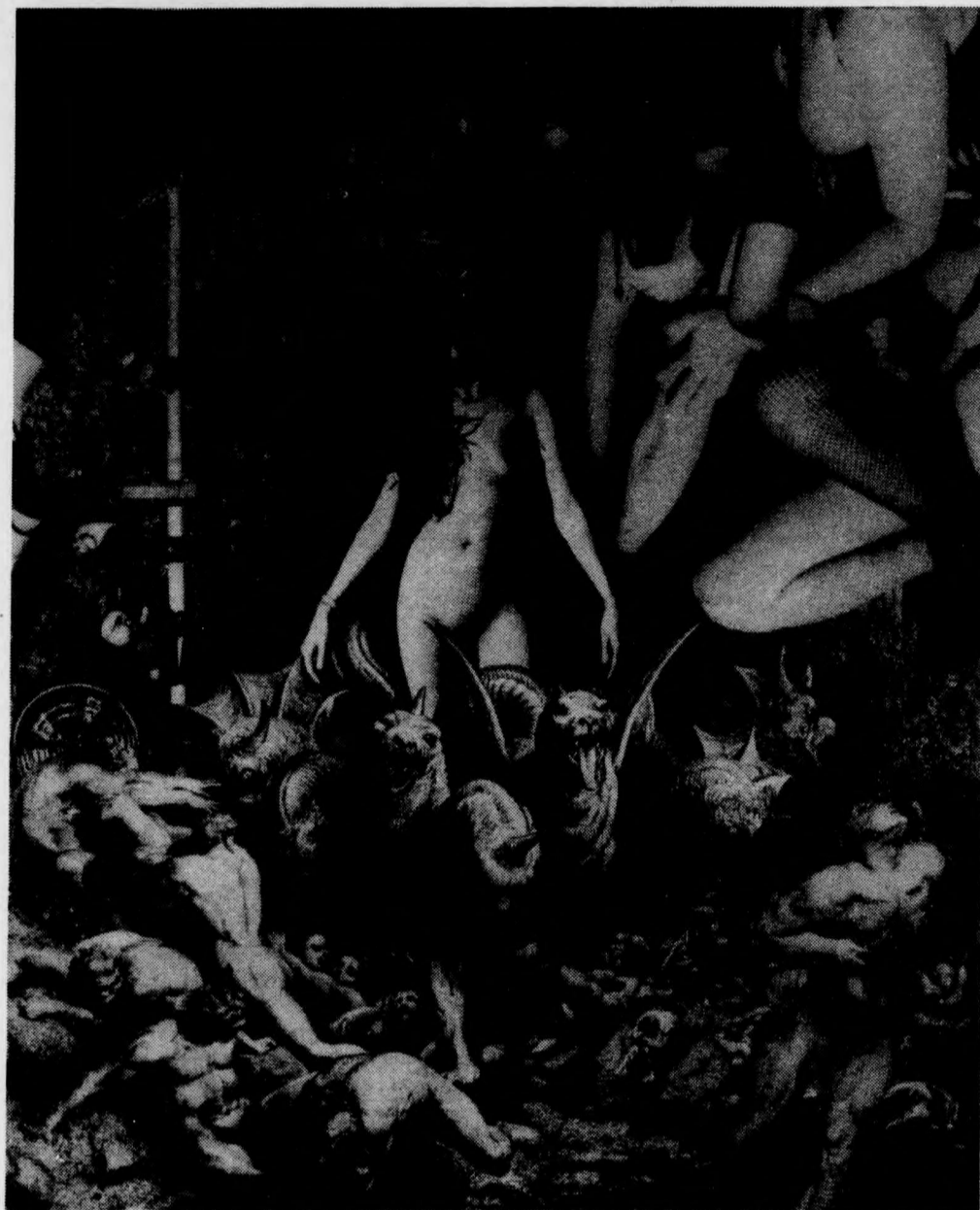
**S:** Silence! Keep your degraded lusts to yourself. Besides, my products are too good for you. The food I eat is very expensive.

**M:** I'll pay, I'll pay.

**S:** I know you will. I ought to have a little porcelain bowl installed over your revolting orifice. I don't care to sit down on moving objects. Let's see how wide you can open. *Wider!* (Inserts her heel into his mouth.) Lick it!

**M:** (Salivates all over shoe, whining.) Please Mistress, I want to be your toilet!..."

• excerpt from *The Correct Sadist*, by Terence Sellers; Temple Press Limited, 1990



by Mistress Lilac Doomflower

Sex is pleasure and sex is pain: pleasure in pain, pain becoming pleasure.

Enter an Other world, that thriving colony for sexual adventurers, where variations on emotion and fantasy are endlessly manipulable. In this realm of sexuality there is high risk.

You've heard of the great Marquis, no doubt? Of his artistry in the uses of power and manipulation, his courage (and impolite brutality) in delving deep into the id, fleshing his ideas out on hundreds of willing subjects. His malignant writings live on with us in many a well-stocked library, should anyone be so curious.

But, of course, S & M will never be for everyone. It's the current source of poo-poo criticism in the circles of intellectualized

feminism. According to writer Sandra Lee Bartky, since sadomasochism "involves the eroticization of relations of domination and submission... [it is to be]... regarded as politically incorrect."

There's that phrase again.

Who can pretend that sex is anything but nasty, at times? If sex is anything, it is an amplification of power roles we play in everyday life — sadomasochism just allows for a fuller interpretation of these gender/service/class/race/familial roles in a controlled situation. And no, women don't always play Submissive: just ask any professional dominatrix about her male clientele's fantasies, which more often ask for passivity than dominance.

And note the thriving S & M culture present in the Samois, the organization "of and for sadomasochistic women which describes itself both as 'lesbian' and 'feminist'." Samois shocks many in the feminist circles because their use of sadomasochistic ritual theatre in sexual acts is seen as validating women's subordination.

Hmm. This won't do, my pretties.

What, then, does S-ing and M-ing entail to have earned it such a nasty rep? Well, anything and everything under the moon, really — that involves tension, psychodrama and (believe it or believe it) play.

The spectrum ranges from the inane (rubber fetishism, dildo play, shoes, leather, stockings and socks, bananas), to the more "uncomfortable" (posing — i.e., role-playing, in which slave/master characterizations of all kinds are blown out; transvestitism, verbal humiliation), to the downright violent (bondage, spanking and whipping, surgical and electric torture, bestiality, necrophilia, cannibalism).

One can see how such practices may not do anything to speed up the revolution. But hey — fuck the revolution, babe.

Remember, desire is a many-headed drago.

## How safe sex became anti-sex

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practice. It should discuss the relative risks of specific sexual practices and give practical advice for making this sexual activity safer. Guidelines which assume everyone is heterosexual, and that sex means doing "it" in the missionary position, are not helpful. Homophobic statements that suggest gay men cause AIDS, or that AIDS is a plague from God, should be rejected for the hate propaganda that they so obviously are.

Third, voluntary celibacy should be presented only as an option, not as the solution. Discussions of celibacy that do not mention the joys of masturbation (sex with yourself) are highly suspect. As discussed above, monogamy is never a safe assumption.

Lastly, remember that morality has nothing to do with disease prevention. Do not trust "safe sex" advice which seems more concerned with your soul

than with your health.

Where do you find good safe sex guidelines? The *Up York* handbook provides good advice for preventing STDs. Community-based AIDS advocacy groups such as the Aids Committee of Toronto [ACT] and The Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention [Black Cap] have detailed safe sex pamphlets and hold wonderfully informative community workshops. For women, *The New Our Bodies, Ourselves* has a comprehensive, well-written chapter on STDs — and it is also a wonderful guidebook for all aspects of women's health. Look for it at the Toronto Women's Bookstore.

Use more than one source to confirm the safe sex advice you decide to follow. Remember also that as research into STDs continues, new information on safe sex practices becomes available. Try to use sources that are up-to-date.

And as Billy Bragg says, use your imagination.

