

Manual Creation:

Defining the Structure of an M/s Household



Machele Kindle
(Master Fire)

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First Edition

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Introduction

I developed a manual for my household, having been inspired by several different people in the lifestyle. The manual was intended solely for my own personal use. I decided to add it as part of my website (I've since taken it down) so that those interested in applying to, or learning about, the household could read it without me having to send them a paper copy. Paper copies of a seventy-plus page manual would get expensive, especially if they were going to be swallowed by the black-hole-of-semi-interested-slaves that we often encounter as Masters. What I didn't expect was how useful it would become during the course of lifestyle conversations. I could best give my opinions to questions posted on various forums and email lists by pointing them to a particular place in the manual, so I'd add a link to my comments about the topic. From there, more and more people asked to see it. I really didn't expect the overwhelming response it received from other lifestyle people. Many people commented that it was very useful to them, especially when it came to looking at what they really wanted in a Master/slave (M/s), and sometimes a Dominant/submissive (D/s), relationship. I was fairly shocked, actually; it never dawned on me that it would really help other people. I'd created it simply for my own purposes, after all. *scratches head*

I had a dream that I published this book, in this format, explaining how and why I created the manual. Since I rarely remember dreams these days, I took this to be a significant thing. It sounds a little silly to write, but it's the truth. I had to overcome some fear about how I would be perceived in the community for doing this. I'm aware that I have a brash personality a lot of times, and I can come across as a know-it-all. I've had people tell me this. In reality, I do what I do in order to help, not to show off (or at least I'm happily deluding myself that this is my motive). It was hard to let go of how other people would read my intentions, but I feel that sharing amongst our community is important and that I have something to share. This whole idea is based on my personal manual, not because I think it's this the end-all of documents, but because it's a handy ('cause I wrote it) example of the end result. I feel that reading about my own experience could really be of use to some people, even if it merely shows them what they *don't* want to do. I have really tried to bring a certain degree of transparency to this book. I hope that by doing this, I can help others as others have helped me.

You won't read anything that's totally original in here; instead, you'll simply read my way of saying it. I have had, and still have, fantastic teachers inside and outside the lifestyle. I hope I've combined the teachings and my own personal lessons together

in order to say the same things others have said but in a new way that really has meaning for someone. There's always one more way to explain something, right? I certainly see that's true in the classroom...and often necessary.

Right now, as I write, I have about five years of experience in the public community. I still feel like I have so much to learn! In 2002, I co-founded a group called Female Artists of Domination (FAD) in North Carolina with a woman who was a mentor, then a friend, for several years. I also served as Chapter Director of MAsT:Triad, NC from November 2004 to January 2007. I participate in a number of local groups and attend national meetings/gatherings. On the more mundane side, I'm your average nerdy scientist woman who knows the business end of a screwdriver but who can also sew and crochet. I can change sparkplugs, wash up, cook and then work on a formal gown or afghan for the evening. Hmm...ok, maybe I'm not that average. Different. Yes, different is a good word. Wait...odd. Yeah, odd might be a better word. I like odd. We'll go with that.

I write non-fiction, manual-type things on a regular basis. as part of the physics education field in which I currently work full-time. I spend lots of time analyzing things and trying to come up with ways to relate these things to people. "What would be a really good why to show (insert idea or concept)?" is a question I often ask myself. This is the teacher in me and I simply love to teach. In the vanilla world, I've taught earth science and conceptual physics at the college level for a number of years as a second job. My current plan is to go back to school for my PhD so that I can teach on a full time basis. If you happen to know about archetypes and Carolyn Myss' Sacred Contracts, you'll relate when I say that my Teacher archetype shows up in the house that relates to "How I represent myself to the world."

I'm sure you've noticed by now that my writing style is fairly casual. When I write more personal, less professionally-oriented stuff, I do this. It's a nice break from formal science, where using "I" is frowned upon, but it also reflects my teaching nature. I've found that a slice of humor and a dash of style (even bad style) go a long way to creating a bond between teacher and student. So, I'll make jokes and such along the way and, since this is really merely an account of my own personal journey and my own personal opinions, I will use the first person quite a bit and I don't strictly stick to the past tense. Regardless of my style, or lack thereof, I do have a heartfelt intent: I really want you to feel like you've learned something about yourself and what you think you want. Maybe all you'll learn is that I'm, well, odd. But maybe you'll find something significant in here. I hope so.

Chapter 1

Who and Why?

This book is much more geared toward the M/s lifestyle but anyone can use it to help define their relationship goals. It is intended to focus on the Master's desire to create a manual for their household, but it's also excellent for the slave to look at as well. I've tried to include introspection activities for both. Hopefully, each may become clearer about what they need, what they want and what they have to offer a potential partner. As you do these introspection activities, it's not necessary to write down your thoughts if they are for your personal benefit. However, if the plan is to share it, writing it down would be a good idea.

In its simplest form, there are only two differences I personally see between an M/s relationship and a traditional 'vanilla' (non-kink) relationship. The first is that, we, the M/s crowd, openly acknowledge that we prefer highly structured, well-defined relationships. The second is that, inside this structure, one person has consciously decided to surrender their authority to another. That's it. Really, those are the only differences. All the kinky sex and SM in the world is great (Man, is it great!), but if we get down to the nitty-gritty of the relationship dynamics, the transfer of authority inside a well-defined structure is the whole kit and caboodle. Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that the structure can't involve how, where and when you want to have sex or SM or chocolate (you *do* have guidelines about chocolate, right?). I'm simply saying that it's the combination of this conscious transfer and structure that makes these kinds of relationships different than everyday personal relationships in the vanilla world.

Let's assume, for the sake of this book, that we all are looking for at least one committed relationship. Given that, if we take the time to really look and analyze what we want and what we have to offer, we can really gain valuable insight about who we are and how we work as individuals. This allows us to choose more suitable partners and these partners will, most likely, appreciate our efforts to better understand ourselves.

I remember when I came out to my Mom about wanting an M/s dynamic and what that entailed for me. She said, "Well, it would really be nice to know exactly what was expected of you." She then paused and added, "But, I'm not into all that whips and chains stuff." *chuckle* Gotta love Mom. She made a good point: even in vanilla relationships, we like to at least know where we stand with the other person. Most of the problems that we run into in any relationship are usually from improper, or the simple lack of, communication. That's what this process is about; figuring out where we stand

and where we expect the other person to stand relative to us, both figuratively and, in some cases, literally! The exercise, however, only defines things for *us*, not everyone. We only control ‘our stuff’; we can’t control ‘their stuff’. However, what we do as Masters is to set up a structure and expect another to follow it, if they want to maintain this kind of relationship with us. Likewise, slaves can define what structure would best suit them. Neither of these situations is an attempt of one person to control the other person’s ‘stuff’. It is merely an attempt to set up guidelines about what each individual needs and wants.

The first thing that going through this book will help you do, I hope, is aid you in figuring out what you want...and what you don’t want. Or, at least, what you *think* you want or don’t want. Chances are you have visions in your head, as I did, about what would be really hot. Chances are, some of your visions are simply not practical on a day-to-day basis, especially if you want a 24/7 relationship. I used to get excited, in a variety of ways, at the idea of a full kowtow every time I walked into the room. Ok, so I still do! The first time I tripped over the slave, however, ended that fantasy for me. It’s so un-Master-like to trip over your slave.

The second thing that I hope this book does for you is give you a better understanding of yourself. Part of what made me decide to put together this manual is the questionnaire I filled out as part of an application for Master Taino’s Master’s Training Academy. In it, the applicants are asked for definitions of several terms. At first glance, there were a few that were synonyms for me. It wasn’t until I studied the words (ok, so I had to go look them up in an actual dictionary) that I saw subtle differences. I found these subtleties to be important and began to think about how I felt they would relate to an M/s relationship. I learned about myself by intensely studying my feelings and reactions. I highly recommend that you purchase a notebook or work in a computer document in order to do the activities. I’m fairly confident that, if you follow through with the introspection activities, you *will* learn something about yourself (even if it’s that you hate to do introspection activities!).

I learned about myself by trying to being honest. I tried to sort out things I’m not good at, things that I’m fair at and things that I do really well. I’m fair at finances. I can manage a simple budget and can do enough to help guide someone to get out of debt and, for the most part, stay that way. I don’t know jack about investing, other than in a retirement plan. I had to admit this stuff, even though I long to be independently wealthy and able to care for slaves in a manner that we could both become accustomed.

There are also things I simply don’t like to do. Admitting some of these things was hard. There were things I was reluctant to acknowledge I didn’t like simply because every other female dominant-type person I knew in the community did like them. I felt, for a long time, pressured to do these activities. Of course, peer pressure is simply our projection onto others of our own disapproval of ourselves and our fear of “measuring

up”. I finally just realized that I don’t like some things and that I was doing myself and my potential partners a disservice to not say so.

There are also things that I can’t do, even though I’d love to. Wearing heels is a good example. I’d love to have a pair of kick-ass thigh-high boots with a 3-4” heel. But, I just don’t find that the two days of taped ankles after one night of fashion to be worth it, even if I have been known to say, “All’s fair in love and fashion.” Perhaps it’s simply a matter of finding really good shoes and knowing how to walk properly? Maybe? *sigh*

Finally, what I hope you get out of the process is the chance to see how you grow and change. Know that your own manual will be a fluid document, no matter how much you wish that wasn’t true. In ten years, my rather lengthy and detailed manual might be reduced to ten pages. Ok, so it probably won’t, but I can guarantee there will be things that I will change. Maybe I’ll find someone who just makes anal play extraordinary for me and I’ll get rid of that limit. Maybe I’ll find that I don’t have such a fear of abandonment and I can remove that deal breaker. Maybe I’ll decide that I really do have a place for a cross-dresser who spends three hours in the bathroom every day. You’ll come across things like this, too. It’s all trial and error and there’s nothing wrong with changing what you’ve written. Tastes change as we get older; don’t think that your documentation has to be, or even should be, written in stone.

Remember, though, there are pros and cons about documenting these things. For example, for Masters, one pro is that the slave will expect what you write. The corresponding con? The slave will expect what you write. *chuckle* This is where the rubber hits the road. Hopefully, both you and the slave can accept that the manual merely documents what you think you want and each of you will be able to be flexible about it. However, be prepared for stumbling blocks and, in the end, you or the slave may decide that the change is too much to bear. It really sucks with that happens, but again, it’s a trial and error process.

This book is laid out so that there is commentary about a chosen section of the manual, followed by that specific section of the manual itself. I decided to break the manual up this way so that one topic could be addressed at length without interruption. However, I thought I would also be useful for some to see the manual, standing alone, as an example of the completed process. So, it’s repeated, uninterrupted, at the back of the book and you get it twice. Yes, I rather feel this is overkill and I debated with myself for days about whether this was padding the book or not. In the end, I decided that, while it might be seen as padding, it could truly be useful to some people. Since it’s my goal to be helpful, I did it.

I hope you can simply enjoy the book, too. This is rather a journal-like undertaking, so you’ll get a glimpse into me and my world (whether you want to or not).

I'll try to be entertaining, but no guarantees. If you fall asleep reading, don't drool on the book!

Chapter 2

Development

These are the steps I went through to develop my personal manual. It's important to emphasize that I started with what I *thought* I wanted. Even ten years from now, the manual will simply represent what I *think* I want on many levels. While writing the manual, I found that most of the sections had a degree of flexibility to them. You might, too. Nothing you put on paper must be considered to be written in stone for all time. In the end, all we are doing is documenting what we think we want at this moment in time. Through trial and error, we will find out if we really wanted it or if we wanted something else. We'll also find out if the skills we think we have to offer are really a true reflection of ourselves. While finding out that we're wrong about stuff can be aggravating and even embarrassing, it's a growth process. It'll be balanced by what we find we are right about as well as new traits and skills we develop. We can and should make changes as we go along.

For example, let's look at my financial section. I state that the slave has to ask permission to purchase miscellaneous items that cost over a certain, to-be-determined, amount. In the original manual, I set this amount to \$50 and it was applicable to everyone. I realized after a while that there were two problems with this: 1) What if I wanted to give the slave the chance to run their own finances in order for them to learn to be responsible for themselves? 2) What if they are independently wealthy and \$50 was pocket change to them, unlike me? So, I changed this section to reflect these.

Ok, back to manual development. The first thing I did was spend a lot of time thinking about what I wanted. Again, I had lots of ideas that I just really got off on. slaves being naked all the time just trips my trigger. slaves who are blue from the cold or who have bothered the neighbors by fetching the mail naked, doesn't. The process here is to think about all the possibilities, then check the realities. The good news: There is room for fantasy! The tempered good news: There is room for fantasy in the proper setting.

I asked myself lots and lots of questions and eventually wrote them down. Would I want one or multiple slaves? Would I want a sexual relationship? Would I want a romantic, in-love relationship? Would I want an SM based relationship? If so, in what way, meaning would I be the sadist only and the slave masochist only, or would there be room for switching? What other areas, such as spirituality, did I find important? Would I want a 24/7 live-in relationship? If so, how would I incorporate the relationship into my

and my slave's family life? What were my fetishes? What were my limits? Was the slave going to be allowed limits? How would limits even work in the household? What were areas of control I wished, or didn't wish, to have? What level of health would I require? What level of attractiveness would I require? How would the finances be dealt with? Would I want uniforms? You get the picture, I'm sure. I could list all day and probably come up with some that I forgot to ask myself. Think carefully about what you really want. Don't forget to think about what you don't want, too.

I began to write down statements. For the most part, I didn't like to micromanage. I didn't particularly care for anal play. I didn't care about the sex or gender orientation of the slave. I cared that they had a spiritual path. It made a difference to me if they had children since my decision about whether or not they would live with me was based on this fact. I didn't particularly care for dogs, but I was willing to be flexible. I wrote down anything and everything that came to mind. It didn't matter if I later thought it was stupid or unimportant or something that could really be assumed.

After I did this brainstorming, I began to look at what I had to offer, what I would like to be able to offer and what I couldn't honestly ever offer. I'd love to offer a huge log cabin complex where everyone has a place to live with me and where money is no object. The chances of all that happening are slim, unless I have a rich relative somewhere who leaves me everything. Since one of my Grandfathers had over one hundred and thirty first cousins and my other three Grandparents were from similar family structures, it might very well be a possibility that there is a very rich relative out there. But, since I don't currently know them, chances of them leaving me everything are nil. But maybe they're just hiding being rich...*daydreams*

Think of this 'what I have to offer' portion as a relationship resume for yourself. Perhaps, as part of your job, you deal with anger management. That's certainly a skill to list. Perhaps you have a clear understanding of how a military household should run. That's a skill, too. But, developing this section is also about knowing what you don't have to offer, too. I really drooled over the idea of a military family or a Victorian-type household (can you say **Marketplace** boys and girls?). But, I knew that I didn't currently have the skills or patience, or any current interest in developing the skills, in order to make this happen. Maybe one day this will change. If it does, the manual changes with it.

We'll go through each of my sections, but remember, you don't have to include things simply because you feel the community says you should or because I have. You'll also have other sections that you'll want to include, such as how to handle mixing your two sets of children. What is or isn't included is all up to you.

Chapter 3

Introductory Items

I actually did a lot of this portion last, but in an effort to keep the manual's presentation in sequential order, I felt I should mention it first. You may find it reasonable to skip ahead and then come back to this section as I did.

I found that, as I was writing the other sections, there were things I kept repeating, such as mentioning my deal breakers and hierarchies. If you find yourself repeating the same points again and again, consider making them a section of their own. The sections I chose to include are: Contract, Biography, Application Process, Collars and Tokens, Deal Breakers and Hierarchies.

Section 1: Contract

I know some couples who do not work with a written contract at all. I know others who have a short, one page contract. Well, I just *had* to be different and go overboard and have a seventy-plus page contract! *chuckle* I know that I really could have made a contract that simply said, “I have read and accepted the terms of the Household Manual.” But, if the slave and I are going to be going through the document anyway as part of our relationship discussions, why not use it? This is just as much for the slave’s benefit as my own. If I do this, know that the slave 1) has indeed read the manual and 2) is willing to contract to what is expected. The slave knows that I am willing to contract and be accountable, too. But, just like your relationship, contracts are done entirely based on how you want to do things.

Introspection Activity: Masters, consider if you want to include a separate contract as part of this documentation. You may decide that you don’t want one at all. But, if you do, think about what you want it to encompass. Will it be a stand-alone document that merely mentions that each has read and now agrees to the manual? Or will it be one that includes close acknowledgement of the entire document? Maybe it will be somewhere in between?

Write down a few points that you feel your contract should include. If you need help getting started, there are several documents online that you might find helpful. Friends and acquaintances are a great resource, too. Perhaps someone you already know has a contract written and they’d be willing to share it with you. Please, however, don’t plagiarize. If you agree with a point, or an entire document, write it out in your own words. You might even consider giving a reference to the original document (see the scientist!?).

If you choose to write it in a style that is different from every day writing, such as using ‘Thee’ and ‘Thou’, work to make it clear, no matter what writing style you choose. I’ve seen terrible examples of these and had to work to translate what was being said. In the end, I wasn’t sure if I got it right. If I were a slave, I’d have been so worried about getting the correct translation, I’d not have applied.

slaves, would it be very important for you to have a separate contract? What points do you think a contract should include? Do your own research and look at contracts that are available. What points do you see that are essential for you?

Contract

Once a collar is accepted and received, this document becomes our binding contract. We will review each and every page, initializing and dating each.

Changes to the contract must be approved by both the slave and Master Fire.

The new page will be printed, reviewed, initialed and added, superseding the page it replaces. The superseded page will remain and be marked as superseded (SS).

This document is being used as a Preliminary Contract, between Master Fire and

spanning dates:

From: _____ To _____

.....

This document is being used as a Provisional Contract, between Master Fire and

spanning dates:

From: _____ To _____

.....

This document is being used as a Full Contract, between Master Fire and

Beginning Date: _____

.....

This document is being used as a Lifetime Contract, between Master Fire and

Beginning Date: _____

Section 2: Biography

A biography is a description of yourself or a telling of your story. I combined a little of the two to create this section. I began with a brief synopsis of when I entered the scene and how I was active in the community. Then I simply told about my life and myself, highlighting points that I felt were significant for the topic. I talk about being a bossy kid, being a talented person and how this lifestyle is spiritual for me. What you decide to include will be different. Perhaps you have a significant person in your life who introduced you to the scene and you wish to relay that story. Perhaps you've been through some nationally recognized training academies that you find important to list. No matter what you decide, I encourage you to simply be yourself.

Your biography will set the tone of the manual, if you choose to place it first. Even if you don't want it first, how and what you write it will say something about yourself. If you fill it full of bravado, you'll have one of two things happen. One, a potential slave will see through it right away and write you off. Or, they'll believe every word and you'll have to keep up the lie(s) in order to make the relationship work. Either way, you don't end up with an honest, healthy relationship.

Introspection Activity: Masters, write about yourself. Make it as long or as short as you wish. For technical information, think about what a group might like to know if you came to present. In other words, you might include things like your current experience level and the areas in which you have SM skill. If you don't have a lot of experience, that's ok. Simply be honest and look forward to the time that you *must* update this section. For personal information, pick out things, events or people in your life that have been important in your development. A lot of people, like me, can remember incidents from childhood that indicated their current path as an adult.

Now that you've gotten a rough draft, go back and lengthen or shorten it as needed. Remember, it doesn't have to be a book. Don't pad the biography and don't misrepresent yourself; these things will be discovered and your reputation will suffer. If you do this section well, you can use it as a profile, or the basis for a profile, on many of the BDSM personals websites. Double duty!

slaves, write your own biography, following the same outline as for the Masters.

Master Fire's Biography

I am a female-identified, female-bodied Master. I began my public involvement in the leather community in 2001 when I attended my first MAsT meeting. I am the co-founder of Female Artists of Domination (FAD), a North Carolina based group formed in the summer of 2002 to support Female Dominants and those that serve them. I am also the current Director of MAsT:Triad, NC. I attend events in the local community where I belong to several organizations. I also present to groups as invited.

M/s events that have altered my life: The very first TiL (2003), Southwest Leather Conference 2005 (which was actually held in Dec. 2004) and the pansexual APEX Academy in the Butchmanns Tradition in Jan. 2005 (more commonly known as Butchmanns). I try to attend the national M/s conferences, as many Butchmanns as I can afford and am an alumni of Master Taino's Eighth Master's Training.

From an early age, I can recall being a dominant person...or perhaps a more domineering person, depending on who you ask. Once, as a young girl in Girl Scouts, we did a puppet show with barnyard characters. The other girls insisted I be "Bossy the Cow". My peers used to write "Bitch" in the dust of my car in high school. These things hurt at the time, but now I see that it hurt because I wanted outward approval. While I still desire outward approval in a lot of ways, I am aware of it and so I can more accurately judge if it is appropriate behavior. Yes, I can still be a bitch, but truly, I want those who serve me to serve because they want to, not because I domineer them into doing it.

I'm an odd bird, so to speak. I'm intense, smart and deep. That seems to overwhelm a lot of people who talk to me. I strive to retain a sense of humbleness (regardless of how this document reads!). I do not know everything, nor will I ever know everything. I enjoy learning and teaching; I think that they go hand-in-hand.

I am a voracious reader and read for fun and to learn. If I'm reading for fun, I most enjoy Scifi, Fantasy and Thriller/Horror. If I'm reading to learn, it's usually Leather/M/s, New Age/Self Help or science texts. My biggest creative areas are sewing, writing and music.

Being a Master is a spiritual calling for me. It is not merely something I do; it is who I am, and is a part of my spirituality. This, of course, makes no statement or judgment about where I am on this journey or how well I feel I do it. I am as far along as I should be and do it as my skills allow. I am nowhere near as far along as I want to be nor are my skills as developed as I wish. These two statements will never change. While I do not proclaim to the world that I am a Master, I am open about it to those who truly wish to know. My mother and some of my aunts and uncles know. All of my close friends and most of my acquaintances are in the lifestyle.

My spirituality is an eclectic mix of Pagan, Native American and Eastern with a Christian background. I am all, yet not any, of these. Basically, I deal with energy; it's interactions with us and in us. Think Chakra or Chi...then add ritual, ancestors and

speaking in tongues. I have insight that can be creepy...even to me. It's not a consistent thing either, which makes it frustrating. I get nothing from most people, some things from some people and a great deal from people who have special meaning to me and/or my journey. If you already know of Myss' Archetypes, you can learn a lot about me by looking these up (working from 1st to 12th house): Alchemist (scientist), Servant, Warrior, Magical Child, Prostitute, Saboteur, Guide, Priestess, Artist (includes writer for me), Student, Teacher, and Victim. If you already know Sunbear's Earth Astrology, I am on the cusp between The Teacher and the Powerhouse. If you know Jamie Sams' work, I identify most with Clan Mother Gives Praise. My totems are owl, ocelot and lynx. I'm also looking into pursue degrees in Metaphysics.

I also have a very practical, analytical side. It's the scientist in me. I have a BS and an MS in Physics and will be hopefully pursuing my PhD in Mechanical Engineering. Currently for my day job, I work with Physics demonstrations and introductory teaching labs. My second job allows me to teach at night at the college/university level. I teach either Earth Science or Conceptual Physics.

What all this means is that, on one side, I'm very particular and can be rather rigid. On the other hand, I'm fluid and rely on my intuition a lot. It will take very unique individuals to be members of my household. I am looking for long-term, stable relationships and feel that this can only be done through clear intent. This document is designed with the intent to openly state what I want and what I expect from those serving me. As I go along my journey, things will be "tweaked" in the document. However, I doubt that the underlying principles will ever change.

Welcome to my world. J

Section 3: Application Process

I've had a questionnaire in existence for a number of years. It's a good way to learn about the intended slave and one approach to try to make the slave really think about what they want in the relationship. In this way, I can see if we're a potential match. Of course, I've found some that, even though what they said seems to match me, they had a different intent in mind when they wrote it. It happens. Still, it's an important part of my application process. In fact, asking qualifying questions is important in establishing any relationship, kink or not.

In this section of the manual, I encourage the slave to ask questions. I always want it known that the transfer of authority is their conscious decision; it is up to them to surrender. It is not up to me to make them do so. In fact, it's my opinion that if you think that you can *make* someone submit, you're living in a fantasy world. Even with a gun to their head, a person can choose to not submit. There may be consequences with that choice, but they can still make that choice.

I also indicate that there is a level of intuition involved in the process. We all know this, instinctively. Have you ever had someone interested who seemed, on the surface, perfect for you, but there was just this gut feeling that it wasn't right? I have. I've also had a gut feeling that someone was perfect for me, but they decided otherwise. It only takes one person not "feeling it" to make it not work; it takes both people feeling the call to make it work. In other words: Sometimes, our own calling is not enough.

I specify how things work as far as collars are concerned. This is one example of how me listing what I *think* I want has been beneficial to me, probably more so than the slave. I have offered collars too quickly. Hasn't everyone? This section was written, in part, to remind me to wait; that collars are not disposable and not to be taken lightly.

When I get a copy of their completed questionnaire, I send them a copy of my answers. Remember to update your answers, if you decide to do this, from time to time. There was a span of at least a year between two times I sent out answers. The answers had changed significantly for some questions, mainly because I had gotten divorced.

For slaves, while you might not want to send a Master a questionnaire directly, this doesn't mean that you can't come up with a list of questions that you will be sure to ask over a period of time. you can store the answers away in a file, if you want. I don't recommend sending a potential Master a document saying, "I require you to fill this out." Some of us might get upset. *chuckle*

In the manual, I decided to list the questionnaire in Appendix A. Can you see the scientist in me? *wink* However, for this book, I decided to include it here as part of the section to help the flow and, hopefully, increase the level of understanding.

Introspection Activity: Masters, think about how a questionnaire might help you. What questions do you find yourself asking over and over? Write these down. Compile them into a format that makes sense to you. Perhaps you'd like to break it up into several sections. Include a BDSM checklist if you wish. You can find those readily online if you want to see an example.

Think about the process that a person would move through in order to obtain a collar in your household. Write these ideas down, and then test them against your sense of reality. If it's really important to you that they already have a certain skill, perhaps it might be a requirement that they pass a test or inspection. Ask yourself questions like: If you have a multiple household, who has a say in who gets a collar? When will we renegotiate the collar, if ever?

slaves, what questions do you find yourself asking those you are interested in over and over? Write these down. What questions do you find that you are asked over and over? Write these down, too and answer them, perhaps keeping them in a document somewhere.

Application Process

1. Read this entire document. I put a lot of time into this manual so that you are well informed of what I expect to receive from you as well as what I expect to provide for you. I have made a true effort to be clear and to represent my household in an honest, open manner.
2. Ask questions, should you have any. you are never expected to follow blindly. Ask until the statement, directive or request is clear.
3. Look in your heart and ask if you're called. This is an important, intuitive step. you will be doing yourself (not to mention doing me) a disservice if you try to force yourself into a role that is truly not a reflection of who you are.
4. Fill out the questionnaire found in Appendix A. It's long; expect to spend at least five hours working on it. Think about the questions, especially the essays. Take your time and answer from the heart. If you need clarification about a question or item, please ask.
5. Submit the questionnaire by email so that I have an electronic copy. When you are done and I've accepted the questionnaire, I have a similar one filled out where I answer the questions that I will give you so that you know my answers.
6. We will spend time getting to know one another. If at some point you find you

wish to pursue a Preliminary collar, you will be expected to allow a background check. I will also allow a background check on myself. These may or may not happen; you are simply expected to allow it.

7. At the end of the Preliminary collar, if you wish to pursue a Provisional collar, you will be expected to petition for a Provisional collar of a specified length of time. You are expected to:

- a. Make a full financial disclosure at this time, including a credit check with all three bureaus. Now is the time to say that you're in debt up to your eyeballs and that you have two sick parents living with you or that you're the sole heir of a fortune and happily provide for an entire orphanage.
- b. Divulge any personal information that could impact your service in any way, i.e. you're nursing two aging parents or are HIV+.
- c. At this time, we can discuss my financial stability. I will also divulge personal information.

8. After the Provisional collar's time has elapsed and if I agree, you will be allowed to petition for a Full collar and permanent standing in my household.

Section 4: Collars and Tokens

Sometimes I think we go overboard with having “levels” of collars these days. I mean, the terms “Training Collar” and “Collar of Consideration” are so overused they can sometimes have very little meaning. Yet, I see that there can be a positive application of such. Well, obviously I do since I have levels! When I thought about vanilla relationships that I was familiar with, I saw that we followed a construct of levels; partnered dating, engagement and finally lasting commitment. This process seems to be somewhat of a natural progression for most societies, so why not apply it to an M/s relationship? There are some things from the vanilla world that apply.

To that end, I decided to go with Preliminary, Provisional and Full Collars. I also have a level where I give tokens to those who aren’t pursuing a collar with me for whatever reasons, but who contribute to the household in a significant way, who are important to me or who simply need direction in their life. I also have a level of a Lifetime collar. This is a special commitment to a person that lasts beyond the time they actually wear my collar.

Introspection Activity: Masters, you should be getting the hang of these activities by now, if you’re doing them (and you are, aren’t you?). If you decide to include this section, you’ll need to decide exactly what a collar means to you. For some, there may be only the one collar offered and it is to be treated as a marriage. For others, a Training Collar might be in order. Whatever you decide, and only you can decide for yourself, jot down some items that are important to you. Perhaps you want to specify the physical attributes of the collar or perhaps you want to use something else entirely different than an item that is worn around the neck. The important point, as it is with all of these activities, is to document what it is that you think you want then check it against realities.

How about a collaring ceremony? Do you want to specify how that works here? There are many ceremonies, from weddings to Handfastings that you can use to build your ceremony on. There’s even a Ceremony of the Roses that’s all laid out already. (note: if you search online for Rose Ceremony instead, you get an interesting ritual about a bride and groom exchanging red roses.)

slaves, is it imperative that you do, or don’t, participate in a collar system that steps you through the relationship? If it’s not imperative, would you do or not do it simply in order to please? Do you want a collaring ceremony? If so, what would it look like? Describe it in as much detail as you wish. Do you have any desires as to what kind of collar you want? Some live a vanilla lifestyle that

would not welcome the classic dog chain and lock; some find that the classic collar is very full of meaning for them.

Levels of Collars or Tokens

Protection/Guardianship

This token is designed for a number of reasons. First, a token may be given to someone who is contributing to the household in a significant way, but who does not seek a collar, for whatever reasons. Second, I may give a token, with no M/s dynamic ties to it what-so-ever to tell someone that they are important to me. Finally, it's designed for someone who is new in the community or someone who is struggling on their journey, in particular, for slaves and subs of quality that feel they are lost and who might be in need of gentle guidance. Even though this token is much less formal than the collars I offer, I do not offer it lightly. The relationship will still be negotiated so that each person knows what is needed and expected. These terms are highly subjective and so there is no way that I can list an accurate representation of what the relationship will entail.

Preliminary

This is designed as a trial period collar to last for a negotiated amount of time. your ability to serve and fit into the current members of the household is evaluated.

This document becomes our contract once a Preliminary collar is offered and accepted.

Provisional

This is a transitional collar. I will expect you to agree with the items and premises laid out in this manual. The collar is given for a specific length of time, the default being 1 year.

This document becomes our contract once a Provisional collar is offered and accepted.

Full

This is a long term collar. Again, you will be expected to agree with the items and premises laid out in the manual. We will sit down together on or near each anniversary to discuss the collar and make adjustments as needed. This does not mean that you cannot approach me earlier with concerns, only that we know we will

sit down once each year to review.

This document becomes our contract once a Full collar is offered and accepted.

Life-time

This is a special collar. This is offered to recognize a life-long bond between us. Even if you leave my service, having had this collar means that we recognize a responsibility toward one another for life. This acknowledges that I trust you completely and that you feel the same towards me. If the collar is removed, the responsibilities found in the contract are null and void, except for one: we pledge that if one needs the other, the other will provide for the need as much as is humanly possible for them.

Section 5: Deal Breakers

A Deal Breaker is, basically, a relationship boundary. This means that these are things that you must have in order for the relationship to be valid and emotionally healthy for you. It's my opinion that slaves do have the right to have boundaries. They also have the right to give up any and all boundaries. It is their choice, as it is for all of us. Only you can decide what is going to be healthy for you.

The reason I feel that slaves are entitled to have boundaries is this: setting a boundary isn't a form of topping from the bottom. In fact, when you set a boundary you are simply saying, "This is what I need. However, if this need is not met, there are consequences." In doing this, you are allowing the other person the freedom to choose to do as they wish. You are not trying to control "their stuff". You are stating "your stuff" and giving them the opportunity to meet, or not, your needs. Whether they do or not defines whether you remain in the relationship. This is simply you reacting to "their stuff". You can love a person, sometimes deeply, and still realize that the relationship is toxic for you, them, or both, and choose to walk away. Many people who are involved with an addict face this dilemma. As a healthy adult, everyone, in my eyes, has the right to state what they need, then to choose their own actions based on the reaction(s) of others.

For me, the deal breakers listed here are the bare bone limits that I need to be fulfilled in order to maintain an M/s relationship. Notice that three of the four in my list have, at their core, nothing to do with the M/s relationship dynamics. In actuality, if we left out the bit about obedience, these are the boundaries that I have in any relationship. There are other things that would hurt me deeply (like forgetting my birthday...really...I have issues there), but because I trust that someone would make an effort to respect my boundaries if they really were committed to me, I don't include specific behaviors here. In actuality, once I made my unhappiness clear about someone's behavior and they repeated the behavior, I'd probably count that under malicious conduct. Yes, I have ended relationships where the birthday issue was the last straw.

When stating your boundaries, try to focus on your emotional/psychological reactions to the action of the other person, not the action of the other person itself. I had to recently reword my boundaries in order to do this, so I know it can be hard. If we start explaining our boundaries focusing on the other person's negative (in our eyes) behavior, it can easily put them on the defensive. We don't want that. All we want to do explain how their actions can make us *feel*. This releases them to choose their own behavior. We can then accept that behavior or not. Again, we control "our stuff", not "their stuff".

Introspection Activity: Masters and slaves, you may decide that your boundaries are much more specific. You may find that you have no idea what

your boundaries are. This is very, very common. I highly recommend you doing some research on the topic. There are many resources on the web as well as many books on the subject. If you are truly struggling, talk to a therapist. At the time I am writing this book, you can go to the NCSF website to check for a kink-friendly therapist (and other professionals) in your area. The current link is: <http://www.ncsfreedom.org/kap/> . If this link is no longer operational when you are reading, simply do a search for Kink Aware Professionals (KAP) or ask some of your lifestyle friends.

If you already know how to set your boundaries, think about them and write them down. What are the things that would wound you so deeply you don't think you'd recover? Perhaps your partner sleeping with someone else without your permission would be one...or even that they had sex with another person at all. Perhaps if they didn't keep your drawer full of clean socks, you'd have to ask them to leave. They can be as specific or as seemingly trivial as you need. They're *your* boundaries and you get to say what they are. Once you've written them down, work to reword them so that they are merely statements about how these actions make you feel.

Deal Breakers

“There is such a thing as unconditional love. There is no such thing as unconditional relationships.” – LuckyAlbatross, collarme.com

Deal breakers are things that will hurt me in such a way that I may feel compelled to remove your collar and/or end the relationship. you will find that I strive to be a compassionate person; I often give second chances. I will do my best, as your Master, to find the underlying reason behind your actions so that we can deal with them. However, if you break my trust and hurt me bad enough, I do not know if I can emotionally recover and I will work for my own survival.

Abandonment

Abandonment means leaving without notice or discussion. In other words, you disappear. I have serious issues with abandonment; I feel myself go cold and I sometimes get physically ill when facing this fear. If I feel you have abandoned me and/or the family while in any token or collar, this is a deal breaker. The longer you are deliberately gone without contact, the harder it will be for you to regain my trust should you try. In order for me to be an effective Master, I must trust that you will not abandon me or the relationship.

Malicious Conduct

When faced with people who behave maliciously, I am often feeling a sense of deep, deep disappointment and am left simply wondering, “How could they DO that?” Behaviors or actions done solely to hurt another, especially me, are deal breakers. Being cruel just for the sake of being cruel is unacceptable. There’s a difference between a humorous jab or a practical joke toward a friend and something planned just for the sake of doing harm. Things like stealing and such fall under this category.

Lying

Again, I am often left wondering, “Why would someone DO, or in this instance, SAY that?” I feel a sense of betrayal when someone deliberately lies to me. A blatant lie, told for cruel intent is a deal breaker. Lying in such a manner that affects me or a member of the family in a negative way, is a deal breaker. Since I know that I lie on occasion, I will try to be compassionate toward you in these instances. However, we all know there is a limit to what is and isn’t acceptable.

Disobedience

I expect obedience, pure and simple. I can get extremely stubborn about this, especially if I’m telling you to do, or not do, something that I feel is for your direct benefit. Sometimes, I will follow through with the stubbornness just for the principle of the thing. If you disobey for any other reason than you truly feel doing what I have ordered will harm you, this is a deal breaker. you being stubborn about doing, or not doing, something will only make me angry and the likelihood that I will remove your collar increases. Yes, I realize this is hypocritical of me, but I’m openly stating it.

Section 6: Hierarchies

The household part of this section, if done in the manner that I have done it, is probably only applicable if you have more than one slave in the household. However, I can see someone wanting to list the hierarchies of activity importance. For example, outings with the family might be higher on the list than kink group activities...or vice versa. However, it might be a good idea to look at the other portions.

To me, there's a difference between needs and wants. The hierarchy of these was taken directly from a presentation some friends of mine used to give. These friends really impacted my first initial thoughts about the lifestyle and still have influence with me today. I truly feel that a slave should not only be allowed to acknowledge their needs, but that we, as Masters, should work to meet these needs. Wants are a different story and I can see many different scenarios for the order of importance in that area.

I highly recommend that you read the book Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman if you have any desire at all in explaining how you give and receive love (in any form). In it, he explains about the five love languages I have listed. I read the book over a decade ago and it still impacts me today. Since first writing this manual, I've even had to rearrange the list. What I thought was, or once was, really important, I'm learning is not at the top of the list for me any more. I learned this by observing my own behavior. I used to have gifts at the top of my list, but I found that, when I was faced with the situation of not being able to talk to a good friend and lover everyday because of a move, that truly affected me more than any gift ever could. I changed the order. In fact, gifts became the last on the list. It seems the older I get, the more important touching and sex is to me. Maybe it has something to do with being newly single after two monogamous marriages or having been alone, although not necessarily lonely, a lot of my life. Even so, I find that I tend to say I care about someone by giving gifts. But, the section was about how others tell me they care for me, not how I will say they care for them, so I only give that list.

Introspection Activity: Masters, are there things in your life that are more important than others? What's most important to you in life? Do you feel that there is a difference between needs and wants? Can you imagine a situation where you would ever be forced to choose between the two? Write all this stuff down. I can see where this exercise would be especially important if you have children or a significant dedication to your job/business; you may choose that one or the other is more important than BDSM social activities

Remember, you can change this page! It's not written in stone. If you choose to read Chapman's book, what are your hierarchies in the languages of love? Write the list, write what each means to you, then list why it's important.

What is the hierarchy of your household?. Is every slave on equal footing or do you wish to declare an alpha or Major Domo?

slaves, what things are so important in your life you'd place them high on your list? Perhaps even higher than your service to your Master, such as caring for children or aging parents. If you choose to read Chapman's book, what are you hierarchies in the languages of love? Write the list, write what each means to you, then list why it's important. What is the hierarchy of your household. Will you be happy in a household that has ranking? If so, will you be fulfilled not being the alpha?

Hierarchies

Needs and Wants

A need is something that we cannot function well without. For example, we need food, water, shelter and little luxuries like toilet paper in order to survive.

A want is a desire for something that we really don't need for survival. I really want a low, small, fast sports car. I want a tummy tuck. I want a huge log cabin compound. I don't really need any of these things to survive.

My needs, the family's needs and your needs rank pretty much equal. There are times when I will choose one over the other. Whenever possible, I will put the family's needs first. However, there are occasions where the needs of the individual, either mine or a slave's, may override that.

There is a distinguishable hierarchy to wants. My wants come first, then the family's wants. Individual wants will usually be given as rewards or gifts.

Languages of Love

There are five love languages, according to Gary Chapman. These are sex, gifts, acts of service, quality time and quality talk. Each person will have a different hierarchy. I cannot dictate your hierarchy. However, I can make you aware of mine. I expect you to be able to be fluent in my language. This means, when you are saying you care about me, the best way to do that is by choosing the first or second on the list. I have found, however, that the ranking is fluid for most people. I will do my best to make things clear. My current ranking is:

1. Quality talk – this is why I require daily contact.

2. Quality time – this is why I want the family to live together as much as possible.
3. Acts of service/devotion – this is why I need slaves in my life.
4. Physical touch/Affection/Sex – I need touch and affection, but more often than not, sex is a want.
5. Gifts – a thoughtful gift often means more than an expensive gift.

Household

I rank first. slaves in lifetime collars rank second, but are equal in status to each other. slaves in Provisional collars rank third, but are equal in status to each other. slaves in Preliminary collars rank fourth, but are equal in status to each other.

In issues of collar votes, everyone gets an equal say, but the final decision is mine. Lifetime collar slaves who are no longer collared will only be contacted for a vote if they are involved in daily life of the household.

In issues of family decisions, everyone gets a say, but my decision is final. In issues of personal decisions, those involved get a say, but my decision is final.

Chapter 4

Life in the Household

This section defines what I think I want. I looked at areas that I had enjoyed in the past, areas that I hadn't had the opportunity to enjoy that I now wanted to explore and areas that I knew I didn't want. For example, while I was married to my second husband, we had an agreement that there wouldn't be any intercourse between me and another man, obviously to include male submissives and slaves. I agreed and went along my merry way exploring SM, service and, later, the spirituality of M/s. When we divorced (due to other reasons than the lifestyle), I was free to explore whatever areas I wished. So, I added the possibility of sex into the picture. I recognized that, from my previous experience in non-sexual relationships, that these still had a lot of appeal and value to me, so that I wasn't limited to only relationships that had sex in them. Thus, sexual orientation isn't a deciding factor for being a member of my household.

The sections I decided to include are: Affection/Love, BDSM, Clothing, Communication, Community, Devotion, Disputes, Drugs/Alcohol, Health, Fetishes, Finances, Honesty, Living, Loyalty, Obedience, Ownership, Pets, Poly Household, Protocols, Rituals, Spirituality, Service, Sex and Trust. There are other things that I thought about including, but I haven't decided to, as of yet. When they become very important, or if some drop in importance, I can change my mind. It's really nice to know that I can change my mind. I understand that, if I do, it may create consequences for the other person involved, but, it's my choice to make.

Section 1: Affection/Love

There's an age old argument about love between a Master and slave; should it exist? Whenever I hear the argument come up and the ensuing discussion, the consensus usually is that it's an individual choice. Many think that being in romantic love simply creates a barrier to true Mastery. Many think that there can be no other higher bond from the slave to their Master but to be hopelessly, romantically, in love. For me, my idea of love is not the typical idealized, swooning love that most see portrayed in today's society. I know that I will love, as in care for and cherish, each person in my household as I do each person in my life. I cannot guarantee that I will be "in love" with them, especially using the prominent definition of idealized, romantic love.

To the best of my ability, the love I have for my slaves, as it is for most people in my life, will be based on unconditional love. This doesn't mean that there are no conditions on the relationship, however. Through a series of events with a slave I will always treasure, I learned lessons for myself about the two. At first, this thought was counter-intuitive for me, but that I really started to look at it.

I thought to myself, "What is unconditional love?" As I tend to do when I need to delve deeper into the meaning of a word, I went and looked it up. In this instance, I decided to look at the word 'unconditional', and it's related word, 'condition', as well as the word 'love'. Here's what I found: unconditional was an adjective that meant, "Without conditions or limitations; absolute." Condition was a noun that had two meanings that I found relevant. The first said, "One that is indispensable to the appearance or occurrence of another; prerequisite." The other said, "One that restricts or modifies another; a qualification." Love was a noun that meant, "A deep, tender, ineffable feeling of affection and solicitude toward a person, such as that arising from kinship, recognition of attractive qualities, or a sense of underlying oneness."

Taking all three definitions from Dictionary.com into account, I put them all together to get a well-rounded definition for myself: *A deep, tender, ineffable feeling of affection and solicitude toward a person, such as that arising from kinship, recognition of attractive qualities, or a sense of underlying oneness that is not based on prerequisites, restrictions or modifications.*

Then I started thinking about the kind of love I wanted in an M/s relationship. Did I want romantic love and to be "in love" with my slaves? The idea of romantic love that I was taught and have experienced in my past romantic relationships is the same kind of romantic love I see being presented in society; it is a "love" born of unhealthy attachment. It took me a long time to realize that about myself and when I did, it saddened me. But, at the time, I was just learning about my archetypes and how I work. Now, I have a deeper understand why this unhealthy attachment happened and I can

work to correct it while still having compassion for myself as I stumble.

I learned that every person has the Prostitute archetype in which we will sell ourselves to ensure some kind of basic security. It's one of the four survival archetypes, according to Caroline Myss. The classic definition of a prostitute means to exchange our bodies for financial gain. I certainly objected to the idea that I did this, but, when I analyzed what was going on in my life, I realized two things: First, my husbands both had sex as their primary love language. This meant that the way they wanted me to tell them I loved them was to have sex with them. Let me state clearly that *this is not a bad thing*. It was the second thing I learned that made it bad for me: I was expecting them to take care of me, i.e. "provide" for me, especially financially, in exchange for my love. I was truly trading my physical favors to have the bills paid, a house and all that. So, there we have it; I was living as a prostitute, in essence. Talk about a rude awakening on that one. Don't get me wrong; an exchange isn't a bad thing. Cheerful and willful exchanging this for that is something we do on a daily basis; bartering is how we exist and is very healthy for relationships. I wasn't bartering. I was saying that if they didn't provide for me, I wasn't going to have sex with them. In my mind, the way I distinguish the subtle difference is that one is bartering, the other is blackmail. Ugh. I am not proud of that.

I would also use it to get what I wanted. I'd have sex in order to get them to say, "I love you." I had an overpowering need to hear and see that out of a desperate longing for the validation that I was worthy of their love. I now see that it's perfectly okay to want to hear and see someone's love for me, but using it as a validation of my own sense of self-worth is not. Now, when I ask the people in my life to tell me that they love me, if they do, it's a validation of their feelings for me, not an indication that I'm worthy of someone's, *anyone's*, love. Being told that someone loves me now simply gives me an idea of how they feel about me. It doesn't make, or break, my self esteem.

What about this idea of romantic love? That's different than unconditional love, or at least it used to be for me, until I rejected the usual definition and adopted my own. If you go to the dictionary (again, Dictionary.com for me) and look up romantic, you will find that about half the definitions relate to idealism:

1. fanciful; impractical; unrealistic: romantic ideas.
2. imbued with or dominated by idealism, a desire for adventure, chivalry, etc.
3. characterized by a preoccupation with love or by the idealizing of love or one's beloved.

This said to me that romantic love involves the idealization of the relationship as well as the other person. I've heard time and time again someone say, "Master is perfect," or "Mistress is always right." I roll my eyes when I hear these statements.

While we might really, fervently desire these statements to be true, they simply are not. That I'm viewed as, or expected to act, perfect all the time actually pisses me off. It's really not fair of the slave to think I am perfect because it puts me on a pedestal from which I WILL fall in their eyes. They're setting me up to fail, in their eyes. But, sometimes, this is necessary, even if it makes me uncomfortable.

We all have the Saboteur archetype that, when working in the shadow, causes us to set ourselves and our relationships up for failure. The slave expecting me to be perfect and idolizing me is doing just this. I am incapable of being perfect and so, if the relationship is based on the idea that I am, it is doomed. Likewise, the slave who bases their self-worth upon my approval of them will eventually have that self-worth crumble since, at some point, I will be disappointed in them.

The Master is just as guilty of doing this as the slave; we all do this in every kind of relationship we have. However, I know that it can be an important lesson to facilitate for someone. I try to not let my frustration about the situation get the best of me. I have, in the past, deliberately chosen to fall in someone's eyes in order to help them learn that Masters are not always right. I've also allowed someone to serve when I knew that they would never get the desired outcome (romantic love). I explained, up front, that this wouldn't happen, and then gave them the choice to serve or not. It was really, really hard to see them realize this and be hurt, but it was spiritually necessary. I was glad of the service; I'd have been very lonely in that portion of my life if this person hadn't been in it. Today, I count them as a friend and we still have a lovely friendship. That's important to me.

I now much prefer to have relationships based on unconditional love. I try to the best of my ability to accept all the aspects, positive and negative, in those who are in a relationship with me. I desire that they do the same. Be aware, however, that having unconditional love doesn't mean having an unconditional relationship (to paraphrase an acquaintance). We each need to have boundaries in place to avoid being put in, or seeking out, a negative relationship. Even though I might have unconditional love for someone, I can acknowledge that how they act has a negative or harmful effect on me and remove myself from the situation or even the relationship.

The definition of unconditional love, in and of itself, doesn't actually talk about a relationship. It's a separate entity. It says, "I accept and love you as you are." As I understand things now (which is liable to change!), love is often an emotion, not an action. When we give unconditional love, we accept the person no matter if they show us love or not. We do not have to have any relational interaction with them on any level. But, in order to *feel loved* by someone, we have to have someone show us love in a way that is meaningful to us and that's where a relationship comes into play. Feeling that we are loved is important to most of us. I know it is for me.

When we enter a relationship, we expect that love will be shown to us in specific ways. These ways are different for different people. Often they include sex, talking, gifts and so on. In a healthy relationship, we say, “I will do X to show you love. In return, I expect you to do Y to show me love.” (Remember, in a healthy relationship, we do not use X to blackmail our partner to get Y, we barter.) It is when we are shown and when we show love that there is action; we have set up conditions for love to be an action. Being shown and showing love is totally different than giving unconditional love. One is an exchange while the other is a state of being.

Because we expect certain actions from our partners in order to feel loved, when we don't feel loved, it's because our partner isn't meeting these conditions in our eyes. Most times, this happens in the relationship because we haven't clearly stated our conditions or expectations. In order to properly do that, we must be self-aware and put a concerted effort into communicating our needs and boundaries. We need boundaries for the relationship, even when it's based on unconditional love, in order to do several things.

First, they ensure that our needs are being met. Most of us need to feel loved and accepted by our partner. We need to feel appreciated and to be shown that what we do and say is of importance. We need to feel that we aren't alone in our efforts and that the other person is also contributing in a meaningful way. We have a basic need to feel respected. We need to be free to be an individual. Finally, we need to feel that we are free to be who we really are, not who someone else thinks we should be.

Second, they ensure a degree of physical, emotional and psychological safety. Boundaries allow us to unconditionally love someone while still realizing that they are not a healthy relationship for us. For example, we need to acknowledge and live in the realization that we can love someone who is physically abusive without having to take their abuse. Likewise, we are freed when we see that we can love someone who is emotionally unavailable without making ourselves miserable because they don't pay attention to us. Taking it a step further, we can love someone who is unbalanced without having them unbalance us.

Third, they ensure that the relationship grows. Fostering healthy boundaries, in turn, fosters healthy habits, such as requiring some method of dispute solving between us and our partners. They also encourage us to get our priorities in order as well as pursue personal growth by necessitating a higher level of self-awareness.

For many people, love, especially idealized romantic love, can easily slip into a negative, co-dependent type thing. It certainly did for me. In order for a relationship to be judged as healthy, it should not result in us, or our relationship partners, becoming emotionally or intellectually dependent on one another. A person who has co-dependent inclinations usually has the tendency to put others needs before their own, to the

detriment of themselves. Ok, I know that's really over simplified, but the first part about putting someone's need before your own doesn't have to be a negative. If you think for a moment, doing that isn't such a bad idea *if* you are in a relationship with someone who treats you the same way. It becomes negative co-dependency when it's done to the detriment of your own self-worth or because you are basing your self-worth on the outward approval from your partner. A partnership, even a Master/slave partnership, needs to be a symbiotic relationship between two people who have an inward sense of self-worth in order to be healthy. In my world, the needs of the slave and the needs of the Master are on equal level. Wants, however, are a different story!

Given all this information, I put together several assertions in my head. First, unconditional love makes no statement about the existence of any emotional attachment. *I can love and accept you as you are, with or without a relationship, with or without respect and with or without emotional investment.* Second, having unconditional love for someone does not mean that you are a doormat or that you request, or deserve, to be treated like one. *When I give you unconditional love, it does not mean I have to accept how you treat me; I am in the relationship voluntarily and if it becomes abusive or harmful, I can leave.* Finally, being in a fully-acknowledged, conditional relationship has advantages for those who are willing to be self aware and practice open communication. *I have clear expectations about what I need in order to feel loved. I have a clear understanding of what you need to do in order to feel loved. I am willing to put your needs above my own, if you are willing to do the same.* For me, all these statements combine to create unconditional love in conditional relationships.

Now, don't get me wrong, I too, would like romance in some relationships. I would like a partner who is sweet and kind and lavishes attention (flowers and chocolate and orgasms, oh my!) and such on me. But, these activities, to me, are not idealized romantic love; these are wonderful expressions of appreciation that I receive for being someone special in someone's life. In other words, they are expressions of enjoyment and gratitude. I want to receive and need to give and these things. They are given in order to reaffirm the person is of value, but should not be viewed as a sign that the receiver is worthy of love. We are all worthy of love. For me, it's the intent behind these actions that decides whether or not they are part of a negative relationship. I do my best to barter, not blackmail.

OK, so, this might have been a long, round about way, to discuss the kind of love that I wish to have in a Master/slave relationship. It doesn't mean that I don't want romance or other displays of love and affection, but that I reject the common notion and definition of romantic love. Being "in love" no longer has the same meaning for me that it once did. Still, I talk about being "in love" in this section of the manual and I actually did it with the common definition in mind because that is what some people are looking for in an M/s relationship. While I might fall "in love", by my definition, with one or more of my slaves, I wanted to try to make it clear, *without* this long dissertation, that

their idea of romantic love probably wasn't going to happen.

Introspection Activity: Masters, start by defining romantic love in your mind. Is there a difference between this kind of love and the kind of love you'd have for a slave? If so, what is your description of the kind of love that you'd have in an M/s relationship? Do you even know for sure that you'll have one or the other? Are you open to one developing into the other (remember, that means the possibility that you'll fall "out of love", too!)? Start listing things that mean "love" to you. Include anything and everything you find relevant. Then, start separating them into lists for things that you know you need and things that you could do without for a while and, finally, things that you can do without. For example, buying me flowers tells me that you thought of me. It doesn't necessarily tell me that you love me, but it could.

These things are all very subjective, as are most things in your manual. Write what you feel and again, don't rely on what you believe others think you should do. The arguments for and against romantic love are heated debates!

slaves, what kind of love do you *need* in your life in order to feel fulfilled in an M/s relationship? Now, think about whether or not this love is different that the kind of love that you *want* in that relationship. It's okay if you don't know the answer to that question right away. I could do without it completely. Do the part of the Master's activity about listing things that mean "love" to you. Separate them into lists for things you know you need and things that you could do without for a while and, finally, things that you can do without.

Affection/Love

It is not my plan to fall "in" love with any of my slaves. I'm not totally ruling that out (never say never), but don't come into this expecting it or hoping that it will happen. you will most likely be disappointed if you do. However, this does not mean that I won't love you; I just won't be "in" love with you.

I am an affectionate person and enjoy physical contact with people who matter to me. One of my dreams is to have family night where we all pile on pillows (and each other) to watch a movie. I enjoy touching and being touched. you may given certain standing permissions in that regard. you are always allowed to ask for affection (note: affection is different than sex).

you will be a reflection of me, thus, I want someone who is worth owning. Ownership is about empowering the slave to be all that they possess. In such as way, the slave grows

and appreciates the life given to them. Ruling by fear might work for a while, but it doesn't lead to happy slaves. you can expect to be a cherished possession while retaining your human status; you are not chattel and I will love and care for you.

Section 2: BDSM

For a lot of people, being the Master means being the sadist and being the slave means being the masochist. However, in my world, this isn't always the case. The relationship dynamic is about the transfer of authority, not about the way we receive or give pleasure or pain. In other words, I feel that what we do doesn't necessarily define who we are. It certainly can and often does, but it doesn't *have* to. So, I found it important to specify in this section that, while I'm primarily the sadist, when it comes to sex and spirituality, I can be a masochist. I also listed my personal limits and asked for a harm list from my slave. Since there are some things that I won't (or can't) do and some things that I don't care to do often, I listed my personal "hard" and "soft" limits. I also realize that these, too, are fluid and change over time.

Most Masters have been approached by a slave who claims they have no limits. I really, really try to not roll my eyes when I hear this. Instead, I gleefully exclaim, "Oh goody! I've always wanted to chop off a toe!" Usually, that creates a limit in their head. If it doesn't, I question them about it. Some really do wish to have a relationship where they have no limits. So, I ask them if chopping off a toe would harm them in some way. Most agree that it would harm them, at least physically. I point out that if it harms them, it means that they're not keeping themselves fit for service and, to me, that is disregarding one of their primary duties. It is up to me to decide to do that activity or not, but a slave not discussing, or blatantly ignoring, things that cause them harm is, in my opinion, an indication that they aren't a responsible adult. Not only that, I'd be pissed if they knew something would harm them, yet they didn't tell me until it was too late. That, to me, is negligence on their part.

Along the same lines, I've observed that, with many couples who say they have a "no limits" relationship, don't quite operate this way; it's not that they don't have any limits, it's that each person's limits so matches the other's that it *seems* as if there's no limits. It's like well matched seams in wallpaper; it can look like one huge continuous sheet. Safewords, in these relationships, are usually non-existent too, not because they're not there, but because the couple communicates effectively enough that they're not needed. I hope that we all find these kinds of relationships!

In my household, the slave is allowed a harm list. This is a lot like a hard limit list to a lot of people, but it can be argued to simply be semantics. As the Master, I feel I can do whatever I wish to my slave. However, with that comes the responsibility that I not harm my slave. Doing activities simply because I can isn't always a good reason to do something. I can deliberately crash my car, but it really isn't wise to do so. "Because I can," can be fun at times, but I must bear the consequences of my actions if I harm the one in my possession. Not to mention the fact that the slave is put in the crappy situation of deciding if the relationship continues to be healthy for them if I inflict deliberate

harm. I'd much rather have nicely maintained slaves! So, I need to know the items that will cause harm. I also ask for a limit list. These are things that the slave doesn't want to do, but if I do them anyway, they will merely dislike it.

Building up the trust between the slave and I is not something to be lightly undertaken either. I'm most likely not going to push things in the beginning; I'm going to go more slowly. This isn't always the case, but, in observing myself, I see that this is true. However, I don't mention this in the manual because I want it understood that this is to be done my way. If I choose to cater to the slave about what they want and what they're afraid of, that's still doing it my way because it's my choice to do this.

Introspection Activity: Masters, first ask yourself if BDSM is even important to your M/s relationship. For some, it's not. Again, the dynamic is about authority, not necessarily activity, in my opinion. If you find that it is important to you, you might list areas that you do and don't like. Write them down. Then, think about what you are willing to give to your slave. Are you like me and expect them to endure whatever I wish with the trust that I not harm them? Are you willing to allow them a harm list? What about a list of limits that you will guarantee will never to cross? How about a soft limit list that you'll guarantee to push eventually? All these are valid ways of setting up the relationship.

slaves, are there BDSM activities that you know you simply cannot live without? Are there activities that would harm you? Don't forget to look at emotional, psychological and spiritual areas as well as the physical. Are there things that you cannot do due to physical limitations? Perhaps you simply cannot be on your knees for an extended amount of time or long term bondage is a problem for you. Look at these things as well.

BDSM

I am a sadist. you are expected to be a masochist or able to endure some pain for me. I will hurt you, but I will never harm you intentionally. you are allowed a "harm list" which is a list of activities that will cause you harm emotionally, physically or psychologically. Other than the items on this list, your limits are my limits. If there is an activity that, while it's not on your "harm" list, bothers you, we'll discuss it and take it slow if I want to pursue it.

My hard limits (this means most likely never): Children, animals, scat, enemas, watersports, severe humiliation, female supremacy.

Soft limits (this means on the rarest of occasions): cross dressing, anal play, menstrual play, electricity, medical play (except for blood play), role play in general and most gags (I hate drool), me in “sexy lingerie”, me in stiletto heels and me in rubber.

I am open to negotiating scenes with other people for you should you have a fetish for things in these lists (except children, animals and scat).

I am also, under certain circumstances, a masochist. This is usually for spiritual purposes, but can also be in some sexual situations. If you have skills in this area, they could be put to use.

Section 3: Clothing

I'm really not quite as anal retentive as I appear to be at first glance. Honest! I swear! Clothing is one area where I can show this to be true. I simply do not wish to micromanage clothing on a daily basis. See? I'm not a *total* control freak!

The reason, however, that I included this section in the manual is that the slave is a reflection of me and so I wish them to dress in a way that I think is acceptable (ok, maybe I like a smidgen of control). This doesn't mean I shop for them, but that I simply want to approve of what they wear. For example, I once had a slave who had a t-shirt that bothered me. In my head, I knew the reasons why he wore it and the real history behind it, but it was a shirt that immediately would receive negative attention in public. I agreed with him, intellectually, that people needed to educate themselves about it in order to work through the negativity, but, that negative response was so ingrained in me that I felt the t-shirt was in poor taste. Perhaps this was just my projection about how I felt society would react, but, in the end, it didn't matter; it was my decision to allow, or not, him to wear the t-shirt as I saw fit. Frankly, I wasn't too consistent about it because my feelings about it changed on a fairly regular basis.

I do concede, however, that many slaves really need and/or crave direction when choosing what to wear. For those that really crave this kind of control, I'm willing to set up some kind of uniform system for them. I'm still not willing to lay out their clothes each night, but I can give them general guidelines. The exception to all this is that I'm much more likely to tell a slave what to wear for a leather event.

I know a lot of people who really do want to control everything their slave wears. This is a wonderful thing. You'll need to set down some rules as well as think about who's going to pay for all the items should the slave not own them. For example, perhaps you want your female slave to always be in high heels. When you ask her what high heels she has, she has two pair, neither of which you particularly care for. So, now what? Do you order her to buy a specific pair that cost \$100 or do you pay for it yourself or do you split the cost? Shoes (and boots and clothes and accessories) can get downright expensive. But, it's the Master's prerogative to set it up however they want. Perhaps you want to set up a household uniform with a specific logo and colors. You'll need to, again, think about who pays for this. You'll also need to find out where to get this kind of thing.

Another area to explore is general appearance. I have taken, and don't mind taking, control of this area, although I didn't include that fact in the manual. I like a wide variety of looks, so I don't want to limit myself by stating specifics. I think the "neat and clean" phrase pretty much summarizes it for me. But, some really want to include this; they might really like long hair and red lips or no hair at all paired with certain piercings. It's

all about what the Master wants.

Introspection Activity: Masters, how much control do you want to have over your slave's appearance? Is it a general control or a very specific control? If it's very specific, what do you want them to wear and when? Who will be responsible for purchasing said wardrobe? What "look" do you want them to have? Think of how you'd like them to look on a typical work day and write it down, in detail.

Repeat this exercise for how you want them to look at home, at an event and/or with your family and such. Then, check it against reality. You really might like him in chaps and a jock all the time, but is that really appropriate for church or your biological family's Labor Day picnic? Is it even legal in public in your state? If you live at a nudist colony, it might be too much clothing!

slaves, what kind of control do you need in this area? Are you happy to be able to choose your own clothes or do you really have a deep burning desire to be told what to wear and when? If you like being independent in this area, how will you react to being told what to wear? What if your Master wants you to wear something that's against your nature? Would this be a serious offense to you or is it just clothes?

If you know that you'd like some kind of uniform, what would that be? It doesn't necessarily have to be military. It could be a color scheme or a specific kind of outfit. Jot down some things about what you would and wouldn't like. What kind of clothes would you feel compelled to refuse to wear (well, almost refuse anyway)? If you had your choice, what would you choose? Once that is done, look at what you're willing to give up of those choices in order to please? What is and isn't really important in this area?

Clothing

All clothing must meet my approval. This means that I will probably go shopping with you the first few times until you know what I like, unless I like what you already have and thus approve of your taste in style. Then, you can shop for yourself. I will not micromanage your wardrobe. I simply do not want to decide every evening precisely what you will wear the next day. I enjoy choosing clothing for special occasions, however.

Event clothing will be chosen by me. For events, all's fair in love and fashion! I like leather, boots, Goth/punk, costumes and uniforms. If the event is private, there is a

distinct possibility you will be nude.

Work clothing should be job specific. I won't expect you to wear scrubs if you're a mechanic or a t-shirt to a business meeting (unless that's the way your company works). I expect the clothing to be in good repair. "Look nice, neat and clean" is the rule of thumb.

Everyday clothing will be much more casual. This is the area to truly express yourself, should you choose to. Unless it is blatantly offensive, I will most likely approve.

If you need more specific guidelines, we can work out something similar to a uniform code, but again, it will be set up in such a way so that once my work is done, it's done. I do not want to micromanage this area.

Section 4: Communication

Since I feel that my slave should be striving to be a mature, healthy adult, even if they have need of guidance for a younger persona, I feel they should have, or be willing to develop, good communication skills. Thus, I specified open and honest communication as a requirement in the manual. Being able to express yourself in a way that allows others to relate to you goes a long way toward learning about 'you'.

I also allow my slaves to clarify directives and orders, in most instances, and noted this in the manual. Only on the rare occasion will I give an order that I refuse to explain. I do see that this will eventually happen, especially in areas of spiritual trust, but they're still allowed to ask questions. I might simply explain that I want them to do it blind.

I want to give each person time to talk about their day and life in a more casual way, should they desire it. Thus, I created the Family Dinner. This is where we all sit at the table and, well, have dinner, in a casual setting. Everyone is free to share as they wish and there is very little protocol (although, I'll admit, I'll simply never be happy without the 'Yes/No Ma'ams!'). I hope that we can do this on a very regular basis, but, the frequency something that I haven't had a chance to really check against reality.

I specified that I wanted journaling done by the slave on at least a weekly basis a communication exercise. When I originally wrote this, I intended for the journal to be written. However, having someone in my family who often doesn't find real meaning in this kind of expression, I found that I was open to other methods of journaling. In the end, what I really want the slave to get from this exercise is this: 1) A way of expressing emotion and 2) a record of where they have been in their lives. I find these things to be useful for everyone and do it myself on occasion. Granted, I usually don't do it on a weekly basis...but, "I'm the Master, that's why!" *chuckle*

Finally, I talked about conflict resolution. I debated whether or not to include this, not because I don't expect to do it, but that I wasn't sure if this method would work in all cases. But, since this manual is about what I *think* I want and I can include, or not include, whatever I want, I decided that explaining *a* way was better than *no* way. Mainly, it was done to reassure slaves that I intend to be fair.

Introspection Activity: Masters, what kind of communication do you wish to have in your household? While I truly feel that open and honest is the best way to have a healthy relationship, it is a valid choice to want a slave to be seen, not heard. If you do this, however, I strongly urge that you allow your slave some way of communicating their feelings to someone.

Think about how you'd want a slave to broach a problem with you. In what way would you be most comfortable? Do you want to have a phrase that

they can use that indicates they really need to talk? Do you want them to wait for a specific time of the day? Do you want them to simply pass you a note? All these things are valid.

Ask yourself if you want your slave to keep a journal or diary. If so, what kinds of things would you like them to include? What things are off limits? How, physically, do you want them to keep it; do you want it handwritten in a notebook or online in something like LiveJournal? How often should an entry be made? And, perhaps most importantly, how private will it be?

How will conflict be handled in your household? Solutions to this could range from direct and indirect conversations to challenge and submission fighting. Of course, I have my opinions about what's best (dialogue), but, I have to say that fighting it out is hot in a brutal, primal kind of way. Got a problem with who gets to use the phone? Would you like orange or strawberry jello to decide that? *laugh* Ok, so, once you decide, check it against reality. Perhaps lemon jello is best. That's an important thing to know.

Here's an assignment that might help: Look up the term "conflict resolution" on the internet and look at the various steps involved. Then, think of an incident that occurred between you and another person that really upset you. Think of how that incident could have been better handled through proper conflict resolution. Write out the scenario with a better resolution.

Slaves, are you allergic to lemon jello? *grin* How important is verbal communication to you when working out a problem? Would you be better at conflict resolution if you sat face to face or if you wrote a letter or email? Are you willing to try whatever form of communication your Master asks as their method?

Do you currently journal? If not, why not? Journaling a wonderful way of recording your life and its lessons. It really is more than just a "Dear Diary..." kind of thing. If writing a daily entry puts you off, consider doing a different kind of entry each day. How about reflecting your progression of moods and emotions throughout the day with pictures? What about finding poetry that speaks to you and recording yourself reading it? There are many various ways of journaling.

Do the same assignment as the Masters: Look up the term "conflict resolution" on the internet and look at the various steps involved. Then, think of an incident that occurred between you and another person that really upset you. Think of how that incident could have been better handled through proper conflict resolution. Now, go and journal about the assignment in an unusual way for you to get the feel of how journaling doesn't have to be the same all

the time.

Communication

you will give and be given open, honest communication at all times. I am inclined to not have many private things in the family, but I will use my judgment when deciding. If you have something that you feel you truly must have kept private, you may discuss it with me.

you are always allowed to ask questions to clarify orders or directives. But, there's a certain level of clarification. If you pester me enough about exactly what kind of crackers to buy at the store, I'll get annoyed. If you come back with crackers that I really didn't want, it's my fault, not yours. It's not the end of the world. If I need a specific kind of cracker, I'll be sure to make it known.

you will be asked for your opinion quite often. I expect you to give it.

I expect you to journal on a weekly basis, at the minimum. I will have access; I might or might not read it. you may write whatever you wish, but it is not to substitute as a confessional. you will not be chastised for what you write, unless you have confessed a wrong doing. In such a case, you will most likely be disciplined for the wrong doing as well as for using the journal as a confessional.

If writing is truly not your "thing", we will find another way for you to journal. Maybe a photo journal or scrapbooking or simply art. In some way, I want you to be able to see your path through life. I'm open to suggestions.

Dinner is family time. Everyone will be seated at the table and the time is open for communication about your day and such.

I prefer face to face communication should a problem arise. However, I understand that it can be hard for slaves to do this. I know that you strive to serve to your best abilities and can feel like a failure if you perceive you are not. If you need to present a problem to me in a more passive way than face to face, write it in an email, direct me to a specific entry in your journal or leave me a note. Do not resort to passive aggressive behavior as a method of communication. The technical definition of this behavior is: habitual passive resistance to demands for adequate performance in occupational or social situations, as by procrastination, stubbornness, sullenness, and inefficiency. There is a difference between this kind of behavior and the more passive behavior as mentioned above. you are an adult and I expect you to act like one.

Section 5: Community

I have a healthy sense of community. This is my chosen family after all. The older I get, the more I want to be a part of something greater than myself. Perhaps it stems from the fact that I've always been a loner, sometimes due to my wishes and sometimes due to circumstances, and now, I want to be a part of something. I have found that I really enjoy serving the community...but that I often need help. That's where my slaves come in. I can get really good things, even if that's only in my opinion, done if I have adequate help. Guess who's volunteered?

Serving the community is where my Servant archetype comes into play. I strive to make myself available to others and to lend emotional and spiritual support where I can. I try to be careful to not over reach myself because I know that I need to serve myself as well. So, when I am tired of serving, I stop and nurture myself as best I can. I'd expect my slaves to do the same. However, it can be hard; many slaves will simply keep giving until they drop. I feel one of my challenges here will be to help them figure out their limit in this area as well as helping them verbalize that limit and the need to step back.

Introspection Activity: Masters, how involved do you want, or will you allow, your slave to be outside of the home? If you want them to serve outside, is their service to be limited to the kink community or will it be expanded to other volunteer aspects? Perhaps you want to set a limit on the number of hours each week or month the slave can spend on these activities. Perhaps you simply want them to be a really good secretary and take notes at whatever event you're participating in. It's all up to you. Isn't that nice? Yes! Yes, It is! It's also an important responsibility.

How do you expect your slave(s) to serve in your immediate leather family? Will you pass them around, for whatever service you please, whenever you please? Or, will you never pass them out (we're allowed to be possessive!)? Perhaps what you want is something in between. Again, it's all up to you. Be sure to be as specific as you can; slaves who want or fear being passed around freely often want or need to know what they're getting into.

slaves, do you currently serve in the leather community? Would you be willing to give that up should your Master ask it of you? Perhaps it's something you simply feel you need in order to feel fulfilled. Perhaps you'd rather serve completely in the home. Write down all the ways that you can think of that you'd like, or not like, to serve both the community at large as well as your Master's immediate community of leather family.

Community Activity

Community is important to me. you will be expected to attend community functions with me, as finances allow.

you may be sent to events and functions without me, especially if they are designed as slave-only space.

you can expect to be volunteered to work for the organizations in which I am active.

you can be expected to be loaned out for duties and activities in my extended family. This might be as a demo person, worker or for service. These activities will be negotiated and I will not send you intentionally into something that will harm you.

Section 6: Devotion

“Devotion” was one of the words I was supposed to define for the Master’s Training questionnaire that I mentioned at the beginning of the book, as was the word “loyalty”. I had a hard time distinguishing between the two at first. But, when I studied the words, I found differences. Devotion is about performing an act for something or someone with whom you’ve made a contract. Loyalty is about a feeling of allegiance. You can be devoted without feeling loyalty; anyone who works in a job they hate for a company they’d quickly sell-out, but who comes to work every day and makes an effort, is an example. You can feel loyalty with having devotion; any fan of a sports team who can’t actually watch or go to the games, is an example. The best combination, however, is when they exist together. This is what I want in my M/s relationships. I fully understand that this is not something that I can demand; it must be given freely and, in a lot of cases, earned. But, should the slave surrender to me, these are the things that I would count on being in place.

In addition to being devoted to me as the Master, I expect the slave to be devoted to themselves. This follows along with my idea of the slave’s directive of keeping themselves “fit for service”. In my world, I don’t think any person can function in a healthy manner if they continually suppress and ignore their own needs. Thus, since I want my slaves to be healthy (they simply serve better that way), I think they need to be devoted to making their needs known.

Introspection Activity: Masters, is the idea of devotion important to your type of M/s relationship? If so, in what ways? If you’re having problems figuring it out, think of scenarios where devotion is important. For example, you must be devoted to being a good parent in order to raise well behaved and well rounded children. But, what if you don’t like being a parent? How does your sense of devotion take over for you? Perhaps a more direct example might be: suppose a slave doesn’t like to do housework, but the Master has declared that they will do housework. If the slave is devoted to the relationship he/she will do housework in order to show their devotion. Is it okay for them to grumble while they do it or are they allowed to complain, even as they show devotion?

slaves, are you prepared to be devoted to your Master? I would imagine most will say yes, but what that does that really mean? Go through and write down some scenarios that would show devotion on your part. How does it work for you? Also think about how your devotion could be eroded. What kinds of actions on the part of your Master would do this?

Devotion

This is the selfless dedication of one person to another person, thing, task or way of life. In order for an M/s relationship to work, the Master and the slave must be devoted to the relationship, each other and their personal integrity.

I expect you to be devoted to serving me, the household and yourself. The last might seem counterintuitive for you, after all, isn't service supposed to be selfless? Well, in a lot of ways, yes. But, in areas of you; own self development, no. you must be devoted to improving yourself as you go along your journey.

you must also be devoted to maintaining yourself so that you are fit for service. This doesn't mean that you will never get sick or never have an accident, etc. What this means is that you don't abuse your body, mind or psyche in such a way as to be detrimental to me or the household. you are responsible for your health and attitude.

Section 7: Disputes

In the perfect household that I will eventually have, everyone gets along and no one ever fights or feels jealous or complains. Life will be full of flowers and rainbows every day and there will be hot sex and scenes every night. Wait...didn't I say something about checking what I want against reality? Damn. Yeah, I did.

So, since we know that nothing is ever perfect, we need to have a way of resolving conflict. One way to mask that there is conflict is to simply declare that there will be none. This can actually work for an extended period of time, depending on the people involved. However, the more people you have in the household, the more likely it will be that a simple declaration will not be enough. People have issues; they have their own "stuff" to deal with. Helping them deal with how they react to other people's behavior is the core of conflict resolution.

Again, this doesn't have to be written in stone. I'm under no illusions that what I've written will work 100% of the time. It'd be nice if it did, but this is the real world. Again, this is an example of something I included to let the slave know that I'm aware that we will have conflict in the home and I've given more than three seconds worth of thought about how to deal with it.

Introspection Activity: Masters, what would you do if two members of your household were not getting along? Will hierarchy work like tenure and the "eldest" or "alpha" slave gets the benefit of the doubt more often? Do you need to revisit the jello wrestling scenario from the Communication section and revise it? Do you expect the slaves to attempt to work it out amongst themselves before bothering you with the problem? Perhaps you will have an outside source set up to aide with the area, such as a family counselor. Or, perhaps you will have a trained psychologist in the family who can function as a third party for the others. Remember, things aren't written in stone; it's simply important to think about them and define them as best as you can.

slaves, how important is it to you to be able to go to your Master when you have a conflict with someone else, or, hell, even within yourself? Can you live with a declaration of "there is no conflict" if you have another outlet in which to express emotions? How about if you aren't allowed another outlet?

If you do need conflict resolution, what would be your ideal? Are you willing to allow that someone ahead of you in the household to almost always be declared right, no matter if they really are or not? How do you expect your sense of fairness to be met?

Disputes

Disputes between members of the household should try to be dealt with between the involved parties first. If no conclusion can be met, the issue can be presented to me in a calm fashion. The usual method for doing this:

1. The complaint is made, in private, to me.
 - a. We will discuss the problem from your viewpoint.
 - b. We will discuss possible solutions.
2. I will discuss the matter with the other party.
 - a. I will listen to their viewpoint.
 - b. We will discuss possible solutions.
3. I will think about the matter, sometimes taking days (as is the Native American tradition) to come to a conclusion.
4. I will discuss, with all parties present, how I feel about the conflict and what solutions I see.
5. All parties will be expected to attempt the solutions in good faith, making a real effort to make it work.
6. The matter can be revisited if the solution doesn't seem to work. A compromise will be found.

Section 8: Drugs/Alcohol

In most kink groups, there is a straight-up no tolerance policy for drugs and alcohol. This is due to the very wise advice that playing while drunk or high can deeply impair judgment. However, a household is different than a kink group; it's not at all just about play. You live life there, too.

So, what's life like for you when you think of drugs and alcohol? What is acceptable for you? I'm the daughter and ex-wife of alcoholics (talk about marrying your father!). As a teenager and young adult, I simply had a deep aversion to drinking. When I finally started to lighten up a bit, I learned through my marriage with the alcoholic that I really didn't have a feel for what was or wasn't too much. I've worked on that. But, even so, I still am not totally comfortable in situations where there is a lot of alcohol. So, I'm inclined to not have it in vast quantities in my home.

The D.A.R.E. program worked really well on me, too. I never have had an interest in illegal drugs or the recreational use of legal narcotics. Outside of pain management, I've never been high from drugs. "Don't drink, don't smoke, what do you do?" *wink* At any rate, I have been around people who have used the "less dangerous" drugs (if there is such a thing) and haven't had a real problem with them as long as they weren't engaging in activities where they needed all their faculties about them. So, I'm willing to be lenient on some issues, like pot. I still don't like to have it in the house, though.

I hope all this goes without saying: be careful and be aware of who you're endangering, should you partake.

Introspection Activity: Masters, you may enjoy going out on the town and getting ripped on occasion, but what about in your home? Do you draw a hard line about any and all drug use or are you more indulgent? Do you want to closely monitor any and all drugs, including the legal ones, that are put into your slave's system or are they free monitor themselves? How free are they to use and drink as they please? Really sit and think about what is and isn't too much in your household. Then, consider under what circumstances this condition might change. I can easily see someone allowing wine with meals once or twice a week only, but also allowing for the kegger at Fourth of July. Perhaps you're more ready than I to actually say what the consequences are for infractions here, too.

slaves, are you prepared to give up any and all drugs, including prescriptions, should your Master dictate it? If not, list the ones you are not willing to give up and why. Are you willing to allow your Master control over

the ones that you need? On the flip side, what kinds of drugs and alcohol will you be able to tolerate your Master using? Would you be willing to manage the prescriptions your Master takes? Are you willing for you Master to play/scene with you while intoxicated? At what level would drug or alcohol use, if ever, become a deal breaker?

Drugs/Alcohol

you may drink in limited quantities, with permission. I prefer that you didn't, but I will not demand it.

you may smoke, but must do so outside. I prefer that you didn't, but I will not demand it.

you may use marihuana (pot), in limited quantities, with permission, and you must do it outside. I prefer that you didn't, but I will not demand it.

Permission for all other drugs must be obtained before each intended use and each time you intend to use them.

Abuse of legal drugs (I.E. prescriptions drugs) and/or illegal drugs is not tolerated.

Section 9: Health

I require a certain level of health for those who are applying to the household. I didn't, however, fully define that level in the manual. I did this on purpose; the level will change from person to person for me. I didn't want to say that I'd never accept a deaf person or that I never want an obese person. But, I did set forth some rules about the slave's responsibility for their mental and physical upkeep. I also implied that I expected myself to do the same. I do.

Also, just as I wouldn't want to be abandoned during an illness by my slaves, I don't expect to abandon a slave during their illness. The only reason I can see that happening is if there are no active attempts being made by whoever is ill to treat the problem. Getting them into some kind of treatment program is one of the times where I'd pull the "you *will* obey" card...and if they didn't, it would end the collar. Call it a Master's intervention.

Introspection Activity: Masters, what level of health do you expect from a slave? Will you accept one who is physically handicapped? If so, what are your limits there? Perhaps you require that they have a certain level of health care knowledge. This might also be a good thing to include in this section, although, it might be better put into its own "skills sought" section.

Also, think about what your limits would be if you or one of your slaves became gravely ill. Would you dismiss them? This may seem harsh, but remember, this isn't a place of employment; if the slave cannot do the work, it's a valid thing to let them go. It doesn't mean it's morally right in everyone's eyes; it means it's about what's right for you and *your* household.

Health and how to deal with the lack thereof is one of those areas that's totally subjective; some have no problems dealing with blind, deaf or wheelchair-bound slaves. Others do. Be as honest as you can; in the end, that will work better for you...and for them.

Slaves, what would you expect, or hope, to happen if you became ill during your service? How about if your Master became ill? Would you want to leave the collar if your Master contracted an STD? How about HIV? How about something like terminal cancer? How would you feel if your Master decided to release you because they didn't want you to serve someone they felt was inferior due to illness?

What physical limitations do you have? Maybe you are like me and need a high protein diet, dietary supplements and prescription meds in order to maintain your health. Write all these requirements of care down. What physical

limitations would you be willing to serve? Not serve?

Health (Mental and Physical)

A reasonable degree of good health is expected, especially for those who are applying. This means that you are capable of functioning in such a way as to offer service to the household. It does not mean that you have to be perfectly healthy. The key element here is that, if you have an illness, be it physical or mental, it is being treated in an appropriate manner.

This also doesn't mean that you will be uncollared simply because of a health condition you develop while in my service. What could cause me to uncollar you is if you ignore the problem deliberately and then find yourself impaired OR if your impairment comes from a lack of due diligence in keeping yourself fit for service. I'm not going to uncollar you if you break your leg skiing. I might uncollar you if you refuse to seek medical treatment for a mental disorder.

I will use myself as an example. I am bi-polar. I currently take two mood stabilizing prescription medications and visit my psychiatrist on a regular basis. This makes everyone happy. I have also had gastric bypass surgery. This means I have a very odd diet. I have learned, for the most part, what will and won't trigger a problem in both areas and I work to avoid those things.

you are expected to provide health insurance for yourself or have the means to cover the bulk of your health costs. This most likely means that you will have to work outside the home unless you're independently wealthy.

Section 10: Fetishes

I recently learned a new definition of the word “fetish”. Not only is it an activity that elicited a sexual response (the definition to which I was most acquainted), a fetish is also an object or thing of power. I’d actually never heard of the little carved objects, usually in the shape of animal totems, called fetishes. When I wrote the list of my fetishes, I was working with the first definition. On reflection, a lot of them fit the second, too. Leather certainly is powerful for me, as are drums. Most of the things on my list do elicit a sexual response, but there are some that elicit more of a power response. All this came to me through a lesson the Universe deemed necessary that I learn (and I’m grateful). Let me share...

When I first entered the scene in 2001, I remember asking a friend, who was then a stranger, why some people wore black leather vests and some didn’t. He said that it was common for Masters to wear a Master’s vest (apparently only Master’s wearing them is more of an East Coast tradition), which had roots stemming from “bar vests”. When I identified as a Master rather than a Mistress in early 2005, I debated long and hard about getting a vest. In a lot of ways, I wanted to be given the vest; to be recognized by others that I was worthy of such (this is called “earning your leather”). In the end, I realized that for me (and me only), what I personally needed was my own approval first. So, I purchased a vest for myself.

I started adding run pins (a “run” is a leather event) and whatnot to the vest, spanning four years or so. Things like pins from TiL, SWLC, the M/s Conference, a patch that matches my tattoo and the first cracker from my first singletail (I received the first three stripes of the whip with that cracker from someone I truly admire). The vest holds lots and lots of memories. Some of the pins are getting rare, and some them are from events that might not happen again.

When I was packing for a cross country trip, I realized I had lost my vest. Yes, *lost* it. After an hour or so, I realized I had left it at a hotel about *three weeks* before when I attended a presentation/social. Of course, I called the hotel. The call was made very early on the Friday morning before I had to fly out, but the nice, if sleepy, desk clerk assured me they’d call me if they found it.

On my flight, I really thought about the vest and how sad I was that it was gone. I started looking at *why* I was sad about it...I mean, in the end, it’s just a *thing*, right? I ultimately realized that it wasn’t about the memories...it was about the status. I had been wearing it as a status symbol; it showed my experience (as limited as it was), and the big events I’d attended and such. I hated realizing that about myself. I even talked about it at spiritual leather weekend I was attending...about the lesson I’d learned from loosing the vest and about how painful it was to have to admit it to myself. I mourned the loss.

While at the event, we talked about fetishes. I learned that clothing can really be a manifestation of the alternative meanings of the word “fetish” (definition from <http://dictionary.reference.com/>, my emphasis):

fet-ish –noun

1.

an *object* regarded with awe as being the embodiment or habitation of a potent spirit or as having magical potency.

2.

any *object*, *idea*, etc., eliciting unquestioning reverence, respect, or devotion: to make a fetish of high grades.

3.

Psychology. any *object* or non-genital part of the body that causes a habitual erotic response or fixation.

We usually think of the third definition for the word, or at least I do, ‘cause we’re a bunch of perverts who like to get off. But, a “fetish” is also an *object* that helps bring out our power. Clothing is certainly this! I mean...haven’t you ever notice that royalty are always better dressed? Often, it’s an offense to out-dress them. In feudal Japan, only the Emperor/Empress was allowed to wear a certain number of robes; to wear more as a subject was sometimes punishable by death. Often, only the Kings and Queens of the not-so-long-ago world were allowed to wear certain colors (which is where we get Royal Blue). These things weren’t sexual symbols; they were symbols of power.

The same thing is true with makeup and collars...or whatever you do in order to feel more empowered about who you are. How many Pagans feel empowered by rituals? How many Wiccan feel empowered by spells and talismans? How many Christians feel empowered by a cross? How many RPGers really get into the role because they’re in costume? These, too, are fetishes.

The above explanation about clothing was given to me when I talked about the vest being gone, along with the advice: Buy another one and wear it as the fetish it is. Through this experience, I realized it *does* have power and having it *does* empower me. It’s an object of power; a true fetish.

Sometimes, the Universe is kind when we learn lessons. The next Wednesday morning, the hotel called. They’d found the vest as well as the expensive shirt that was with it and the garment bag both were in. A friend picked it up and I got it back shortly thereafter. I wear it with a different heart now as a fetish that empowers me.

Most of the things on my fetish list are of a sexual nature. These things just make

me hot. But, a lot of them have the dual nature of being objects or ideas of power. Some are only the latter. I didn't really think about this when I wrote the list, primarily since I wrote the list months before the vest lesson. It's very interesting to go back and look at it in a new light.

Introspection Activity: Masters, if you were stranded on a desert island with plenty of resources, multiple slaves, but only four fetish items, what would they be? Look at the word fetish from the sexual, kinky pervert standpoint. What things or activities make you hot? Are you into bondage? Flogging? Watersports? List anything and everything that really pushes those buttons for you. Once done, go back and write a blurb about *why* and *how* it empowers you. Then, look at the word from the object/idea of power point of view. What things move you? What things make you feel powerful and why? Hmm... maybe I need to add "cabana boy" to my list.

slaves, do much the same activity: make a list of you fetishes, of both definitions, then explain why each is powerful for you and how it works in your life.

Fetishes

This is a list of my fetishes: i.e., things that make my pulse beat a little faster. They're listed in the order that I thought of them. I expect you to be able to indulge the bulk of them. If you can't, let's discuss it before you decide you cannot serve.

- Leather – NOTHING smells like leather. you will wear leather as I direct.
- Tattoos (Ink) - I have several and they each have meaning. I love ink. If you currently have ink, wonderful. If you don't, be open to the idea of Master-directed ink. If you're good, I'll set your ink if you get new ones. *smile*
- Piercings (Holes) – I have no permanent ones other than single-hole earrings. I practice temp piercing, mostly for ritual. Eventually, it will be time for my own permanent ones. If you have holes, I want to see them! Be prepared for the possibility of holes.
- Military – Men in uniform, hot damn! Ok, some of the women are hot, too. If you're military, show up in uniform to make me weak in the knees.
- Bikes – No, not the kind you pedal. I don't, however, ride myself as of yet. I know, I know...I didn't say I didn't WANT to ride myself. It's just that it's 10k for a bike or 10k for land or school. Priorities.

- Kilts – Utilikilt rocks. Hell, all kilts rock. Be warned, I may put you in a kilt. No comments about it being a “skirt” are allowed. Be a man, or a boi, and suck it up.
- Bagpipes – Don’t laugh. I’d never scene or have sex to bagpipe music, but hearing it stirs my soul. It’s the Scot in me.
- Drums – Now, drums...I’d scene and fuck to. I like all kinds, even Drum Corp drum lines make my pulse race. If you play, I’d enjoy it a great deal.
- Music – Different music does different things. The kind that turns me on is goth or metal or whatever the hell it’s called. Think Queen of the Damned soundtrack. I can enjoy just about everything, given the right setting, except very derogatory rap. If you’re a musician, I’d also enjoy that a great deal.
- Boots – So, maybe I’m a gay man. I love boots. If you can bootblack, I will be one happy camper.
- Biting - I totally like biting...it’s very animalistic. This is one of the few masochistic things I know I like in sex. Be aware, however, it can quickly turn into energy feeding for me.
- Vampires – I am a Vampire. Yes, a real one. I don’t expect every member of my family to blood feed me and have refused some in my family who have offered. It is a delicate thing; a blood bond is not lightly made or broken. However, I’d expect everyone to be open to energy feeding.
- Blood – I enjoy blood play (cutting and piercing). Seeing blood run is also animalistic and it touches a place in me that few things do. I can and do separately distinguish this kind of play from feeding.

Section 11: Finances

I've talked about this section a little already. It made a perfect example of how the manual is supposed to be a fluid, changing document. I've changed this section several times, mostly due to conversations I've had and situations I've experienced. So, this section is an example of what I currently thought I wanted as I wrote this book.

Some Masters make this all really simple; they prefer a total transfer of assets from the slave to them. I've got to admit, for simplicities sake, that's real appealing to me. However, I'm personally uncomfortable with the idea. I'm well aware that I project in this situation; it would be an area of panic for me to be asked to turn over everything I own/earn and might own/earn in the future. I project and so I assume that everyone, including my slaves, would panic about it. Financial security and independence is a big deal for me, mainly because I've sold myself and my happiness for it in the past (check out the Prostitute survival archetype from Myss). So, for me, part of being Real and living in integrity is being able to live with the finances I have.

But, again, I realize that this is projection and that there are some slaves who really crave the asset turnover. As uncomfortable as it makes me, I see that in some relationships, I might be called to facilitate this for someone. This is where my servant side would take over; I'd be willing to do this for someone as a service to them and to my calling as their Master. I deliberately left the area ambiguous because I know I'll have a great deal to think about when/if the situation ever arises. Even with the asset turnover, I'd be inclined to set aside some portion or amount for the slave in case something happens and we end the collar. They would need money in order to start over.

As I composed this section, my goal for financial control was really to instill a responsibility in, and perhaps gain a degree of independence for, my slave. I saw, and still see, no reason why a healthy adult shouldn't be able to handle a simple budget. These days, with the software available, balancing the checkbook is quite easy, if still a chore. The biggest problem most people have, however, is the buy-now-pay-later trend that has settled on modern society like the plague. Credit card debt is huge. There's a difference in being in debt for a mortgage, a car or school and being in debt for things you really can't afford, especially luxury items. As crappy as it might be, we really don't need to have high-priced trendy items or another pair of shoes when we have fifty already. Yeah, I know; sometimes being a responsible adult sucks. I don't like it much either sometimes.

Other really important areas to think about are financial matters dealing with you or your slave's death. This is especially true if you are not, or cannot, legally marry your slave or declare them as a domestic partner. You also need to look at whether or not your state is a Common Law state for het couples. Consult a lawyer if you have any doubts

about these details. Be sure to draw up a Will. Be sure to specify memorial plans or what happens if you come to be in a vegetative state. Think about how you'll continue to provide for your household. For example, I've named one of my slaves as my executor and have left my house and land to her (if I own any at the time of my death), with the instructions that she is to use it, or sell it, in order to provide housing for those who live with me until such a time as they can take care of themselves better or until the resources are gone.

Also make sure that you leave instructions about your personal items such as your leather and toys. I've instructed that these be distributed amongst my leather family as the executor sees fit, honoring requests made as she can. Don't forget to specify certain items for certain people as well. While my mother knows about my lifestyle, I didn't think that she's have a use or desire for my whips. I did, however, think that she'd very much like to have the three generation quilt that I have that she, her mother and I made. I've noted that in my Will so that my slave knows my wishes.

A Power of Attorney in case of medical emergency is important, too. Imagine that you've been in a car accident and are now unconscious in ICU. If you're not married to your slave, they cannot help your family make decisions on your behalf. They may not even be allowed to see you because they're not family. These things bear thought. Of course, you may not want your slave involved in any way. It's up to you. The point is: these things are serious matters and they deserve a great deal of thought. My girl even has the legal right to have me committed should I go off the deep end.

A final area of thought: what do you want to happen to your slave upon your death? If you truly see your slaves as your property, perhaps you wish to transfer their ownership to someone else. While a document of this nature is obviously not legally binding, it would indicate your wishes in the matter to your leather family. Be sure that the person whom you choose for ownership or guardianship is not only informed that you'd like them to do this for you, but that they agree to it!

Introspection Activity: Masters, what's your goal when dealing with the finances of your slave? Do you want a total asset turnover as another way to control their lives? Do you want them to handle the everyday accounts of the house, much like a Major Domo? What happens if the collar is ended? How are you going to handle the purchases of things for the household and such? All these details bear thought. It's also important to really look at yourself and your own finances. Are you in debt beyond your means? If so, are you willing to be an example for your slave and work to get out of debt? Are you willing to make it clear that your slave will be providing for the lifestyle you enjoy, i.e. be a financial slave, should this be your ultimate goal? Again, you'll find that being honest here will work for you. It might make the search a little longer, but in the end, you'll find someone who really matches you.

Also, what happens if you or your slave dies? Does your slave have any authority to speak for you should you be gravely ill or on the verge of death? Does your slave know what you want to happen should you be on terminal life support or an idea about what your final arrangements should be? These days, you can use fairly inexpensive programs to draw up these documents. Just make sure you go through all the necessary steps to make them legal. It varies from state to state. Again, consult a lawyer if you are at all unsure of how it all works.

slaves, have you made final arrangements or even given any thought to what you want done upon your death? Do you want to request of your Master that certain items be transferred to family members, even though he or she owns them since the asset turnover? Will you agree to, or do you need to have, a complete asset turnover? If not, do you agree that your Master should have some control over your finances? Be honest here. If you simply cannot give up control in this area, simply state it. It may limit your search for a Master, but in the end, you'll find a better match.

Finances/Income

I have to be honest. I really hate keeping up with finances. However, I see it as a duty to myself, the slave and the household. I expect to have control over the finances of the household where I pay the bills, I manage the household accounts and I make the household decisions. If you are a financial wizard, I am open to advice and suggestions, respectfully submitted. Actually, this area has a great deal of flexibility. If you're that financial wizard, I might decide to use your skills and turn over the household accounts and bills to you for management. However, I doubt I'll ever give up making the decisions.

The division between household accounts and your accounts will be fair and based on what you earn outside the home as well as your specific debts and needs. Use of the household funds is at my discretion. The use of your money will depend on what we negotiate.

Once a Preliminary collar is accepted, you will be expected to contribute to the household account. This is used to run the house (utilities, groceries, etc.) and pay for events and travel. The amount expected is in proportion to your involvement in the household, i.e. how many times you eat with us, how many events you attend, whether or not you live with me, etc.

Before a Provisional collar is offered, I expect a full financial disclosure. I am taking on

the responsibility of keeping tabs on your assets and debt; therefore, I need to know where you stand. I will also be open about my financial stability.

Once a Provisional collar is accepted:

1. you will be expected to contribute to the household account. This is used to run the house (utilities, groceries, etc.) and pay for events and travel. The amount expected is in proportion to your involvement in the household, i.e. how many times you eat with us, how many events you attend, whether or not you live with me, etc.
2. your spending, saving and debt activity will be monitored, if I see that this is required. If you come with well managed accounts, I will have a tendency to trust your judgment and leave the management to you, unless you ask otherwise. If your finances are in a mess but you still want to try to do it yourself, advice will be given and how you apply that advice will be watched. If I don't see an improvement in a given amount of time, I'll expect to take over the management.
3. you will be expected to ask for permission to purchase miscellaneous items that would impact your budget if you purchased too many at once. For some, this will be items that cost \$50. For some, it will be items that cost \$1000. It will depend on your personal solvency.

Once a Full collar is accepted, I am willing to function as detailed as this:

1. you will be expected to contribute to the household account. This is used to run the house (utilities, groceries, etc.) and pay for events and travel. This amount will increase if you do not already live with the family.
2. If we agree and you desire to surrender in such a way, we can discuss the option of asset surrender, should you feel it an important part of your slavery and service. It is not a requirement.
3. If we agree, I will take total control of your financial welfare. This is not a requirement unless I see that you are not able to handle your finances. If I do this, this would include these things:
 - a. you will be given an allowance to use as spending money.
 - b. I will see to it that your bills are paid. However, you need to be aware that, unless I become independently wealthy, you are expected to earn enough to pay these bills.

- c. The remainder will go into savings and/or retirement account(s) for you.
 - d. you are expected to ask for permission to purchase any item out of the norm.
 - e. I will work to reduce your debt. This may include bill consolidation, using a credit reduction plan and simply taking the credit cards from you.
4. Most likely, I will be inclined to simply help you manage your own accounts. If I do this, this would include these things:
- a. Helping you develop, and stick to, a budget. This may involve you asking permission to purchase any item over a set amount.
 - b. I will ensure you pay your bills. Again, you must earn enough to pay for your bills.
 - c. I will direct you to invest, in simple ways, for a retirement.
 - d. I will direct you in ways to reduce your debt and recommend places to go for advice.
5. I expect to be named as the executor of your estate if you are single. I am open to being the executor of your estate if you feel your spouse or life partner would appreciate the service upon your death.
6. I expect a Will to be drawn up indicating how you would like your affairs to be handled, should you die while belonging to me, whether you are single or married.
7. If I am the executor of your estate, I expect to be named as a (but not necessarily “the”) beneficiary of your insurance so that I can carry out your wishes. Funds that I don’t use for this purpose will be returned to the other beneficiaries, unless you have left the amount to me in your Will (this is solely your choice to do so).
8. I expect documents to be drawn up for a DNR order (if you want one), a Living Will and the details of your burial/cremation.
9. I expect to be added to your active accounts, such as checking and savings, no matter what level of financial surrender we agree upon. This is mainly to keep these assets from being frozen in the event of your death.

Section 12: Honesty and Integrity

We all lie. If you don't think this is true, you're lying to yourself, so you still lie. Given that, I try to have compassion for people when they lie, because I do too. Looking at the intent behind the lie is important to me. Sometimes, it's done in an effort to protect, sometimes it's done in an effort to do harm and sometimes it'd done in an effort to boost the ego. There are some conditions under which I'm willing to be lenient and others that I'm not.

I expect slaves to strive for the ideal of honesty, yet know that they will falter, just as I do (and will). Living with integrity isn't about acting perfectly, it's about admitting we make mistakes and owning up to them. Integrity also speaks to me about seeing the greater good. While I wouldn't expect someone to give up their needs, I don't think it's unreasonable to give up a want so that someone else's need is met.

Introspection Activity: Masters, this one is pretty simple: What does living in/with integrity mean to you? In what ways is it, if it is, important to your relationship? Under what conditions do you find it imperative to be shown? Under what conditions would you be lenient? Write all these things down. Then, separate out what is the ideal and what is the reality. Feel free to state the ideal, but consider stating the reality, too. This is, after all, about being honest.

slaves, what's your personal ideal for honesty and integrity? Do you, honestly, live up to your own ideal? How lenient are you willing to be in accepting dishonesty in your Master? How much leniency do you feel you require about honesty in yourself? What does it meant to "live with integrity"? Jot down some concrete examples if explaining the abstract concept is hard.

Honesty and Integrity

When you give your word, I expect it to be your bond. you will make every effort to follow through. If you can't, explain it and apologize. Don't hide things from me or deliberately choose to not disclose information that you feel will get you into trouble. you will be in more trouble if you do.

you must strive to never lie to me. As a compassionate person, I understand that sometimes, people just lie. However, I expect you to make a true effort to be open with me. Serious infractions are deal breakers.

Integrity speaks about the quality of a person's character and their "steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code", according to the dictionary. A moral code can sometimes be difficult to explain. But, the basic premise should be to never intentionally harm anyone.

Integrity also means being aware of others needs and placing them above your own lesser desires. you should strive to create that kind of integrity in your life and relationships. This means that you are willing to give up your wants in order to promote the good of the family and your Master. your needs are as important as my needs and the family's needs. your wants may not be.

Integrity also speaks about standing for something. To me, this means being loyal. Given that a level of trust has been established, I expect you to be loyal to me and for you to defend me and the family.

Section 13: Living Arrangements

At the time I wrote the manual, I owned my own home and could guarantee living quarters to those in a Full collar. Now, as I'm writing this book, I've decided to go back to school and use the equity from the sale of my home for tuition. This means that I probably won't have my own home once I move for school and thus I don't feel I can guarantee living quarters for slaves. This is very hard for me to not be able to do. Having a home offers me a feeling of security; it will be a challenge to go back to renting, possibly having roommates, or even to living in a house that a slave owns. None of these options make me feel stable; but the goal is to be able to be more stable in the future as well as increase the happiness in my life by being able to pursue my chosen career path. So, I've had to change this section to say that I can guarantee living space *if* I own my own home. Of course, this doesn't mean that I wouldn't make every effort to provide a place even if I'm renting or living with another. It merely means I can't guarantee it.

Introspection Activity: Masters, how do you want your living arrangements? Will you require your slave(s) to live with you? If so, in what kind of setting with they live? Perhaps you'd like to specify that they will always sleep on the floor, unless specifically invited into your bed. Or, maybe you have a bunkhouse or dormitory atmosphere for them. Perhaps you'd like to specify that people who snore will always sleep in another room! How will you deal with whatever furnishings your slave might have in their possession, if they are to move in? Will you sell them and pocket the money (a valid thing; simply be honest) or will you put it all in storage until such a time as they are released or you both agree they no longer need them? What items are they allowed to bring, if any? Or, are you expecting your slave to provide living arrangements for *you*? It can work both ways.

slaves, do you feel it's necessary for you to live with your Master in order to be fulfilled? If so, are there items that have so much meaning to you that you simply cannot do without them? What happens if it's your Master who will live with you? How will your personal items be handled if that comes to pass?

Living Arrangements

It is my wish that my entire family live together under one roof, as much as reality allows. you will be guaranteed living space if I own my own home, if offered a Full collar, unless you are raising minor children. Living space for those in Preliminary and Provisional collars is not guaranteed.

you will, most likely, have to share a room with others, most likely in a dormitory type of setting. you will most likely also have to share a bathroom with others.

As much as is possible, you will be given drawer, trunk and/or closet space and be allowed to bring items that have sentimental meaning to you.

Items that you have that can be of use in the household will also be given space as possible.

Other items will have to be put into storage or sold.

you are expected to keep your areas neat and tidy. This means make your bed daily, hang up your towel and put your clothes in the hamper. We may find someone whose service is to provide this for the family, but don't expect it.

Section 14: Loyalty

We talked before about how loyalty and devotion were closely related in my head until I researched the words. Loyalty is about allegiance; you can swear allegiance to something even though you don't like or respect it. However, with an M/s relationship, I really don't see how you could, morally, do this. So, I expect the slave to have both loyalty and devotion if they're in a collar to me. It's not something I demand them to have; I simply expect them to have it if they've pursued a collar with me.

I expect loyalty in the face of unintentional emotional and psychological pain, until such time as it becomes a deal breaker for the slave. What I mean by this is that I want to know that the slave will give an honest effort to make the relationship work, even if I've screwed up by mistake. This is related to my own issues with abandonment, of course. I need to know that I can make unintentional mistakes and have the opportunity to fix them. I realize that there is a limit, naturally, but I need to know there is *some* room. This concept works in reverse, too; I will do my best to allow someone to fix what they've done if it's hurt me.

Introspection Activity: Masters, what does loyalty mean to you? Perhaps writing out some analogies or examples of loyalty would help to define it for you so that you can share it in the future. How much allegiance do you expect from your submissive? Showing loyalty can closely be related to being obedient. Can you separate the two or are they so intertwined for you that you need to have them together, as I need devotion and loyalty together? Perhaps you'd like to give a few examples of how loyalty would work in your relationship.

slaves, are you prepared to be loyal to your Master and the relationships? Enough that you'll give them a second chance if they screw up, unless it's a deal breaker? What kind of loyalty are you expecting in return? you, too, can write some analogies to help explain you ideas.

Loyalty

Loyalty is the feeling of allegiance to someone or something. This can be closely related to devotion. Both the Master and the slave must be loyal to the tenets of the relationship, each other and their personal integrity.

This means that we protect one another, in a lot of ways. Even if you are wrong and have screwed up, unless it's a deal breaker, I will remain loyal to the collar I have offered.

This is where the aspect of discipline comes into play. I discipline you for offenses because I am loyal to the relationship and to you. I discipline you for infractions because I care. you will endure the discipline I give because you are loyal to the relationship.

I expect you, too, to remain loyal to the relationship, unless the situation becomes a deal breaker. I need to know that, unless I screw up in a fashion that is beyond repair, you will not leave or disappear.

Section 15: Obedience

Obedience is essential for an M/s relationship to me. So much so, I listed it in my deal breakers, as you've read. In my world, a slave always has one choice: to obey or not. If the slave chooses to not obey, which is their right, there are consequences. Sometimes, these consequences are small and sometimes they are huge; it depends on what they are disobeying, to me. But, in the end, disobedience, no matter how small, *can* result in the loss of the collar. If I'm constantly being disobeyed in areas that are small individually, but add up as a whole, it will eventually damage me and undermine my authority and trust so much that I will remove the collar.

At times, I might challenge the slave to blindly obey, although this is currently against my inherent style. I can see, however, that it will be essential in spiritual matters on occasion. However, with the trust of blind obedience from the slave comes the deep responsibility of protection from the Master. A simple example is the classic "fall back, I will catch you" exercise. A stronger example would be if I asked my slave to go sit in the street, in blind obedience. The slave then has the duty to obey and to go sit in the street. I feel that I then have the duty of directing traffic in such a way as to make it safe for my slave to sit in the street. If they choose to not obey, it's up to me to decide how important it was to me for them to perform this act and then react accordingly. This is the kind of obedience/responsibility connection I envision for my M/s relationships.

Introspection Activity: Masters, do you demand obedience from your slaves? Do they ever have the right to say no? What are your responsibilities toward the slave when they give you obedience? Would you ever expect your slave to do whatever you wished, even if it was against their moral values? Write these things down. Really try to think about real situations and your intentions behind them. Are they good intentions? Are you apt to order them to do things simply because you can, no matter what the intentions? These things are valid; simply be honest so that the slave is making a decision based on informed consent.

How obedient do you expect your slave to be? In other words, do you expect the slave to always take you, literally, at your spoken word? Is there room for the slave to cut up and be a brat? Writing about these things can also help a slave know where the line is; a playful face made after you've told them to do something might be entirely different than a flat out refusal to do it in your mind. Or, it might not. Perhaps you want to clarify things like that.

slaves, do a study about the word "obedience". What does it mean to you, specifically and what roll does it play in the relationship for you? Are there circumstances under which you would feel that you simply would not obey

your Master? If so, what are these circumstances? Write out a few scenarios in a more defined way in order to share. How important are consequences to you? What is the most effective way of disciplining you for disobedience? Explain why these ways are effective.

Obedience

Obedience is a conscious choice to following through with an assigned task or action. Obedience from you is essential and expected. you will have to trust me that I will not ask you to do something that will intentionally harm you, something illegal or something against your moral code.

When you wear my collar, the one choice that you will always have is whether to obey or not. There will be times when I ask you to do things that you are reluctant to do. I will, at some point, order you to do something you truly don't want to do. I may push the point, even after discussion and, in the end, I expect obedience. I will push you to do it if I feel it will benefit you in some way. you might find the choice hard. In the end, you can choose to not obey. Of course, you must be aware that there are consequences for not obeying.

I want you to always succeed, but there will be times when you will falter or fail. Sometimes, this will be your fault, sometimes it won't. If you have failed through disobedience, I will expect an apology and an immediate fix to the problem. Once you do these two things, and the appropriate corrective action is taken, the problem is solved and rectified.

Sometimes, obedience to the overall intent of the relationship might be more correct than the obedience of an order. For example, a Master who has a terminal illness might try to permanently dismiss the slave because they don't want the slave to see them sick. I will do my best to not put you in such a situation.

Section 16: Ownership

Remember the friend who answered when I asked about the black vests at my first lifestyle meeting? Well, I was listening to his slave give a talk some time later. she was describing how she was shared in a poly relationship. her Master owned her, as he would own a Ferrari. That meant that she was well cared for and prized for her value. At times, however, he was generous and gave her keys to someone else to drive. They were expected to treat her with due care and she was expected to be returned in a condition that at least match the condition in when she left. If she was returned in *better* condition than when she left, they were much more apt to get the keys again. I've always kept that analogy in my head. I like analogies. Teachings often come in story form.

For some, Ownership and Mastery are two different things. For me, right now, it doesn't have to be, but it can be. I try to make it clear that I don't believe in chattel. I know that, for many, slaves are possession, existing only as property to be used as the Master/Owner sees fit. While this scenario might be hot, I simply cannot fathom myself working that way. I do see slaves as property and I do acknowledge that I can do as I see fit with them, but they are also much more than mere possessions. The slaves in my life are recognized as human beings who have their trials and tribulations as well as accomplishments and joys. I offer what I see as basic human rights to my slaves. Some Masters do not, and that's a perfectly valid thing, given informed consent.

With Mastery and Ownership comes responsibility. Again, "Because I can," often isn't sufficient reason to do something. A slave is much more valuable than a car to me (although I still like the analogy!). Just because I could harm my slave in some way, doesn't necessarily mean that I feel it'd be responsible of me to do so. Even if we just look at it from a standpoint that I'd be out a decent housekeeper or whatever, it's not a wise thing to do. Deliberate harm isn't my goal when being given authority over those who are mine.

Because I own them, I expect them to ask permission to use what's mine; they need to ask to participate in, and do, certain things. Now, this doesn't mean that I want them to ask for each and every little thing. That'd drive me crazy. They have an understood standing permission to take care of themselves, such as going to the bathroom, eating and such. I do, however, want to know where they're going if we're out in public. I don't want to ever stand, asking myself, "Where is my slave?" because I don't know they've left my presence. What I am talking about is them asking for permission to do things out of the ordinary for every day life. Scening with someone else, participating in an unusual ceremony, selling a major possession are all examples of what I'm talking about.

Ownership isn't about squashing a slave's personality, being or essence of who

they are deep inside. It's about empowerment. What I want most for my slaves is happiness and fulfillment. In the end, if that means that the collar needs to come off in order for them to follow what they truly wish to have, then it ends, with my wish that they find what they're seeking. Ownership is not a chain that binds them forever more, sinking into the deep abyss. It's a chain that lightly but firmly anchors them so that they can then live, grow and fly like a kite while knowing they are cared for by someone they feel led to serve and care for in return.

Introspection Activity: Masters, what does ownership mean to you? Is it different than Mastery for you? Do you want to own your slave at all? If so, what aspects of their lives do you feel you own? Are there any portions you don't feel that you have a right to own? Perhaps you would like to write an analogy of your own to describe the ownership aspects in your relationship.

slaves, do you want to be owned? If so, what does that mean to you? If not, why not? Describe, in either case, what ownership looks like to you and then explain how that relates to your choice. Write down what kind of control comes with your submission and surrender. Are there areas in which you know you cannot give up control? If you trusted someone enough, would you eventually give up this control? Why or why not?

Ownership

When you wear my collar, I own you. It's that simple. This doesn't make you chattel or less-than-human. Quite the contrary; it makes you a prized possession. I won't give a collar to someone who isn't worthy.

your physical body is mine; I expect you to ask permission to use it for purposes other than my own. your mind is mine; I expect you to use in such a fashion as to serve with intelligence. your heart is mine; I expect you to work to keep your slave heart thriving. your will is mine; I expect you to endeavor to match your desires to mine. your soul, however, belongs to you and your higher power. I am not your God or Goddess and I will not claim it.

Ownership is about empowering you to be all that you possess. In such as way, you grow and appreciate the life given to you. you will be a reflection of me, thus, I want someone who is worth owning and fit for service. In order to be fit to serve me, you must:

- Be working towards a healthy body and mind. I don't expect perfection and I know that you will stumble as well as backslide (as I do). I merely expect you to be working at maintaining and improving yourself.

- Be self assured. A slave with a sense of self value is important. If I wanted a worm, I'd dig one up in the back yard. you are worth much more.
- Be able to be autonomous. This means that you should be able to get the job done and not need me to constantly watch over you. I have found this usually means that you have a dominant personality. If you don't, that's ok, just work toward being able to follow through with the tasks I assign.
- Possess intelligence: you should enjoy learning. Learning is how we grow and there are lessons in everything we see, do and feel.

Section 17: Pets

This is yet another section I've changed since originally writing the manual. I originally said no dogs. But, since then, I've met some dogs that I liked and could live with, given that someone else took care of them (of course). So, I opened myself up to the possibility. The section was pretty simple for me, but, I could see where it'd get a lot more complicated for someone who had certain pet/animal allergies. Oh, and don't forget fears. You might want to specify no spiders or snakes if you have issues there!

Introspection Activity: Masters, what do you expect your slave to do with their pets? Can they bring them with them? If so, are there limitations on what kind of pets? What kinds of pets do you have? Are you willing to give them up in order to accommodate your slave? Perhaps you would like to specify details about pet care services you expect of your intended slave.

slaves, if you have a pet, do you feel that you must bring the pet into the relationship? If you decide that you're willing to give up the pet, what happens to your pet? Are there pets you physically or psychologically cannot live with? Do you know anything about how to care for pets? Do you even wish to be in a household that has pets?

Pets

I have cats and, at the time of writing this, a fresh water tank of fish. While I might not always have fish, I will always have cats. I will consider additional pets, up to a point, as part of a live-in relationship.

I like low maintenance pets, meaning those that only need to be fed every 3 days or that can be left enough food for that length of time.

I prefer pets that will not eat other pets. We'd have to truly negotiate a python (who might think my cats are tasty) or birds and rodents (who my cats might think are tasty).

I don't see having a lot of room for additional pets. I don't want a zoo. However, I'm open to meeting the pet and discussion about the topic.

What I really want most is simply well behaved pets that someone else looks after. So, if we agree on your pets, know that you'll still be responsible for them. you'll probably also be responsible for the bulk of my cat's care, too.

Section 18: Poly Household

For much of my life, I've had long-term monogamous relationships. I married my first husband at the age of eighteen. That relationship lasted nine years during which I was a faithful Navy wife and college student. We divorced (which is a lengthy process in North Carolina!) and I met the man who would be my second husband shortly before the first divorce was final. We began dating exclusively about a year later and married three years later, staying married for four years. Again, it was a monogamous relationship, although, because of the lifestyle and our agreement, I had a little more leeway about sexual acts (which were different than actual sex in my second husband's mind) with other people.

It was during the last year or so of the second marriage that I finally admitted that I was bisexual. Ok, so maybe het-flexible is a better term since I predominantly date men, but I am attracted to women as well and desire both. I also realized that I was happier and more fulfilled when I had multiple partners. I made it clear to those I dated once the second marriage was over that they wouldn't be my only partner and neither did I expect them to be mine. So, I am sexually poly.

Being a poly household is slightly different. I'm not looking for my next husband, wife, boyfriend or girlfriend for an M/s relationship (perhaps the Universe will agree). I'm looking for those slaves who are called to serve me. Sex isn't necessarily going to be a part of the relationship dynamic so sexual orientation isn't important to me. Neither is gender. However, I do consider an M/s relationship to be an intimate one on a lot of levels, so I consider myself to be relationship poly as well. Yeah, I know, technically we're all relationship poly if we get down to it, but I'm overlooking the "usual" platonic relationships for this definition.

I laid all these thoughts out in the manual and explained that each person would be special and different. Of course, I can't make anyone who wants to serve believe or feel this; they either have to be open to being one of several or want to work through the fear they won't be of value or both.

I reassured those who are already in a relationship, perhaps a romantic one, that those ties do not have to end. I also specify that I might, as some point, choose a Major Domo and they would be expected to serve under this person. I make no statement that this person would be chosen from the household available at that time on purpose. I also specified that I didn't want someone who was married, but hiding it from their spouse. This puts me in the position as being "the other women" even if it's not a sexual relationship. That's not fair to anyone involved.

Introspection Activity: Masters, are you looking for a monogamous M/s

relationship with a single slave? Perhaps you are you looking more for relationships where the slave is monogamous with you, but that you have multiple partners. Or, perhaps you agree to a full poly household where everyone can have multiple partners, with permission from you. Describe how you wish your relationships set up, whether they be monogamous, full poly or somewhere in between. What are the rules?

slaves, what kind of household are you looking for? Are you wishing to be part of a harem or stable? Perhaps you want to be the only one. Maybe having brothers and sisters would make you happy, sex or not. Describe what the household looks like in your mind.

Poly Household

If you haven't figured it out by now, my household will be a poly household. This means that you will have slave brothers and sisters who serve along side you. It does not mean that sexual poly is assumed.

Each person in my household is unique and will be respected and cherished for their individuality. I am open to all races, sexual orientations, gender identifications and most spiritualities/religions (see Spirituality section).

I may, at some point, decide on a Major Domo. you will be expected to serve under this person's direction. This person will, mostly likely, be taking on the duties of paying bills I've laid out, assigning chores and household scheduling, so that I am free to do other things. This person's duties will be more defined when the need arises. Neither the duties nor the privileges awarded the Major Domo will be sexual in nature.

I don't intend to isolate you from your already established healthy relationships, and might allow, with negotiation, relationships to continue such as a sexual partner or a play partner. However, understand that I am to be your primary partner, sexual or not. These people will be or will become secondary partners. Be prepared that I might ask you to modify these relationships. Family ties are to remain intact and will be encouraged, unless I see that they are abusive in some fashion.

I do not have room or the desire for live-in children. I choose not to have children myself. Should you have minor children and be accepted into a collar, I do not intend to raise your children, although I can certainly see being active in their lives.

I will not accept anyone into a collar who is married and hiding the lifestyle from their spouse. While I feel for those in this situation and know that it is a tough place to be in, it

is against my ethics to have a hidden relationship under these circumstances. If you are married, I would expect to know your spouse and to have some sort of congenial relationship with them.

I will prefer that you were out to your family and friends. However, I understand that this is sometimes just not possible. How to deal with this will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Section 19: Protocols

This is the section that I'm betting everyone thought this whole manual was about! I've had slaves go cross-eyed when I told them that I had a seventy-plus page manual, simply because they thought it was seventy pages of protocol. After we settled that issue, much to their relief, the only thing they wanted to know was if I address "the door" protocol. Why, yes! Yes, I have! *grin*

Protocol has a special place in our community. It's part of our history. It's part of *why* we do this. It's *structure*. I don't know about you, but that just trips my trigger. I bet you couldn't tell that I really like structure...and planning structure...and writing about structure...*daydreams*

This is probably the first thing that many start to think about when they think of an M/s relationship. When I first started, I had load of protocol, as a lot of new people will. Remember the full kowtow? Yeah, I had that and more. But, I started running into problems, like tripping over the slave when they dropped and did exactly what I'd told them I wanted. So, I had to begin to look at what was cool fantasy and what could, in reality, work.

Another problem, I soon learned to my dismay, was that I had so much protocol that not even I could remember it all! How could I effectively enforce protocol that I couldn't remember? So, I had to have another reality check. I eventually cut everything down to what I felt were the bare minimums. That dealt with the second problem. To deal with the first problem, I split things into levels. There's basic stuff, which includes some online items since I use the net as a communication device, and then there's event stuff, then formal stuff. I even set the door protocols apart from the rest. We laugh about them a lot in my house. *grin* Well, until I got smacked with the double door because I forgot my own protocol and was trying to go through one side myself while the slave was opening the other door. I'm just used to doing things for myself. That will change, eventually. Most of the time, I find it amusing to be standing at the door as I see the wheels churning in the slave's head when *they* forget it. Usually.

Since I have daily presents in my daily protocols, I've written out how to do this. I like instructions, ok? I put them in an Appendix in the actual manual.

Introspection Activity: Masters, there's so much out there in books, online and other places about protocol that the questions I ask here only brush the surface. In reality, I'd spend a whole book on just these questions, so, I'm going to send you off doing some research. Look at a lot of different sources for protocol. Look in fiction and non-fiction, movies and books, any place you wish. Then, start writing down ideas. Brainstorm. Nothing is too far fetched or

stupid. Then, go back and do a reality check. Label things as either realistic, special occasion or unrealistic. Keep narrowing it down until you get a list of protocols you think will really work on a daily basis and those that work on a special occasion basis. If there are things that will be repeated over and over, like daily presents, consider writing instructions about how to do them.

slaves, this is a hard part for you to anticipate, really. So much of this will simply be up to your Master. However, there are some things that you can do on your own. For your introspection, begin to think of areas that might be pleasing for you and your Master. Most everyone I know has the slave kneel at some point (if they are physically able) as part of their protocol. Practice and learn to do it gracefully. If you are a part of a tradition, such as Gorean, that has pre-set positions and protocols in place, learn and practice them. Do it in front of a mirror until what you see is pleasing to the eye. Learn about basic etiquette as well as about the rituals of your own spirituality.

Protocols

These are the guidelines I wish for my household. While there are no community-wide standards, by any means, I have observed these in various places and have enjoyed them. Anticipate that they could be overridden by the protocols of another's house should we visit. These build on each other, meaning if we are following event or formal protocols, they are in addition to basic protocols.

Basic protocols

1. Speaking to/of me
 - a. When speaking to me, I prefer Ma'am. As a minimum:
 1. "Yes, Ma'am" or "No, Ma'am" in answer to a question.
 2. "Yes, Ma'am" or "No, Ma'am" in acknowledgement of an order or request.
 3. "Ma'am" at the beginning of a question or a request.
 4. "Thank you, Ma'am" as appropriate.
 - b. When speaking of me, in the community, Master Fire.
 - c. When speaking to me, outside the community, I still prefer Ma'am.

d. When speaking of me, outside the community, Fire will suffice, but my given name is perfectly fine as well.

2. Speaking to others.

a. If you are unsure what title and/or pronoun a person uses, ask them.

b. Unless you truly, truly have a problem with a particular person, refer to them by title.

c. Be polite to everyone, whenever possible.

3. Writing to me

a. Pronouns referring to you are lowercase.

b. Pronouns referring to me are uppercase (I will not use this).

c. Don't use the O/our style; it annoys me.

d. your name and title are lowercase.

e. My name and title are uppercase.

4. At the end of a conversation

a. If you need to go, unless it is an absolute emergency, you will ask to be allowed to 'Continue'. This is short for, "May I continue in your service and go about my task?"

b. When I give the 'Continue' command, you will respond, "Ma'am, Yes Ma'am". At that point, you are free to go.

5. Public conduct

a. Be aware of your actions as all time.

b. you represent me in all kinds of public, not just Leather. Act accordingly.

c. When we're together, be polite. Take my coat, open doors, etc. The door protocol is at the end of the list.

6. Daily contact.

a. I expect daily contact in person, by email, by IM or by phone.

- b. you must contact me.
- c. I should, at no time, be excessively wondering how you are or what you're doing.
- d. The only exception is if you have limited access to a computer or a phone. As much as possible, I want to know about this in advance. We will set up a schedule.

Daily presents – How to present is found in Appendix B.

1. A formal present is to be used when we are in appropriate company, a standing present when in a more vanilla setting. If you are unsure, ask if I want you to present.
2. Present at these times:
 - a. A morning greeting. This is when you first see me for the day and I seem somewhat together.
 - b. Saying goodnight. This is when you last see me for the day or before we get into bed, if I've asked you to join me.
 - c. Before you leave the house/building to go about your day or a major errand where you have to leave the property.
 - d. When we come home at the end of the work day. If you are home first, I like it especially if you're already kneeling when I walk in the door with a basket for all the "stuff" I wear on a daily basis. I will do my best to call on my way home to let you know when I should be expected.

Family Dinner

1. Everyone will be seated at the table.
2. Assume you have permission to speak, but do so respectfully.
3. you may begin to eat when I have begun.
4. you may be excused before me, with permission.
5. you are excused at any time after I have left the table.

Formal Dinner (the absolute basics)

1. Masters are seated at the table and slaves are directed where to stand, in service.
2. you will be naked unless otherwise directed.
3. you will eat in the kitchen as time allows or when the meal has been completed.
4. Learn to set a formal table. Figure out how to modify it as my china allows.
5. you will seat me first, then each guest individually.
6. When the meal is ready to be served, place each napkin in the respective lap.
7. A new course is served once everyone is finished with the previous course.
8. Serve food from the left.
9. Remove dishes from the right as people are finished with them.
10. Pour drinks beside the table. This means remove the glass from the table, pour the drink, then return the glass to where it was on the table.
11. Never reach across a person or plate, especially with liquid.
12. If a guest has temporarily left the table, place their napkin on the back of their chair.

Event protocols

1. you will be given a position in which to walk, such as ahead and to the left.
2. When attending me,
 - a. Walk in your position. If in front, don't leave me in the dust. If behind, don't step on my skirt.
 - b. Walk with your hands behind your back, unless carrying something bulky.
 - c. If approached for a hug or a touch by someone, direct them to ask me for permission.
3. you are to ask permission to socialize. When socializing, you are free to hug, casually touch and casually kiss friends and family.
4. you are to remain within my sight or within earshot at all times.

5. you are to never leave my vicinity without permission. I should never, at any time, find myself wondering where you are.

Formal protocols

1. you will be naked, if we are in a private setting.
2. you will do a kneeling present (if you can) when another Master enters the room.
3. you will do a kneeling present (if you can) when another Master is taking his/her leave.
4. you will speak when spoken to or ask permission to speak should you wish to add to the conversation.

Door protocols

I enjoy this protocol but I've been doing it for myself for decades, so that is the default program. you may remind me by asking if you can open the door for me the next time. Maybe with a few decades of you doing this for me, it will become the new default.

1. I will stand out of the way of the swing of the door. This means, I will step away from the door's hinges. If there's a double door, this will be the indication of the door I choose to use. I will try to be consistent in my choice, but no guarantees.
2. If you attend to the front, you will cross in front of me to get to the door, if needed. If you attend behind, you will cross behind me.
3. If the door opens towards us, I will walk through first. If the door opens away from us, you will go through first, then hold the door.
4. Car doors will be opened for me. If you're female, I will most likely need to be reminded of my own damned protocol. We'll make it a point of humor. *smirk*

Section 20: Rituals

Candles...warm scented water in a garden tub...music...a loving intent...a thick sponge that, when squeezed, send rivulets running down a naked body. I just smile thinking about it, both giving and receiving. Things like this make life worthwhile.

According to dictionary.com, one of the definitions of 'protocol' is: the customs and regulations dealing with diplomatic formality, precedence, and etiquette. For 'ritual', it's: an established or prescribed procedure for a religious or other rite. I read this to mean that it can be the spiritual intent behind the action that makes an action a ritual. What is a protocol for one person, perhaps the Master, might be ritual for another, perhaps the slave. In other words, a protocol doesn't have to have a specific spiritual intent but a ritual most often will.

For example, I require daily presents (an action of kneeling and showing homage, not the giving of a gift). This is part of my protocol and was originally designed as a way to bond with my slaves. I really had no spiritual intent when deciding to include it in my protocol, although one can argue that it does have a spiritual component since it involves centering. It's an action I enjoy receiving and, well, it trips my trigger. It's one of those nice things that I really *can* have every day in reality. However, for the slave, it could very much be a ritual if they see serving me as a part of their spirituality. It's all about the intent.

But, it can get confusing. Another definition listed for 'ritual' is: a prescribed code of behavior regulating social conduct, as that exemplified by the raising of one's hat or the shaking of hands in greeting. That sounds a lot like a protocol, too, but I'd more classify it as an etiquette thing. Again, it's the intent of the person performing the act that defines it for that person. A "Yes Ma'am" to me is protocol; a "Yes Ma'am" to my mother is etiquette. A "Ma'am, Yes Ma'am" to me during a present might be a ritual.

A clear example, in my mind: I have tea listed as a ritual. Now, being handed a mug of tea isn't a ritual. Being *served* tea, however, is. Think of the difference between a cup of hot tea at the all night dinner and a Japanese tea ceremony. Which one is more apt to be a ritual? In the end, it will be up to you to find the difference for yourself.

Introspection Activity: Masters, what is your definition of 'ritual'. Does it differ from 'protocol' or 'etiquette' for you? If it doesn't, you probably don't need this section. If it does, starting thinking and writing. Perhaps you even want your slave to be well versed in your religion's rituals? Consider including them here, or at least references about where to read about them. Perhaps you *do* wish to be worshipped. A ritual section is perfect for that. I know some who have their slaves set up an altar specifically designed for this purpose. This

would be a good place to include the instructions of what to do and how to do it.

slaves, would it bother you if you felt that something your Master saw as a protocol, you felt was a ritual? I'm guessing it wouldn't bother you much, but, what about the reverse? How would you feel if there was something that your Master felt should be a ritual, but, to you, it would never be more than a protocol? What happens in that instance? What's the difference between the two for you? How about etiquette? How does that factor in?

Rituals

I can have a flair for the dramatic. Currently, rituals I know that I enjoy include bathing, dressing and tea.

Bathing:

I enjoy being washed, either in the shower or tub. We may call in the directions, the element, guides and/or totems. The ritual progresses from head to toe, cleansing in the name of Love. I enjoy scented body washes and bath salts/oil. Basically, anything with a floral or citrus sent. I do NOT like baby powder/oil, vanilla or cocoa butter products and scents.

Dressing:

I enjoy having my clothes laid out for me, then assistance when dressing. This is very intimate for me. I also like it when I get home in the evenings and someone is waiting to take the 5lbs of "stuff" I wear on a daily work day.

Tea:

I enjoy hot tea. I drink decaf teas of all sorts. Some I prefer with cream and splenda, some with lemon or lime and splenda, some with just splenda. Hearing it being made for me just brings me joy. We will review how to make these teas in person.

I am open to other suggestions for rituals. If you have something that you have enjoyed doing for someone in the past, speak up.

Section 21: Spirituality

I am at a point in my life where I can no longer easily separate my spirituality from this lifestyle. Being a Master is a spiritual calling for me. SM is a tool I use to facilitate spiritual experiences. Not every scene will be spiritual, but every scene has that potential, if we go into it with that intent. It's the intent that makes it so, usually.

I specify that I want slaves who have an active spiritual life. This is, at least, what I think I want. If I had someone who was an atheist and they fit into the household in every other way, would I still feel that the spirituality was this important? Honestly, I don't know. I had a young submissive in my life who I think that I'd make an exception for, if he asked for a collar. However, it's probably because I saw spirituality in his life and felt his energy even as he denied (and still denies) it. Luckily, this is about what I *think* I want and so, right now, I'm deciding that members of the household should acknowledge something beyond themselves.

In this section, I talked a little about my own personal spirituality, without going into the minute details. You may feel inclined to include much more, especially if your spirituality has a distinct or unique background. I also talked about what I expected from my slaves. I am open to spiritualities that are different than my own and reflected this in the text. You may or may not be open to spiritualities different from your own. Either way is a perfectly valid way of doing things. I also specified what wasn't acceptable in this area. So far, the two religions/practices I've run across that I feel uncomfortable with are Black Magic and Satanism; not for their tenets, per say, but because they are set up in such a way as to not freely give compassion to other people. Instead, they give compassion to those that deserve it. I'm not totally comfortable with that concept for various reasons. These, I deemed, were not acceptable for the household.

Introspection Activity: Masters, have you ever taken the time to clearly define what your religion/spirituality means to you? I'm not talking about defining your spirituality (because some are just not definable by basic tenets of the beliefs system), but defining how it defines you as a person. How does it do that? How does it work into your moral code, if it does? How important is it to you that your slave shares this? Is it necessary for them to have some kind of spirituality at all? How do you see this aspect fitting into your lifestyle and household? Are the rituals you mentioned before, if you did, directly related to the spirituality of the household? If so, how? I'm sure as you go through the exercise, more questions will come to you.

slaves, do your beliefs in spiritual matters play a part in your relationships? If so, how? If not, are you willing to "buy into" your Master's belief system if he or she requests, or even requires, it? Would you be willing,

at any time, to change your belief system in order to please your Master? How important is it to you that you share your Master's belief system? If they differ, what kinds of freedoms do you need in order to practice your religion or spirituality?

Spirituality

you will have, or be open to gaining, some sort of spirituality in your life. This is to be an active part of your life.

Since I have pagan and Native American tendencies, these are naturally more attractive to me. However, I am not closed minded to other religions/spiritualities that have positive intent and teach love, compassion and forgiveness.

I will not accept Spiritualities that I feel have negative intent, such as Black Magic or Satanic practices, as valid spiritualities in my home. If your religion/spirituality is something that I don't know much about, I'm open to listening to your intent.

Section 22: Service

For me, service is a big aspect of this lifestyle. Service extends from both the Master and the slave, only each gives a different kind of service. This section focused on the kinds of service I'd find valuable from a slave. I thought it would be useful to list non-sexual areas of service that I found handy and/or pleasing to have offered. Basically, this is just a list and developing it was simply a matter of listing all the things that need to be done about the house that I don't like to do. I also listed things that I paid to have done that would be nice to have someone do for free. It's pretty cut and dry.

The links to resources in the Appendix will suffer 'link rot', I know. (Link rot is where the link becomes broken after a length of time). Perhaps maintaining a list of decent references would be a service someone could offer? *smiles* I've included the index after the text.

Introspection Activity: Masters, what services would you like your slave to offer? Perhaps you require someone to have business skills? Perhaps you want someone who can do acrylic nails and cook? Think of all the little things that you do that you would really like someone else to do. How about services you pay for? How about stuff that you're kids used to do (like the lawn) that, now they're moving out, you no longer has someone to do? How do you want to divide the services amongst the household, should you have multiple slaves? Is it simply that you hand over a list of chores and they see to it that it gets done or do you want to assign the tasks yourself?

slaves, write a service resume. For this resume, exclude the sexual service. What else remains? What do you have to offer your Master? What skills do you have that make you stand out? Take pride in the things you can do and share them. Don't forget things like the ability to entertain and great yardwork.

Service

Service is the physical act of doing something with the benefit of another person in mind. To me, this can apply to the Master as well as the slave. As a slave serves me, I serve a higher power. By doing this, I am, in turn, serving my household.

The following domestic and personal services are examples of what I value. I've tried to make the list as inclusive as possible, but we both know that it's impossible to list every little thing such as being able to keep up with my keys. you do not have to be proficient

in all of these areas to be acceptable, however, the more you've filled out your resume, the more attractive you are as a slave.

If you feel you have a valuable service to offer me that's not in this list, please bring it to my attention.

In Appendix C, I have listed resources for the following areas:

- **Mechanic.** Simple things that are needed to keep a vehicle in running order are good to know. If you happen to be a master mechanic, that is a highly valuable service to me.
- **Maid service.** This is one of the best domestic services you can offer me. This area includes things like picking up after me, making the beds in the morning and basic household cleaning.
- **Laundry.** If you think doing laundry means gathering up whatever clothes are on the floor and throwing them all in the washer, you have some reading to do.
- **Ironing.** you'd be surprised how many can NOT do this well. However, there's a very humorous book on the market to help you.
- **Leather care.** My leather wardrobe and toy collection are growing. They need maintenance and care.
- **Boot care.** I am a boot person. Even the feminine heels I wear on the rarest of occasions are boots. Boot care and worship is a service that I enjoy very much. My blacking skills are adequate, but I'd welcome someone who can do it as good as or better than me.
- **Cooking.** At least learn my favorite dishes. Lucky for you, I grew up on simple food, most of which can be either made in 30 min or thrown in a crock pot.
- **Pet service.** Keep up with the kitty's food, water and litter boxes. Pet grooming can be beneficial as well. Feeding the fish every couple of days might keep the fish happy, too, or at least alive. Check about what other pets we have in the household, too.
- **Secretary.** If you have a really good memory, I really need someone to remind me who people are. Also, this area includes taking notes about who said they'd do what, keeping a calendar for me and sorting snail mail. Other areas include doing the tiresome chores like thank you notes, invitations, Christmas cards and such that, in "polite society", should be hand written. This is only if I get around to actually gathering a Christmas card list. A birthday card list is much more likely.

- Personal Buyer. Go shopping for me. This can also include errands (picking up dry cleaning, mail, etc).
- Formal Protocol. Learning to serve when I am in a formal setting or among other Masters. Things like offering drinks (hot and cold) and food unobtrusively, holding things, etc. Always watch for the coat/jacket coming off and NEVER let it hit the floor!
- Butler/Major Domo. While a true Butler's primary task is to run the household, including overseeing the staff, simple things you can do right away include answering the door, answering the phone (to screen calls) and welcoming/serving guests.
- Lawn care/gardening. If you like to be outdoors, I like to have the lawn maintained and pretty flowers/trees blooming. The more you can make it look like a manicured golf course, the happier I will be!
- Massage. There's several different kinds of massage, the most popular being clinical, deep tissue and sensual.
- Other alternate therapies. Reflexology, aromatherapy, tea therapy, chi energy therapy and Reiki. you might consider also learning about herbs, vitamins and minerals. If you do, we will discuss the prescription meds that I am on to look at possible interactions.
- Manicures and Pedicures. It would be especially handy if you can learn to do acrylic nails.

Section 23: Sex

This is a big area for many people. After all, most of us are kinky sex perverts! While I did come into kink because I enjoyed sex where I had more control, that aspect was soon eclipsed by the SM and service. At first, there were sexual acts, such as oral servitude, but over time, due to the agreement I had with my second husband, I decided to take sexual activities out of the encounters and relationships. Frankly it was frustrating to not be able to do as I pleased in that arena, so I stepped away from it. Now I'm at a point in my life that it can be a factor. But, because I had the experience of non-sexual SM and relationship dynamics, I know it doesn't have to be a part of an M/s relationship for me. I haven't included a lot of my likes and dislikes as far as fetish sex because, frankly, I'm still exploring them. It's fun finding out, though. *wink*

While I don't expect all my slave to have sex with me (seems kinda dumb to expect that from a gay man, seeing how I'm female), I do expect to have a say in who they do have sex with. Permission can be given for one night or for the duration of a relationship with a specific person.

I also specified that I really didn't want to be in the scenario of having someone in chastity all the time. This is, for me, a pain in the ass; I simply don't want to have to keep up with it and I stated such.

Introspection Activity: Masters, how important is sex to you in the M/s relationship? If you want to, list the specific areas in which you wish your slave to be, or to become, competent. Perhaps you'd like to include a listing of activities you like done to you as well as a list of activities you enjoy doing to someone else. If sex isn't important to you, are you willing to allow it to still be of importance to your slave and have that need met elsewhere? Will you require 24/7 chastity control? Perhaps you want a cuckhold relationship. Will that include having them watch as punishment or reward? Maybe you want to be able to 'whore out' your property as you see fit. If so, what steps will you, or will you not, take to ensure the safety of your property? There are all sorts of questions to ask yourself once your thoughts start racing!

slaves, how important is sexual service to you? What are you willing to do in order to serve your Master in this area? This can also be an area of landmines. Do you know of any psychological areas that might be affected by sexual issues? A lot of people also have sexual limits. What are yours? On the flip side, do you have sexual activities that you simply must have in order to be fulfilled?

Sex

Sex may or may not be an option in our relationship. It is at my discretion and is a privilege, not a right, for you. However, if you are a gay man or a het woman, I won't force you to have sex with me and will allow you to meet those needs outside our M/s relationship.

I do not expect you to "service" the others in the household or my extended family, unless, of course, you are being brought into the family with this as part of your service. It is highly unlikely I will bring you in solely based on sexual service.

Voluntary, ongoing sexual relationships with members of the household are an option. Should you wish to have sex with another member of the household, the situation must be negotiated.

Voluntary, ongoing sexual relationships with members outside the household are an option. Again, the situation must be negotiated.

There will be absolutely no unapproved sex.

There will be absolutely no unprotected sex, unless negotiated. I do NOT give this permission easily or lightly.

I don't desire to place a person in chastity in order to keep them from straying or playing with themselves. If you cannot control this aspect of your life and follow the guidelines posted above, you are not the slave for me. I have, however, enjoyed chastity devices on a limited basis as a means of bondage.

Section 24: Trust

Trust is based on several concepts. When we trust someone, we are saying, “I will do X for you, and I expect, at some future point, you will do Y for me.” It’s related to delayed gratification and it doesn’t work in reverse. If someone does Y for us first, and we turn around and do X for them next, that is not an extension of trust on our part, but it is an example of trust on their part. When we purchase something online, we are trusting that the company will ship us our goods once our credit or debit card has been charged.

Trust is also one of those things that has to be continually tested in order to see if it’s there. We use past behavior to plan on what will happen in the future, hence we trust that the behavior will be the same, be that behavior good or bad in our eyes. If we have seen that our best friend is consistently late for events, we learn to tell them to be there thirty minutes before they’re really wanted. We trust that they will be late. Likewise, if a slave sees that I am consistent in enforcing what I want, they can trust that I will keep doing so.

Because this process, in effect, is attempting to predict the future and that future is based on behavior that can change, there is also a degree of vulnerability involved on the part of the person giving the trust. If my lover has consistently used a condom with his or her other partners, I am trusting that they will continue this behavior, making myself vulnerable to their behavior. I trust that they will not take advantage of that vulnerability.

We continually test trust; it’s inherent in the way the idea works. Sometimes, we do this consciously but most of the time, it’s unconscious. Trust is another one of those things that I know I can’t force to be in place, but that I will probably assume is there, at least on some basic level, if the slave is pursuing a collar. It seems logical to me to assume that the slave trusts me in a significant enough way in order to want a long-term collar to begin with, especially since, in order to get a long-term collar, we’ve been through some preliminary relationship stuff. But, I do realize that trust can be given too early and that trust is easily broken. Even so, if they’ve petitioned for a collar, I’m going to assume that they’ve observed my behavior and have found it acceptable when it comes to their boundary issues. The same works in reverse.

Introspection Activity: Masters, what does trust mean for a slave to you? How does your slave trusting, or not trusting, you affect the relationship? Perhaps you’d like to specify what happens when trust is broken? How do you think the slave might go about repairing it, if they break your trust? At what point, when this happens, is it a deal breaker for you? How do you think you might go about repairing trust if you have broken your slave’s trust? Is trust something that you require to be completely in place for a collar or are you

willing to take a certain base level as a beginning foundation?

slaves, how much are you willing to trust your Master at the beginning? Is giving your trust an all or nothing thing for you? What things have to happen in order to earn your trust? What happens if you break your Master's trust in your? How would you go about repairing it? What happens if your trust is broken? At what point, when this happens, is it a deal breaker for you?

Trust

This is a firm belief in the positive and beneficial nature of another person or thing. Once again, trust must be felt by both the Master and slave. So should each being worthy of it.

When you trust me, you will be able to surrender freely. you will learn to trust me as you watch my actions and behavior. Does my word mean something? Do I follow through? Do I break promises? These things are examples of what can develop trust.

I recognize that I cannot force you to trust me. However, should you accept a collar, I expect you to be willing to learn to trust me.

If the trust is broken, unless it's a deal breaker, you will do your best to work to regain my trust or be found worthy of my trust again.

To wrap up Chapter 4, I'm sure there are other areas that you can think of that would be valid for you to include. Make a list. Go back through, if you need to (Hey, get your money's worth outa this book, k?) and jot down things that come to mind. Then, tackle each item on the list in the same manner in which we did everything that I included. The key is to first brainstorm, then divide and/or eliminate, then describe.

Chapter 5

What Is Offered

So now, if you started reading the book from the beginning (if you didn't, shame on you! *grin*), you've read the areas I feel are important for me to receive from the slave. Hopefully, in doing so, you've drawn together some ideas of what you think you want, too. I believe, however, that there is a lot of value in listing what I have to offer. This is a two-way street, after all, and most Masters I know don't expect a slave to completely surrender blindly. A relationship requires input from two people. A healthy relationship requires input from two healthy, equal adults, even if they are meant to be Master and slave. In my world, this isn't about Superiority and inferiority; it's about the transfer of authority inside the confines of a structure that both have agreed upon.

Masters can think of this section as their relationship resume. What skills do you bring to the table? What things about you make you different and unique? What practices do you have that ensure you'll be the kind of Master that the slaves you wish to attract need? This is once again a fluid section. It is merely a listing of what you *think* you have to offer. It's okay to find out later that you have more, or less, or different things to offer than you thought. Just be as honest as you can and trust that those who are truly meant to be with you will understand if you are mistaken. As for slaves, they can use this section to think about what they need and want to receive from a Master.

To do this section well, you really need to have some degree of self-awareness. There are many ways to develop this: life experience, spiritual practice and education. I can't help much with the first one, but there are some books and events I can highly recommend for the last two. For spiritual experiences that will help reveal who you are, I highly recommend M/s/Leather events which have a spiritual tract. There are many, many events and I cannot list them all. What I can do, however, is list the events that I have attended that have meant the most to *me*, personally.

The events with spiritual tracks that have been significant for me, so far, are: Southwest Leather Conference, South Plains Leatherfest, the Master/slave Conference and Together in Leather (TiL). There are two Academies that have been significant as well. The first is the APEX Academy in the Butchmanns' Tradition (junkies like me simply call it Butchmanns). The second is Master Taino's Master Training Academy (there is an excellent corresponding slave academy). I simply cannot recommend these events and Academies enough.

As far as your education about yourself, begin to read self-help books. By far, one of the most significant books for me has been Caroline Myss' Sacred Contracts. Looking at my archetypes and where they fell within my chart really gave me the chance to study how I worked. It doesn't matter if you believe in Astrology or not (she places archetypes in houses); simply figuring out your motivations in life is extremely helpful. Another book that has been very helpful for me is Sunbear's The Medicine Wheel: Earth Astrology. Again, no real belief in Astrology is needed; what you read can simply be used to make you think about yourself.

Some of, but not all, lifestyle non-fiction books that I found significant in this area were Ties that Bind by Guy Baldwin, slavecraft also by Guy Baldwin, The Master's Manual by Jack Rinella, Becoming a slave, also by Jack Rinella, to Love, to Obey, to Serve by Viola Johnson and Different Loving by William and Gloria Brame. Other non-lifestyle non-fiction books I've found significant throughout the years: The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman, The Tongue, a Creative Force by Charles Chapps, Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus by John Gray, What to Say When You Talk to Yourself by Shad Helmstetter, and (don't laugh) How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie.

I've also found a great deal of significance in fiction books, too. Some of these are: The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams, The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the Way of the Peaceful Warrior (and the rest of the series) by Dan Millman and Lady in the Water by M. Night. Shyamalan. This is not an all-inclusive list, merely the highlights of those books I found to be significant in my own soul searching.

This section about what I feel I have to offer includes: Affection, BDSM Skills, Communication, Devotion, Guidance, Honesty and Integrity, Humor, Intelligence, Loyalty, Leadership, Practicality, Spirituality and Trust.

Section 1: Affection

I like receiving affection. I like giving it, too. Notice that affection is different than love and sex. Our society is often not very touchy-feely. In fact, I've found that what a majority of what 'sensation sluts' really want is simply to be touched. I have a tendency to want to sit in laps of Masters who are my friends. This is a kind of affection to me. It doesn't have anything to do with being submissive or whatever, it's an expression of how I feel safe with them. It seems to confuse people though. *shrug*

I like to touch those that belong to me. Well, I like to touch in general, but I'm fairly clear about the "don't touch without permission" policy that is prevalent in a lot of local communities. So, I'm much less likely to be affectionate with slaves who aren't mine. When I start to feel a certain level of possession, that's when I'm likely to be affectionate.

Introspection Activity: Masters, is affection something that you'd like to offer your slave(s)? It might not be, which is a perfectly valid option. If you do, what does that mean to you? What does it look like? How do you hope it will make the slave feel? How does it make you feel? How free will your slave be to touch you in an affectionate manner? Jot these things down, as well as other related things that come to mind. Then, flesh them out.

slaves, do you need or want your Master to be a source of affection in your life? you may not, especially if you are looking for a strict disciplinarian household or merely a service relationship. But, for many, it's a very important part of a relationship. Think about how much affection you might need from your Master. Also, consider how much affection you need to be allowed to show your Master.

Affection

I am an affectionate person. I enjoy touching those I care about. This usually includes hugs, caresses and sometimes walking arm in arm or holding hands.

I also enjoy receiving touches from my family. you most likely will be given some leeway to touch me without constant permission, but this is a privilege, not a right.

Asking for affection, should you want it, is appropriate. Setting a limit about affection from other family members is appropriate. I will touch you as I please, unless I see it will be harmful.

Section 2: BDSM Skills

It's important for a Top to learn the proper techniques of their BDSM activities. It's also important to state the current level of expertise. One of the first things I learned, like a lot of people, was flogging. The second thing was bondage. If mother only knew what would happen when she taught me to macramé! *chuckle* I'm always looking to hone my skills as well as learn new ones. Areas where I've really only dabbled or areas that I simply don't like, I didn't include. This is mainly a list of things I currently enjoy. It's most certainly a fluid section.

There are many ways to learn new techniques, but most, I think, will agree that hands-on is the best way. Getting out to groups and events and learning by being shown, then practicing, sometimes with guidance, is really the only way, in my opinion, to learn to do most things safely. Plus, it's just fun! But, we should still read books and what not, such as Jay Wiseman's [SM 101](#). These are invaluable references, especially if you need a picture in order to figure out that intricate bondage!

Introspection Activity: Masters, in what areas are you skilled? What areas do you really enjoy? Consider listing areas that you're interested in learning about. Do you want to include sexual items? How about sensual and erotic items? Perhaps you're not into pain at all. You don't have to be in order to be in an M/s relationship anymore than you have to have a Leather fetish. Include what you wish and leave out the rest.

slaves, are bdsm activities important to you? If so, which ones are essential for your well-being? Are you willing to have a Master who is a beginner in what you need? It might be an interesting thing to be with them as they grow.

BDSM Skills

For most of the time, I'm a sadist. Thus, I've worked hard to develop my skills in these activities. This section is rather cut-and-dry with lists of things I can do and what I feel my current experience level doing them. Some things I like better than other. I've left off things that I know how to do but either don't like or don't have an interest.

Branding – Beginner

Breath Play – Beginner

Bondage – decorative Shibari - Advanced

Bondage – restraint – Intermediate

Bondage – suspension - Beginner

Caning – Advanced

CBT – Advanced

Clamps – Intermediate

Cutting – Beginner

Fire – Intermediate

Flogging – Advanced

Knife Play – Intermediate

Mummification – Advanced

Paddles/Percussion – Advanced

Piercing – Intermediate

Rough Body Play – Intermediate

Singletail – Beginner

Wax – Intermediate

Section 3: Communication

We all know that communication is necessary for a relationship. However, we often fall short in this area by not having good communication skills. It's something that a lot of people aren't taught; somewhere along the way, we're supposed to just figure it out. Not many get lessons about conflict resolution, for example. Our outward stimuli can teach us that it's appropriate to simply eliminate, as in kill, the people who bother us. We don't have to be diplomats, but being able to tell someone that you are angry about something without pulling a gun is important in most modern societies.

I try to learn new communication skills all the time. My problem, mostly, is that I'm alone a lot. Thus, writing is a huge communication skill for me. While I definitely see it can be passive-aggressive to write someone a letter rather than talking on the phone, I'm more comfortable doing this in many situations. Mainly because I can read, edit, reread and edit again until I feel I'm saying exactly what I want and need to say, in a way that is non-threatening. However, I want to develop my skills to a higher level and so I'm committing myself to face-to-face communication whenever possible. Will I falter in this? Yes, I already have, but even so, it's a skill I find that I have to offer, even in its infant stages.

There are many resources for developing communication skills. I read books and online things a lot. Others might do better with direct coaching. Look into whatever way appeals to you. Being able to offer this skill is important to a healthy relationship, I think. Work on how you address things that make you sad, hurt and angry. Those are the times when we are most likely to say things in such a way as to make things worse.

Introspection Activity: I have chosen not to list all of the communication points I've learned along the way, like saying, "I feel X when you do Y," rather than, "I hate it when you do Y." But, perhaps you, as a Master, have specific skills, such as negotiation, that you want to include. Perhaps here might be the place you specify what kind of communication, written or verbal, that you prefer. Write down everything you can think of as far as how you would talk to and discuss thing with your slave. Then, filter and elaborate.

slaves, is it important that the Master communicate to you? I would imagine it's at least important on some level so that you can understand what you are and aren't doing correctly. Do you want something more than that or are you happy to simply have that?

Communication

Obviously, I feel that communication is important; I wouldn't have otherwise made this effort.

I offer a degree of transparency; I am open to discussing any matter in your life or mine. Realize, however, that I have the option to tell you that the matter is private. I do this on the rarest of occasions, however, and it's usually when discussing the matter will be breaching my word to someone. There are few things that I have in my head or heart that I won't tell someone, under the right conditions.

It is not my goal to confuse you or to set you up for failure. If you have questions about any order or directive, I am open for questions and clarifications. I want you to succeed and proper communication is a tool that is necessary for this.

Knowing myself as I do, I make a real effort to discuss things in a calm manner. Sometimes, this means that I have to wait until I'm over being angry or upset. Discussing things when I am highly emotional usually leads to situations and decisions I regret. I am constantly exploring myself and my reactions and have learned several things. As examples:

- I realize that I can have a short temper or can be irritable, especially if I am tired or in a manic cycle. Do NOT ask me if I've taken my meds that day if I'm being snippy. This is a trigger for true rage. If you are truly wondering, go check for yourself. If I haven't, bring them to me immediately, but don't throw it in my face.
- When I am in a depressive cycle, I tend to sleep a lot. This is ok; just let me sleep. However, if this behavior lasts more than a day or two, make an effort to keep me social and, if possible, get me out of the house. When I'm depressed, I appreciate someone being in the house with me; the energy of another person who cares is comforting. Check on me and touch me during these times.

These are examples of two states I could be in where it isn't good for me to make life-altering decisions. Sometimes, when you bring me an item that requires a decision, I will take days to mull it over. I am not ignoring the problem; I am making an effort to make the best decisions I can.

I expect you to learn about yourself as well and to strive, as I do, to develop good communications techniques and skills. I am willing to help you do this, or at least point you in the right direction.

Section 4: Devotion

I defined devotion, as it applied to me, earlier but, since you might not be reading this in order (for shame!), I'll repeat some of it here. "Devotion" and "Loyalty" were two of the words to be defined in the Master's Training questionnaire I mentioned at the beginning of the book. The difference between the two words was very subtle to me and I had to actually go and look them up in order to discern the difference in their meaning. Devotion is about performing an act for something or someone in order to fulfill a contract. Loyalty is about a feeling of allegiance. You can be devoted without feeling loyalty and you can feel loyalty with having devotion. The best combination, however, is when they exist together. This is what I want in my M/s relationships.

In addition to being devoted to me as the Master, I expect the slave to be devoted to themselves. This follows along with my idea of the slave's directive of keeping themselves "fit for service". In my world, I don't think any person can function in a healthy manner if they continually suppress and ignore their own needs. Thus, since I want my slaves to be healthy (they simply serve better that way, at the very least), I think they need to be devoted to making their needs known.

As I expect it from a slave, I am committed to being devoted to the slave, as well as to the relationship. To me, this is making a promise that we will try to overcome difficulties before we decide to end the relationship. Unless there's been a serious deal breaker, I am promising to not yank their collar outright.

Introspection Activity: Masters, You've looked at devotion before ('cause I just know that you're reading the *whole* book). You wrote down how you expected it to be shown to you and how it might be of importance to the relationships when you have it from your slave. Now, write about how it pertains to you and how you will, or will not, show it to your slave. What are the things that you are willing to do, or not, in order to assure the slave of your devotion? Does it even have meaning for you to show devotion to your slave? Do you expect it to be a two way street?

slaves, what kind of devotion do you need from your Master, if any. Do you expect them to commit to working through things if you make a mistake? How about if they make a mistake? Do you expect them to remain devoted in that situation?

Devotion

This is the selfless dedication of one person to another person, thing, Introspection Activity or way of life. In order for an M/s relationship to work, the Master and the slave must be devoted to the relationship, each other and their personal integrity. Thus, you can expect to receive it from me.

you can also expect me to be devoted to serving my higher power, the household and the community. I will also be devoted to maintaining myself so that I am worthy of your service. This doesn't mean that I will never get sick or never stumble in my path. What this means is that I won't abuse your body, mind or psyche in such a way as to be detrimental to me, you or the household. Neither will I abuse myself in such a way. We are each responsible for our health and attitudes.

Section 5: Guidance

Offering guidance is a strong pull for me. I mean, I'm writing a book about Manual Creation and help guide you through the process, for pete's sake! Obviously, this is an important facet of my personality. The intent behind this is not to make you do what I want, but to help share with you the development I went through while doing it for myself, in case you would like to share the journey, too.

For my slaves, this does include guiding them to do what I want, but the core intent is still the same; I want to help guide them through lessons they need that I've already been through. Or, if I can't do that, to help them find a way, or perhaps someone, who will help them do it. Some things, we simply must find for ourselves, but in most things, I've found, outside guidance can be very useful, if not critical, in our development as human beings.

Does this mean that I will always guide correctly? Of course not! I say as much. What I offer the slave is that my intent behind my guidance will always have, to the best of my abilities, their best interests in mind. I expect obedience, loyalty, trust and devotion because I need these things in order to provide good guidance.

Introspection Activity: Masters, do you wish to offer Guidance to your slaves? Most Masters I know do, but really ask yourself what that means. Does it mean guidance in all things or guidance in certain things? For example, if a slave wanted me to guide his/her stock markets investing, I'd have to decide if I was going to say no, based on the abilities I have now, or yes, then work to gain the abilities I need to do it or do research about where to tell the slave to go for the proper advice. Perhaps you don't want to specify such things, as I have not, in order to allow more fluidity in the development of your guidance skills. This was my intent.

slaves, how much guidance do you want from your Masters? How closely is guidance related to control for you? Are there certain areas in which you know you don't need guidance? How would you feel if your Master asked for your guidance in something?

Guidance

Being a guide is one of my Archetypes. According to Caroline Myss, a guide:

“...takes the role of Teacher to a spiritual level, teaching not only the beliefs

and practices that make up established religions, but also the overarching principle of seeing the Divine in every aspect of life. Clearly you do not have to be a professional Preacher or Guru to have this archetype, as we can all learn to lead others spiritually through developing our own intuitive spiritual awareness and passing on whatever we have learned with genuine humility. To count this archetype as part of your support group, however, you will need to discern in your life a continuing pattern of devoting yourself to teaching others from your own spiritual insights. This presupposes that you have gained wisdom through some combination of self-disciplined practice and study and perhaps spontaneous spiritual experiences. Wisdom also comes with age, and so the Crone or Wise Woman represents the ripening of natural insight and the acceptance of what is, allowing one to pass that wisdom on to others.”

I recognize that I am not all knowing, nor do I hold all wisdom. Sometimes I have spiritual insight into situations. Does this mean I will always know the answer? Of course not. Does this mean that my answers will always be right? Again, of course not. Does it mean that my guidance is given with your best interest at heart? Absolutely.

Guidance will come from my heart. I strive to give this with love, tempered by understanding and compassion. If I insist that you do something, it's because I am absolutely certain it is to your benefit. I do not want the relationship to be a power struggle; I want you to surrender to what I have to offer. I offer to help set a course for you so that you may grow and learn in a positive manner.

Section 6: Honesty and Integrity

Admitting that I lie, in an effort to be honest, seems really ironic to me. But, we all do. If you say that you don't, you're lying to yourself and thus aren't being honest. Another irony! To me, admitting that I do lie is a matter of integrity. Integrity is about an adherence to a moral code. It can sometimes be a synonym for honesty, but, at the core, it doesn't have to be. If your personal moral code allows you to lie (and every moral code does... 'cause your partner does *not* look fat in those jeans, right?), then you are living in integrity even when you are not being honest. Usually, our moral codes allow those little white lies, but, when things are really important, being honest is usually thought to be the ideal. Where that line of "really important" falls varies from person to person and problems usually arise when one person's idea of where the line falls doesn't match up with where the other person feels it falls. This is where communication is very important.

Integrity is also about making your word mean something. One of the Mayan Four Agreements is: Be impeccable with your word. We find this tenet in many religions and spiritualities, such as "Thou shalt not bear false witness" and "Harm none". With me, I try very hard to follow through with my word and to not make promises I know I can't keep. Most times, I think, I do pretty well with those. Sometimes, I don't.

Living in integrity must mean living in your own personal truth. It doesn't mean that you have to tell everyone who you are or what you're into. It simply means you live in such a way that you're not compromising yourself in a negative way. It means being in a state of wholeness (another definition). Don't hack away or hide pieces of 'you' just in order to make someone else approve of you too. If you do, pretty soon, there will be no 'you' left. Stand up for what you believe. Be loyal to yourself, as much as possible. We all know that there are times when we cannot do this as we think it should be done. Family and societal constraints make it difficult to be honest about who we are. In these cases, you have to discern what is and isn't an acceptable course of action. Of course, I encourage you to choose the one where you don't deny yourself or your partners. But, should you feel that you must choose the other, have compassion for yourself. Remember, though, your partners have the right to react to your decisions. You may well push them to a point where they feel betrayed. Choose carefully.

Introspection Activity: Masters, how honest are you? Be honest! How far from the ideal do you fall? How close to the ideal are you willing to promise to be? Will you tell your loved ones, "Yes, those jeans make you look fat" in an effort to be brutally honest? What happens if and when you fail to meet your ideal? What is honesty to you anyway? Does it tie into integrity and loyalty for you as it does for me? This can be as cut and dry as you want...or as convoluted.

slaves, do you need a Master who will always tell you if the jeans make you look fat? Or are you willing to say that the “really important” line falls somewhere else. Where is that? Under what conditions would you be harmed if your Master wasn’t honest?

Honesty and Integrity

When I give my word, it is my bond. I will do as I say. If I can’t, I will explain that I can’t and apologize. This is simply how I treat everyone. Members of my household are not an exception to this; rather, you are given the highest level of honor.

I strive to never lie. I must admit, in a true effort to be honest, that I do lie (an oxymoron!). I have noticed that I do this two major instances, other than when asked, “Does this dress make me look fat?”:

- In order to protect. Unless I see that the results/consequences will truly harm you, I will not lie for you. Even though I might do it, don’t ever ask me to; if I do, I will do so of my own free will.
- As a knee-jerk reaction to keep myself out of trouble, if there’s a way I can fix it to everyone’s satisfaction without harm. I hate this in myself (I hate hypocrisy) and I am working on it. I now know where it comes from (fear of punishment). Knowing this, I can work on it.

Integrity speaks about the quality of a person’s character and their “steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code”, according to the dictionary. I have as of yet, to write out my moral code; it’s not an easy thing if you try. But, the basic premise is to never intentionally harm anyone.

Integrity also means being aware of others needs and placing them above your own lesser desires. I strive to create that kind of integrity in my life and relationships. This means that I am willing to give up my lesser desires in order to promote the good of my family. your needs and the family’s needs are as important as my needs.

Integrity also speaks about standing for something. To me, this means being loyal. Given that a level of trust has been established, I will be loyal to you and defend you. If I find that loyalty is misplaced, however, it will severely impact the relationship.

Section 7: Humor

What's life without a sense of humor? Life without laughter is, well, not life. Believe it or not, this is supposed to be *fun*! I've always had a good sense of humor, and I've always had a sense of child-like wonder, too, but it's taken me a while to give myself permission to have fun. I've always been the super-responsible one. I recognize now that's a result of growing up in an alcoholic family. It's not a devastating thing, simply a fact. So, now I can indulge in being silly sometimes and it's a wonderful thing.

I love to hear jokes and watch funny movies. I'm much more apt to like clever and witty comedy rather than slap-stick, though. I like to tell jokes, too, when I can remember them. I seem to be one of those people who most often draws a blank if someone says, "Tell us a joke." I have tons of them around and believe me, two days later, I'll run across the perfect one that I should have told you!

Maybe you don't tell jokes well or feel that you can make people laugh. Maybe you know you do that really well. Including a section like this, as always, is completely dependent on you and your personal skills. I like to write:

And let it be known that I am the Great Dryer God!

My favored ones, in accordance with My covenant:

1. In taking Tribute of a single sock, I create for you, My True Follower, a Holy Pair of Socks. You are instructed to keep the Holy Sock I chose to leave behind so that we may always be connected.
2. You shall not hang your socks to dry and will forever more dry your socks in My Machine, for this act of rebellion against Me will only bring you harm. You would be denying Me My chance to show favor by claiming Tribute and thus you shall be deemed Evil Beyond Belief.
3. You shall not attach your socks together with Sharp, Closable Implements of Evil or Stretchy, Elastic Bands of Wickedness in an effort to direct My Tribute choice to another pair of socks you deem less important. I am The Great Dryer God and I will have the Tribute of My choosing!
4. You shall not dry your Holy Sock alone in My Machine in hopes that I will also choose to claim that Sock, thereby relieving you of your duty to keep the Holy Sock. This is truly a desecration of the Rite of Holy Socks and My wrath will ensue!
5. Nor shall you place a Holy Dryer Gift of Monetary Value in the toe of your

Holy Sock, with the intent of luring My favor.

6. Nor shall you place a Holy Dryer Gift of Monetary Value in the toe of an inferior sock, with the intent of luring My favor.

7. You are instructed, to, on symbolic occasions, wear two Holy Socks with which I have blessed you. These Holy Socks shall not match in any way. By doing thus, you show your devotion to Me.

8. You shall not desecrate My Machine by leaving lint in the filter or ignoring its buzzer. My Machine was created to conduct the Rite of Holy Socks and thereby create Holy Socks. You will respect it at all times.

9. Finally, should you, True Follower, keep your covenant with Me, The Great Dryer God, you will find that I will, on occasion, provide you a Holy Dryer Gift of Monetary Value. Save these Holy Gifts in an interest bearing account, and soon, you shall be wealthy!

I, The Great Dryer God, have spoken and so it shall be!

Introspection Activity: Masters, do you have a extroverted or introverted sense of humor? Extroverted humor, to me, is being active in making people laugh... you're the one telling jokes, etc. An introverted sense of humor is one where you thoroughly enjoy hearing jokes and such. Most of us have both. Is your sense of humor developed in such a way that you'd offer it as a skill? What kind of role do you want it to play in the relationship? I can see how a brat or a smart-ass cut up could be highly entertaining. Maybe you're even a professional comedian, or should be!

slaves, do you need a Master who can tell a joke at the drop of a hat? Perhaps you'd be happier with someone who would laugh at *your* jokes. What role does humor play in your life? How do you see it being incorporated into an M/s relationship? _____

Humor

So, a dog, a cat and a horse go into a bar...

I know this document has been fairly serious. I'm a technical writer and a scientist, so that shows. But, I enjoy laughter and can sometimes have a quick wit.

Laughter absolutely has a place in the household. The more we laugh together, the closer we feel. I tell jokes, do stupid things and love to be silly (the pink femouflage being a great example). I can gently jab at someone and can take jabs in return.

Sometimes, things just delight me in a truly child-like fashion. I will clap my hands and stomp my feet in joy! I have the magical child archetype. you should see me make Christmas Eve Mice! Excerpts from Myss:

“The Magical Child represents the part of us that is both enchanted and enchanting to others. It sees the potential for sacred beauty in all things...One might assume from the name that this archetype refers to only the delightful qualities of children, but...it also embodies qualities of wisdom and courage in the face of difficult circumstances...the Magical Child is something of a genius [and is] gifted with the power of imagination and the belief that everything is possible.”

I offer humor and the appreciation of humor in our relationship and a freedom for you to express yourself in a positive manner. Make me laugh and I will make you laugh. It's a decent exchange.

Section 8: Intelligence

I've always been smart. I've observed that it actually runs in the genes of my family. Now, to me, intelligence doesn't equal education; many people in my family are highly intelligent with High School diplomas and GEDs. Education is, in my opinion, simply a display of opportunity. My parents worked hard to help make that opportunity available for me; I'm the first on both sides of my family to have a Master's degree. Intelligence, on the other hand, is related to the capacity for learning, reasoning and understanding.

I know a little bit about a lot of things (or, at least I think I do!). I've caught myself being Cliff Claven at times. This is why some people think I'm a know-it-all. They're wrong, I tell ya! I really *am* a know-it-all! *sarcastic grin* Being smart, and being aware that you're smart, can be both good and bad. It's good because, well, it can lead to very interesting conversations and learning experiences. It's bad when you struggle with figuring out where that social boundary lies between being clever and "loosing your audience", so to speak. It's the classic geeky thing of being socially inept. I can get to analyzing that aspect so much that I make myself uncomfortable and I clam up when I'm going out. That frustrates me because usually, I'm an extroverted person. So, yes, I'm proud that I'm intelligent, but I'm also self-conscious about it. Go figure.

I had a collared submissive for about a year and a half who had a MENSA IQ. He could do long division and complex multiplication in his head! We had scenes where I mummified him and then ask him math and logic riddles. I picked ones that I needed a pencil, paper and perhaps a calculator to do. You know, the logic problems like: Harry had a green car and sat next to the person with the yellow hat, so who owned the cat? He'd do them in his head. It was highly entertaining. Plus, he could spell. I so cannot spell. In fact, one of his jobs was to correct my spelling if I asked while we were instant messaging so that I could, hopefully, learn to see the correct spelling better. I'm dyslexic so on some days words "look" right and some days they don't. The letters 'b', 'd', 'p' and 'q' can often all look alike to me (especially in a font face like Arial!). Because of this dyslexia (I think), I struggle with basic arithmetic, too. But, I figure if Einstein couldn't do fractions, I don't see why I have to know how to add, right? Right? It's a pain in the ass, but it happens. I still manage to do Physics.

Introspection Activity: Masters, is intelligence something you feel you have to offer? It's okay if you think that you don't. It doesn't mean you're stupid, by any means. It simply means that you don't acknowledge your intelligence as being something you feel is important enough to list. But, if you do have it and do feel it's important, how do you see it contributing to the relationship? Is it tempered with things like being a terrible speller, like me? (I used to play Scrabble with the submissive mentioned above. I got to use the dictionary...

Master's prerogative!).

slaves, how important is intelligence to you? Do you need to feel that your Master is more intelligent than you? Do you need to have a Master with whom you can discuss your particular intellectual interests? Perhaps you simply need someone who is open to learning. How would the lack of intelligence affect your perception of the Master and the relationship?

Intelligence

I know a little about a lot of things and can hold a decent conversation about anything. I love to teach and share. I love to be a student and learn. This is where my alchemist comes to life.

“The Alchemist is associated with vain attempts to turn base metals into gold, but in its highest manifestation it seeks complete spiritual transformation. You may identify with this archetype if you are interested in a path of spiritual development that is aligned to the mystery schools or study of the laws of the universe. From this perspective, Nostradamus and Isaac Newton could both be classified as Alchemists...For the Alchemist or Wizard to be one of your circle of twelve, it needs to be associated with your physical life in some significant way. Perhaps your work or living situation demands that you be especially inventive...on a regular basis.” – Caroline Myss

I have a few degrees and am considering pursuing more. A series of degrees behind a name, while possibly impressive, really isn't a true indication of intelligence. It is an indication of opportunity, mostly. Don't count yourself out of the running if you don't have abbreviations to put behind your name. Intelligence is about the ability to put several ideas together to create something new, rather like a puzzle. A lot of people who are highly intelligent don't have college degrees. Einstein failed English (not his native language) and struggled with fractions.

I am capable of pursuing topics and solutions in a logical manner. However, I apply intuition as well. Thus, I am adaptable. I can apply both my intelligence and intuition to every day situations. I offer this ability to you as a facet of our relationship.

Section 9: Loyalty

While loyalty is wrapped up in integrity for me, I felt it was important enough to list separately, too. I am sometimes loyal to a fault; it can take a lot to break a relationship with me. Like most people, I wait until there's a serious deal breaker that becomes 'the last straw'. I actually see this as a positive skill; it allows for ample opportunity to work on the relationship and smoothing things out.

Loyalty also means that I protect. I can get pretty possessive and am much better at standing up and defending someone else than I am myself (Yeah, I'm looking at that.). So, I feel that my loyalty is important to the slave.

Loyalty, to me, also speaks about loyalty to truth. I know some in the lifestyle who will always believe the word of a Master over the word of a slave. I personally find that to be an unhealthy philosophy to live by; it implies that Masters never lie and slaves always do. That's not fair, in my world. Of course, it's a valid philosophy to live by, but not one I agree with. So, if I feel that my slave is right and another Master is wrong, I'm going to be loyal to the truth and to the slave. Should I find, however, that my loyalty has been abused...well, that would be a real challenge of my compassionate side. I'm still human and I still have the tendency to lash out when I'm hurt. There might be hell to pay.

Introspection Activity: Masters, how loyal are you? How long will you stick with someone to whom you have made a commitment? What do you do that shows you are loyal? What happens if your loyalty is betrayed? Under what conditions would you feel that you were betrayed? What happens then?

slaves, how much loyalty do you need from your Master? Perhaps you don't need much, especially if you are of the mindset that the Master is always right. If you do need it, though, what does it mean to you? What would your Master's loyalty look like in day to day situations?

Loyalty

Loyalty is the feeling of allegiance to someone or something. This can be closely related to devotion. Both the Master and the slave must be loyal to the tenets of the relationship, each other and their personal integrity.

This means that we protect one another, in a lot of ways. Even if you are wrong and have screwed up, unless it's a deal breaker, I will remain loyal to the collar I have offered.

This is where the aspect of discipline comes into play. I discipline you for offenses because I am loyal to the relationship and to you. I discipline you for infractions because I care.

I will remain loyal to the relationship, unless the situation becomes a deal breaker. Unless you have committed an act that makes the relationship beyond repair, I will not take your collar from you. I do not believe in using that act as discipline. I will only take it if I have been hurt, or another in the family has been hurt, in an irreparable fashion.

Section 10: Leadership

I think most will agree that leadership and coercion are two different things. What makes the kind of leadership I have to offer work is that the slave follows freely. I don't want to have to threaten or bully all the time. For me, it's related to obedience; if I have to constantly push the slave to do what I think they should do, I will end up frustrated, hurt and disappointed by their lack of submission and surrender. That combination creates a headspace in me that undermines my ability to lead effectively. I will falter, and, when I do that too much, it will end up being a deal breaker because I no longer see or feel the slave's obedience. So, while I feel I have this skill to offer, it comes with a caveat.

I also make a very clear distinction between someone who is collared to me and someone who is not. I simply will not push, unless I'm strongly led to spiritually, someone who is not collared to me. Normally, in order for me to lead, I must feel that I have the authority to do so. A collar, a contract or at least some evidence that they are willing to allow me to lead gives me a sense of that authority. Otherwise, the things I say are merely advice.

Having a slave follow me freely is very important. I once had a slave who was in a Preliminary collar for a three month period. they asked to be released after a month, but we agreed to continue to see if we were a fit. they said they wanted out because they didn't feel owned. I suggested they didn't feel owned because they had yet to surrender; it's a two-way street. I allowed them to break their word, to my detriment. I found that I felt they had a lack of loyalty to me and the relationship and I really struggled with that. It made me a much less effective leader and shook my confidence. I struggled with that, too. But, in the end, it was a good thing. I learned a lot from having them in my life and we continue to be friends.

Introspection Activity: Masters, are you a leader? Do you find that, when in a group, you end up being in charge, simply because no one else will or because people expect you to (natural verses forced leader, perhaps)? Do you even want to be a leader? If so, what does that mean to you? Perhaps you want to lead a slave on a leash (a physical leader) or perhaps you want to direct the decisions in their lives (a mental/spiritual leader), or perhaps both? Maybe there's area of leadership that you want to transfer over to a head slave in the household. How would that work? The scenarios are endless!

slaves, are you a leader? If so, are you looking for a Master who is also a leader or do you want to lead as a service? If you're not, do you want someone who is as your Master? What would that leadership look like? Define what leadership is in your mind. How do you see that leadership being implemented

in your relationship?

Leadership

“Being his slave altered the friendship part..... whereas once he would listen, advise and suggestnow he has authority to listen, direct and insist.” – agirl, collame.com

I desire to lead those in my care as well as have them working to lead others. Leadership can mean acting as a guide as well as acting as a commander. In being a leader, I feel a responsibility towards those I command to care for them and to protect them as I guide. In essence, I am responsible for your well-being. This manifests as being a protector which is related to the Warrior for me.

“The Warrior archetype is just as connected to the female psyche as to the male. Women have long been defenders of their families, and the Amazon tribe of Warrior Women has become legendary because of their ability to engage in fierce battle--even sacrificing part of their female physique to facilitate warfare. Loyalty to the family and tribe is among the Amazon’s notable characteristics, along with nurturing their young and transmitting lessons of power and self-defense. In today’s society, the Warrior Woman has emerged in its glory once again through women who liberate and protect others, especially women and children who need vocal and financial representation...[We are] direct[ed] to use the classic Warrior virtues of heroism, stoicism, and self-sacrifice for conquering the ego [to] gain control of our inner lives.” – Caroline Myss

I can lead you if you are willing to follow and follow freely. Sometimes, I will wish that I could grab you and make you follow me down a path. In reality, I know that I cannot do that. It is up to you to follow, freely. Any other arrangement is detrimental to your development and mine. If I feel that my leadership is turning into coercion, I will become unhappy, hurt and disappointed. This will lead me to feel that you are no longer in obedience. That is a deal breaker and could end the collar.

Section 11: Practicality

I am, in a lot of ways, a very practical person. I don't live, I don't think, in a fantasy world. Sometimes, though, my practicality gets the best of me; I'll let it override what I want. In a lot of ways, that's bad because I sometimes struggle with enforcing what I want (They are *so* going to take away my Master's card for admitting this!). There's lots of social programming to overcome in that area for me. But, struggling is ok; it's one of the ways we learn, as humans. If I find that I've neglected to enforce an area, I backtrack, if possible.

Even so, there are things that just make sense to me. Holding the door for someone, no matter who they are, when they have a double armload is simply polite in my world. Yes, I know I don't have to do it, in fact, it's in my protocol that I want the door held for *me*, but it makes my day run smoother if I don't have to wait while the slave drops the armload, opens the door for me, picks everything back up, maneuvers through the door themselves all the while I'm standing waiting for them to catch up, wasting time. I understand how some would really get a rush from watching someone go through all this just to serve them ('cause I've been known to get off on that), but I hate waiting more than I like the struggle. So, I hold the door for the slave on occasion.

As you can probably surmise, practicality is an area where I waffle around with what I want. I debated about including this aspect of myself at all. Is a Master supposed to be practical? Isn't it about what I want all the time? Doesn't it sound stupid not to know? I see that my struggle is all about how I am projecting what others feel onto me. In the end, I decided to include it because I do see it as a skill, or perhaps attribute is a better word, I possess.

Introspection Activity: Masters, how do you feel about practicality? Does it make sense to hold the door for a slave who has their arms full? Or, does it please you more to see them struggle with it? Perhaps being practical has a whole different meaning to you. What does it mean? How would it affect your relationship? Is it even a factor? You might not have this skill or want to list this skill. Look at it and then decide.

slaves, do you want a Master who will be practical and hold the door? If not, why not? If so, why? Define the scenarios that come into your mind into something concrete.

Practicality

Now, who doesn't just love the whole world created by The Marketplace? I know that I do! However, I recognize that we live in the real world. For example, I really, really like the protocol of having the slave naked at all times. But, it's not always practical (believe it or not, slaves get cold). If you have your hands full of luggage, expect me to hold the door. If I'm the one who gets home before others, it's quite possible that I will start dinner. These things just make sense to me. I will endeavor to not let them get in your way. *wink* 'Nuf said.

Section 12: Spirituality

I used to wonder if studying science would make me less spiritual. I found that it didn't. In fact, I found that it enhanced my beliefs. Modern Physics and Quantum Mechanics have some interesting implications in this area. Wave/Particle Duality and effects of experiment observation, in particular, hint at some remarkable effects. When I began to feel that Mastery was a calling, I again worried about if my spirituality would change for what I would consider the negative. I should have known better; change is inevitable and the Universe gives us choices that make us stronger. I have grown in ways that have been amazing to me.

I do feel that I have a degree of awareness to offer a slave. Even if this simply means that I accept and respect their beliefs without offering a collar. Being open to development through lessons as well as being aware of them is crucial for spiritual growth. If I intend to include spiritual leadership in my household, I must be open to the development of the slave as well as myself. I try to take learning in stages, and, usually, the Universe is kind enough to oblige. I ask for lessons, and when I'm "full", I ask to sit with them and implement them as I can. Sometimes, this means telling, either consciously or unconsciously, the Universe to reschedule the next lesson or few lessons. It's okay to do that; the Universe is more than happy to reschedule "our stuff" for us and have it all come around, in two-by-four-up-side-the-head form, once again. Nice of it, isn't it?

Some seem to think that this means I intend to be the God or Goddess of the household. I do not. While I understand that we all have a piece of the Divine in us, worshipping *me*, specifically, because of this is doing me and the slave a disservice. However, worshipping the *Divine*, in me, in the slave and in all things, *through* me is acceptable and proper. This can be done in many ways, but offering service in answer to the slave's 'heart of slave' is probably the one I like to see most.

Living up to the Priestess archetype is a challenge. Fortunately, I don't hold to the notion of having to deny myself things that make me truly happy, like sex, in order to do it. Go me! I respect those who choose this path, however, but, in all honesty, I'm glad I don't feel drawn to do that at the moment. However, there are things that need to be tempered and some things should be avoided. Indulging the ego in a manner that is harmful to others is an example of a thing to be avoided. In the end, my goal is to use my spiritual connect to help guide me, and thus my slave. I have to trust that the Universe is always correct, even if it means pushing me to be incorrect. We are perfect but often simply act as if we are not and the Universe often uses this to its advantage.

I'm also happy that, as a Priestess, I'm not called to behave as if I'm perfect. I acknowledge that I *am* perfect *inside*, as are we all. We simply struggle to *behave* in this

manner on a consistent basis. I know that I can't at all times and that's ok. Neither can anyone else! Life is about gaining wisdom. Wisdom is knowledge that's moved to your heart. And, the only way it can move from your head to your heart is by experiencing it. This is sometimes a painful, but sometimes a joyous, process. Thus, we simply can't reflect our perfection all the time or we wouldn't learn a damned thing. Well, at least in my thoughts. We all have ideas that make the world work in our head.

There are two appendices that I created for this section. One has excerpts I found to be significant for me. The other includes a list of online links to spirituality items I've found important in my personal development as a Master.

Introspection Activity: Spirituality that involves SM and service is an idea that has been around for a long time. While it can seem totally new to us, it's not new to the world. Does spirituality play a part in your relationship? Do you want it to? What does it mean, for you, to be spiritual? Is it free flowing and indescribable, as in Taoism, or is it more tangible and ripe with ritual as in Christianity? How does being, or not being, spiritual help you be a better Master? What is it about this aspect in your life that makes you unique?

slaves, in what ways do you want your Master to interact, or not, in your spiritual life? Do you need to serve someone of the same faith? Do you need spirituality at all?

Spirituality

I am spiritually awake and seek to become more and more aware as my life unfolds. I will encourage you on your journey. I attempt to practice patience, compassion and love, both for myself and others. As I have said, my spirituality is an eclectic mix of Pagan, Native American and Eastern with a Christian background. And yes, I really do speak in tongues when moved.

Again, I feel that being a Master is a spiritual calling. I don't feel that the Master should be worshipped as a deity. However, I do believe that both the Master and the slave should show the reverence they feel toward the tenets of the relationship, each other and their personal integrity.

Being a servant Master, I follow a higher power as you follow me. This does not mean that I am your God or Goddess. I am not. I can, however, be your Priestess.

“The ritual that establishes the unique role of the Priestess is ordination, the official capacity to facilitate the making of spiritual vows--commitments made

to divine authority. Ordination or similar rituals of initiation allow the Priestess...to serve as a vehicle or spiritual channel of energy for others. Ordination also empowers the Priestess to convey to the public the power of sacred teachings, rituals, wisdom, morality, and ethics of each spiritual tradition. Because of these profound spiritual responsibilities, the ordained are expected to represent the teachings through personal example.” – Caroline Myss

There are many who have had a profound effect on this aspect of my life. Appendix D includes writings and teachings from these people. you will find “The Qualities of a Realized Master” by Master Skip Chasey, “Heart of Master” and “Heart of slave” by Master Steve Sampson, an excerpt from Margery Williams’ **The Velveteen Rabbit** (Master Steve is fond of reading this), Oriah Mountain Dancer’s “The Invitation”, the Bene Gesserit “Litany Against Fear” from Frank Herbert’s **Dune**, “A Return to Love” by Marianne Williamson (which is often misquoted to be from Nelson Mandela) and an internet article entitled “Transform Fear to Love.” It’s not an all inclusive list; these are things have had a deep impact in my life.

In Appendix E, you will find M/s Spirituality links and information that I have found valuable.

Section 13: *Trust*

Trust isn’t so much a skill as a state of mind, as we’ve discussed before. Still, I felt it important to include this section in the manual even though it’s not technically a skill. I’m not, in my nature, a suspicious person, sometimes to my detriment. But, I just simply don’t want to live constantly on guard. I bring that side out when I feel I need it, but, most often, I don’t. Someone once said to me that they felt trust was only an outward display; we never really trust, *ever*; we only act as if we do. I’m not so sure I agree with that, but I understand that this was coming from a naturally suspicious person. I agree that it’s an outward display, for our actions show that we do or do not trust, but an outward display *only*? No. At some point, I think we really do trust; we simply feel it inside and we assume that our partner(s) will display actions that are honorable and that their word will mean something. While we can’t demand the trust of a person, we can earn it. And so it is with slaves; I have trust to give if they can earn it.

In reality, it’s a pretty clear issue to me and what I said earlier in the pervious chapter about trust still applies. If I’ve accepted a petition for a collar, the slave can probably assume that I have chosen to extend trust on my part, at least on some basic level. But again, I do realize that trust can be given too early and that trust is easily broken. We’ve all gotten into a relationship too early and we’ve all felt betrayed at one point or another in our lives.

As I've said, trust is one of those things, that has to be continually tested in order to see if it's still there. We usually don't devise ways of testing trust consciously, or at least I don't. I do, however, make a conscious decision to trust or not, at times. If I don't feel comfortable, I'm less reluctant to give it. I understand that others do this too. I am willing to be tested and, in some ways judged worthy, of a slave's trust.

Introspection Activity: Masters, what does trust mean to you? In what ways do you know that you're trustworthy? In what ways do you know that you're not (Now's the time to 'fess up to being chronically late!)? Perhaps you'd like to specify what happens when the slave's trust is broken? How do you think you might go about repairing it, if that happened? Is this something that you require to be solidly in place for a collar or are you willing to offer a certain base level as a beginning foundation?

slaves, think about the ways in which a Master might work to regain your trust, if it was broken. Under what circumstances would it be irreparable? These circumstances might lead you to think of some deal breakers, in which case, you can start reading the book again. *chuckle*

Trust

As stated before, this is a firm belief in the positive and beneficial nature of another person or thing. Once again, trust must be felt by both the Master and slave. So should each being worthy of it.

When I trust you, I will be able to fulfill my role as Master in your life. I will learn to trust you as I watch your actions and behavior. Are you honest, loyal and obedient? Does your word mean something? Am I reassured that you will not disappear? These things are examples of how my trust is developed.

you cannot force me to trust you. However, should you accept a collar, you can expect me to be willing to take that initial risk that we must all take. Realize that trust is a principle that is constantly assessed in my world and that we will stumble from time to time.

If the trust is broken, unless it's a deal breaker, I will do my best to work to regain your trust or be found worthy of your trust again.

Chapter 5 has been all about what you feel you have to offer as a Master or, if you're a slave reading this, food for thought about the qualities you want and/or need in a Master. As a Master, the inclination to include this section may or may not exist, but I

highly urge you to do so. slaves have this way of looking for these things, especially now that someone has told them to look! *chuckle* Putting your M/s resume out there could make it easier for them. Not only that, it could make it easier for you; you won't attract so many that aren't close matches. Granted, you'll still get inquiries from people who simply do not read a profile or listen to what you have to say, but I've found that, by being very specific about what I think I want, it's become a very effective weeding tool. It's dramatically cut down on the number of responses I've received, so if volume is what you're after, don't present the manual right up front. For me, quality is much more important than quantity. But, that's just me; having quantity can be fun, especially if your kink is weeding through potentials.

As always, be as honest as you can be. Doing this part of the manual well takes some effort on your part to be self-aware. Do the best you can. Over time, you may find that you're better at some things that you thought. You also may find that you need to develop more skills in an area where you thought you were talented. Don't be too hard on yourself if you do. Simply go and learn.

Chapter 6

Closing Statements

In this section, I recognized the person who was most influence in my decision to create the manual. I saw Master Jack McGeorge's presentation about his household, the Order of Discipline and Service, several times and the whole idea of a manual just really did it for me, and still does (Good thing, huh?). I also thanked the members of my extended Leather family. Lucky for me, this extended family includes my "gurus", but since I didn't want to name drop nor did I want to miss anyone, I said thank you to them as a whole. I also thanked my mom, who was instrumental in creating 'me'...sometimes through a pop on the butt with a hairbrush. Corporal punishment didn't turn me into a serial killer. *grin*

I also decided to speak to those reading the manual, in general. It's sometimes hard to edit your own writing; we often see and read what we expect to be there, so I asked for editing comments as well as comments in general. I also directed potentials to the application process, if they still felt called. What I contemplate adding, from time to time, is some question of the potentials for the household that would indicate that they actually read the whole thing. *chuckle* Maybe I'll go back and do that.

Introspection Activity: Masters, how would you like to close your manual? Do you wish to give thanks and show gratitude? If so, who has been the most important to you? Do you list them by name? Hell, do you feel like you need a closing at all? Some may be interested in more of a summary here. Others may wish to do what I laughingly suggested and test the potentials by slipping in a few questions where the answers are totally not related to the manual (like what is your favorite popsicle flavor?). One more time: it's all about what you want...err...what you *think* you want.

Closing Statements

This is where I give honor to Master Jack McGeorge. Jack, I've drooled over your Order of Discipline and Service manual for years. So, I have finally followed suit. Thank you for the guidance, encouragement and leadership.

For friends, both Master and slave, I have shared this documentation with: I am open to

editing issues, questions and comments.

For interested slaves that I have shared this documentation with: It is now time to make a decision. Are you called to serve me? If you read all this information and it spoke to you, the answer is most likely yes. I refer you to the Application Process. If not, this is not a bad thing as you now better understand what you don't want. I wish you the very best in your journey. I am open to editing issues, questions and comments, no matter what you decide.

For those in my extended Leather/M/s family, I thank you. I will not list you by name for fear of leaving someone out. I am humbly grateful to the Universe for each and every one of you. It is through you that my vision continues to develop. You teach me and for that, I am truly honored and blessed.

And, finally, thanks to my Mom (isn't that quaint?). Mom, we had our struggles when I was a teenager (Hell, I was a *teenager*), but we know each other so much better now. I thank you for teaching me the business end of a screwdriver and how to be independent. I don't think you realize, but I pass on your various points of wisdom that you gave me growing up to other people. I honor your acceptance of me and only wish that others could have a mother who was so accepting. I love you.

Master Fire

Chapter 7

Your Manual

Masters, you're well on your way to defining what you think you want in an M/s relationship. Go back and look at the areas you decided to include in your manual and the notes you made. There may also be areas that you wish to include that we didn't discuss. List those areas if you haven't already and then examine them. Go through the same kind of process to flesh them out.

Put your manual in order physically when you feel it's ready. Perhaps you want to pair up what you expect with what you have to offer instead of separating them as I did. It's all up to you. Maybe you want to put it in a notebook or some other binding (paperclips and staples work just fine). I encourage you to share it with potentials. Hell, post it on the internet! Remember, one final time, that this is a fluid document. It's okay to go back and change stuff. Plan to review your document from time to time and update it. I've changed items as I've written the book, I assure you.

slaves, I hope you now have a much better idea of what you're looking for in a household and/or Master. If you've followed the introspection activities, I suggest making your discoveries a series of journal entries that you can later share with a potential partner. Also, you'll have areas that we didn't discuss that you will want to include. Use the same process and techniques used before to flesh out these areas.

I wish everyone who has read this a happy journey. I sincerely hope that everyone finds the joy and contentment they long for in life and relationships. *Graceful bow*

Master Fire

(Damn, I forgot the guidelines about chocolate. *mutters*)

Chapter 8

The House of Fire Master Fire's Household Manual

“As you go the way of life, you will see a great chasm.

Jump.

It's not as wide as you think.”

- Joseph Campbell -

Contract

Once a collar is accepted and received, this document becomes our binding contract. We will review each and every page, initializing and dating each.

Changes to this manual must be approved by both the slave and Master Fire.

The new page will be printed, reviewed, initialed and added, superseding the page it replaces. The superseded page will remain and be marked as superseded (SS).

This document is being used as a Preliminary Contract, between Master Fire and
spanning dates:

From: _____ To _____

This document is being used as a Provisional Contract, between Master Fire and
spanning dates:

From: _____ To _____

This document is being used as a Full Contract, between Master Fire and

Beginning Date: _____

This document is being used as a Lifetime Contract, between Master Fire and

Beginning Date: _____

Master Fire’s Biography

I am a female-identified, female-bodied Master. I began my public involvement in the leather community in 2001 when I attended my first MAsT meeting. I am the co-founder of Female Artists of Domination (FAD), a North Carolina based group formed in the summer of 2002 to support Female Dominants and those that serve. I am also the current Director of MAsT:Triad, NC. I attend events in the local community where I belong to several organizations. I also present to groups as invited.

M/s events that have altered my life: The very first TiL (2003), Southwest Leather Conference 2005 (which was actually held in Dec. 2004) and the pansexual APEX Academy in the Butchmanns Tradition in Jan. 2005 (more commonly known as Butchmanns). I try to attend the national M/s onferences, as many Butchmanns as I can afford and am an alumni of Master Taino’s Eighth Master’s Training.

From an early age, I can recall being a dominant person...or perhaps a more domineering person, depending on who you ask. Once, as a young girl in Girl Scouts, we did a puppet show with barnyard characters. The other girls insisted I be “Bossy the Cow”. My peers used to write “Bitch” in the dust of my car in high school. These things hurt at the time, but now I see that it hurt because I wanted outward approval. While I still desire outward approval in a lot of ways, I am aware of it and so I can more accurately judge if it is appropriate behavior. Yes, I can still be a bitch, but truly, I want those who serve me to serve because they want to, not because I domineer them into doing it.

I’m an odd bird, so to speak. I’m intense, smart and deep. That seems to overwhelm a lot of people who talk to me. I strive to retain a sense of humbleness (regardless of how this document reads!). I do not know everything, nor will I ever know everything. I enjoy

learning and teaching; I think that they go hand-in-hand.

I am a voracious reader and read for fun and to learn. If I'm reading for fun, I most enjoy Scifi, Fantasy and Thriller/Horror. If I'm reading to learn, it's usually Leather/M/s, New Age/Self Help or science texts. My biggest creative areas are sewing, writing and music.

Being a Master is a spiritual calling for me. It is not merely something I do; it is who I am, and is a part of my spirituality. This, of course, makes no statement or judgment about where I am on this journey or how well I feel I do it. I am as far along as I should be and do it as my skills allow. I am nowhere near as far along as I want to be nor are my skills as developed as I wish. These two statements will never change. While I do not proclaim to the world that I am a Master, I am open about it to those who truly wish to know. My mother and some of my aunts and uncles know. All of my close friends and most of my acquaintances are in the lifestyle.

My spirituality is an eclectic mix of Pagan, Native American and Eastern with a Christian background. I am all, yet not any, of these. Basically, I deal with energy; it's interactions with us and in us. Think Chakra or Chi...then add ritual, ancestors and speaking in tongues. I have insight that can be creepy...even to me. It's not a consistent thing either, which makes it frustrating. I get nothing from most people, some things from some people and a great deal from people who have special meaning to me and/or my journey. If you already know of Myss' Archetypes, you can learn a lot about me by looking these up (working from 1st to 12th house): Alchemist (scientist), Victim, Teacher, Student, Artist (includes writer for me), Priestess, Guide, Saboteur, Prostitute, Magical Child, Warrior and Servant. If you already know Sunbear's Earth Astrology, I am on the cusp between The Teacher and the Powerhouse. If you know Jamie Sams' work, I identify most with Clan Mother Gives Praise. My totems are owl, ocelot and lynx. I'm also looking into pursue degrees in Metaphysics.

I also have a very practical, analytical side. It's the scientist in me. I have a BS and an M/s in Physics and will be hopefully pursuing my PhD in Mechanical Engineering. Currently for my day job, I work with Physics demonstrations and introductory teaching labs. My second job allows me to teach at night at the college/university level. I teach either Earth Science or Conceptual Physics.

What all this means is that, on one side, I'm very particular and can be rather rigid. On the other hand, I'm fluid and rely on my intuition a lot. It will take very unique individuals to be members of my household. I am looking for long-term, stable relationships and feel that this can only be done through clear intent. This document is designed with the intent to openly state what I want and what I expect from those serving me. As I go along my journey, things will be "tweaked" in the document. However, I doubt that the underlying principles will ever change.

Welcome to my world. J

Application Process

1. Read this entire document. I put a lot of time into this manual so that you are well informed of what I expect to receive from you as well as what I expect to provide for you. I have made a true effort to be clear and to represent my household in an honest, open manner.
2. Ask questions, should you have any. you are never expected to follow blindly. Ask until the statement, directive or request is clear.
3. Look in your heart and ask if you're called. This is an important, intuitive step. you will be doing yourself (not to mention doing me) a disservice if you try to force yourself into a role that is truly not a reflection of who you are.
4. Fill out the questionnaire found in Appendix A. It's long; expect to spend at least five hours working on it. Think about the questions, especially the essays. Take your time and answer from the heart. If you need clarification about a question or item, please ask.
5. Submit the questionnaire by email so that I have an electronic copy. When you are done and I've accepted the questionnaire, I have a similar one filled out where I answer the questions that I will give you so that you know my answers.
6. We will spend time getting to know one another. If at some point you find you wish to pursue a Preliminary collar, you will be expected to allow a background check. I will also allow a background check on myself. These may or may not happen; you are simply expected to allow it.
7. At the end of the Preliminary collar, if you wish to pursue a Provisional collar, you will be expected to petition for a Provisional collar of a specified length of time. At this time, you are expected to:
 - a. Make a full financial disclosure at this time, including a credit check with all three bureaus. Now is the time to say that you're in debt up to your eyeballs and that you have two sick parents living with you or that you're the sole heir of a fortune and happily provide for an entire orphanage.
 - b. Divulge any personal information that could impact your service in any way, i.e. you're nursing two aging parents or are HIV+.
 - c. At this time, we can discuss my financial stability. I will also divulge personal information.

8. After the Provisional collar's time has elapsed and if I agree, you will be allowed to petition for a Full collar and permanent standing in my household.

Levels of Collars or Tokens

Protection/Guardianship

This token is designed for a number of reasons. First, a token may be given to someone who is contributing to the household in a significant way, but who does not seek a collar, for whatever reasons. Second, I may give a token, with no M/s dynamic ties to it whatsoever who tell someone that they are important to me. Finally, it's designed for someone who is new in the community or someone who is struggling on their journey, in particular, for slaves and subs of quality that feel they are lost and who might be in need of gentle guidance. Even though this token is much less formal than the collars I offer, I do not offer it lightly. The relationship will still be negotiated so that each person knows what is needed and expected. These terms are highly subjective and so there is no way that I can list an accurate representation of what the relationship will entail.

Preliminary

This is designed as a trial period collar to last for a negotiated amount of time. your ability to serve and fit into the current members of the household is evaluated.

This document becomes our contract once a Preliminary collar is offered and accepted.

Provisional

This is a transitional collar. I will expect you to agree with the items and premises laid out in this manual. The collar is given for a specific length of time, the default being 1 year.

This document becomes our contract once a Provisional collar is offered and accepted.

Full

This is a long term collar. Again, you will be expected to agree with the items and premises laid out in the manual. We will sit down together on or near each anniversary to discuss the collar and make adjustments as needed. This does not mean that you cannot approach me earlier with concerns, only that we know we will sit down once each year to review.

This document becomes our contract once a Full collar is offered and accepted.

Life-time

This is a special collar. This is offered to recognize a life-long bond between us. Even if you leave my service, having had this collar means that we recognize a responsibility toward one another for life. This acknowledges that I trust you completely and that you feel the same towards me. If the collar is removed, the responsibilities found in the contract are null and void, except for one: we pledge that if one needs the other, the other will provide for the need as much as is humanly possible for them.

Deal Breakers

“There is such a thing as unconditional love. There is no such thing as unconditional relationships.” – LuckyAlbatross, collarme.com

Deal breakers are things that will hurt me in such a way that I may feel compelled to remove your collar and/or end the relationship. you will find that I strive to be a compassionate person; I often give second chances. I will do my best, as your Master, to find the underlying reason behind your actions so that we can deal with them. However, if you break my trust and hurt me bad enough, I do not know if I can emotionally recover and I will work for my own survival.

Abandonment

Abandonment means leaving without notice or discussion. In other words, you disappear. I have serious issues with abandonment; I feel myself go cold and I sometimes get physically ill when facing this fear. If I feel you have abandoned me and/or the family while in any token or collar, this is a deal breaker. The longer you are deliberately gone without contact, the harder it will be for you to regain my trust should you try. In order for me to be an effective Master, I must trust that you will not abandon me or the relationship.

Malicious Conduct

When faced with people who behave maliciously, I am often feeling a sense of deep, deep disappointment and am left simply wondering, “How could they DO that?” Behaviors or actions done solely to hurt another, especially me, are deal breakers. Being cruel just for the sake of being cruel is unacceptable. There’s a difference between a humorous jab or a practical joke toward a friend and something planned just for the sake of doing harm. Things like stealing and such fall under this category.

Lying

Again, I am often left wondering, “Why would someone DO, or in this instance, SAY that?” I feel a sense of betrayal when someone deliberately lies to me. A blatant lie, told for cruel intent is a deal breaker. Lying in such a manner that affects me or a member of the family in a negative way, is a deal breaker. Since I know that I lie on occasion, I will try to be compassionate toward you in these instances. However, we all know there is a limit to what is and isn’t acceptable.

Disobedience

I expect obedience, pure and simple. I can get extremely stubborn about this, especially if I’m telling you to do, or not do, something that I feel is for your direct benefit. Sometimes, I will follow through with the stubbornness just for the principle of the thing. If you disobey for any other reason than you truly feel doing what I have ordered will harm you, this is a deal breaker. You being stubborn about doing, or not doing, something will only make me angry and the likelihood that I will remove your collar increases. Yes, I realize this is hypocritical of me, but I’m openly stating it.

Hierarchies

Needs and Wants

A need is something that we cannot function well without. For example, we need food, water, shelter and little luxuries like toilet paper in order to survive.

A want is a desire for something that we really don’t need for survival. I really want a low, small, fast sports car. I want a tummy tuck. I want a huge log cabin compound. I don’t really need any of these things to survive.

My needs, the family’s needs and your needs rank pretty much equal. There are times when I will choose one over the other. Whenever possible, I will put the family’s needs first. However, there are occasions where the needs of the individual, either mine or a slave’s, may override that.

There is a distinguishable hierarchy to wants. My wants come first, then the family’s wants. Individual wants will usually be given as rewards or gifts.

Languages of Love

There are five love languages, according to Gary Chapman. These are sex, gifts, acts of service, quality time and quality talk. Each person will have a

different hierarchy. I cannot dictate your hierarchy. However, I can make you aware of mine. I expect you to be able to be fluent in my language. This means, when you are saying you care about me, the best way to do that is by choosing the first or second on the list. I have found, however, that the ranking is fluid for most people. I will do my best to make things clear. My current ranking is:

6. Quality talk – this is why I require daily contact.
7. Quality time – this is why I want the family to live together, as much as possible.
8. Acts of service/devotion – this is why I need slaves in my life.
9. Physical touch/Affection/Sex – I need touch and affection, but more often than not, sex is a want.
10. Gifts – a thoughtful gift often means more than an expensive gift.

Household

I rank first. slaves in lifetime collars rank second, but are equal in status to each other. slaves in Provisional collars rank third, but are equal in status to each other. slaves in Preliminary collars rank fourth, but are equal in status to each other.

In issues of collar votes, everyone gets an equal say, but the final decision is mine. Lifetime collar slaves who are no longer collared will only be contacted for a vote if they are involved in daily life of the household.

In issues of family decisions, everyone gets a say, but my decision is final. In issues of personal decisions, those involved get a say, but my decision is final.

Life in the House of Fire

The following subsections are designed to answer questions you might have about life in my household. It is an ever-developing document. If you need clarification or have comments about any item, please, ask. Also, feel free to offer up editing changes.

While there is a degree of unknown in deciding if we are a match due to our intuitive processes, I want to be as upfront as I can in the things I do know to be true. you will find these things in this document.

The items are arranged in alphabetical order.

Affection/Love

It is not my plan to fall “in” love with any of my slaves. I’m not totally ruling that out (never say never), but don’t come into this expecting it or hoping that it will happen. you will most likely be disappointed if you do. However, this does not mean that I won’t love you; I just won’t be “in” love with you.

I am an affectionate person and enjoy physical contact with people who matter to me. One of my dreams is to have family night where we all pile on pillows (and each other) to watch a movie. I enjoy touching and being touched. you may given certain standing permissions in that regard. you are always allowed to ask for affection (note: affection is different than sex).

you will be a reflection of me, thus, I want someone who is worth owning. Ownership is about empowering the slave to be all that they possess. In such as way, the slave grows and appreciates the life given to them. Ruling by fear might work for a while, but it doesn’t lead to happy slaves. you can expect to be a cherished possession while retaining your human status; you are not chattel and I will love and care for you.

BDSM

I am a sadist. you are expected to be a masochist or able to endure some pain for me. I will hurt you, but I will never harm you intentionally. you are allowed a “harm list” which is a list of activities that will cause you harm emotionally, physically or psychologically. Other than the items on this list, your limits are my limits. If there is an activity that, while it’s not on your “harm” list, bothers you, we’ll discuss it and take it slow if I want to pursue it.

My hard limits (this means never): Children, animals, scat, enemas, watersports, severe humiliation, female supremacy, me in “sexy lingerie”, me in stiletto heels and me in rubber.

Soft limits (this means on the rarest of occasions): cross dressing, anal play, menstrual play, electricity, medical play (except for blood play), role play in general and most gags (I hate drool).

I am open to negotiating scenes with other people for you should you have a fetish for things in these lists (except children, animals and scat).

I am also, under certain circumstances, a masochist. This is usually for spiritual purposes, but can also be in some sexual situations. If you have skills in this area, they could be put to use.

Clothing

All clothing must meet my approval. This means that I will probably go shopping with you the first few times until you know what I like, unless I like what you already have and thus approve of your taste in style. Then, you can shop for yourself. I will not micromanage your wardrobe. I simply do not want to decide every evening precisely what you will wear the next day. I enjoy choosing clothing for special occasions, however.

Event clothing will be chosen by me. For events, all's fair in love and fashion! I like leather, boots, Goth/punk, costumes and uniforms. If the event is private, there is a distinct possibility you will be nude.

Work clothing should be job specific. I won't expect you to wear scrubs if you're a mechanic or a t-shirt to a business meeting (unless that's the way your company works). I expect the clothing to be in good repair. "Look nice, neat and clean" is the rule of thumb.

Everyday clothing will be much more casual. This is the area to truly express yourself, should you choose to. Unless it is blatantly offensive, I will most likely approve.

If you need more specific guidelines, we can work out something similar to a uniform code, but again, it will be set up in such a way so that once my work is done, it's done. I do not want to micromanage this area.

Communication

you will give and be given open, honest communication at all times. I am inclined to not have many private things in the family, but I will use my judgment when deciding. If you have something that you feel you truly must have kept private, you may discuss it with me.

you are always allowed to ask questions to clarify orders or directives. But, there's a certain level of clarification. If you pester me enough about exactly what kind of crackers to buy at the store, I'll get annoyed. If you come back with crackers that I really didn't want, it's my fault, not yours. It's not the end of the world. If I need a specific kind of cracker, I'll be sure to make it known.

you will be asked for your opinion quite often. I expect you to give it.

I expect you to journal on a weekly basis, at the minimum. I will have access; I might or might not read it. you may write whatever you wish, but it is not to substitute as a confessional. you will not be chastised for what you write, unless you have confessed a wrong doing. In such a case, you will most likely be disciplined for the wrong doing as

well as for using the journal as a confessional.

If writing is truly not your “thing”, we will find another way for you to journal. Maybe a photo journal or scrapbooking or simply art. In some way, I want you to be able to see your path through life. I’m open to suggestions.

Dinner is family time. Everyone will be seated at the table and the time is open for communication about your day and such.

I prefer face to face communication should a problem arise. However, I understand that it can be hard for slaves to do this. I know that you strive to serve to your best abilities and can feel like a failure if you perceive you are not. If you need to present a problem to me in a more passive way than face to face, write it in an email, direct me to a specific entry in your journal or leave me a note. Do not resort to passive aggressive behavior as a method of communication. The technical definition of this behavior is: habitual passive resistance to demands for adequate performance in occupational or social situations, as by procrastination, stubbornness, sullenness, and inefficiency. There is a difference between this kind of behavior and the more passive behavior as mentioned above. you are an adult and I expect you to act like one.

Community Activity

Community is important to me. you will be expected to attend community functions with me, as finances allow.

you may be sent to events and functions without me, especially if they are designed as slave-only space.

you can expect to be volunteered to work for the organizations in which I am active.

you can be expected to be loaned out for duties and activities in my extended family. This might be as a demo person, worker or for service. These activities will be negotiated and I will not send you intentionally into something that will harm you.

Devotion

This is the selfless dedication of one person to another person, thing, task or way of life. In order for an M/s relationship to work, the Master and the slave must be devoted to the relationship, each other and their personal integrity.

I expect you to be devoted to serving me, the household and yourself. The last might seem counterintuitive for you, after all, isn’t service supposed to be selfless? Well, in a lot of ways, yes. But, in areas of you own self development, no. you must be devoted to improving yourself as you go along your journey.

you must also be devoted to maintaining yourself so that you are fit for service. This doesn't mean that you will never get sick or never have an accident, etc. What this means is that you don't abuse your body, mind or psyche in such a way as to be detrimental to me or the household. you are responsible for your health and attitude.

Disputes

Disputes between members of the household should try to be dealt with between the involved parties first. If no conclusion can be met, the issue can be presented to me in a calm fashion. The usual method for doing this:

7. The complaint is made, in private, to me.
 - a. We will discuss the problem from your viewpoint.
 - b. We will discuss possible solutions.
8. I will discuss the matter with the other party.
 - a. I will listen to their viewpoint.
 - b. We will discuss possible solutions.
9. I will think about the matter, sometimes taking days (as is the Native American tradition) to come to a conclusion.
10. I will discuss, with all parties present, how I feel about the conflict and what solutions I see.
11. All parties will be expected to attempt the solutions in good faith, making a real effort to make it work.
12. The matter can be revisited if the solution doesn't seem to work. A compromise will be found.

Drugs/Alcohol

you may drink in limited quantities, with permission. I prefer that you didn't, but I will not demand it.

you may smoke, but must do so outside. I prefer that you didn't, but I will not demand it.

you may use marihuana (pot), in limited quantities, with permission, and you must do it outside. I prefer that you didn't, but I will not demand it.

Permission for all other drugs must be obtained before each intended use and each time you intend to use them.

Abuse of legal drugs (I.E. prescriptions drugs) and/or illegal drugs is not tolerated.

Health (Mental and Physical)

A reasonable degree of good health is expected, especially for those who are applying. This means that you are capable of functioning in such a way as to offer service to the household. It does not mean that you have to be perfectly healthy. The key element here is that, if you have an illness, be it physical or mental, it is being treated in an appropriate manner.

This also doesn't mean that you will be uncollared simply because of a health condition you develop while in my service. What could cause me to uncollar you is if you ignore the problem deliberately and then find yourself impaired OR if your impairment comes from a lack of due diligence in keeping yourself fit for service. I'm not going to uncollar you if you break your leg skiing. I might uncollar you if you refuse to seek medical treatment for a mental disorder.

I will use myself as an example. I am bi-polar. I currently take two mood stabilizing prescription medications and visit my psychiatrist on a regular basis. This makes everyone happy. I have also had gastric bypass surgery. This means I have a very odd diet. I have learned, for the most part, what will and won't trigger a problem in both areas and I work to avoid those things.

you are expected to provide health insurance for yourself or have the means to cover the bulk of your health costs. This most likely means that you will have to work outside the home unless you're independently wealthy.

Fetishes

This is a list of my fetishes: i.e., things that make my pulse beat a little faster. They're listed in the order that I thought of them. I expect you to be able to indulge the bulk of them. If you can't, let's discuss it before you decide you cannot serve.

- Leather – NOTHING smells like leather. you will wear leather as I direct.
- Tattoos (Ink) - I have several and they each have meaning. I love ink. If you currently have ink, wonderful. If you don't, be open to the idea of Master-directed ink. If you're good, I'll set your ink if you get new ones. *smile*
- Piercings (Holes) – I have no permanent ones other than single-hole earrings. I practice temp piercing, mostly for ritual. Eventually, it will be time for my own

permanent ones. If you have holes, I want to see them! Be prepared for the possibility of holes.

- Military – Men in uniform, hot damn! Ok, some of the women are hot, too. If you're military, show up in uniform to make me weak in the knees.
- Bikes – No, not the kind you pedal. I don't, however, ride myself as of yet. I know, I know...I didn't say I didn't WANT to ride myself. It's just that it's 10k for a bike or 10k for land or school. Priorities.
- Kilts – Utilikilt rocks. Hell, all kilts rock. Be warned, I may put you in a kilt. No comments about it being a “skirt” are allowed. Be a man, or a boi, and suck it up.
- Bagpipes – Don't laugh. I'd never scene or have sex to bagpipe music, but hearing it stirs my soul. It's the Scot in me.
- Drums – Now, drums...I'd scene and fuck to. I like all kinds, even Drum Corp drum lines make my pulse race. If you play, I'd enjoy it a great deal.
- Music – Different music does different things. The kind that turns me on is goth or metal or whatever the hell it's called. Think Queen of the Damned soundtrack. I can enjoy just about everything, given the right setting, except very derogatory rap. If you're a musician, I'd also enjoy that a great deal.
- Boots – So, maybe I'm a gay man. I love boots. If you can bootblack, I will be one happy camper.
- Biting - I totally like biting...it's very animalistic. This is one of the few masochistic things I know I like in sex. Be aware, however, it can quickly turn into energy feeding for me.
- Vampires – I am a Vampire. Yes, a real one. I don't expect every member of my family to blood feed me and have refused some in my family who have offered. It is a delicate thing; a blood bond is not lightly made or broken. However, I'd expect everyone to be open to energy feeding.
- Blood – I enjoy blood play (cutting and piercing). Seeing blood run is also animalistic and it touches a place in me that few things do. I can and do separately distinguish this kind of play from feeding.

Finances/Income

I have to be honest. I really hate keeping up with finances. However, I see it as a duty to myself, the slave and the household. I expect to have control over the finances of the

household where I pay the bills, I manage the household accounts and I make the household decisions. If you are a financial wizard, I am open to advice and suggestions, respectfully submitted. Actually, this area has a great deal of flexibility. If you're that financial wizard, I might decide to use your skills and turn over the household accounts and bills to you for management. However, I doubt I'll ever give up making the decisions.

The division between household accounts and your accounts will be fair and based on what you earn outside the home as well as your specific debts and needs. Use of the household funds is at my discretion. The use of your money will depend on what we negotiate.

Once a Preliminary collar is accepted, you will be expected to contribute to the household account. This is used to run the house (utilities, groceries, etc.) and pay for events and travel. The amount expected is in proportion to your involvement in the household, i.e. how many times you eat with us, how many events you attend, whether or not you live with me, etc.

Before a Provisional collar is offered, I expect a full financial disclosure. I am taking on the responsibility of keeping tabs on your assets and debt; therefore, I need to know where you stand. I will also be open about my financial stability.

Once a Provisional collar is accepted:

1. you will be expected to contribute to the household account. This is used to run the house (utilities, groceries, etc.) and pay for events and travel. The amount expected is in proportion to your involvement in the household, i.e. how many times you eat with us, how many events you attend, whether or not you live with me, etc.
2. your spending, saving and debt activity will be monitored, if I see that this is required. If you come with well managed accounts, I will have a tendency to trust your judgment and leave the management to you, unless you ask otherwise. If your finances are in a mess but you still want to try to do it yourself, advice will be given and how you apply that advice will be watched. If I don't see an improvement in a given amount of time, I'll expect to take over the management.
3. you will be expected to ask for permission to purchase miscellaneous items that would impact your budget if you purchased too many at once. For some, this will be items that cost \$50. For some, it will be items that cost \$1000. It will depend on your personal solvency.

Once a Full collar is accepted, I am willing to function as

detailed as this:

1. you will be expected to contribute to the household account. This is used to run the house (utilities, groceries, etc.) and pay for events and travel. This amount will increase if you do not already live with the family.
2. If we agree and you desire to surrender in such a way, we can discuss the option of asset surrender, should you feel it an important part of your slavery and service. It is not a requirement.
3. If we agree, I will take total control of your financial welfare. This is not a requirement unless I see that you are not able to handle your finances. If I do this, this would include these things:
 - a. you will be given an allowance to use as spending money.
 - b. I will see to it that your bills are paid. However, you need to be aware that, unless I become independently wealthy, you are expected to earn enough to pay these bills.
 - c. The remainder will go into savings and/or retirement account(s) for you.
 - d. you are expected to ask for permission to purchase any item out of the norm.
 - e. I will work to reduce your debt. This may include bill consolidation, using a credit reduction plan and simply taking the credit cards from you.
4. Most likely, I will be inclined to simply help you manage your own accounts. If I do this, this would include these things:
 - a. Helping you develop, and stick to, a budget. This may involve you asking permission to purchase any item over a set amount.
 - b. I will ensure you pay your bills. Again, you must earn enough to pay for your bills.
 - c. I will direct you to invest, in simple ways, for a retirement.
 - d. I will direct you in ways to reduce your debt and recommend places to go for advice.
5. I expect to be named as the executor of your estate if you are single. I am open to being the executor of your estate if you feel your spouse or life partner would

appreciate the service upon your death.

6. I expect a Will to be drawn up indicating how you would like your affairs to be handled, should you die while belonging to me, whether you are single or married.

7. If I am the executor of your estate, I expect to be named as a (but not necessarily “the”) beneficiary of your insurance so that I can carry out your wishes. Funds that I don’t use for this purpose will be returned to the other beneficiaries, unless you have left the amount to me in your Will (this is solely your choice to do so).

8. I expect documents to be drawn up for a DNR order (if you want one), a Living Will and the details of your burial/cremation.

9. I expect to be added to your active accounts, such as checking and savings, no matter what level of financial surrender we agree upon. This is mainly to keep these assets from being frozen in the event of your death.

Honesty and Integrity

When you give your word, I expect it to be your bond. you will make every effort to follow through. If you can’t, explain it and apologize. Don’t hide things from me or deliberately choose to not disclose information that you feel will get you into trouble. you will be in more trouble if you do.

you must strive to never lie to me. As a compassionate person, I understand that sometimes, people just lie. However, I expect you to make a true effort to be open with me. Serious infractions are deal breakers.

Integrity speaks about the quality of a person’s character and their “steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code”, according to the dictionary. A moral code can sometimes be difficult to explain. But, the basic premise should be to never intentionally harm anyone.

Integrity also means being aware of others needs and placing them above your own lesser desires. you should strive to create that kind of integrity in your life and relationships. This means that you are willing to give up your wants in order to promote the good of the family and your Master. your needs are as important as my needs and the family’s needs. your wants may not be.

Integrity also speaks about standing for something. To me, this means being loyal. Given that a level of trust has been established, I expect you to be loyal to me and for you to defend me and the family.

Living Arrangements

It is my wish that my entire family live together under one roof, as much as reality allows. you will be guaranteed living space if I own my own home, if offered a Full collar, unless you are raising minor children. Living space for those in Preliminary and Provisional collars is not guaranteed.

you will, most likely, have to share a room with others, most likely in a dormitory type of setting. you will most likely also have to share a bathroom with others.

As much as is possible, you will be given drawer, trunk and/or closet space and be allowed to bring items that have sentimental meaning to you.

Items that you have that can be of use in the household will also be given space as possible.

Other items will have to be put into storage or sold.

you are expected to keep your areas neat and tidy. This means make your bed daily, hang up your towel and put your clothes in the hamper. We may find someone whose service is to provide this for the family, but don't expect it.

Loyalty

Loyalty is the feeling of allegiance to someone or something. This can be closely related to devotion. Both the Master and the slave must be loyal to the tenets of the relationship, each other and their personal integrity.

This means that we protect one another, in a lot of ways. Even if you are wrong and have screwed up, unless it's a deal breaker, I will remain loyal to the collar I have offered. This is where the aspect of discipline comes into play. I discipline you for offenses because I am loyal to the relationship and to you. I discipline you for infractions because I care. you will endure the discipline I give because you are loyal to the relationship.

I expect you, too, to remain loyal to the relationship, unless the situation becomes a deal breaker. I need to know that, unless I screw up in a fashion that is beyond repair, you will not leave or disappear.

Obedience

Obedience is a conscious choice to following through with an assigned task or action. Obedience from you is essential and expected. you will have to trust me that I will not ask you to do something that will intentionally harm you, something illegal or something against your moral code.

When you wear my collar, the one choice that you will always have is whether to obey or not. There will be times when I ask you to do things that you are reluctant to do. I will, at some point, order you to do something you truly don't want to do. I may push the point, even after discussion and, in the end, I expect obedience. I will push you to do it if I feel it will benefit you in some way. you might find the choice hard. In the end, you can choose to not obey. Of course, you must be aware that there are consequences for not obeying.

I want you to always succeed, but there will be times when you will falter or fail. Sometimes, this will be your fault, sometimes it won't. If you have failed through disobedience, I will expect an apology and an immediate fix to the problem. Once you do these two things, and the appropriate corrective action is taken, the problem is solved and rectified.

Sometimes, obedience to the overall intent of the relationship might be more correct than the obedience of an order. For example, a Master who has a terminal illness might try to permanently dismiss the slave because they don't want the slave to see them sick. I will do my best to not put you in such a situation.

Ownership

When you wear my collar, I own you. It's that simple. This doesn't make you chattel or less-than-human. Quite the contrary; it makes you a prized possession. I won't give a collar to someone who isn't worthy.

your physical body is mine; I expect you to ask permission to use it for purposes other than my own. your mind is mine; I expect you to use in such a fashion as to serve with intelligence. your heart is mine; I expect you to work to keep your slave heart thriving. your will is mine; I expect you to endeavor to match your desires to mine. your soul, however, belongs to you and your higher power. I am not your God or Goddess and I will not claim it.

Ownership is about empowering you to be all that you possess. In such as way, you grow and appreciate the life given to you. you will be a reflection of me, thus, I want someone who is worth owning and fit for service. In order to be fit to serve me, you must:

- Be working towards a healthy body and mind. I don't expect perfection and I know that you will stumble as well as backslide (as I do). I merely expect you to be working at maintaining and improving yourself.
- Be self assured. A slave with a sense of self value is important. If I wanted a worm, I'd dig one up in the back yard. you are worth much more.
- Be able to be autonomous. This means that you should be able to get the job

done and not need me to constantly watch over you. I have found this usually means that you have a dominant personality. If you don't, that's ok, just work toward being able to follow through with the tasks I assign.

- Possess intelligence: you should enjoy learning. Learning is how we grow and there are lessons in everything we see, do and feel.

Pets

I have cats and, at the time of writing this, a fresh water tank of fish. While I might not always have fish, I will always have cats. I will consider additional pets, up to a point, as part of a live-in relationship.

I like low maintenance pets, meaning those that only need to be fed every 3 days or that can be left enough food for that length of time.

I prefer pets that will not eat other pets. We'd have to truly negotiate a python (who might think my cats are tasty) or birds and rodents (who my cats might think are tasty).

I don't see having a lot of room for additional pets. I don't want a zoo. However, I'm open to meeting the pet and discussion about the topic.

What I really want most is simply well behaved pets that someone else looks after. So, if we agree on your pets, know that you'll still be responsible for them. you'll probably also be responsible for the bulk of my cat's care, too.

Poly Household

If you haven't figured it out by now, my household will be a poly household. This means that you will have slave brothers and sisters who serve along side you. It does not mean that sexual poly is assumed.

Each person in my household is unique and will be respected and cherished for their individuality. I am open to all races, sexual orientations, gender identifications and most spiritualities/religions (see Spirituality section).

I may, at some point, decide on a Major Domo. you will be expected to serve under this person's direction. This person will, mostly likely, be taking on the duties of paying bills I've laid out, assigning chores and household scheduling, so that I am free to do other things. This person's duties will be more defined when the need arises. Neither the duties nor the privileges awarded the Major Domo will be sexual in nature.

I don't intend to isolate you from your already established healthy relationships, and might allow, with negotiation, relationships to continue such as a sexual partner or a play

partner. However, understand that I am to be your primary partner, sexual or not. These people will be or will become secondary partners. Be prepared that I might ask you to modify these relationships. Family ties are to remain intact and will be encouraged, unless I see that they are abusive in some fashion.

I do not have room or the desire for live-in children. I choose not to have children myself. Should you have minor children and be accepted into a collar, I do not intend to raise your children, although I can certainly see being active in their lives.

I will not accept anyone into a collar who is married and hiding the lifestyle from their spouse. While I feel for those in this situation and know that it is a tough place to be in, it is against my ethics to have a hidden relationship under these circumstances. If you are married, I will expect to know your spouse and to have some sort of congenial relationship with them.

I will prefer that you were out to your family and friends. However, I understand that this is sometimes just not possible. How to deal with this will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Protocols

These are the guidelines I wish for my household. While there are no community-wide standards, by any means, I have observed these in various places and have enjoyed them. Anticipate that they could be overridden by the protocols of another's house should we visit. These build on each other, meaning if we are following event or formal protocols, they are in addition to basic protocols.

Basic protocols

7. Speaking to/of me

a. When speaking to me, I prefer Ma'am. As a minimum:

1. "Yes, Ma'am" or "No, Ma'am" in answer to a question.
2. "Yes, Ma'am" or "No, Ma'am" in acknowledgement of an order or request.
3. "Ma'am" at the beginning of a question or a request.
4. "Thank you, Ma'am" as appropriate.

b. When speaking of me, in the community, Master Fire.

- c. When speaking to me, outside the community, I still prefer Ma'am.
- d. When speaking of me, outside the community, Fire will suffice, but my given name is perfectly fine as well.

8. Speaking to others.

- a. If you are unsure what title and/or pronoun a person uses, ask them.
- b. Unless you truly, truly have a problem with a particular person, refer to them by title.
- c. Be polite to everyone, whenever possible.

9. Writing to me

- a. Pronouns referring to you are lowercase.
- b. Pronouns referring to me are uppercase (I will not use this).
- c. Don't use the O/our style; it annoys me.
- d. your name and title are lowercase.
- e. My name and title are uppercase.

10. At the end of a conversation

- a. If you need to go, unless it is an absolute emergency, you will ask to be allowed to 'Continue'. This is short for, "May I continue in your service and go about my tasks?"
- b. When I give the 'Continue' command, you will respond, "Ma'am, Yes Ma'am". At that point, you are free to go.

11. Public conduct

- a. Be aware of your actions as all time.
- b. you represent me in all kinds of public, not just Leather. Act accordingly.
- c. When we're together, be polite. Take my coat, open doors, etc. The door protocol is at the end of the list.

12. Daily contact.

- a. I expect daily contact in person, by email, by IM or by phone.
- b. you must contact me.
- c. I should, at no time, be excessively wondering how you are or what you're doing.
- d. The only exception is if you have limited access to a computer or a phone. As much as possible, I want to know about this in advance. We will set up a schedule.

Daily presents – How to present is found in Appendix B.

3. A formal present is to be used when we are in appropriate company, a standing present when in a more vanilla setting. If you are unsure, ask if I want you to present.
4. Present at these times:
 - a. A morning greeting. This is when you first see me for the day and I seem somewhat together.
 - b. Saying goodnight. This is when you last see me for the day or before we get into bed, if I've asked you to join me.
 - c. Before you leave the house/building to go about your day or a major errand where you have to leave the property.
 - d. When we come home at the end of the work day. If you are home first, I like it especially if you're already kneeling when I walk in the door with a basket for all the "stuff" I wear on a daily basis. I will do my best to call on my way home to let you know when I should be expected.

Family Dinner

6. Everyone will be seated at the table.
7. Assume you have permission to speak, but do so respectfully.
8. you may begin to eat when I have begun.
9. you may be excused before me, with permission.
10. you are excused at any time after I have left the table.

Formal Dinner (the absolute basics)

13. Masters are seated at the table and slaves are directed where to stand, in service.
14. you will be naked unless otherwise directed.
15. you will eat in the kitchen as time allows or when the meal has been completed.
16. Learn to set a formal table. Figure out how to modify it as my china allows.
17. you will seat me first, then each guest individually.
18. When the meal is ready to be served, place each napkin in the respective lap.
19. A new course is served once everyone is finished with the previous course.
20. Serve food from the left.
21. Remove dishes from the right as people are finished with them.
22. Pour drinks beside the table. This means remove the glass from the table, pour the drink, then return the glass to where it was on the table.
23. Never reach across a person or plate, especially with liquid.
24. If a guest has temporarily left the table, place their napkin on the back of their chair.

Event protocols

6. you will be given a position in which to walk, such as ahead and to the left.
7. When attending me,
 - a. Walk in your position. If in front, don't leave me in the dust. If behind, don't step on my skirt.
 - b. Walk with your hands behind your back, unless carrying something bulky.
 - c. If approached for a hug or a touch by someone, direct them

to ask me for permission.

8. you are to ask permission to socialize. When socializing, you are free to hug, casually touch and casually kiss friends and family.
9. you are to remain within my sight or within earshot at all times.
10. you are to never leave my vicinity without permission. I should never, at any time, find myself wondering where you are.

Formal protocols

5. you will be naked, if we are in a private setting.
6. you will do a kneeling present (if you can) when another Master enters the room.
7. you will do a kneeling present (if you can) when another Master is taking his/her leave.
8. you will speak when spoken to or ask permission to speak should you wish to add to the conversation.

Door protocols – I enjoy this protocol but I've been doing it for myself for decades, so that is the default program. you may remind me by asking if you can open the door for me the next time. Maybe with a few decades of you doing this for me, it will become the new default.

5. I will stand out of the way of the swing of the door. This means, I will step away from the door's hinges. If there's a double door, this will be the indication of the door I choose to use. I will try to be consistent in my choice, but no guarantees.
6. If you attend to the front, you will cross in front of me to get to the door, if needed. If you attend behind, you will cross behind me.
7. If the door opens towards us, I will walk through first. If the door opens away from us, you will go through first, then hold the door.
8. Car doors will be opened for me. If you're female, I will most likely need to be reminded of my own damned protocol. We'll make it a point of humor.
smirk

Rituals

I can have a flair for the dramatic. Currently, rituals I know that I enjoy include bathing, dressing and tea.

Bathing:

I enjoy being washed, either in the shower or tub. We may call in the directions, the element, guides and/or totems. The ritual progresses from head to toe, cleansing in the name of Love. I enjoy scented body washes and bath salts/oil. Basically, anything with a floral or citrus sent. I do NOT like baby powder/oil, vanilla or cocoa butter products and scents.

Dressing:

I enjoy having my clothes laid out for me, then assistance when dressing. This is very intimate for me. I also like it when I get home in the evenings and someone is waiting to take the 5lbs of “stuff” I wear on a daily work day.

Tea:

I enjoy hot tea. I drink decaf teas of all sorts. Some I prefer with cream and splenda, some with lemon or lime and splenda, some with just splenda. Hearing it being made for me just brings me joy. We will review how to make these teas in person.

I am open to other suggestions for rituals. If you have something that you have enjoyed doing for someone in the past, speak up.

Spirituality

you will have, or be open to gaining, some sort of spirituality in your life. This is to be an active part of your life.

Since I have pagan and Native American tendencies, these are naturally more attractive to me. However, I am not closed minded to other religions/spiritualities that have positive intent and teach love, compassion and forgiveness.

I will not accept Spiritualities that I feel have negative intent, such as Black Magic or Satanic practices, as valid spiritualities in my home. If your religion/spirituality is something that I don't know much about, I'm open to listening to your intent.

Service

Service is the physical act of doing something with the benefit of another person in mind. To me, this can apply to the Master as well as the slave. As a slave serves me, I

serve a higher power. By doing this, I am, in turn, serving my household.

The following domestic and personal services are examples of what I value. I've tried to make the list as inclusive as possible, but we both know that it's impossible to list every little thing such as being able to keep up with my keys. you do not have to be proficient in all of these areas to be acceptable, however, the more you've filled out your resume, the more attractive you are as a slave.

If you feel you have a valuable service to offer me that's not in this list, please bring it to my attention.

In Appendix C, I have listed resources for the following areas:

- Mechanic. Simple things that are needed to keep a vehicle in running order are good to know. If you happen to be a master mechanic, that is a highly valuable service to me.
- Maid service. This is one of the best domestic services you can offer me. This area includes things like picking up after me, making the beds in the morning and basic household cleaning.
- Laundry. If you think doing laundry means gathering up whatever clothes are on the floor and throwing them all in the washer, you have some reading to do.
- Ironing. you'd be surprised how many can NOT do this well. However, there's a very humorous book on the market to help you.
- Leather care. My leather wardrobe and toy collection are growing. They need maintenance and care.
- Boot care. I am a boot person. Even the feminine heels I wear on the rarest of occasions are boots. Boot care and worship is a service that I enjoy very much. My blacking skills are adequate, but I'd welcome someone who can do it as good as or better than me.
- Cooking. At least learn my favorite dishes. Lucky for you, I grew up on simple food, most of which can be either made in 30 min or thrown in a crock pot.
- Pet service. Keep up with the kitty's food, water and litter boxes. Pet grooming can be beneficial as well. Feeding the fish every couple of days might keep the fish happy, too, or at least alive. Check about what other pets we have in the household, too.
- Secretary. If you have a really good memory, I really need someone to remind me who people are. Also, this area includes taking notes about who said they'd do

what, keeping a calendar for me and sorting snail mail. Other areas include doing the tiresome chores like thank you notes, invitations, Christmas cards and such that, in "polite society", should be hand written. This is only if I get around to actually gathering a Christmas card list. A birthday card list is much more likely.

- Personal Buyer. Go shopping for me. This can also include errands (picking up dry cleaning, mail, etc).
- Formal Protocol. Learning to serve when I am in a formal setting or among other Masters. Things like offering drinks (hot and cold) and food unobtrusively, holding things, etc. Always watch for the coat/jacket coming off and NEVER let it hit the floor!
- Butler/Major Domo. While a true Butler's primary task is to run the household, including overseeing the staff, simple things you can do right away include answering the door, answering the phone (to screen calls) and welcoming/serving guests.
- Lawn care/gardening. If you like to be outdoors, I like to have the lawn maintained and pretty flowers/trees blooming. The more you can make it look like a manicured golf course, the happier I will be!
- Massage. There's several different kinds of massage, the most popular being clinical, deep tissue and sensual.
- Other alternate therapies. Reflexology, aromatherapy, tea therapy, chi energy therapy and Reiki. you might consider also learning about herbs, vitamins and minerals. If you do, we will discuss the prescription meds that I am on to look at possible interactions.
- Manicures and Pedicures. It would be especially handy if you can learn to do acrylic nails.

Sex

Sex may or may not be an option in our relationship. It is at my discretion and is a privilege, not a right, for you. However, if you are a gay man or a het woman, I won't force you to have sex with me and will allow you to meet those needs outside our M/s relationship.

I do not expect you to "service" the others in the household or my extended family, unless, of course, you are being brought into the family with this as part of your service. It is highly unlikely I will bring you in solely based on sexual service.

Voluntary, ongoing sexual relationships with members of the household are an option. Should you wish to have sex with another member of the household, the situation must be negotiated.

Voluntary, ongoing sexual relationships with members outside the household are an option. Again, the situation must be negotiated.

There will be absolutely no unapproved sex.

There will be absolutely no unprotected sex, unless negotiated. I do NOT give this permission easily or lightly.

I don't desire to place a person in chastity in order to keep them from straying or playing with themselves. If you cannot control this aspect of your life and follow the guidelines posted above, you are not the slave for me. I have, however, enjoyed chastity devices on a limited basis as a means of bondage.

Trust

This is a firm belief in the positive and beneficial nature of another person or thing. Once again, trust must be felt by both the Master and slave. So should each being worthy of it.

When you trust me, you will be able to surrender freely. you will learn to trust me as you watch my actions and behavior. Does my word mean something? Do I follow through? Do I break promises? These things are examples of what can develop trust.

I recognize that I cannot force you to trust me. However, should you accept a collar, I expect you to be willing to learn to trust me.

If the trust is broken, unless it's a deal breaker, you will do your best to work to regain my trust or be found worthy of my trust again.

What I Have to Offer you

These subsections are included to state what I feel I have to offer you as a Master. you probably have a decent idea about me as a person by now and an inkling as to whether or not you will fit. Continue reading to make sure.

Again, it is an ever-developing document. If you need clarification or have comments about any item, please, ask. Also, feel free to offer up editing changes.

The items are arranged in alphabetical order.

Affection

I am an affectionate person. I enjoy touching those I care about. This usually includes hugs, caresses and sometimes walking arm in arm or holding hands.

I also enjoy receiving touches from my family. you most likely will be given some leeway to touch me without constant permission, but this is a privilege, not a right.

Asking for affection, should you want it, is appropriate. Setting a limit about affection from other family members is appropriate. I will touch you as I please, unless I see it will be harmful.

BDSM Skills

For most of the time, I'm a sadist. Thus, I've worked hard to develop my skills in these activities. This section is rather cut-and-dry with lists of things I can do and what I feel my current experience level doing them. Some things I like better than other. I've left off things that I know how to do but either don't like or don't have an interest.

Branding – Beginner

Breath Play – Beginner

Bondage – decorative Shibari – Advanced

Bondage – restraint – Intermediate

Bondage – suspension – Beginner

Canning – Advanced

CBT – Advanced

Clamps – Intermediate

Cutting – Beginner

Fire – Intermediate

Flogging – Advanced

Knife Play – Intermediate

Mummification – Advanced

Paddles/Percussion – Advanced

Piercing – Intermediate

Rough Body Play – Intermediate

Singletail – Beginner

Wax – Intermediate

Communication

Obviously, I feel that communication is important; I wouldn't have otherwise made this effort.

I offer a degree of transparency; I am open to discussing any matter in your life or mine. Realize, however, that I have the option to tell you that the matter is private. I do this on the rarest of occasions, however, and it's usually when discussing the matter will be breaching my word to someone. There are few things that I have in my head or heart that I won't tell someone, under the right conditions.

It is not my goal to confuse you or to set you up for failure. If you have questions about any order or directive, I am open for questions and clarifications. I want you to succeed and proper communication is a tool that is necessary for this.

Knowing myself as I do, I make a real effort to discuss things in a calm manner. Sometimes, this means that I have to wait until I'm over being angry or upset. Discussing things when I am highly emotional usually leads to situations and decisions I regret. I am constantly exploring myself and my reactions and have learned several things. As examples:

- I realize that I can have a short temper or can be irritable, especially if I am tired or in a manic cycle. Do NOT ask me if I've taken my meds that day if I'm being snippy. This is a trigger for true rage. If you are truly wondering, go check for yourself. If I haven't, bring them to me immediately, but don't throw it in my face.
- When I am in a depressive cycle, I tend to sleep a lot. This is ok; just let me sleep. However, if this behavior lasts more than a day or two, make an effort to keep me social and, if possible, get me out of the house. When I'm depressed, I appreciate someone being in the house with me; the energy of another person who cares is comforting. Check on me and touch me during these times.

These are examples of two states I could be in where it isn't good for me to make life-altering decisions. Sometimes, when you bring me an item that requires a decision, I will take days to mull it over. I am not ignoring the problem; I am making an effort to make the best decisions I can.

I expect you to learn about yourself as well and to strive, as I do, to develop good

communications techniques and skills. I am willing to help you do this, or at least point you in the right direction.

Devotion

This is the selfless dedication of one person to another person, thing, Introspection Activity or way of life. In order for an M/s relationship to work, the Master and the slave must be devoted to the relationship, each other and their personal integrity. Thus, you can expect to receive it from me.

you can also expect me to be devoted to serving my higher power, the household and the community. I will also be devoted to maintaining myself so that I am worthy of your service. This doesn't mean that I will never get sick or never stumble in my path. What this means is that I won't abuse your body, mind or psyche in such a way as to be detrimental to me, you or the household. Neither will I abuse myself in such a way. We are each responsible for our health and attitudes.

Guidance

Being a guide is one of my Archetypes. According to Caroline Myss, a guide:

“...takes the role of Teacher to a spiritual level, teaching not only the beliefs and practices that make up established religions, but also the overarching principle of seeing the Divine in every aspect of life. Clearly you do not have to be a professional Preacher or Guru to have this archetype, as we can all learn to lead others spiritually through developing our own intuitive spiritual awareness and passing on whatever we have learned with genuine humility. To count this archetype as part of your support group, however, you will need to discern in your life a continuing pattern of devoting yourself to teaching others from your own spiritual insights. This presupposes that you have gained wisdom through some combination of self-disciplined practice and study and perhaps spontaneous spiritual experiences. Wisdom also comes with age, and so the Crone or Wise Woman represents the ripening of natural insight and the acceptance of what is, allowing one to pass that wisdom on to others.”

I recognize that I am not all knowing, nor do I hold all wisdom. Sometimes I have spiritual insight into situations. Does this mean I will always know the answer? Of course not. Does this mean that my answers will always be right? Again, of course not. Does it mean that my guidance is given with your best interest at heart? Absolutely.

Guidance will come from my heart. I strive to give this with love, tempered by understanding and compassion. If I insist that you do something, it's because I am absolutely certain it is to your benefit. I do not want the relationship to be a power

struggle; I want you to surrender to what I have to offer. I offer to help set a course for you so that you may grow and learn in a positive manner.

Honesty and Integrity

When I give my word, it is my bond. I will do as I say. If I can't, I will explain that I can't and apologize. This is simply how I treat everyone. Members of my household are not an exception to this; rather, you are given the highest level of honor.

I strive to never lie. I must admit, in a true effort to be honest, that I do lie (an oxymoron!). I have noticed that I do this two major instances, other than when asked, "Does this dress make me look fat?":

- In order to protect. Unless I see that the results/consequences will truly harm you, I will not lie for you. Even though I might do it, don't ever ask me to; if I do, I will do so of my own free will.
- As a knee-jerk reaction to keep myself out of trouble, if there's a way I can fix it to everyone's satisfaction without harm. I hate this in myself (I hate hypocrisy) and I am working on it. I now know where it comes from (fear of punishment). Knowing this, I can work on it.

Integrity speaks about the quality of a person's character and their "steadfast adherence to a strict moral or ethical code", according to the dictionary. I have as of yet, to write out my moral code; it's not an easy thing if you try. But, the basic premise is to never intentionally harm anyone.

Integrity also means being aware of others needs and placing them above your own lesser desires. I strive to create that kind of integrity in my life and relationships. This means that I am willing to give up my lesser desires in order to promote the good of my family. your needs and the family's needs are as important as my needs.

Integrity also speaks about standing for something. To me, this means being loyal. Given that a level of trust has been established, I will be loyal to you and defend you. If I find that loyalty is misplaced, however, it will severely impact the relationship.

Humor

So, a dog, a cat and a horse go into a bar...

I know this document has been fairly serious. I'm a technical writer and a scientist, so that shows. But, I enjoy laughter and can sometimes have a quick wit.

Laughter absolutely has a place in the household. The more we laugh together, the closer

we feel. I tell jokes, do stupid things and love to be silly (the pink femouflage being a great example). I can gently jab at someone and can take jabs in return.

Sometimes, things just delight me in a truly child-like fashion. I will clap my hands and stomp my feet in joy! I have the magical child archetype. you should see me make Christmas Eve Mice! Excerpts from Myss:

“The Magical Child represents the part of us that is both enchanted and enchanting to others. It sees the potential for sacred beauty in all things...One might assume from the name that this archetype refers to only the delightful qualities of children, but...it also embodies qualities of wisdom and courage in the face of difficult circumstances...the Magical Child is something of a genius [and is] gifted with the power of imagination and the belief that everything is possible.”

I offer humor and the appreciation of humor in our relationship and a freedom for you to express yourself in a positive manner. Make me laugh and I will make you laugh. It's a decent exchange.

Intelligence

I know a little about a lot of things and can hold a decent conversation about anything. I love to teach and share. I love to be a student and learn. This is where my alchemist comes to life.

“The Alchemist is associated with vain attempts to turn base metals into gold, but in its highest manifestation it seeks complete spiritual transformation. You may identify with this archetype if you are interested in a path of spiritual development that is aligned to the mystery schools or study of the laws of the universe. From this perspective, Nostradamus and Isaac Newton could both be classified as Alchemists...For the Alchemist or Wizard to be one of your circle of twelve, it needs to be associated with your physical life in some significant way. Perhaps your work or living situation demands that you be especially inventive...on a regular basis.” – Caroline Myss

I have a few degrees and am considering pursuing more. A series of degrees behind a name, while possibly impressive, really isn't a true indication of intelligence. It is an indication of opportunity, mostly. Don't count yourself out of the running if you don't have abbreviations to put behind your name. Intelligence is about the ability to put several ideas together to create something new, rather like a puzzle. A lot of people who are highly intelligent don't have college degrees. Einstein failed English (not his native language) and struggled with fractions.

I am capable of pursuing topics and solutions in a logical manner. However, I apply

intuition as well. Thus, I am adaptable. I can apply both my intelligence and intuition to every day situations. I offer this ability to you as a facet of our relationship.

Loyalty

Loyalty is the feeling of allegiance to someone or something. This can be closely related to devotion. Both the Master and the slave must be loyal to the tenets of the relationship, each other and their personal integrity.

This means that we protect one another, in a lot of ways. Even if you are wrong and have screwed up, unless it's a deal breaker, I will remain loyal to the collar I have offered. This is where the aspect of discipline comes into play. I discipline you for offenses because I am loyal to the relationship and to you. I discipline you for infractions because I care.

I will remain loyal to the relationship, unless the situation becomes a deal breaker. Unless you have committed an act that makes the relationship beyond repair, I will not take your collar from you. I do not believe in using that act as discipline. I will only take it if I have been hurt, or another in the family has been hurt, in an irreparable fashion.

Leadership

“Being his slave altered the friendship part..... whereas once he would listen, advise and suggestnow he has authority to listen, direct and insist.” – agirl, collame.com

I desire to lead those in my care as well as have them working to lead others. Leadership can mean acting as a guide as well as acting as a commander. In being a leader, I feel a responsibility towards those I command to care for them and to protect them as I guide. In essence, I am responsible for your well-being. This manifests as being a protector which is related to the Warrior for me.

“The Warrior archetype is just as connected to the female psyche as to the male. Women have long been defenders of their families, and the Amazon tribe of Warrior Women has become legendary because of their ability to engage in fierce battle--even sacrificing part of their female physique to facilitate warfare. Loyalty to the family and tribe is among the Amazon's notable characteristics, along with nurturing their young and transmitting lessons of power and self-defense. In today's society, the Warrior Woman has emerged in its glory once again through women who liberate and protect others, especially women and children who need vocal and financial representation...[We are] direct[ed] to use the classic Warrior virtues of heroism, stoicism, and self-sacrifice for conquering the ego [to] gain control of our inner lives.” – Caroline Myss

I can lead you if you are willing to follow and follow freely. Sometimes, I will wish that I could grab you and make you follow me down a path. In reality, I know that I cannot do that. It is up to you to follow, freely. Any other arrangement is detrimental to your development and mine. If I feel that my leadership is turning into coercion, I will become unhappy, hurt and disappointed. This will lead me to feel that you are no longer in obedience. That is a deal breaker and could end the collar.

Practicality

Now, who doesn't just love the whole world created by **The Marketplace**? I know that I do! However, I recognize that we live in the real world. For example, I really, really like the protocol of having the slave naked at all times. But, it's not always practical (believe it or not, slaves get cold). If you have your hands full of luggage, expect me to hold the door. If I'm the one who gets home before others, it's quite possible that I will start dinner. These things just make sense to me. I will endeavor to not let them get in your way. *wink* 'Nuf said.

Spirituality

I am spiritually awake and seek to become more and more aware as my life unfolds. I will encourage you on your journey. I attempt to practice patience, compassion and love, both for myself and others. As I have said, my spirituality is an eclectic mix of Pagan, Native American and Eastern with a Christian background. And yes, I really do speak in tongues when moved.

Again, I feel that being a Master is a spiritual calling. I don't feel that the Master should be worshipped as a deity. However, I do believe that both the Master and the slave should show the reverence they feel toward the tenets of the relationship, each other and their personal integrity.

Being a servant Master, I follow a higher power as you follow me. This does not mean that I am your God or Goddess. I am not. I can, however, be your Priestess.

“The ritual that establishes the unique role of the Priestess is ordination, the official capacity to facilitate the making of spiritual vows--commitments made to divine authority. Ordination or similar rituals of initiation allow the Priestess...to serve as a vehicle or spiritual channel of energy for others. Ordination also empowers the Priestess to convey to the public the power of sacred teachings, rituals, wisdom, morality, and ethics of each spiritual tradition. Because of these profound spiritual responsibilities, the ordained are expected to represent the teachings through personal example.” – Caroline Myss

There are many who have had a profound effect on this aspect of my life. Appendix D includes writings and teachings from these people. you will find “The Qualities of a Realized Master” by Master Skip Chasey, “Heart of Master” and “Heart of slave” by Master Steve Sampson, an excerpt from Margery Williams’ **The Velveteen Rabbit** (Master Steve is fond of reading this), Oriah Mountain Dancer’s “The Invitation”, the Bene Gesserit “Litany Against Fear” from Frank Herbert’s **Dune**, “A Return to Love” by Marianne Williamson (which is often misquoted to be from Nelson Mandela) and an internet article entitled “Transform Fear to Love.” It’s not an all inclusive list; these are things have had a deep impact in my life.

In Appendix E, you will find M/s Spirituality links and information that I have found valuable.

Trust

As stated before, this is a firm belief in the positive and beneficial nature of another person or thing. Once again, trust must be felt by both the Master and slave. So should each being worthy of it.

When I trust you, I will be able to fulfill my role as Master in your life. I will learn to trust you as I watch your actions and behavior. Are you honest, loyal and obedient? Does your word mean something? Am I reassured that you will not disappear? These things are examples of how my trust is developed.

you cannot force me to trust you. However, should you accept a collar, you can expect me to be willing to take that initial risk that we must all take. Realize that trust is a principle that is constantly assessed in my world and that we will stumble from time to time.

If the trust is broken, unless it’s a deal breaker, I will do my best to work to regain your trust or be found worthy of your trust again.

Closing Statements

This is where I give honor to Master Jack McGeorge. Jack, I've drooled over your Order of Discipline and Service manual for years. So, I have finally followed suit. Thank you for the guidance and leadership.

For friends, both Master and slave, I have shared this documentation with: I am open to editing issues, questions and comments.

For interested slaves that I have shared this documentation with: It is now time to make a decision. Are you called to serve me? If you read all this information and it spoke to you, the answer is most likely yes. I refer you to the Application Process. If not, this is not a bad thing as you now better understand what you don't want. I wish you the very best in your journey. I am open to editing issues, questions and comments, no matter what you decide.

For those in my extended Leather/M/s family, I thank you. I will not list you by name for fear of leaving someone out. I am humbly grateful to the Universe for each and every one of you. It is through you that my vision continues to develop. You teach me and for that, I am truly honored and blessed.

And, finally, thanks to my Mom (isn't that quaint?). Mom, we had our struggles when I was a teenager (Hell, I was a *teenager*), but we know each other so much better now. I thank you for teaching me the business end of a screwdriver and how to be independent. I don't think you realize, but I pass on your various points of wisdom that you gave me growing up to other people. I honor your acceptance of me and only wish that others could have a mother who was so accepting. I love you.

Master Fire

Master Fire and I have discussed this page.

I understand that I am bound by the content upon the acceptance of my collar.

Master Fire's Initials: _____ Date: _____ slave's initials:

Appendix A

Master Fire's Questionnaire for Service

Honesty is expected. If it is not given, your petition will most likely be refused.

VI. Background Questions:

- A. What is your real name?
- B. What is your address?
- C. What is your birthday, including year?
- D. Are you married?
- E. Can you provide reference? If so, what/who are they?
- F. What role are you wishing to fill in my household?
- G. How often are you available to serve?

VII. General Health Questions:

- A. What are your major health issues, including mental health?
- B. Do you have or have you had any drug and/or alcohol dependencies, past or present? If so, what is or has been your treatment program?
- C. Do you have or have you had any STDs, including HIV? Please give dates of diagnosis/treatments.
- D. Have you had Hep A and B vaccinations?
- E. Do you get regular exercise? If so, what kind(s) of exercise?
- F. Do you have any specific dietary needs (vegetarian, high-protein, etc.)?

VIII. General Life Questions:

- A. Do you have any children? Do they live with you? If not, why?
- B. What is your level of education?
- C. What is/was your career field?

- D. Why did you choose this field and are/were you happy in it?
- E. What kinds of books do you like and dislike? What is your favorite book?
- F. What kinds of music do you like and dislike? Who is your favorite musician or what is your favorite band?
- G. What kinds of movies do you like and dislike? What are some of your favorite movies?
- H. What kinds of foods do you like and dislike? What are your favorite foods?
- I. What are your basic spiritual beliefs?
- J. What are your core fears in life as well as just those creepy fears, like spiders?
- K. What has been your greatest accomplishment and your greatest failure?
- L. What have you learned from both?
- M. What are your best qualities?
- N. What are your worst qualities?

IX. Submission/Slavery Questions:

- A. What real-time experiences have you had? Why did you like or dislike these experiences?
- B. Are you currently involved with another Dominant or Master, male or female? If so, who are they and why are you looking?
- C. Does this Dominant or Master know that you are looking?
- D. What things do you feel are true needs for you in an M/s relationship?
- E. What BDSM items are on your "harm" list?
- F. What service skills do you bring to an M/s relationship?
- G. What other skills do you bring to an M/s relationship?
- H. Do you currently participate in local BDSM/Leather/M/s groups? If not, why not?
- I. Have you ever attended a large Leather event, such as TiL or Southwest

Leatherfest?

J. Does spirituality play a part in your Leather lifestyle?

K. If you are given a Introspection Activity, do you like to know exactly how to do it (process oriented) or will you rather do it how you like as long as the Introspection Activity gets done (outcome oriented)?

L. Do you prefer to be given a Introspection Activity you know beyond a doubt you can complete or one that is challenging with success not being assured?

M. Will you be comfortable with a cuckolding dynamic where you are expected to be monogamous (unless otherwise directed) with a Mistress/Master who is poly?

X. Essays:

A. What are your definitions of a submissive and a slave? How are they similar and how do they differ?

B. How did you come to realize that you are a slave?

C. Why do you feel the need to serve?

D. Describe a typical day in service to your Master.

E. What is the difference between your fantasies and realities of M/s?

F. What is most motivating to you (praise, humiliation, etc.) and why?

G. What is the best way to truly discipline (we're not talking about a punishment 'scene' here) you and why?

H. Why do you want to serve me, specifically?

Appendix B

How to Present

A present is a way of honoring someone, showing respect and, usually, submission or surrender to another. There are several different kinds of presents, but I utilize two as part of my standard protocol. Each should be done with as much grace as you can muster in a very fluid and pleasing manner.

Formal present:

9. Lower your head.
10. Put your hands behind your back. Grasp your hands so that they are in the small of your back, at least. If you can move them higher, or can grasp further up your arms, do so.
11. If you can, drop to both knees simultaneously. If you can't, or the floor is hard, go down on one knee at a time.
12. Flatten out your feet so that you are not sitting on your toes.
13. Close your eyes.
14. Take a deep breath and center (calm and focus) yourself. If you need to take several deep breaths in order to feel centered, do so.
15. When you are centered, raise your head, look me in the eye and say, "Ma'am, yes Ma'am."
16. When we are finished, I will tell you to "Continue", at which point you can get up and go about what you need to do.

Standing present:

8. Lower your head.
9. Put your hands behind your back. Grasp your hands so that they are in the small of your back, at least. If you can move them higher, or can grasp further up your arms, do so.
10. Stand with your feet shoulder width apart.
11. Close your eyes.

12. Take a deep breath and center (calm and focus) yourself. If you need to take several deep breaths in order to feel centered, do so.

13. When you are centered, raise your head, look me in the eye and say, “Ma’am, yes Ma’am.”

14. When we are finished, I will tell you to “Continue”, at which point you can get up and go about what you need to do.

Appendix C

Service Area Information

Suggested books for beginners; I haven't read them all; they are simply the first I found when searching the topic to give you an idea that there really is beginner information out there.

- Mechanic.

Auto Repair for Dummies by Deanna Sclar

Auto Upkeep: Basic Car Care by Michael E. Gray

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Car Care and Repair by Dan Ramsey

- Maid service.

Keeping House: Hints and Tips for a Beautifully Clean Home by Cindy Harris

Spring Cleaning: The Spirit of Keeping Home by Monica Nassif

- Laundry.

Laundry: The Spirit of Keeping Home by Monica Nassif

- Ironing.

The First Men's Guide to Ironing: How You Can Survive the Decline and Virtual Dismemberment of Everything You Used to Depend On by E. Todd Williams

- Leather care. Websites:

<http://www.davidmorgan.com/leathercare.html>

<http://www.wilsonsleather.com/sm-learn-more-about-leather--bg-1837229.html>

<http://www.leatherassociation.com/FLeathercare.html>

- Boot care. Websites:

<http://www.fetishalliance.net/Stories/Bootblack/bootblackening101.htm>

<http://www.iron-rose.com/IR/docs/bootblacking.htm>

<http://www.bootpig.net/bootblacking.htm>

- Cooking.

The Absolute Beginner's Cookbook: or, How Long Do I Cook a 3-Minute Egg? By Jackie Eddy and Eleanor Clark.

Betty Crocker's Cooking Basics: Learning to Cook with Confidence by Betty Crocker Editors.

- Pet service.

Guide to Home Pet Grooming by Chris C. Pinney

- Secretary...taking notes about who said they'd do what, keeping a calendar for your Master and sorting snail mail. Also, doing the tiresome chores like thank you notes, invitations, Christmas cards and such that, in "polite society", should be hand written. Sometimes, sorting email can be an option.

- Personal Buyer. Go shopping for your Master. Get a list and money first! This can also include errands (picking up dry cleaning, mail, etc). Pizza served by you, on your knees, is SO much better than by the pizza deliverer at the door.

- Formal Ds/M/s Protocol. A great deal can be learned from formal table service rules.

The Waiter and Waitress and Wait Staff Training Handbook: A Complete Guide to the Proper Steps in Service for Food and Beverage Employees by Lora Arduser and Douglas R. Brown.

The Art of the Table: A Complete Guide to Table Setting, Table Manners and Tableware by Suzanne Von Drachenfels.

- Butler.

<http://www.butlerschool.com/index2.htm> Under the "Other" tab, there is a long list of book, most of which I give below. While a true Butler's primary is to run the entire household, including overseeing the staff, there are some simple things anyone can do right away: answering the door, answering the phone (to screen calls) and welcoming/serving guests. This is also where the formal dinner stuff comes in. Head Waiter/Waitress...again, for more formal occasions, usually, but knowing how to serve food with grace and beauty will catch eyes these days.

In the Royal Manner by Paul Burell

Event Planning by Judy Allen

A Butler's Life by Kimberly Allen

Speed Cleaning by Jeff Campbell

Gardening for Dummies by Mike MacCaskey and Bill Marken

Martha Stewart's Gardening by Martha Stewart

Cigars by Vahe Gerard

The Ultimate Cigar Book by Richard Carleton Hacker

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Cigars by Tad Gage

Caring for Cherished Possessions by Mary K. Levenstein

Don Aslett's Stain-Buster's Bible by Don Aslett

Home Comforts: The Art and Science of Keeping House by Cheryl Mendelson

Time Management from the Inside Out by Julie Morgenstern

The Book of Fine Linen by FranCoise de Bonneville

Men's Wardrobe by Chic Simple Partners

Chic Simple Dress Smart for Women by Kim Johnson Gross and Jeff Stone

85 Ways to Tie a Tie! By Thomas Fink and Yong Mao

Care of Clothes by Jane Ashelford

Dress Casually for Success...For Men by Mark Weber

Packing by the Book by R. J. Corkum-Nyks and Rebecca Barns

Think like a Chef by Tom Colicchio

Great Wines Made Simple by Andrea Immer

The Amy Vanderbilt Complete Book of Etiquette by Nancy Tuckerman

Emily Post's Etiquette by Peggy Post

Tea Etiquette by Dorothea Johnson

Executive Etiquette by Marjabelle Young Stewart and Marian Faux

How to be a Gentleman by John Bridges

The Table by Diane Von Furstenberg

The Rituals of Dinner by Margaret Visser

Simply Elegant Napkin Folding by Chris Jordan

Great Settings by Peri Wolfman and Charles Gold

- Lawn care/gardening

The Everything Lawn Care Book by Douglas Green

The Beginning Gardener's Answer Book by Mark McKean

- Massage.

Clinical:

Basic Clinical Massage Therapy by James H. Clay and David M. Pounds;

Deep Tissue:

Deep Tissue Massage: A visual Guide to Techniques by Art Riggs

Sensuous:

The Complete Book of Massage by Clare Maxwell-Hudson

- Reflexology and other alternate therapies.

Hands on Feet by Michelle R. Kluck

The Complete Book of Essential Oils and Aromatherapy by Valerie Ann
Worwood

Healthy Teas: Green-Black-Herbal-Fruit by Tammy Safi

Energy Medicine by Donna Eden

- Manicures and Pedicures.

Style on Hand: Perfect Nail and Skin Care by Elisa Ferri and Lisa Kenny

Milady's Standard Nail Technology by Milady

Appendix D

Spirituality of M/s

The Qualities of a Realized Master

From “Priest in Black Leather: Mastery as a Spiritual Calling”

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http://www.mastertaino.com/Qualities_of_a_Master.htm

- *A Master is spiritually awake.*
- *A Master is actively engaged in regular spiritual practice to strengthen and deepen his awakening.*
- *To the best of his ability, a Master loves unconditionally.*
- *A Master strives to be uncompromising in his integrity.*
- *A Master is honest, trustworthy and consistent in his words and actions.*
- *A Master is willing to be emotionally open and vulnerable, and does not hide his feelings but instead expresses them in a healthy manner.*
- *A Master is self-sufficient.*
- *A Master knows that while pain is inevitable, suffering is optional.*
- *To avoid causing suffering in himself and others, a Master remains in control of his ego, even when he indulges it.*
- *A Master does not accept the service of a slave casually, and does not take the responsibility of mastering a slave lightly.*
- *A Master knows what he has mastered, what he has of lasting value to offer a slave.*
- *A Master understands and accepts that he is engaging in a relationship of equals with his slave.*
- *A Master accepts from his slave only that which is freely given.*

- *A Master accepts the gifts of his slave's body and trust with gratitude, and takes neither for granted.*
- *If SM is to be a part of the Master/slave relationship, a Master has or acquires the requisite technical knowledge and skill.*
- *A Master is fully conscious of his fetishes, and of the power they have over him, and acts on them only when doing so does not cause harm or suffering.*
- *A Master understands the importance and value of discipline and protocol, and develops discipline for himself and a protocol for his slave that is both nurturing and nourishing.*
- *A Master possesses and uses healthy and functional communication skills, and insists that his slave do so as well.*
- *A Master is willing to stand in the middle of his slave's projections about the Master without moving, neither supporting nor fostering the illusion, nor destroying it.*
- *A Master is willing to bear, without complaint or self-pity, the awareness that doing his best may at times not be good enough.*
- *A Master is willing to admit his mistakes, acknowledge his shortcomings, and make amends whenever possible.*
- *Despite appearances, in exercising his authority a Master's primary intention is not to get his needs met, but to meet the needs of others as revealed by the Universe; it is a manner in which a Master fulfills his Divine purpose.*
- *A Master fully understands and embraces the paradox of the Master/slave relationship.*

Heart of Master

Taken from a talk given by Master Steve to OCLA. Used with permission.

<http://www.arizonapowerexchange.org/academy/Master.htm>

A Master ...

... is an individual born with a spiritual sense of presence and connectedness. No one can make an individual a Master except that individual his or herself — in their own growth process, becoming centered and growing into a state of connectedness in the universe. A Master is an individual who feels incomplete without the love and service of an individual with heart of slave.

A Master may or may not be involved with SM. A Master has a “special connectedness” in the journey of spirit that they allow the slave’s heart to “share”. Many Masters do this sharing without knowledge and direction, without purpose or goal, and sadly — sometimes without trust in their own intuitive spiritual nature. It is also easy to confuse the sexual and spiritual aspects of Mastery — though these are closely related and overlap in the most intricate manner. A Master without this connectedness can do best by loving and nurturing the heart of slave, but provides at best a poor signpost of direction.

SM activities can be one tool to allow a slave to completely let go of any limits or blocks in becoming connected with their heart of slave. SM without love inhibits the spiritual growth of the heart of slave — and is simply brutality. Pain without direction becomes a “lost journey” for the heart of slave.

The most advanced and spiritually connected man of Mastery whom I have ever met is a man named SlaveMaster. He has developed his training process to a rare and exceptional quality. I strongly encourage any unattached man who has heart of slave to consider applying to him for direction and training. His articles have appeared in The Leather Journal and other magazines, and his website is www.bornslaves.com.

Heart of slave

Taken from a talk given by Master Steve to OCLA. Used with permission.

<http://www.arizonapowerexchange.org/academy/slave.htm>

a slave ...

... is an individual born with a slave spirit. No one can make an individual have this spirit; nothing can be done to create this state in an individual's being. No one trying hard or wishing for this sense of spirit can develop it within themselves, and no Master can cause it to occur. A slave is an extraordinary human being who is born with this slave spirit — as much as they are born to breathe, or to have gifted talents like design or music.

A slave is extraordinary, rare — and most often confused until they discover their slave spirit heart. Most slaves wander through life feeling unfulfilled — as if they have a “dark hole” in their spirit — a hole that can be temporarily filled with an abundance of sex, work, addictive behavior or other whole-life-consuming factors.

slaves often have a sense of the spiritual (some become clergy), but feel this sense of spiritual awareness to be disconnected from their desire for a Mastery/slavery relationship. A slave has a right to feel joy and pride in their slavery and in service to a Master.

In their confusion, many slaves interpret Dominance as Mastery; SM as completion; or fetish focus as the fulfillment of the “dark hole” in their spirit. Many can find enough fulfillment in these areas to develop a sense of “wholeness” (often a quiet longing exists; although for what, the slave doesn't know).

Heart of slave can be actualized only when the spiritual journey occurs that connects this “dark hole” in the spirit, first to the whole spirit, and then to the universe. It is a process of a painful and trusting leap of faith that causes this connectedness to occur — a truly spiritual journey. Heart of slave can only be complete in service to a Master and it is within this service that the spiritual journey occurs. slavery is not about a “hard dick or clit experience,” although hard dicks and clits happen and are enjoyed.

slavery is the completion of a spirit in search of “connectedness” in the universe.

The Velveteen Rabbit

Margery Williams

“...Real isn’t how you are made,” said the Skin Horse. “It’s a thing that happens to you...”

“Does it hurt?” asked the Rabbit.

“Sometimes,” said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful.

“When you are Real, you don’t mind being hurt...It doesn’t happen all at once,” said the Skin Horse. “You become. It takes a long time. That’s why it doesn’t often happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don’t matter at all, because once you are Real you can’t be ugly, except to people who don’t understand.”

[Margery Williams, **The Velveteen Rabbit**. Random House Children’s Books. 1958. ISBN: 0385077254]

Return to Love

“Our Deepest Fear”

Marianne Williamson

*Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.*

*It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.
We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant,
gorgeous, talented, fabulous?
Actually, who are you not to be?*

*You are a child of God.
Your playing small does not serve the world.
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking
so that other people won't feel insecure around you.*

*We are all meant to shine, as children do.
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.
It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone.*

*And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously
give other people permission to do the same.
As we are liberated from our own fear,
our presence automatically liberates others.*

[Williamson, Marianne. “Our Deepest Fear.” **A Return To Love: Reflections on the Principles of A Course in Miracles**. Harper Collins. 1992. Pg. 190-191. ISBN: 0060927488]

The Invitation

Excerpts from "The Invitation"
Oriah Mountain Dreamer

It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing.

...It doesn't interest me what planets are squaring your moon. I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life's betrayals or have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain.

I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide it or fade it or fix it.

...It doesn't interest me if the story you are telling me is true, I want to know if you can disappoint another to be true to yourself; if you can bear the accusation of betrayal and not betray your own soul; if you can be faithless and therefore trustworthy.

...I want to know if you can live with failure, yours or mine, and still stand on the edge of the lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, "Yes!"

...t doesn't interest me who you know or how you came to be here. I want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back.

...I want to know if you can be alone with yourself and if you truly like the company you keep in the empty moments.

[Mountain Dreamer, Oriah. "The Invitation." **The Invitation**. Harper Collins. San Francisco. 1999. Pg 1. ISBN 0062515845.]

Dune

BeneGesserit "Litany Against Fear"

Frank Herbert

I must not fear.

Fear is the mind-killer.

Fear is the little-death that brings total obliteration.

I will face my fear.

I will permit it to pass over me and through me.

And when it has gone past I will turn the inner eye to see its path.

Where the fear has gone there will be nothing.

Only I will remain.

[Herbert, Frank. "Bene Gesserit 'Litany Against Fear'." **Dune**. Putnam Publishing Group. 1965. ISBN: 0399128964]

Excerpts from “Transform Fear to Love”

An article found as part of a series entitled, “Is There a Purpose to Life?”

John Davies

<http://members.optusnet.com.au/~acceptance/YourPurposeWeb/TransformFearToLove.ht>

also reposted at:

<http://www.phils.com.au/love.htm>

*Fear often originates from a sense of not being in control. We use control to manage people and situations that we do not understand or that threaten to expose our lack of self-love. If we accepted people and situations for what they are, we would be back to the universal definition of love - which is, **“Love is the opposite of fear”**.*

Love exists at the level of the higher self while fear is an emotion, and all emotions exist at the level of the lower self - the ego/personality level. We trade the experience of love for the emotion of fear and inhibit our abilities to co-create and manifest. We cannot simultaneously experience love and fear together.

...The fact is that our insecure ego fears the exposure of our self-imposed inadequacy. Our anger over the criticism of our lawn [becomes] a focal point to draw attention away from our lack of self-love. This dynamic occurs time and time again, and the greater your reactions, the more it reflects on the level of your self-imposed inadequacy.

...Fear is wired into the biochemistry of our bodies. Fear has been a necessary part of physical survival. ...Those same physiological reactions are present in our modern-day bodies which respond just as strongly to psychological fears as they do to physical fears. ...Our bodies, not knowing the difference, treat them as one and the same. Thus, if we are to change our relationship with psychological fear, it is necessary to find the source of our fear and heal it.

...Each negative emotion can be traced back to fear - the ego's fear that its lack of self-love is about to be exposed. Ego fears that someone will see past the mask it presents to the world. Your fearful ego wants to project to the world an image of a perfect person, but in fact it believes the opposite to be true. It believes you are imperfect. ...When you realize and accept the perfection of your own true self, there is no need to project. Your perfection shines as a light from within. Your transformation has begun.

...Contemplate the fact that all of your fears are based on perceived lack. There is no lack. However, as this is your belief and your fear, this is what you create in your life, whether it's a lack of love or money, creature comforts or peace. Many people rush about in the outside world struggling to change this situation and that situation and wonder why nothing changes at all.

The fear of lack is a resonance. The knowing of absolute abundance in every facet of your life is also a resonance. To change the resonance, give thanks to the universe at least once each day for the abundance in your life.

Appendix E

M/s Spirituality Websites and Links

Totems:

Explanation:

<http://www.spiritualnetwork.net/totems/>

<http://www.linsdomain.com/totems.htm>

Finding:

<http://www.bewitchingways.com/wicca/totem/quiz.htm>

Meanings of:

<http://www.workingwitch.com/totems/totems2.html>

<http://www.sayahda.com/cycle.htm>

Medicine wheel:

<http://www.ewetribe.com/StarSpiderDancing/wheel.html>

Chakra:

Description

<http://www.sacredcenters.com/chakras.html>

http://www.kenaz.com/notes/chakra_xls.htm

Chakra Test:

<http://www.eclecticenergies.com/chakras/chakratest.php>

Archetypes

<http://www.myss.com/ThreeArchs.asp>

Shamanic

<http://www.flowereagle.com/group.cfm>

Master/slave

Officer Wes' personal journey of leather heart spirit

<http://www.westom.com/leather/officerwesspirit.htm>

Spirit and Leather Info

<http://www.westom.com/leather/leatherspirit.htm>

slavery is/not

<http://www.lthredge.com/ds/slavepoem.htm>

Leather Events with Spirituality and/or M/s Tracts:

Master/slave Conference in DC

<http://www.masterslaveconference.org/>

Together in Leather, Charlotte, NC

<http://www.togetherinleather.org/>

Southwest Leather Conference, Phoenix, AZ

<http://www.southwestleather.org/>

South Plains Leatherfest

<http://www.southplainsleatherfest.com/home.html>

Great Lakes Leather Alliance

<http://greatlakesleather.org/>

Training Academies:

APEX Academy in the Butchmanns Tradition:

<http://www.arizonapowerexchange.org/academy/index.htm>

Master Taino's Training Academy

<http://masterslavetraining.org/>

Spiritual Books:

Medicine Cards: The Discovery of Power through the Ways of Animals by Jamie Sams

Sacred Path Cards: The Discovery of Self Through Native Teachings by Jamie Sams

Dancing with the Wheel by Sun Bear

Medicine Wheel: Earth Astrology by Sun Bear

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Lady in the Water by M. Night Shyamalan

The Way of the Peaceful Warrior by Dan Millman

Sacred Journey of the Peaceful Warrior by Dan Millman

Sacred Contracts by Caroline Myss

About the Author



I am a female-identified, female-bodied Master. I began my public involvement in the leather community in 2001 when I attended my first MAsT meeting. I was a co-founder of Female Artists of Domination (FAD), a North Carolina based group formed in the summer of 2002 to support Female Dominants and those that serve. I was also the Director of MAsT:Triad, NC from 2004-2006. Currently, I attend events in the local community where I belong to several organizations. I also present to groups as invited.

From an early age, I can recall being a dominant person...or perhaps a more domineering person, depending on who you ask. Once, as a young girl in Girl Scouts, we did a puppet show with barnyard characters. The other girls insisted I be "Bossy the Cow". My peers used to write "Bitch" in the dust of my car in high school. These things hurt at the time, but now I see that it hurt because I wanted outward approval. While I still desire outward approval in a lot of ways, I am aware of it and so I can more accurately judge if it is appropriate behavior. Yes, I can still be a bitch, but truly, I want those who serve me to serve because they want to, not because I domineer them into doing it.

Being a Master is a spiritual calling for me. It is not merely something I do; it is who I am, and is a part of my spirituality. This, of course, makes no statement or judgment about where I am on this journey or how well I feel I do it. I am as far along as I should be and do it as my skills allow. I am nowhere near as far along as I want to be nor are my skills as developed as I wish. These two statements will never change, but I certainly will.

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