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MARCH 9

EOY Benefit
for Macaria Rage &
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MARCH 16

Big Shirli Stevenz
Birthday Show

MARCH 18

Miss Forsyth County
EOY Pageant

MARCH 25

Miss Flower Power
EOY Pageant

Eden



TUESDAY • Karaoke with Brandi and Eddie

WEDNESDAY • Wednesdays Drink & Drown
Country Western Night with DJ Todd

FRIDAY • Eden's X-Drag-A-Ganza
Showtime - Midnight

SATURDAY • Dance Night with 2 DJ's • DJ Kimo and
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VIEWS



transilluminations

by eva hayward
qnotes contributor

Changing sex, a desire to love

With the passing of Valentine's Day, I have been thinking about the relationship between love and desire. When does desire become love? Can you have love without desire? Agnolo Bronzino's beautiful painting, "Venus, Cupid, Folly and Time," depicts the ambivalences between lust and love, with Venus and Cupid forbiddingly embracing. As you recall, Cupid, the winged god of desire, is the son of Venus, goddess of love.

In Greek mythology, Venus emerged from fecund sea foam and while married to Vulcan, enjoyed the company of many lovers. In one of her manifestations, Venus Erycina, she embodies impure love and is the patron goddess of prostitutes. As Venus Castina, she has sympathy and understanding for feminine souls locked up in male bodies. Her divinity recognized and celebrated that inexplicable bodily drive to change, to become more than oneself. How can anyone ever describe in words such a deep desire (if desire is even the right word) as changing sex?

Venus has given us other stories of science, exploration and invention. Recently, a Russian scientist claimed to have found life on Venus. Scorpion-shaped, the Venusians appear to "emerge, fluctuate and disappear." Science fiction, surely?

The celestial body has long fueled the imagination of us earthlings. Isaac

Asminov's "Lucky Starr and the Oceans of Venus" (1954) envisaged Venus populated by phosphorescent V-frogs and predatory orange patches. In the DC Comics universe, Venus is home to millions of mind-controlling worms. In fact, the only planet in our

solar system to rotate clockwise, this Roman goddess has a toxic atmosphere trapping heat in a runaway greenhouse effect. Rather than swampy with life, Venus is better described by James Gunn's "The Naked Sky" (1955) as "embalmed at birth, shrouded in stifling clouds of carbon dioxide, hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acids.... The vital ingredients were missing: free water, free oxygen. What it offered were unbearable pressures and burning temperatures."

The history of Valentine's Day is shrouded in mystery, but for many Americans it seems only a commercial success with billions of dollars spent on heart-shaped boxes of milk chocolates, awful Hallmark cards with sayings such as "I Loved you Yesterday, I Love you Still, I Always have ... I Always Will" and plasticized roses. But, I have a confession; I adore Valentine's Day.

To dodge my friends' looks of horror, I tell them that I actually celebrate the pre-Christian, Roman festival of Lupercalia. And, for good measure, I throw in a bit of trivia: "It is somewhat unclear if the holiday honored Lupercus — god Pan from Greek Mythology — but the focal point is the suckling of Romulus and Remus by a she-wolf." Cross-species care, what better to celebrate? A feast with wolves, I tell my friends, and a yearly opportunity to reflect on our fantasies and libidinal appetites.

Lupercalia is full of bloodletting and sacrificing — wolfish hedonism fueled by ritual — to celebrate the festivities, I host a lusty dinner party. The room is decorated with anatomically correct heart cut outs, crystals from a now lost red chandelier hanging from the ceiling and all the light bulbs changed to pink. I serve rosé champagne and red hued food: purple olives, red pepper bruschetta, borscht, raspberry chocolate torte and figs. My guests come dress-coded in red or pink, sometimes sparkly, too. A love poem or a bit of smut from a recently read novel is shared aloud, but always the conversation turns to desire.

We tell each other salacious stories. Sexual cannibalism in black widow spiders: hungry after lovemaking, the female spider devours her mate. Or, about a hermaphroditic sea slug called a "sea hare." Any individual can act as either a male, a female or simultaneously as both. At breeding time they come together to make a chain of mating animals. The sea hare at the front of the line is female



"Venus, Cupid, Folly and Time,"
ca. 1545

Agnolo Bronzino

Photo Credit: Wikipedia

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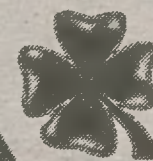
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see Transilluminations on 18