

Holy Whores

By Amorous Day

As we know Prostitution has been an important social welfare sector of society since time immemorial.

Sex workers in history have been mentioned as far back and in such respected ancient literature as the Old Testament and not by far necessarily in a negative light.

The 19th Century Physician Havelock Ellis, who wrote extensively on human sexuality described the sex worker as "One who openly abandons her body to a number of men, without choice, for money" in what he called "the sale of the sweet name of love". Now this sounds like a man who has himself been the beneficiary of such selfless women.

Those who are in "the game" as it has been called, know and understand the importance and respect this profession withholds.

Sex is a tremendously important generative activity - it is how life is created. What that means for a species-subconsciously- is that it is the very reason we exist. We need it for survival- physical and psychical.

Little wonder prostitution is thought to have had its beginnings in a religious custom. This activity was thought to have possessed "mysterious and sacred influence in promoting the fertility of nature generally".

There was a time when the priestesses of Babylonian temples were prostitutes, and were always treated with great dignity. And in Greece "a certain class of courtesans, the hetairae, occupied a remarkably high position in social life", similar to the Geishas of Japan.

In today's society men who are particularly unable to sustain the often unnatural state of monogamy to a loved one, are going through marital rough patches or have an ill wife, have pardon in their being by going to a sex worker for relief by entering the clear cut respectful business transaction. Rather than launching into emotionally dangerous relationships in the "real world" where they have the potential to evolve into marriage threatening affairs.

We carry on about male and female equality when in areas such as these the divide/difference between the male and female libido are clearly observed.

Consider the myriad choice there is for a man on King Street alone for the voyeuristic pleasure of getting up close and personal with Melbourne's least inhibited and often most attractive scantily clad ladies and the various brothels and private escorts at his disposal.

I personally recall going to a Male strip show at a club on King once upon a time and though packed full of raging Oestrogen am not seeing the takeover of male strip clubs any time soon.

The male has always been granted some understanding as to the potency and importance that testosterone plays in their doomed attempt at monogamy as proven by the million dollar sex industry targeted at them- and not to the fairer sex.

But with women demanding more and more equality- and rightly so- some of us have become less inclined to let them off in the name of uncontrollable male wiles.

Taming the animal within is forever a problematic human endeavour.

Some of us have trouble even acknowledging that beast, but I believe we are indeed animal and angel in one.

The challenge will be honouring ourselves as well as all those around us for having been dealt the same lot.

*Quotes from: 'History of Prostitution',
The Canadian Medical Association Journal, Sept 1939*