

Outlaws' Journey

A close-up photograph of a hand with red-painted fingernails dripping water into a calm pool. The water is still, reflecting the hand and the sunset sky. The background is a soft, hazy sunset with warm orange and yellow tones.

the transformative cauldron

A blue-tinted background image featuring a large, detailed flower on the left and a hand holding a small object on the right. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

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Outlaws' Journey

Being here in this exploration of Intimacy Education means you are taking steps that separate you from the ordinary world, and its norms, rules and roles. Becoming a practitioner and perhaps a teacher of erotic massage – a sacred whore – can be a terrifying journey into the outlaw realm.

Practitioners of sacred intimacy upset social expectations. We face scorn and punishments. If we do this work professionally, we often contravene the laws of the land. Sacred intimacy makes us into outlaws.

Outlawry is the harshest penalty meted out by the historical legal systems of premodern Europe. An outlaw is declared outside the protection of law, so that anyone is legally empowered to persecute or kill them. Under the laws of the Roman Empire, an outlaw lost rights as a citizen and became a “homo sacer” (sacred man). Theirs was a consecrated life, intended for special purpose, set apart and forbidden. This sacred quality of the outlaw archetype is something we can actively explore, invent and co-create.

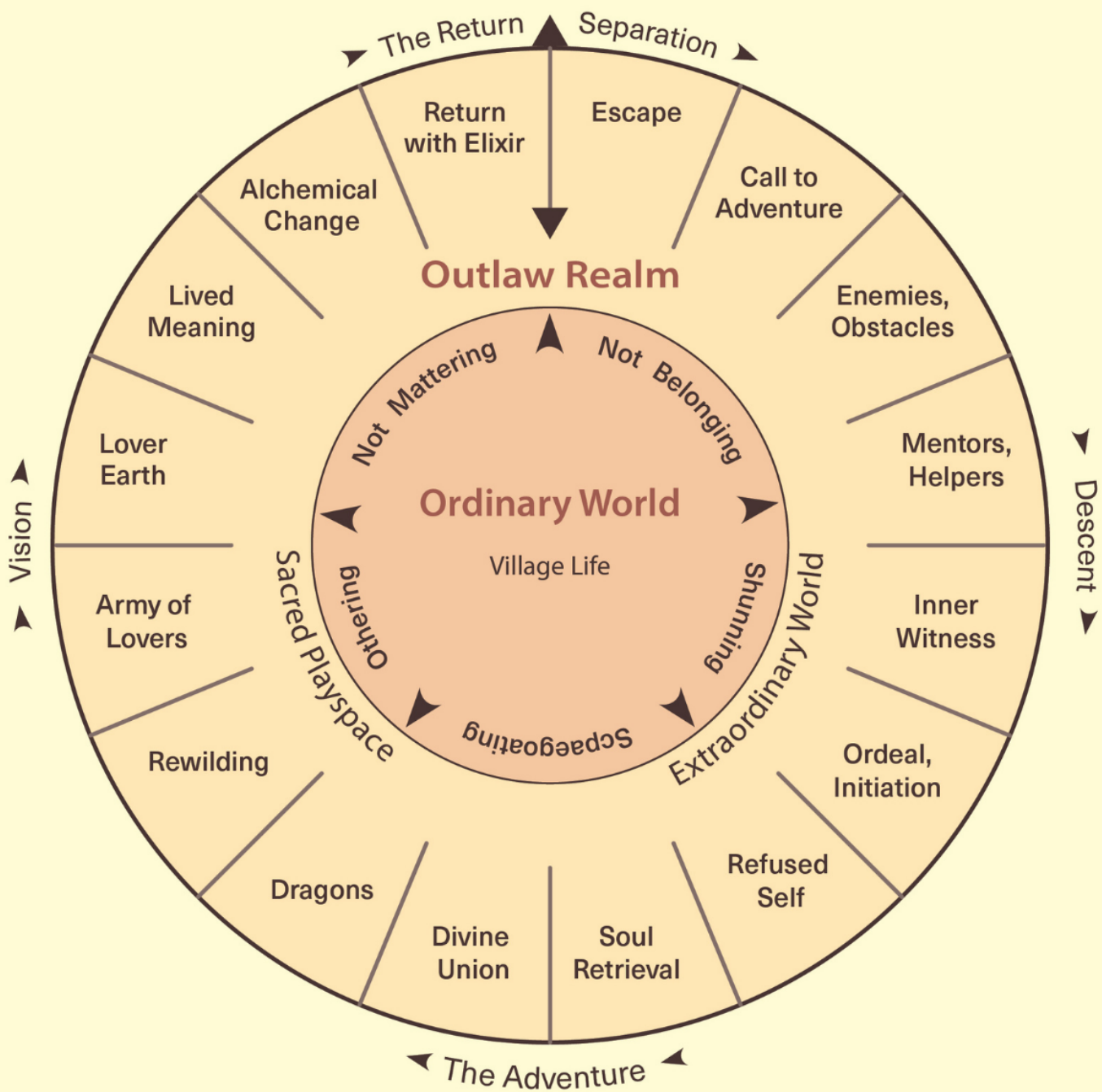
When we stop knocking on the door of normative belonging, trying to make ourselves small enough to get back in, something new can unfold. As we explore and weave what is sacred with other outlaws, the terrifying individual journeys we make into outlawry can lead to co-created homecomings.

Through this program you will find your way to community with other outlaws. As we explore and weave erotic community with lovers, friends, clients, and other students and teachers of sacred intimacy, we can make transformative playspace in the outlaw realm, where we find meaning and

healing for our lonely traumas. I have found a truer love-making in this extraordinary world, where we are detached from normative rules, roles and goals.

The cultural narrative of a solitary individual who leaves the ordinary world of social convention and expected lifeways is the stuff of popular novels and Hollywood movies – the “hero’s journey” is a narrative that can be embedded in our sense of personal destiny and courageous action. And there is some truth to it – because beginning this program requires you to make a lonely decision to take a half-mad step away from village life and social conventions, to explore erotic massage and sacred intimacy. You have probably already met enemies and obstacles that would inhibit you, within and without. Now, as we begin, it can be scary dive into a different world. And you are no longer alone. The Outlaws’ Journey is a journey into the possibility of love, counternormative learning community, and intimate erotic connections with multiple people. As well, this is a journey deep into the individuation of an expanded self.

It can be helpful to use the "Outlaws’ Journey" graphic as a daily check-in. Where are you at? What did you experience today?



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 EthicsForOutlaws.com

Aspects of the Journey

Separation: Feeling the challenge of the extraordinary, the way engaging in these practices will make us unwelcome in the ordinary world

Call to Adventure: Many practitioners of sacred intimacy feel a "calling" a sense of vocation, guiding them into this work and this way of being in the world

Enemies and Obstacles: There are many barriers to this practice, around and within us. We can be stopped by anxieties, opposition, and traumas that surface. People we thought were going to help us suddenly throw up obstacles, or don't seem to have our best interests at heart.

Mentors, Helpers: We find guides who bring us to who and how we want to be. Sometimes we can be guides for each other. Sometimes our guides come from books, or the non-human world, or new teachings we find seemingly by accident.

Inner Witness: There is a part of us that is greater than our individuality – a part of transpersonal consciousness. The Inner Witness is not involved in managing your life. See if you can practice meeting anxiety by stepping back or out into a consciousness that is not caught up in the voices in your head – letting go of thinking you need to fix things. We are developing an ability to move away from identification with the brain's "default mode network" of anxious rumination. If we can practice accessing a consciousness that is aware of voices within and around you – but without judgment, fear and strategies for fixing – we will have an “Inner Witness” place to step into and detach.

Ordeal, Initiation: The journey into the playspace of the erotic temple is one that helps us increase connection to what we care about as we increase our individual courage, integrity, and ability to live in alignment with our

heartfelt values, despite great challenges. We become less reactive/habitual and more choiceful/creative inside of the pressures, conflicts, urgencies, and raptures of erotic work and play.

Refused Self: In erotic life, a tendency to judge what or who is 'good' or 'bad' seems to often emerge as a way to cut off and refuse parts of the self. We can become more whole, and more intentional, by dialoguing with refused parts of ourselves. Integrating refused aspects of Eros is about finding our own balance, and working with density, so that we can explore and integrate nuances instead of seeking clear delineations between good and evil, self and not-self. When we take this journey out of the ordinary world into the world of sexual wholeness, we are bound to meet and dance with refused aspects of self.

Soul Retrieval: Who are we meant to be? Some parts of our souls have been lost, abandoned, left behind as we have endured traumas and shaped ourselves around conventions and necessities. This work can guide us in regaining our sense of soulful mission along with our vision of the joy that is possible. We feel into our purpose, and feel empowered to live according to our purpose. We feel, and become empowered to live inside a connection with all life and death.

Divine Union: In the erotic temenos, we sometimes find a sense of divine union with another. We can feel deeply loving, loved and "in love" with each other, without wanting anything more from the relationship

Dragons of Fear, Anger Sorrow and Shame are bound to be encountered in the erotic temenos. These dragons are lodged deeply in our experience of the erotic.

Rewilding means reclaiming our wildness, our untamed natures. Rewilding is an ongoing process of undoing constraints imposed by the dominant culture, and restoring connection with all life. We are co-creating a world outside domestication, where self-intimacy and relational intimacy becomes possible and powerful.

Army of Lovers How can love be cultivated between all who are involved in fighting for, creating, and living the alternative more-beautiful world we know is necessary, and possible? The notion that there is only one person for us to love and one person to be loved by is an idea of love that is shaped by fear. How big can love be? How fiercely can it fight against oppression and greed? How many souls and communities and activities can it nourish and encompass? Imagine choosing relationships, building alliances, and weaving social connections through love and pleasure, instead of fear, appeasement, aggrandizement, and the continual management of threat. We foster a different neurochemical environment in our bodies, and in the neurobiology of social life.

“My voice rings down through thousands of years
To coil around your body and give you strength,
You who have wept in direct sunlight,
Who have hungered in invisible chains,
Tremble to the cadence of my legacy:
An army of lovers shall not fail.”

(“Sappho’s Reply” from *The Hand That Cradles the Rock*, © 1974 by Rita Mae Brown)

Lover Earth We will explore ecosexuality and connect with Lover Earth. Instead of seeing earth as a Mother and source of all things, we see earth as a lover who requires and inspires our patient, skilful lovemaking, and who wants commitment to an ever-evolving intimacy.

Return with Elixir How can we be accountable to new insights and experiences we find and co-create in the erotic temenos? How do we harvest and integrate? How do we bring the lessons to others, and become Intimacy Educators, without thinking we have anyone else’s answers? Returning to our ordinary lives with transformative energy and empowering community is a key part of the Outlaws’ Journey.

A Question for the Journey

What is Courage? Is it a heroic “pushing through” limits and boundaries?
Or, is it becoming brave enough to stop?

“We are often told we are invincible
able to master any challenges and fight every battle.
Capable of all things at all times.
To keep going, keep pushing, keep striving.
But the truth is,
sometimes the bravest thing we can do
is to accept our limitations
and be at peace with the decisions that flow from them.”

B. Oakman

Lessons for the Journey

On the journey of undoing oppressions, trauma, and neglect and living the new world that is possible, we need new skills and practices.

Presence and being present – (vs dissociated, reactive, triggered, habitual, avoidant/uncaring). Autonomic nervous system regulation. Unlearning habits that keep our individuation and our intimacies small.

Expanding the soul (vs habitual, circumscribed, civilized, amputated by sex, gender, social conventions, and oppressions) We may develop an expanded Witness Consciousness, reclaim Refused Aspects of Self and Soul, feel a sense of Inner Union, and Rewilding.

Trust building and becoming trust-worthy What is integrity? We need to build a somatic ability to stay in alignment with heartfelt values under pressure. This is what empowers us to become relational instead of

individual. We will learn about the concept of "Vagal fitness" and figure out how to expand our own, by working and playing in in our personal neural learning zone.

Gut Intelligence There are so many ways to be confused by what we think we know. When we use “gut instincts” as a basis for touching others, we can so easily do harm. Too many people engaged in sexual healing work have hurt people they wanted to help when they acted on the basis of “intuition” shaped by subconscious beliefs, societal prejudices, and their personal history and preferences. But even with all my caution, I believe and know we can learn and practice having “gut intelligence”. With mindful awareness of our own prejudices, power dynamics, and cultural scripts, with a deep understanding of neurobiology and the impact of trauma and hyperarousal on our capacity to communicate, and with a commitment to frequent verbal check-ins, we can cultivate a deep intuition to guide us. There is an inner teacher that is our cellular knowing, our living body in its wholeness, our cellular pulse, our deep awareness of our own nervous system activity, and our neural connection with others.

New Relational Possibilities. This is an unfolding journey of becoming mindful and choiceful, opening the heart, dropping defenses, and becoming more and more capable of love and intimacy. We are making space, setting intention, and developing skills for connecting through love and pleasure instead of fear, entitlement, appeasement, and the continual management of threat.

Ethics for Outlaws

How do we take learnings we find in the outlaw world, the courage and capacities we build there, and structural components that effectively incubate the extraordinary, sacred experiences we make and find there, and the dangers we discern there, and apply all this to ethics? What is a counternormative ethics? In the normative realm, ethics is meant to

resolve questions of human morality with rules and roles that say who is an outlaw and who gets to belong. What are ethics for outlaws?



A process of courageously finding and following our own deep truths – in contradiction to the laws of the land – can be key to making choices for an ethical life. In normative paradigms for love and belonging, there are laws and norms governing ethical behavior, and there are punishing consequences for those who disobey. Many of us are hurt or diminished

by such rules. The legal-moral system is often used to enforce power and privilege, and internalize oppressions as shame and blame. What are the new tools, practices and processes that emerge from our experiences in the outlaw realm? How can we discern and be accountable to what we actually value? What counternormative ethical practices can we co-create, to support us in living deeply ethical lives in counternormative community? Integral ethics can emerge, as we weave integrity with intimacy and ecstasy.

Integrity Practices

If our belonging doesn't come from rules and norms that are outside us, it has to come from within us. We make this journey of listening to our own desire, affinity, longing – We feel the terrifying contradiction we are to the normative world. We dare to hear the music of our soul, to sing it and to dance....

Intimacy Practices

In loving relationship with other outlaws, we can find a new kind of belonging and dignity. Together we can make transformative playspace in the outlaw realm, where we find meaning and healing for our lonely traumas. There can be a truer love-making in this extraordinary world, detached from normative rules, roles and goals. There can be joyful, fruitful learning communities. There are also real dangers, when highly individuated, traumatized people come together in a realm without rules. We make mistakes, and cause harm. We need practices for cultivating intimacy with attention to power dynamics, while we build capacity for centered accountability and generative conflict.

Ecstatic Practices

We are trained to hide and minimize our ecstasies, and to distrust, regulate, monetize and privatize them. We can reclaim ecstasy. It is part of our integrity. Ecstasy can resource and support all our intimacies. Ecstatic Practices have been part of every ancient and indigenous human culture. Ecstasy realigns us with the non-equilibrium system of life. How do we practice ecstasy, and then integrate our ecstasies into soulful integrities and resonant intimacies?

See more – and join the ongoing inquiry – with practices and support for deepening in Integrity, Intimacy and Ecstasy at ethicsforoutlaws.com

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