

BDSM 101

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Here it is, the short and sweet of BDSM. It is meant to be a very brief introduction to the topic, a quick answer to the question of what D/s and BDSM are. It is not meant to be a comprehensive answer to the question. If you are still curious or interested after reading this very brief introduction, you can learn more in the library of Black Rose Castle on the island sim, Rosethorn Gardens.

BDSM stands for Bondage Discipline Sado-Masochism. It includes D/s, Dominance/submission. A male Dominant is referred to as Dom. A female Dominant is referred to as Domme or a Dominatrix. Submissives are referred to as subs.

At the heart of the D/s relationship is the power exchange. The submissive voluntarily and willingly gives his or her power to the Dom/me. It can be erotic for the submissive to relinquish control and responsibility to another because the sub is not in control, this can serve to free the sub from inhibitions that could inhibit his or her pleasure.

For the power exchange to take place, the sub must trust that the Dom/me will not harm him or her and that the Dom/me has his or her best interests at heart. Submission is the greatest gift that a sub can give to a Dom/me.

With the gift of power comes great responsibility. The Dom/me is responsible for the pleasure and wellbeing of both. By wellbeing, I mean both physical and psychological wellbeing. Physical harm is not possible here, and this makes it a safer place to begin exploration than the real world. However, psychological harm is possible, and it is important that the sub get to know a Dom/me before offering submission. It is not wise for a new sub to throw himself or herself at the feet of the first Dom/me he or she encounters.

The Dom/me also must plan scenes for the mutual pleasure of the Dom/me and sub, and much creativity and research are necessary to keep this aspect of the relationship fresh. The heavier load is on the Dom/me, who must focus on the sub, get to know the sub's needs, personality, and limits. In exchange, it is a small thing to ask respect and service of the sub, and such respect and service are part of submission.

Subs serve out of a desire to please their Master or Mistress. Obedience, honesty and trust are required of subs, and the D/s relationship cannot exist without these.

Every relationship is unique and different. Limits are negotiated, and a safeword is established. Use of the safeword by the sub causes whatever is happening to stop immediately, without hesitation.

and then the two can discuss what was happening and review established limits. Keywords in this lifestyle are safe, sane, and consensual.

In D/s, there are also M/s relationships. M/s stands for Master or Mistress/slave. The main difference between a submissive and a slave is that a slave does not have limits nor a safeword. The responsibility of the Master or Mistress of a slave for the welfare and wellbeing of the slave is far greater. He or she must be able to perceive when the slave is experiencing more than he or she can handle without harm being done. Some wise Masters/Mistresses of slaves do permit their slave to have a safeword.

There are also slaves in Gor. The practice of Gor is based on a series of science fiction novels by John Norman. BDSM is not a part of Gorean practice. If you are interested in learning more about Gor, there is a section in the Black Rose Castle library about Gor, or you could visit the scribery in the Glorious Ar sim.

Now, let us get back to Dom/mes and subs in the practice of D/s. Each feeds a need in the other. Dom/mes and subs are equal partners, flip sides of the same coin. To be sub or slave does not mean to be less than.

There are many different degrees and flavours, some like to inflict or receive pain and some do not. Pain does not have to be a part of this.

This is not just about sex. It is a lifestyle, one where the words courtesy, respect, honesty, trust, honour and integrity still have meaning. To me, it is a lifestyle of grace and beauty. Good manners and proper forms of address are important to us.

You are to be congratulated for having the courage to look within yourself and to step forward and ask for more information. I wish you well on your journey, and I would always be happy to answer any questions you might have along the way. You are among friends. Feel free to visit us often and observe and watch. You can learn much this way.

Oh and one more thing; it is fun!

And that is BDSM 101. I hope you found it helpful.