

KING ARTHUR'S NIGHTS!

CHAPTERS 3&4

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"KING
MEETS
KING!"

AND

"THE ODD
COUPLE!"

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"KING ARTHUR'S NIGHTS" - MO

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Chapter 3: "King Meets King!"

1. IN THE GENERAL MIXED DANCING SESSIONS WHICH FOLLOWED each night's latest dancing lessons we were each encouraged to mingle freely with the opposite sex or dance together as we chose. We soon became acquainted with most of the regulars as well as the students who frequented this homey neighbourhood ballroom seeking recreation, entertainment, social life, friendship, love and just plain relief from gnawing loneliness.

2. FROM PRETTY YOUNG SHOPGIRLS AND WAITRESSES and secretaries to elderly widows and rich old dowagers; from handsome young clerks, bookkeepers, technicians, white-collar workers and engineers to wealthy businessmen, retired widowers, single shopkeepers and even bachelor farmers, we found them all the same:

3. HUNGRY, LONELY, EMPTY, UNHAPPY, DISSATISFIED AND SPIRITUALLY DESTITUTE--ALL LONGING FOR LOVE of all kinds, but especially for a love they had never known before, true love, sincere love, genuine

love, the truly great love of their life, the Love of all loves, of the Lover of all lovers, Who alone can satisfy that deepest yearning of every human soul for total love and complete understanding.

4. SOME WERE FINDING MOMENTARY RELIEF IN A NIGHT OF AFFECTIONATE DANCING closely together in each other's arms with an occasional tender caress and gentle kiss. Others carried it further from the floor to the bed afterward each night in a casual sexual relationship which temporarily satisfied their bodies but left leanness in their souls, wondering why no one and no love ever truly satisfied or brought that lasting happiness of which they dreamed and is so deceptively and romantically portrayed by the media and tellers of tales.

5. WHY COULD THEY PERSONALLY NEVER FIND THIS HAPPINESS FOR THEMSELVES? Why did even a prolonged physically satisfying sexual relationship still leave them feeling empty, incomplete and unfulfilled? Even those with seemingly naturally

well-rounded physically-full lives of plenty, security, families, mates and children were still feeling so dissatisfied and unhappy and discontented that under the cover of darkness and the dimly lit ball-rooms of the big city they clandestinely sought new relationships outside the usual circle of their own family and friends, always seeking something new.

6. AS GOD'S WORD SAYS, "THE PEOPLE SEEK A NEW THING" (Ac 17:21), having found the last grown old and boring. "They seek after strange (or new) flesh" (Jude 7), having found the novelty of the last exploit and exploration to have worn off and no longer interesting. So they go from haunt to haunt and club to club and dance to dance and love to love and bed to bed and body to body until they are sick of it all, finding nothing that ever satisfies, no love that ever lasts, no happiness that is forever theirs.

7. THEY ARE MISERABLE, BROKEN-HEARTED, WOUNDED, BOUND, CAPTIVES of their own passions and prisoners of their own shattered hopes and desires and limited human frailties. For although the body is of this Earth earthy and satisfied with the things of this Earth, the human spirit, that intangible personality of the real you that dwells in that body, can never be completely satisfied with anything but utter union with the great and loving Spirit that created it.

8. HE IS THE POWER AND LIFE OF THE UNIVERSE THAT SOME PEOPLE CALL GOD but that the Bible itself calls Love, for "God is Love", the very Spirit of love itself, true love, everlasting love, real love, genuine love that never ends from a Lover Who never leaves, the Lover of all lovers, God Himself.

9. HE'S PICTURED IN HIS SON CHRIST JESUS, A MAN WHO LOVED EVERYBODY, even the poorest and the worst of all, even His self-righteous, hypo-

critical religious enemies. He was a Man who went about all His life trying to do good and help others, even the drunks and the harlots, the publicans and the sinners, and sometimes even the Scribes and the Pharisees who finally crucified Him for His dangerous doctrine of love, but His death brings life, forgiveness and eternal joy to those who love Him in return.

10. HE IS THE LOVER OF ALL LOVERS WHO CAME FOR LOVE AND LIVED IN LOVE AND DIED FOR LOVE THAT WE MIGHT LIVE AND LOVE FOREVER! He even loves the unlovely and the least likely to be loveable, brute beasts who blossom into beauty at His loving touch!

11. BUT HE HAS NO HANDS BUT YOUR HANDS AND HE HAS NO LIPS BUT YOURS and He has no eyes but your eyes and no body but your own, for you are His Body, His Bride for whom He died that you might live and love others as He did with your hands, your lips, your mouth, your tongue, your eyes and your body broken for them as He was for you, your blood shed for them as His was for you, your life given for them as His was for you, to even die for them as He did for you!

12. "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (Jn 3:16-17.)

13. ARE YOU WILLING TO BE SENT LIKE JESUS INTO THE DEEPEST AND DARKEST PLACES of this Earth amongst the lowest of the low, not to condemn them as the churches have but to love them into His Kingdom of Love--God's Kingdom, God's Love? Then, "Because He laid down His life for us, we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren!" (I John 3:16.)

14. SO WE SOON FOUND OUT WE COULD

NOT ENTER THESE PLACES FOR PURELY PERSONAL SELFISH RECREATION, exercise and entertainment. We could not come face to face and body to body with those who clung so desperately to us with such a yearning for us to meet their needs. We could not withhold bread from the hungry--the Bread of Life, Christ Jesus, nor Drink from the thirsty--the Water of His Word, which satisfy the most ultimate longings of the human soul.

15. FLESH CAN SATISFY FLESH, BUT ONLY SPIRIT CAN SATISFY SPIRIT, and we soon found that we had to give of both to "satisfy all their needs according to His riches in glory". (Phil 4:19.) We could not withhold any need from the love-starved as long as we had it by us and within our power to meet it and to give our all for their healing and His glory.

16. WE SOMETIMES PASSED THROUGH THE AGONIES OF GETHSEMANE, but once having begun the life of love, we found there was no stopping place, no limit and no end before the death of the cross. We had to give and to give and to give again until it hurt.

17. IT HURT OUR PRIDE, CRUCIFIED OUR FLESH, KILLED OUR SELFISHNESS AND RUINED OUR REPUTATION or made us "of no reputation" as Jesus did Himself. (Ph 2:7.) They called Him a Devil, a wine-bibber, a glutton, a friend of publicans and sinners, drunks and harlots, but He kept on giving and giving and giving again until the day He died for love, to give us His eternal love and life and happiness for ever after.

18. ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE THAT MUCH TO SATISFY THE NEEDS OF OTHERS and bring them eternal joy and happiness through the salvation of their immortal spirit by the power of the love of the God of love Himself? We did!

19. WE SOON FOUND THERE WAS NO STOPPING PLACE, NO LIMIT to which God would go to save a poor lost

soul with His infinite love and unlimited mercy! We soon found our hearts irresistibly drawn into the vacuum of their hearts to satisfy their spirits, even as our bodies were irresistibly drawn together and sucked into each other to satisfy their flesh!

20. THERE WAS NOWHERE TO DRAW THE LINE BETWEEN THE TWO, FLESH AND SPIRIT. There was no halfway, there was no "almost". It had to be "all or nothing at all" or they could not believe it was real love. They could not understand how you could offer to fill their heart but not their body, to satisfy their soul but not their hungry flesh.

21. THE TWO WERE INSEPARABLE, THE ONE COULD NOT GO WITHOUT THE OTHER and we had to feed them both together. As the Apostle Saint James so clearly states in that passage in his Second Chapter, the 15th through the 17th verses quoted above: "If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food (a necessary physical need like sex) and one of you say unto them, 'Depart in peace! Be ye warmed and filled!'--Notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body, what doth it profit?"

22. "EVEN SO FAITH, IF IT HATH NOT WORKS IS DEAD!" (Ja. 2:15-17.) In other words, if in the faith of God you really love them, they cannot understand it or believe it unless you really show them by some visible tangible work or action that puts your words into action and puts your faith into effect and makes it fact and not fiction, a sample not just a sermon!

23. AS EVEN JESUS HIMSELF SAID, "HOW CAN YE SAY THAT YE LOVE ME, AND DO NOT THE THINGS THAT I ASK?" (Lk 6:46.) So here I found myself, as Jesus did, casting my little lamb to the wolves to satisfy their hunger and make of them meek and docile sheep eating out of our

hands and hearts! Suddenly I found myself the fisherman Jesus called me to be when He said,

24. "COME FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN.--FROM HENCEFORTH YE SHALL CATCH MEN!" (Mt 4:19, Lk 5:10.) So I was compelled by "the love of Christ that constraineth me" to cast my beautiful bait like "bread upon the waters" that in due season it might return unto me with its captured quarry on the hook of His Spirit, the "Sword" of His Word from the line of my mouth. (2 Co 5:14, Ecc 11:1.)

25. I FOUND MYSELF SITTING WARILY ON THE BANK WATCHING EVERY MOVEMENT, every fish, to search out the best where I might cast my line along with its irresistible bait and in-conquerable hook! They sought to conquer her, but she graciously stooped to conquer them, and her conquests were many until God's creel was filled with "those that were His!" (2 Tim 2:19.)

26. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A SPIRITUAL TRIP TO THAT POND WITH ME you can read some of the Letters suggested and aforementioned, such as "Flirty Little Fishy", "The Ram", "Lord Byron", "The Beast", "The Dancer", etc. There you will find in the Spirit some of the stories, pictures and vivid parables of our fishing experiences in those pools of despair!

27. AND THERE IT WAS THAT WE FIRST CONFRONTED ONE OF THE GREATEST AND MOST BELOVED OF ALL OUR CATCHES with whom we had to use and allow him to consume two different kinds of our loveliest baits before we could land him successfully in our boat and fellowship, fellows in the same ship.

28. HIS NAME WAS ARTHUR, and like his kingly prototype, he was a king amongst men, not only in stature and mien but also in almost indomitable spirit. Hauling him in was a fight to the finish, and there

were times when we thought we had lost him and would never land him!

29. IT WAS A REAL STRUGGLE OF THE SPIRIT, OF MAN AGAINST THE SEA, God's man against a sea of difficulties. But we finally made it, and this is the story we are telling you now about our nights with our kingly Arthur and what it took to land him--our absolute all!

30. LIKE THE NOBLE LOCHINVAR, he appeared suddenly like a stranger in the night from nowhere, tall, handsome, strong and accustomed to sweeping women off their feet with his charm, excellent dancing and suave polished manner of the courtly gentleman.

31. UNCONQUERED CAME THE PROUD RAM, THE INVINCIBLE ARIES, AND WAS SUDDENLY SWEEPED OFF HIS FEET by my plain little lamb with her innocent shy naivete, her big beautiful bewitching eyes, her sweet soft voice, irrepressible smile, warm tender body, loving arms and absolutely irresistibly enchanting spirit!



32. HE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE! HE WAS HOOKED FROM THE START!--And as the fisherman gradually reeled him in night after night, he completely swallowed our line, hook and sinker, including my delicious bait, until he was even enchanted by the fisherman and his uncanny powers of God's love!

33. BUT FROM HERE ON I MUST LET HIM TELL HIS OWN STORY for himself, including his initial impressions of us two when first we came as he watched us from across the pond, our fishing floor--

CHAPTER 4: "THE ODD COUPLE!"

From overseas these strangers came
 The new Odd Couple with no name
 Their natures were so true and clean
 --Well, first impressions so would seem.
 She so young and gay, so bright
 He so old and grey--but still, in spite
 Of years and years between their age
 They were tuned in at every stage.
 He held the key to young girls' hearts
 She loved for love he did impart
 She was so free, relaxed yet true
 It seemed he was the first she knew.
 They cared for others more than most
 Deriving pleasure from the host
 Of common people that they met
 They shared a face none could forget.
 The smiles, the touch, the time to talk
 No rush, just rest and slowly walk
 No wasted breath on sharp retorts
 They spent no time on vain reports
 Just listened close to your heartache
 To pour love's balm their words could make
 --From overseas these strangers came
 So odd this couple with no name!

--By Arthur to MO & Maria, Christmas, 1973.

34. THIS WAS HIS FIRST IMPRESSION OF US, although we did not know it at the time. He went home that night and wrote this poem of us and gave it to us later as a belated Christmas present of his love, followed by another short sad poetic lament of his own monotonous lonely life which he called:

"TO WORK AND BACK"

The seventh day comes 'round again
 Will it be different this weekend?
 No!--They are all the same for me
 Day in, day out, that's all I see

The early rise, the lonely snack
 The trip to work the lone trip back
 The hours between go swiftly by
 Not slowly, 'cause they seem to fly
 Thank goodness so, for if they dragged
 And heart and feet and spirit lagged
 I'd reel along this road I travel
 My mind would seethe and sure unravel
 The thread which keeps me on my track
 To make that trip

--to work and back!

--By Arthur, Christmas, 1973.

35. HE DELAYED GIVING US THOSE FOR NEARLY A MONTH and for awhile we did not see him, so finally phoned him and begged him to bring them with him next time he came to dance, so at last he did.

36. IMAGINE OUR THRILLS AND TEARS as we took them home and read them for the first times! Immediately we were inspired to write a reply, and the following parallel parodies paraphrased on his own poems were the result--our answer to his own in almost his own words and with the same rhythm:

37. "TO KING ARTHUR IN HIS CRYSTAL PALACE!"--Thanks for your wonderful Birthday present--your precious poems!--With our hopes and prayers that you may be no longer lonely--here's our answer to your poems:--"Maria." (First there was this handwritten love note at the top of the page by Maria, followed by our more formal reply in typing with the poetic answers:)

February 18, 1974 (--My Birthday!--Ha!)

Our Dear Arthur! Greetings in His love! We thank you more than words can tell for your deeply moving and beautifully poetic expressions of the tender sentiments of your innermost heart which melted ours in tears! It inspired us to respond to your own heartcry with the following paraphrasing of your own incomparable words as our reply of thanksgiving for your confidence, and the only answer we have to give you for such love. May God bless and keep you and give you the joy He's

given us to share with you in
 Jesus' name! Thank you again!
 --Your friends in His love,--David
 and Maria. P.S. Here is our
 "ANSWER TO 'THE ODD COUPLE!'"

From o'er the years my Lover came
 The lowly Jesus was His name
 His nature was so true and clean
 He first impressed me like a dream
 I was so young and gay and bright
 But He so old, and yet, in spite
 Of years and years between our age
 We were tuned in at every stage
 He held the key to my young heart
 I loved His love right from the start
 He was so free, relaxed, yet true
 It was the first love that I knew
 He cared for others more than most
 Deriving pleasure from the host
 Of common people that He met
 Who shared His face, could not forget
 His smiles, His touch, His time to talk
 No rush, just rest, and slowly walk
 Why should you think that it's so odd
 He'd make me too a child of God?

(With our prayers for him that he'd
 find a New Way "To Work & Back" we
 also sent this:)

"A NEW WAY--TO WORK AND BACK!"

The seventh day comes 'round again
 No longer lonely on weekend
 They're all the same from dawn to dark
 For now I hear the song of lark
 At early rise and lonely snack
 On trip to work and long trip back
 The hours between go swiftly by
 Not slowly, 'cause He makes them fly
 His presence speeds the feet that dragged
 And lifts the lonely heart that lagged
 My mind's at rest where now I travel
 He leads the way that did unravel
 He guides my thread along His track
 And loves me there, to work and back!

So why should you be lone and blue
 When Jesus' love you can have too?
 Don't think it out--just let Him in!
 For you new life He will begin.
 For it's His love so full and free
 That brings the joy you see in me.
 For you, his dear beloved son,
 His love is more than anyone.
 You, too, can have this love so free
 If you will come and follow me.
 You, too, can joy with others share
 And heal the hearts to you laid bare
 If you'll but pour the oil of love
 He'll give you from His heart above.

This is our secret, why we came
 To bring you love in Jesus' name!

(Paraphrased by MO & Maria from the
 poems "The Odd Couple" and "To Work
 and Back" by Arthur, Christmas, 1973.)

38. HE REPLIED WITH THIS NOTE:

(Given to Maria March 7, 1974, at
 Arthur's flat: Letters he had
 started but didn't finish:)

My dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your
 kind letter. I really like the re-
 visions and additions which were
 affected on the miserable effort.
 I am really flattered that you
 should bother at all. I must apolo-
 gise David for having forgotten
 your Birthday.

My dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your
 kind letter. I enjoyed your para-
 phrasing of my miserable effort and
 feel flattered that you should have
 bothered at all. From high upon the
 battlements the rogue king sends
 his dearest friends his deepest
 thanks and also his belated greet-
 ings for a forgotten Birthday. My,
 how ill-mannered can royalty be!
 Flattered he was that two such busy
 people should bother to affect such
 blending revisions and additions to
 such miserable efforts. The king was
 very flattered that the said efforts
 should be subjected to such beauti-
 ful paraphrasing done in such a way
 as to enhance so that the true mes-
 sage was not hidden, the message
 therein.--Your loving friend,
 --Arthur.

--And so did the romance begin
 that was soon to whisk away the
 Lion's little Lamb with the bold
 proud Ram for "King Arthur's Night!"
 But first you must not fail to
 read "The Ram", the revelation of
 how God led us to lead him.--Please
 do it now! God bless you!--Then you
 can read the personal revelations
 God gave us about the Ram himself:
"KING ARTHUR".