

## Reflections June 2006

"The creative dance of desire is essential to our nature and deserves a place of honor in our spiritual practice."



[www.danceimages.com](http://www.danceimages.com)

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**The Hunger for Ecstasy**

From the spiritual perspective, desire has traditionally been held as temptation, the seductress, the siren luring us from the higher purpose and mission of our soul and spirit. From the opposite romantic perspective, desire is a heavenly gift that can lift us to ecstasy and plunge us into depths of despair, freeing us to be fully alive. From the psychological perspective, desire drives us to move inside of ourselves and outside of ourselves. It pushes us to an intensity of focus that can generate creative genius or compulsive madness. However we relate to desire, we all experience it as a fundamental human experience, be it perceived as a blessing or a curse.

From the eyes of the Marketplace Mystic, desire takes on yet a different garb. It is perceived as the most essential of drives and the most direct route to the essence of our heart and soul – the Joy of Being. Out of desire's longing and craving arises the

creative act itself – and with it, the paradoxical dilemma of how to be at peace with things as they are, while simultaneously striving to make them better. It is this dilemma that has made desire suspect and usually deemed a less than enviable companion on the spiritual journey. Yet in our heart of hearts, everyone longs for the creative act – whether it is producing a child, decorating a home, or establishing a successful business. The drive to create through the passionate energy of desire is innate to our nature.

Whatever form our desire takes – a longing, craving, yearning, need, aspiration, wish, want, entreaty, appeal, or a simple request, the Marketplace Mystic perceives that desire as evidence of something new wanting to come into being. Our mystic understands desire as a request for the highest form of our intelligence to emerge – our ability to produce a creative response to the now – to this moment as it is unfolding.

Creativity is honored by the Mystical traditions as the divine dance itself, our Source re-creating itself and the dance of life from moment to moment, fresh and new. To approach our own desires in this way frees us to reclaim the joy of desiring and the deep satisfaction of creating – whether it be a garden, a painting, an entrepreneurial project, a poem, a book, a meal, a game, a song, a sculpture, a carving, a cabinet, a bowl, a pot, a glass vase, a spread sheet, a webpage, a business card, a relationship, and on and on.

An endless stream of creativity becomes available when we hold the intention to be the instrument through which the act can be accomplished – not the “Doer” of the act, but the medium through which the act is accomplished. Whether we are the writer’s pen, the artist’s pencil, the musician’s instrument, the singer’s voice, the sculpture’s hands, the photographer’s eyes, the painter’s brush, this positioning of our relationship to desire allows us to be at peace with “what is” while simultaneously opening and striving to participate in the creation of something new that is wanting to come into existence. From our Mystic perspective, desire is not something to be avoided but to be embraced and honored as the harbinger of creativity itself

Please join me again next month for another Reflection. Meanwhile, I invite you to explore your own relationship with desire using the eyes of your Marketplace Mystic to discover the guidance and Joy of Being hidden within its grasp.

Ragini