From the Seed to Eternity: William Blake, Mantak Chia & The Sexual Basis of Mystical Vision

By Andrew Jan
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William Blake (1757-1827)

• Born and lived in London
• Radical Christian alchemist and Romantic poet
• Eclectic Mystic Influenced by:
  – Paracelsus (1493-1541)
  – Plato (428-348BCE)
  – Swedenborg (1688-1722)
  – Hindu Tantra (via Moravians)
  – John Milton (1608-1674)

“I must create a system, or be enslav’d by another Mans. I will not reason or compare: my business is to create.”

Jerusalem, 10.20
Mantak Chia (born 1944)

- Raised a Christian in Bangkok and Hong Kong

Teachers:

- Yi Eng (collated teachings on internal alchemy from 30 different teachers). With primary focus Yang Shen Tao (immortal fetus) which specialises in Out of Body Experiences and Astral (space) travel.

- Master Meugi (Singapore): Kundalini, Taoist Yoga & Buddha Palm.


- Master Pan Yu: the exchange of Yin and Yang power between men and women, and how to develop the Steel Body.

Created his own eclectic system: Universal Healing Tao: over 1500 instructors and 70 senior instructors
The Argument

• Both mystics use sexual feelings (energy) in the acquisition of mystical experience. In this argument, sexual energy is traced from the beginning to the end using a tripartite framework.
The tripartite framework is used by both mystics and consists of:

- **Chia:**
  - 3 *tan tiens*: lower, middle, and upper
  - The three minds (awareness, conscious, & observation)

- **Blake:**
  - Head, Heart, & Loins
  - Urizen, Luvah, & Tharmas

- **Needham:** numinous triune natural life endowment
Sexual Energy /Feelings
Blake

• Generative force becomes the healing force
• “Oh Holy Generation! (Image) of regeneration! Birthplace of God incomprehensible”
• Can create life: “sperm of mercury” (Urban – *Magia Sexualis*)
• Force( Catalyst) that can unite opposite energies - understood in Beulah
• Primordial experience close to mystical experience: “You shall forget your former state return O love in peace / Into your place of seed, not in the brain or heart.” (FZ)
Sexual Energy /Feelings
Blake

• Sexual Feelings are like flowers – soft joyous and inviting - providing a glimpse of eternity
  
  “Thou perceivest the Flowers put forth their precious odours / And none can tell how from so small a center comes such sweets / Forgetting that within that center Eternity expands”. (Milton)

• Tharmas: one of the four Zoas – a quarter of the human psyche. Realisation comes with integration of all parts. Tharmas represents sexual feeling, the body and the senses.
Blake – Practices concerning Sexual Feelings

Semen Retention
All his slimy length he drew
Till upon his alter white
Vomiting his poison out
On the bread and the wine
So I turnd into a sty
And laid me down among the swine (Blake’s Notebook)

Enjoyment of Sexual Feelings
Once how I walked from my palace in gardens of delight
The sons of wisdom stood around the harpers followd with harps
Nine virgins clothd in light composd the song to their immortal voices
And at my banquets of new wine my head was crownd with joy
Then in my ivory pavilions I slumberd in the noon
And walked in the silent night among sweet smelling flowers
Till on my silver bed I slept & sweet dreams round me hoverd (FZ)
Blake – Practices concerning Sexual Feelings

• Furore Uterinus:

“The First State is in the Head, the Second is in the Heart / The Third in the Loins & Seminal Vessels & the Fourth / In the Stomach & Intestines terrible, deadly, unutterable / And he whose Gates are opend in those Regions of his Body / Can from those Gates view all these wondrous Imaginations”. (Milton / Mesmer)

The Body as temple:

Blake refers to his Catherine’s vagina as Cathedron (Schuchard)

“His Emanation separates in milky fibres agonizing Among the golden Looms of Cathedron sending fibres of love From Golgonooza with sweet visions for Jerusalem, wanderer” (Jerusalem)
Sexual Energy / Feelings Chia

• Sexual feelings: in Taoist terminology known as *ching chi*
• “...sexual pleasure is popularly considered the highest bliss known.” *(AHL)* and forms a template for spiritual practice.
• Amplifies all emotions – positive and negative *(CF)*
• Sexual energy / water element / kidney health intimately related *(AHL).*
• Closely related to the original source / *chi* see picture: *(AHL)*
• Body as temple *(AHL)*
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Chia – Practices concerning Sexual Feelings

- Semen retention
- Suppression menses: “Slaying the Red Dragon” (HLTT)
- Unaroused sexual Feelings: *Testicular and Ovarian Breathing*
- Orgasmic sexual Feelings: *Orgasmic Upward Draw and Big Draw*
- Kan and Li
Similarities Blake and Chia lower part of tripartite

- Both have complex alchemical approach
- Both use medium of altered sensorium: ‘exalted sensibility’ versus chi.
- Both use unaroused (cooler) sexual feelings: *Testicular / Ovarian Breathing* versus ‘walking and smelling the flowers’
- Both use aroused sexual feelings: *Furor Uterinus* versus *Orgasmic Upward Draw*.
- Both view body as temple
- Both provide a glimpse of eternity
Picture of body from Blake!
MUALJ, 5/04/2010
Blake: Love and Sex Combined

- Purification of Love: gathering of emanations – reduction of multiplicity (release of sexual feelings)
- Stages of love fusing with sex: a) sex subordinate b) sex dominant c) harmonious union through Jesus (grace)
- “Christ expectedly materialises in order to bless the new Milton to loving tenderness and sexual grace” (Jean Hagstrum – Romantic Body)

“These are the Sexual Garments, the Abomination of Desolation
Hiding the Human lineaments as with an Ark & Curtains
Which Jesus rent: & now shall wholly purge away with Fire
Till Generation is swallowd up in Regeneration. (Milton)

- Independence:
Chia: Love and Sex Combined

- Purification of heart energies releases sexual feeling (*Fusion*)
- Adding sexual energy to the heart purifies its energies: “dissolves knots inside” (heart) (*AHL*)
- Love and sex combined influences love: “...it will stay in you longer.” (*Fusion*)
- Love and sex combined creates something new – “You will notice the change in both the quality and quantity and will have a sense of peacefulness, delight, security and comfort “ – compassion (*AHL*)
Chia: Love and Sex Combined

• Love and Sex helps control sexual desire
• Love and sex combined implies self intercourse, self fulfilment and independence – both heart and sexual drive less open to being manipulated by others. “Some religions use this centre (the heart) to enforce the concept of surrender, which they encourage their followers to translate into donations and charity” (AHL)
Similarities second part (heart)

Combining love and Sex:

• Purifies the heart
• Controls the overwhelming sexual urge
• Creates something new (compassion? develops Christ’s love / compassion)
• Both systems cry of independence
Blake: Sex and Mind Combined

Blake’s Fourfold stages of mind:

1. **Fragmented Vision** - Everyday sterile mind of ratio and reason (Urizen, Newton’s sleep, & Ulro)
   
   “Till a Philosophy of Five Senses was complete / Urizen wept & gave
   into the hands of Newton & Locke”. 
   (*SoL*)

2X **Fragmented Merging** (love and sex, mind and sex - beauty)
   
   Ostricker “…beauty is an erotic activity
   in which the eye and object join in
   happy copulation” & “Beauty all blushing
   with desire a Self enjoying wonder” 
   (FZ))
Blake’s Fourfold vision

3X Beulah (ongoing coupling of multiple contrary energies-Tripartite fusing):
   “Condensing all his fibres so his emanation can orgasm, transform and ascend as a Moony Ark” (Milton)
   “In Beulah the Female lets down her tabernacle; Which the male enters magnificent between her cherubim And becomes one with her.”

4X Eternity (Eden on earth) – the original UNITY
“Men are admitted to Heaven not because they have curbed and governed their Passions or have No Passions but because they have Cultivated their Understandings. The Treasures of Heaven are not Negations of Passion but Realities of the Intellect from which the Passions Emanate in their Eternal Glory”. (LJ)
picture of Milton fire charred penis towards foot
MUAIJ, 2/04/2010
Chia: Sex and Mind Combined

• All sexual practices spiral sexual energy in Brain as main practice.

• Three minds become one mind (Awareness (includes ching chi), Conscious and Observation minds) – Yi power (CH1) or Needham’s “numinous tiune natural life endowment.

• Kan and Li & Sealing of the Senses the three tan tiens are refined with orgasmic energy”. “… leads to a connection with our center, where the mind becomes still, and the thoughts rest.”
Blake: Beyond the tripartite

- **Union of Man with Heavens**
  (Universal Man *Jerusalem*)
  “When Souls mingle & join thro all the Fibres of Brotherhood / Can there be any secret joy on Earth greater than this? “*(Jerusalem)*
Blake: Beyond the tripartite

Union of tripartite with Urthona

“But for Generated Man to enter Beulah, special gates are required”, (Damon) which is the merging of the head, heart and loins. Hagstrum: “…’white brain’, the ‘red hot heart’ and the lons divided into ‘two lovely Heavens’ of milky seed – the testes of course.”

“Every one is threefold in Head & Heart & Reins, & everyone / Has three Gates into the Three Heavens of Beulah which shine / Translucent in their Foreheads & their Bosoms & their Loins”. *Milton* Blake says, "When wilt thou put on the Female Form as in time of old / With a Garment of Pity & Compassion like the garment of God". *(Milton)*
Blake: Beyond the tripartite

• **Union of Imagination with self**
  “In Heavens & Earths; as in your own Bosom you bear your Heaven / And Earth, & all you behold, tho it appears Without it is Within / In your Imagination of which this World of Mortality is but a Shadow”.

• **Union of Heavens with Spirit:**
  “When the Sun rises do you not see a round Disk of fire somewhat like a Guinea O no no I see an Innumerable company of the Heavenly host crying Holy Holy Holy...”(LJ)
Chia (Beyond the Tripartite)

- **Congress of Heaven and Earth**
- **Reunion of Heaven and Man**
  - Absorbing / Incorporating the Sun, moon and planets.
  - Absorbing / Incorporating stars
  - Travel through space
- **Union of Man and Spirit**
  - Union with spirits / light
  (Lesser & greater medicine)
Conclusion

Mystical consciousness = Eternity = Tao (Wu Wei)

Sex energy: component, catalyst, purification, sample of end state, framework for journey (self intercourse/ insemination from soul and spirit, rebirth to spiritual body) that enables reduction from multiplicity to unity