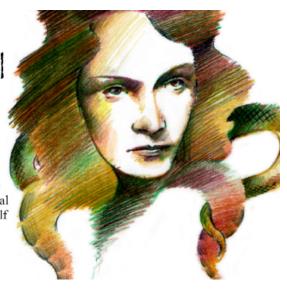
## The Devil's Workshop



## Offers up her energy to ...

Facilitate being a controlled, dignified champion of the human condition who patiently strives to redefine external power in the world by living out loud, laughing at oneself and being willing to play as hard as one works.

15



## Lilith

Nigel approached me for help in early 2021.

As he shared his story with me that first day, it was clear that his greatest fear was the loss of his marriage.

He confessed that his marriage was on the rocks and that his wife of nearly 20 years was on the verge of leaving him and that, as a result of this stress, he had turned to alcohol.

Unfortunately, alcohol had only exacerbated his troubles.



"Why, exactly, did your wife threaten to leave you?" I asked.

"She says there's no fun or spontaneity in our marriage and that I'm too straight-laced." was Nigel's reply. "She says she's lonely and feels isolated and that my drinking has made her even lonelier."

When I asked Nigel if he had tried to quit drinking, he confided in me that he continued to drink because he didn't know how to deal with his wife's feelings and her perceptions that their marriage is dull.

To Nigel, getting drunk and avoiding the situation had become a coping mechanism.

"Tell me about your childhood," I probed.

As Nigel recounted his childhood, I recognized that there were numerous things "missing". There was no mention of birthday parties or family get togethers or any social events. The idea of fun in any form was painfully absent. Moreover, Nigel vigorously defended the "straight-laced life style that he had been raised with.

Further questioning revealed punishment from his father for even asking for simple things like a birthday party with friends. Right away it became clear that he had not been allowed to have any fun as a child; in fact he had been raised to believe that it was sinful to even think about it.

When Nigel grew up and moved out on his own, he continued to avoid activities that were labelled as 'fun' and even avoided people that were inclined toward having fun.

Then, while attending a conference as part of his employment, he met a young woman who captivated him completely. Nigel loved her intensely, and she loved him. Soon after a brief and 'proper' courtship, they married.

According to Nigel, it didn't take long before his new bride began to complain that he needed to "loosen up". As the years went by, her complaining about not having any fun in life increased dramatically.

Nigel felt trapped.

He confided that although he had not followed in their footsteps, his parents belonged to a religious cult that forbade fun in any form. Fun was "the devils workshop" and needed be avoided if at all possible.

As I worked further with Nigel, we explored the religious dogma that had led him to the point of losing his marriage. I asked him why he felt obligated to adhere to the strict tenets of his upbringing now that he had long since left his parents home.

Nigel had no answer.

At this point, I did an Illumination with Nigel and followed it up with a Journey to Lilith, the Archetype who helps us live out loud, laugh at ourselves and play as hard as we work.

Nigel was noticeably moved and found it difficult to even speak after his journey.

I wanted to strike while the iron was hot so I asked Nigel if he would do something for me. He agreed.

I asked him to tell me what he would see as "living life out loud".

He thought for several minutes then said, "To take my wife out dancing".

"Do you know how to dance?" I asked.

"No." was his sad reply.

"Would you be willing to take dance lessons with your wife?" I asked.

He hesitated for only a moment and then said, "Yes."

Immediately I picked up the phone and dialled his wife.

Nigel was almost in tears when I handed him the phone.

"Would you take dance lessons with me?" he asked her sheepishly.

Even from where I was sitting across from him, I could hear her delightedly screaming into the phone.

"YES. YES!"



The tables had turned.

In subsequent sessions Nigel reported a new life and a saved marriage.

By Shanon & Marv Harwood

Directors of The Kimmapii School of Shamanism

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