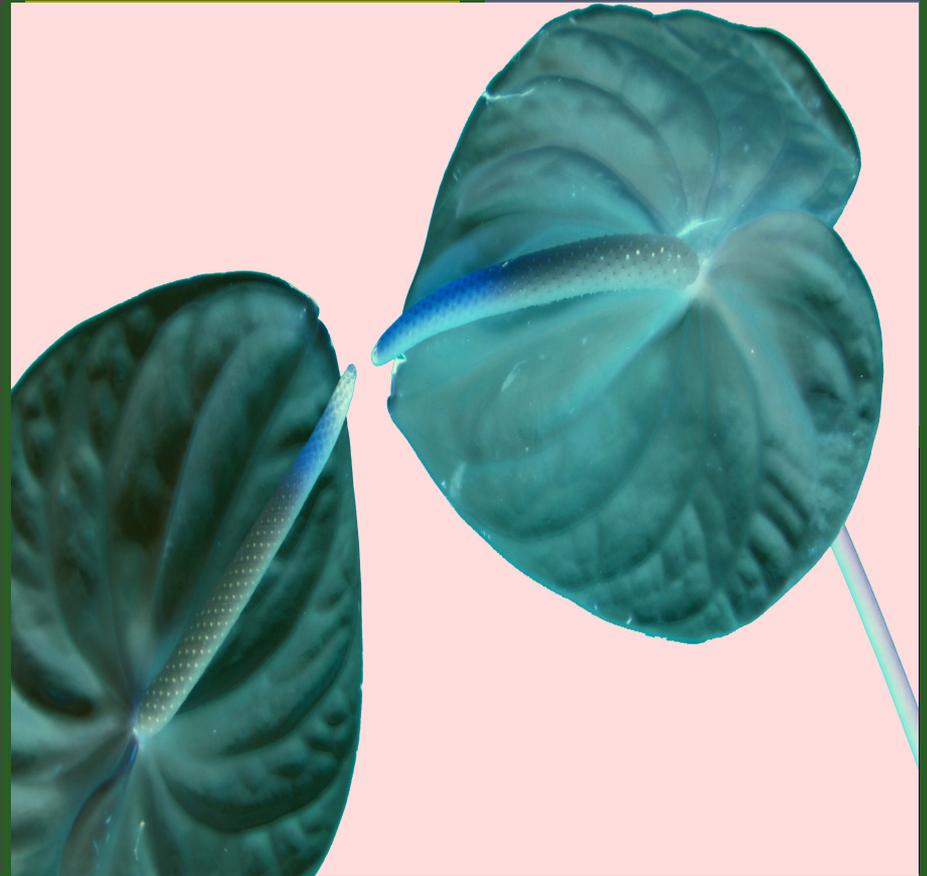




Series: “Sex: A Modern History”

Today: Monogamy

Last one of the series will be
Abstinence (12 May 2022)



“Monogamy”

**Joanna Bourke, Gresham Professor of Rhetoric
& Professor of History at Birkbeck, University of London**

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Mary Gove Nichols



“Monogamy”

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Mary Gove Nichols:

Women have a “right of self-ownership”.

If she “chooses seven babes by seven men, what business is it of anyone else?”



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Sexual exclusivity is unlikely:

one in every eight married women
and nearly one in four married men
are “unfaithful”
at some point in their marriage.



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One-sixth of cultures in the world are polygamous.

120 cultures in the world ban or do not recognize polygamy.

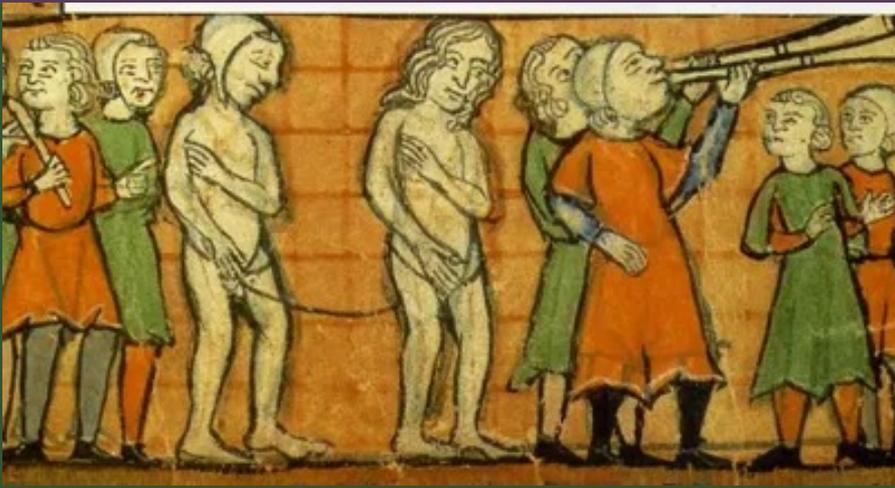
2,500+ years, legal systems in the West have been founded on the monogamous family.



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Emperor Constantine's constitution:

A husband could divorce his wife if she was “an adulterous, a poisoner, or a conspirator”, while a wife could only divorce her husband if he was a “murderer, a prisoner, or a defiler of graves”.



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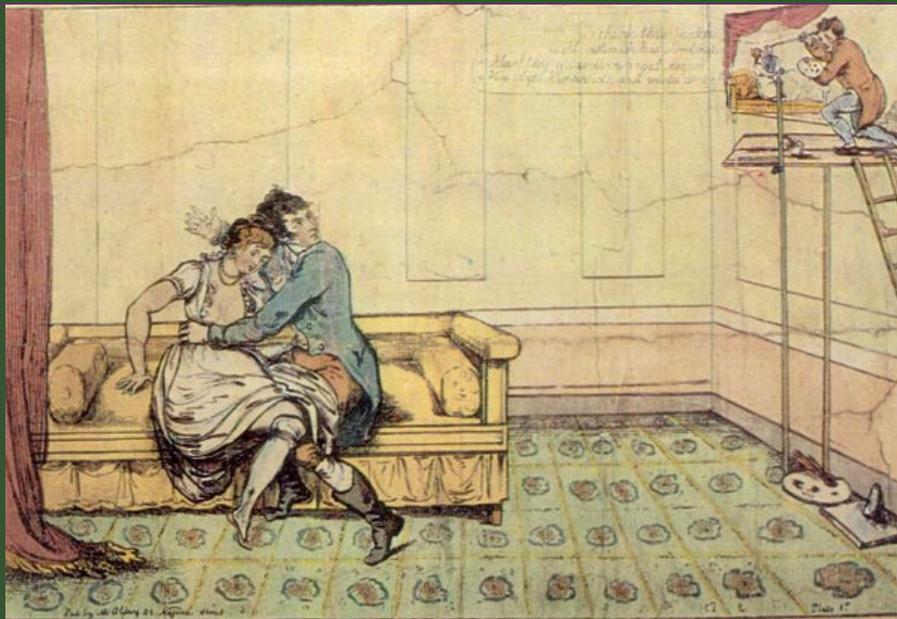
The “Principle of Coverture”:
once married, a woman’s
“very being or legal existence”
passed to her husband.



“Monogamy”

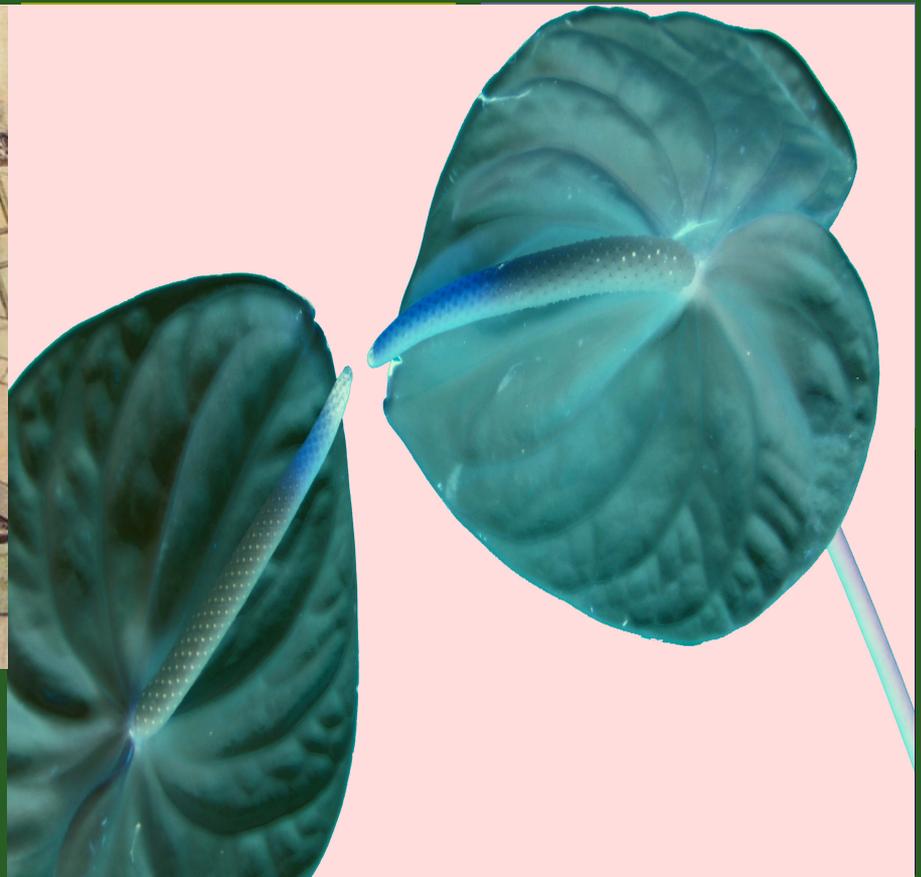
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CRIM. CON.
A Sketch taken from Life by Signior Gabrielli. Valued by 12 Connoisseurs at Twenty Thousand pounds!

“Criminal conversation” (“Crim. com”):
“conversation” was a word for
sexual intercourse.



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“Criminal conversation”



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“The word ‘cuckold’ is one of the most disgraceful epithets that can be applied to a husband – and the fact that there is no corresponding word... to apply to the wife” means that the harm to the wife was less.



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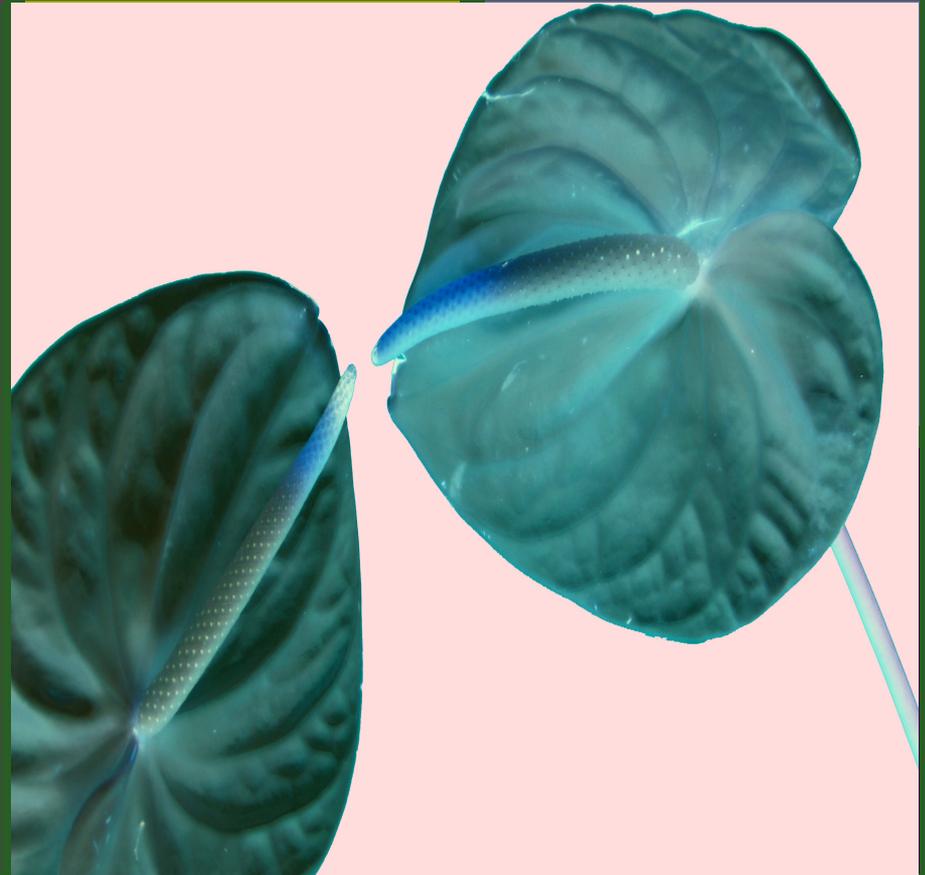
Wives could sue for “abandonment, loss of support, or alienation of affections” but not “criminal conversation”.

Because:

A wife did not “possess”: the “person” of the husband;

Male sexuality was less exclusive and her disgrace proportionality smaller;

The husband’s paramour was less agentic



“Monogamy”

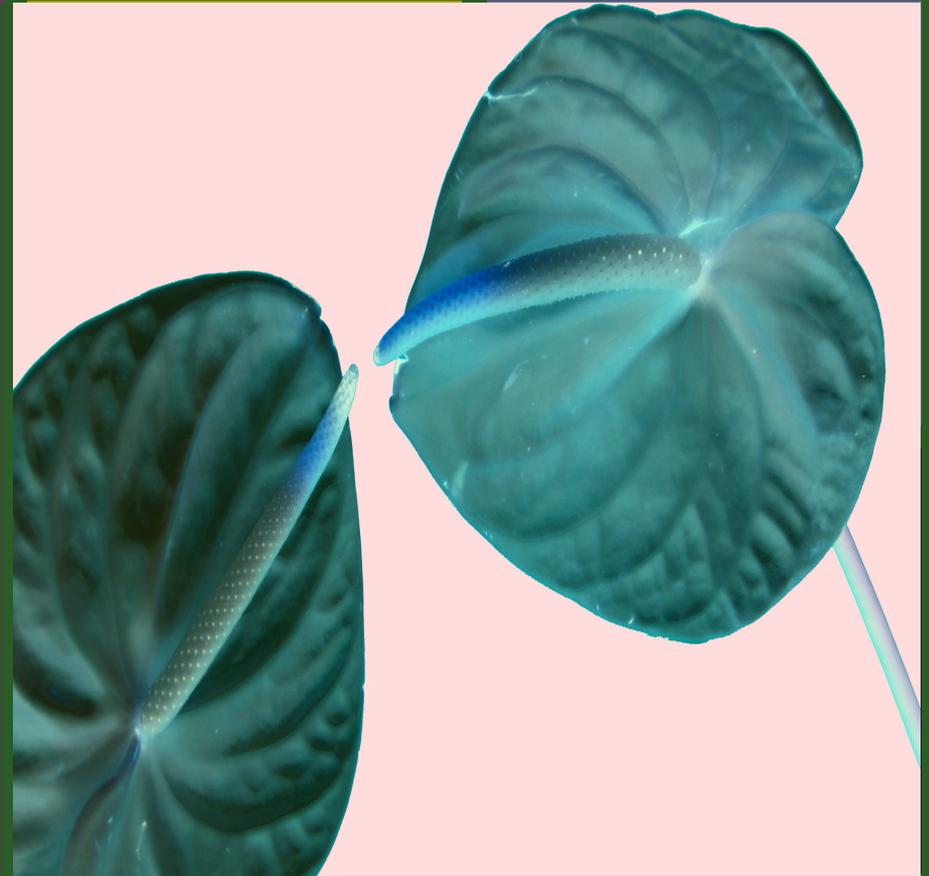
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Infidelity harmed

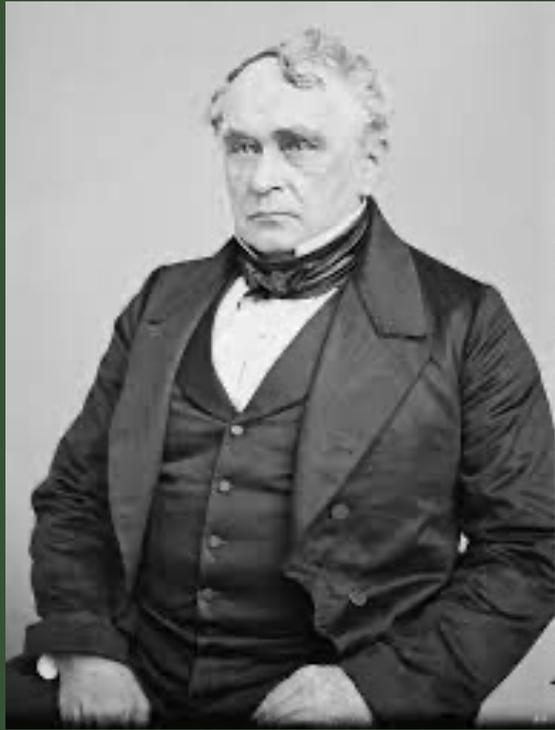
the *emotional* contract of marriage



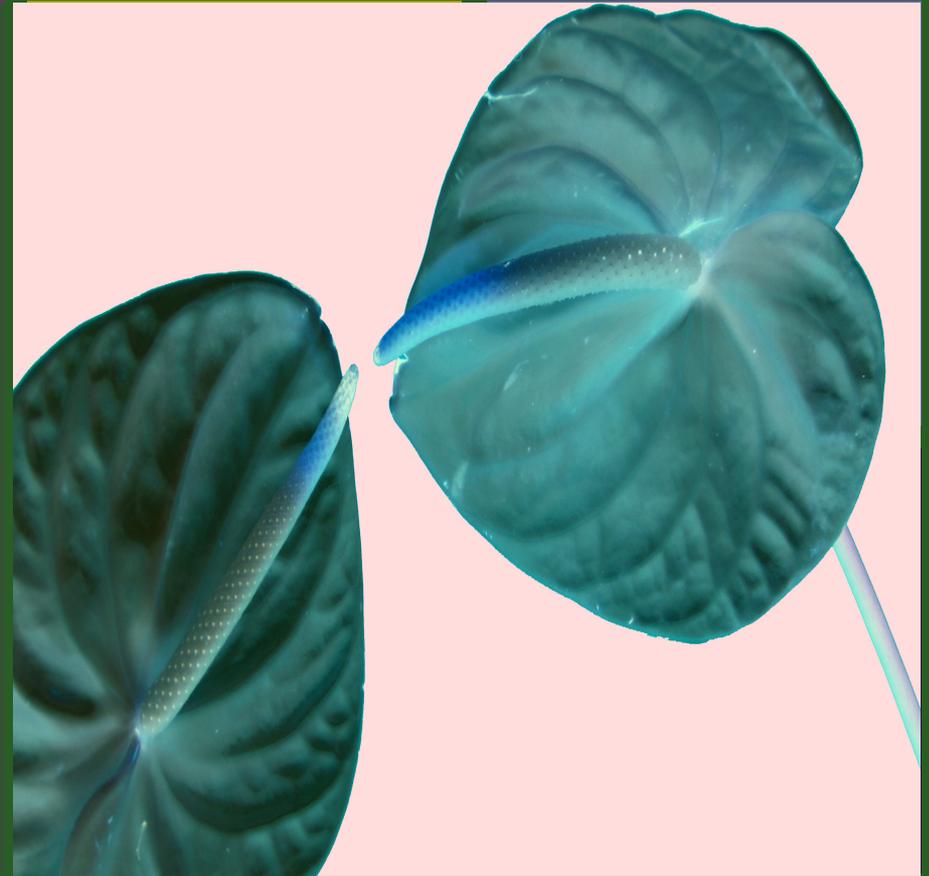
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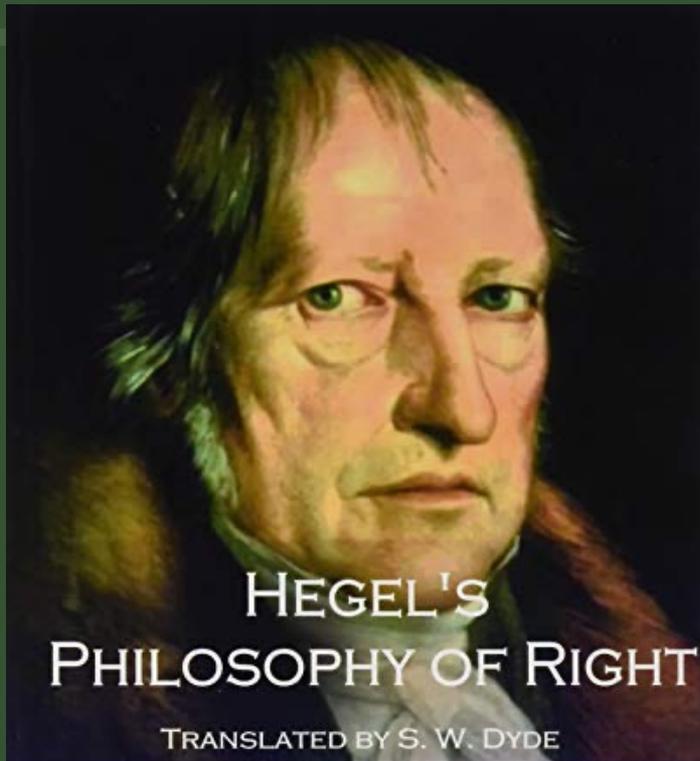
Francis Lieber



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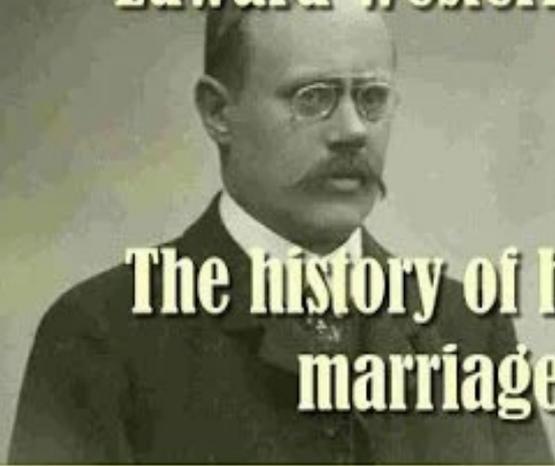


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Edward Westermarck



The history of human marriage

Recognised the “benefits” of polygamy, but monogamy was necessary for “civilisation”



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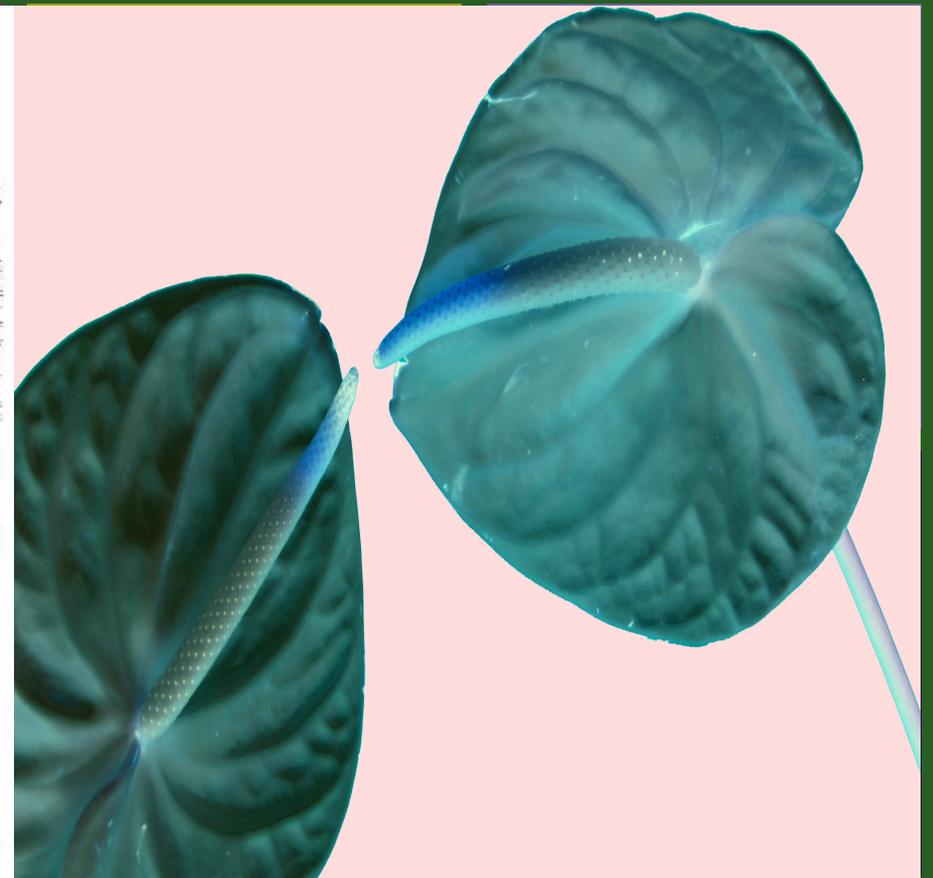
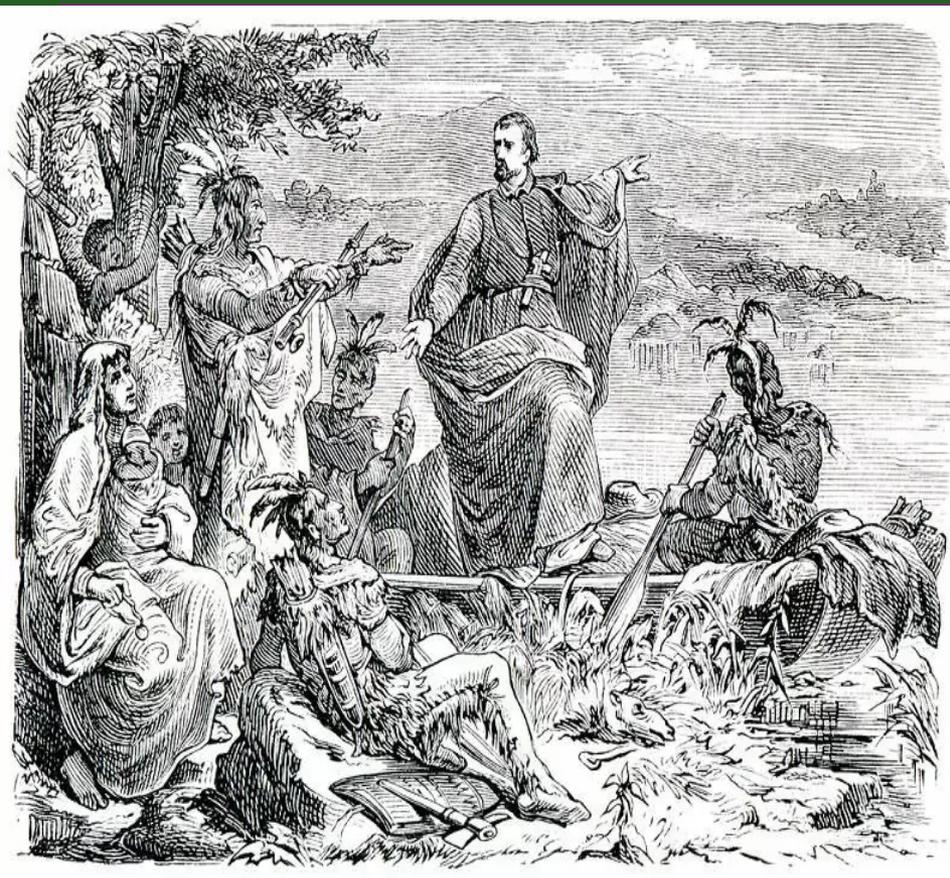
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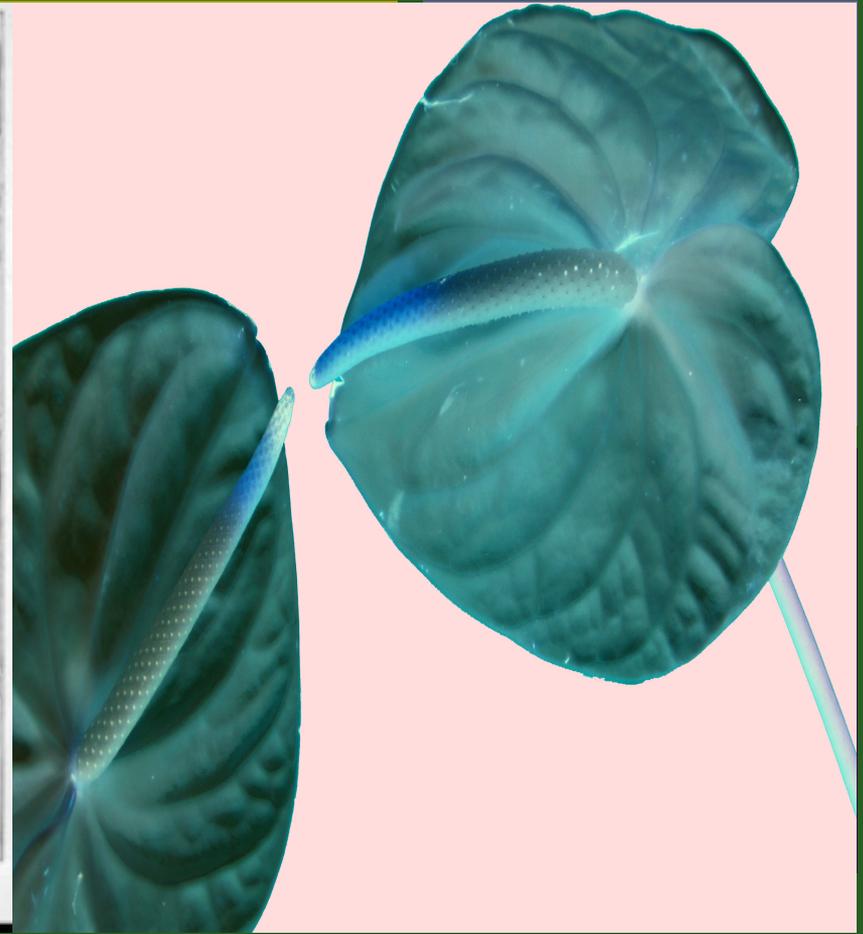
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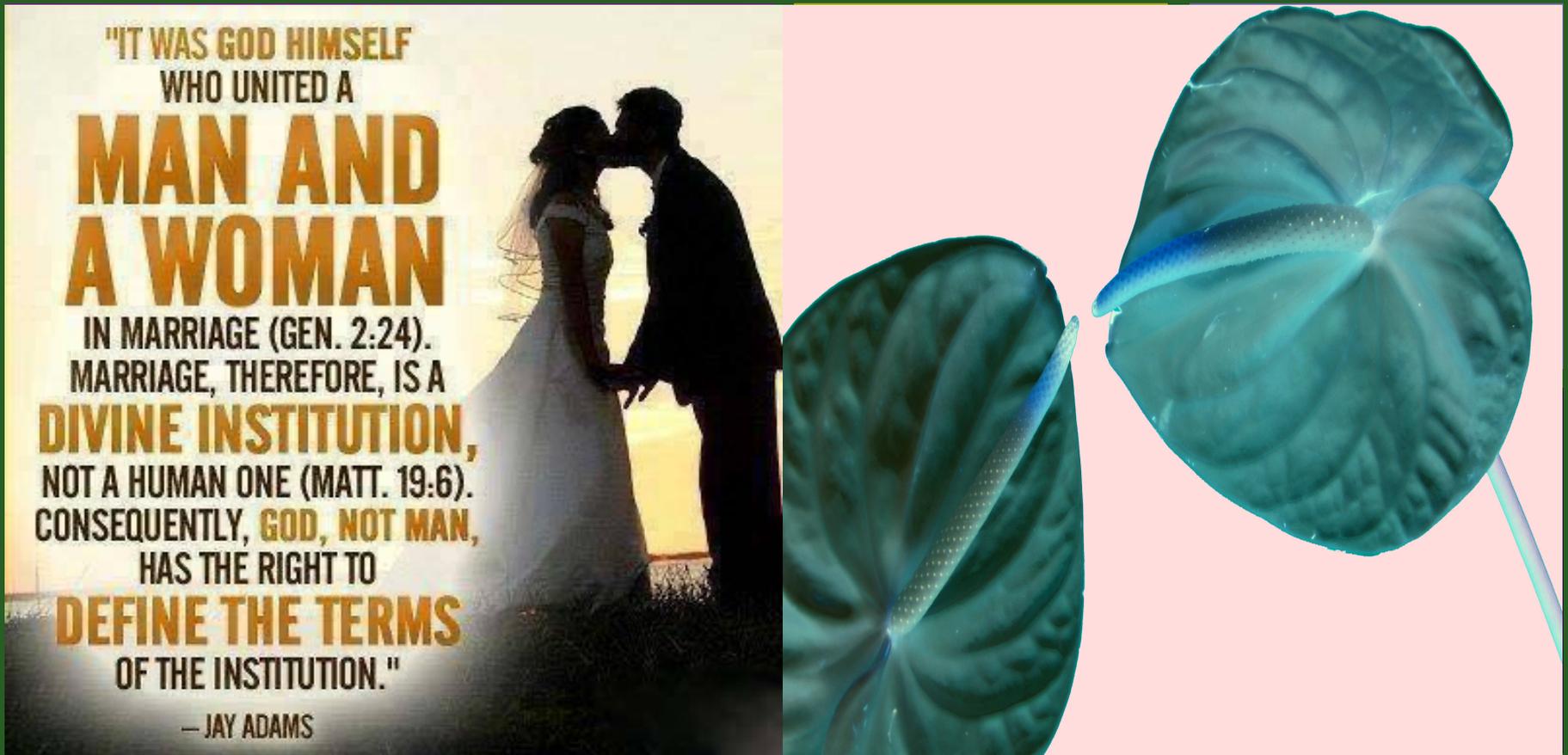
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"IT WAS GOD HIMSELF
WHO UNITED A

**MAN AND
A WOMAN**

IN MARRIAGE (GEN. 2:24).

MARRIAGE, THEREFORE, IS A

DIVINE INSTITUTION,

NOT A HUMAN ONE (MATT. 19:6).

CONSEQUENTLY, **GOD, NOT MAN,**

HAS THE RIGHT TO

DEFINE THE TERMS

OF THE INSTITUTION."

— JAY ADAMS

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The Gift of No Contact

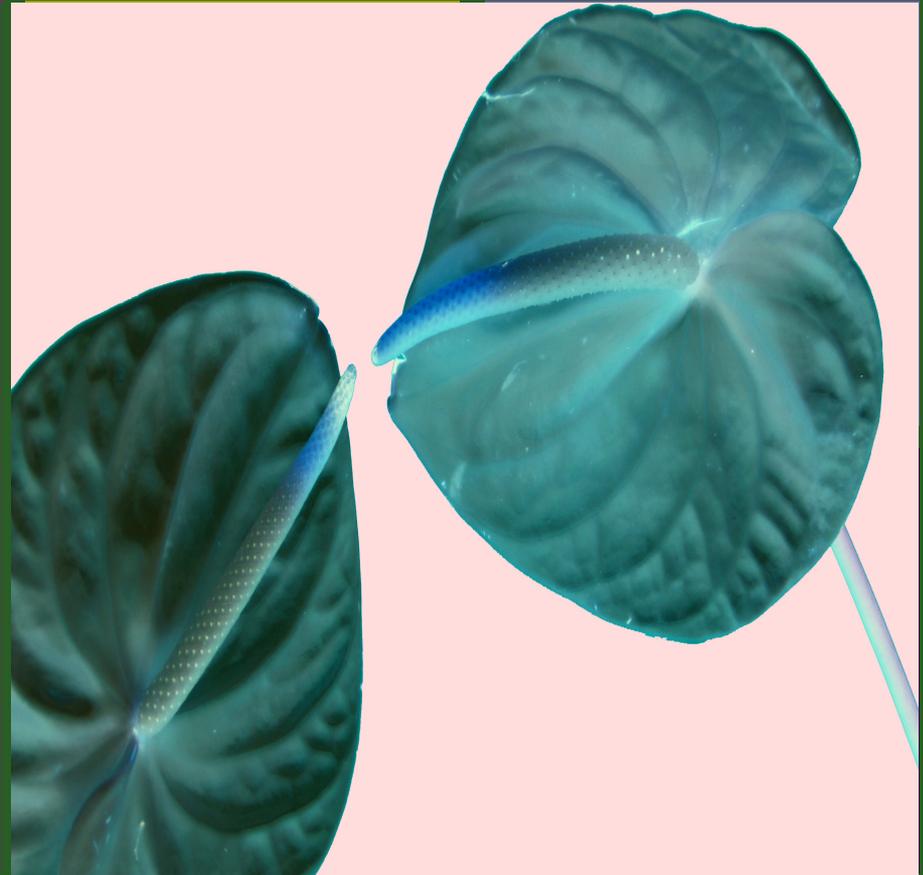
Sex and Love Addicts
Anonymous



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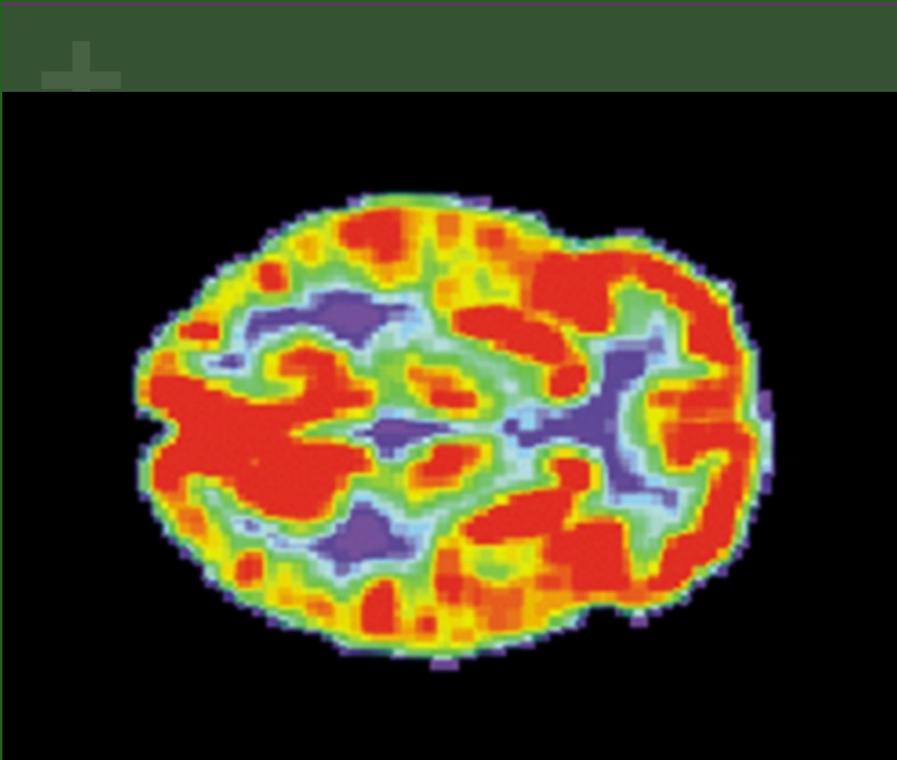
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“Hypersexual Behaviour Disorder”

Treatment for **Compulsive Sexual Behavior**

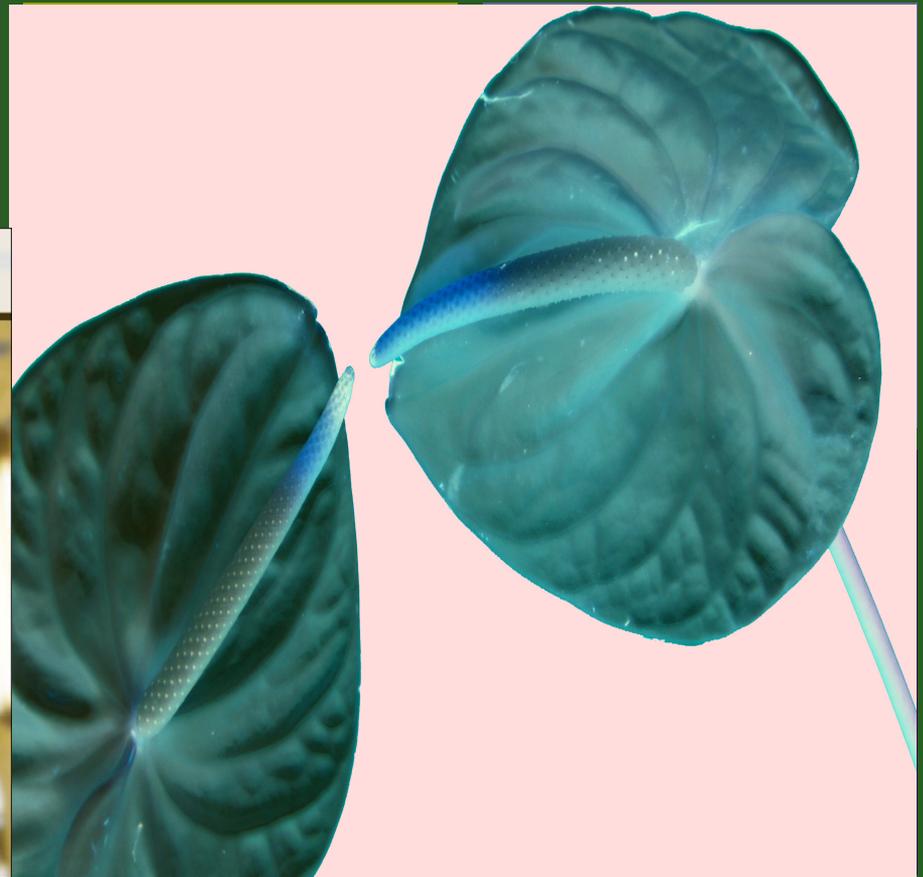
Hypersexual disorder is to assist you control desires and lessen excessive performances while upholding healthy sexual activities.

For More Information,
Visit: www.epainassist.com

Hypersexual
Disorder

[ePainAssist.com](http://www.epainassist.com)

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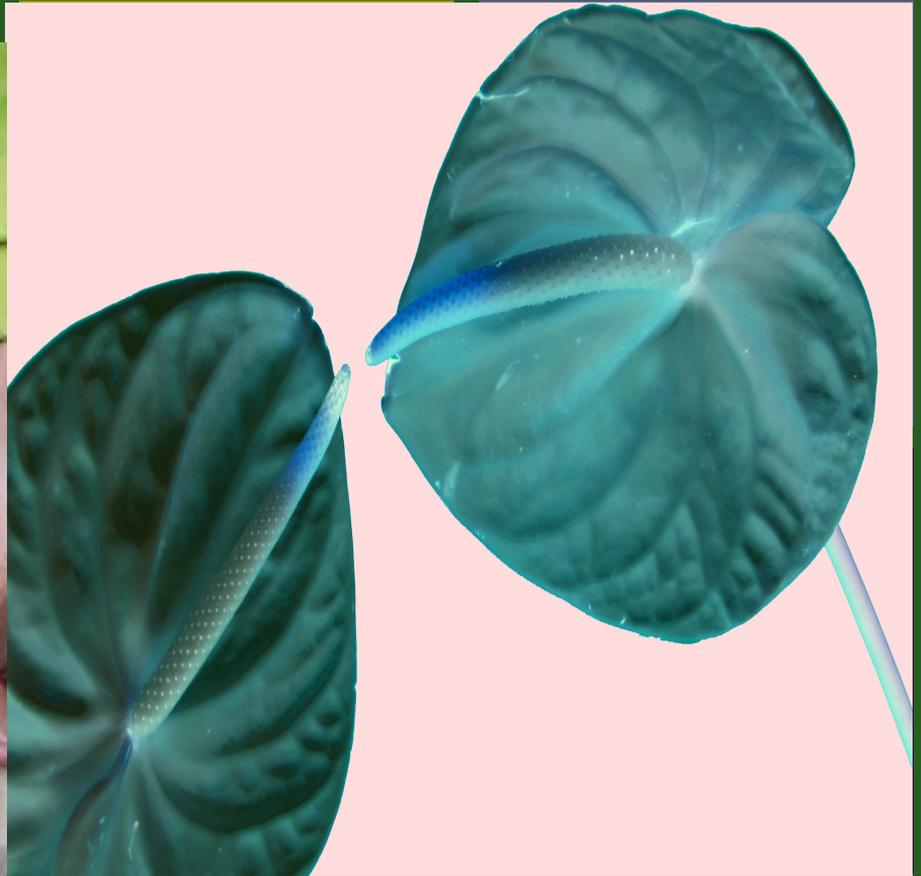
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