

JOYRIDE

Chapter one

Yoni and the Language of Love

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One of the great myths of Western Folklore is “Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” The truth is language can be barbed, it will draw blood, and human beings tend to hold onto wounds like they are a life preserver. If we wish to elevate sexuality and relationships, we must evolve the language of love.

The current words in our language used to describe a woman’s sexual organ are phonetically harsh, and carry edgy emotional overtones. (Granted, the same can be said for the male) The word cunt definitely has a phonetic pejorative element to it, and fuck, also has that hard ck sound which is far from gentle and subtle. (The ubiquitous f---- word is the only word in English that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and conjunction.) What messages are being subliminally ingrained in our “u a ho” hip hop culture?

Rather than recite the litany of sexual terms to describe a female genital, suffice it to say they were probably coined by men and not in a spirit of reference. Vagina and clitoris are anatomically correct, but we are not conducting a GYN exam. Romance needs a little poetry, not a Pap Smear.

A few years ago, there were about 12 million people in America doing yoga, most of them women. In the yoga community, many yoginis have adopted the Sanskrit rendition of vagina which is “yoni.” It rhymes with Joni, has a sweet buoyant lilt to it, and carries no pejorative cross cultural baggage to the West. Joyride seeks to elevate relationships and the sexual act to its highest potential, and that means working on all levels including language. Running the risk of appearing “new agey,” yoni will be the word we use for sexual flower of the female. Water that orchid with honor and love!