

Interview with the Devil – Tantra, Shadow, and Sacred Sexuality with Valentina

Hey, listeners, it's Adam Nox. And welcome to another episode of The Cult of You. In a newly titled segment that I like to refer to as *Interview with the Devil*. You're familiar with these contexts where I interview different thought leaders on controversial or occult ideals, but I've decided to shift things a little—to formalize the structure.

Why I'm doing this specifically is because I need to be frank with you. For a long time, especially in the early stages of the show, most of what I've shared has been very much framed from the left-hand path perspective. And don't get me wrong—I am a complete and dedicated supporter of the left-hand path. But I have to be honest and say that my own specific work is far more expanded. In fact, I like to refer to my work as the Middle Way—or more accurately, the Way of the Heart—because I am always trying to seek the balance between the light and the darkness. Maturing both of these dimensions into congruence rather than falling victim to yet another duality—another form of isolation inside the brain that labels or categorizes one as better than the other, which is pretty much the lead cause or root of suffering as the Buddha described it.

As such, I'd like to come clean and refer to myself from here on in as a practitioner of the Middle Way—one who walks this path. In these segments, I will be interviewing people from both sides: left and right hands off. And no, I'm not referring to deeply religious, traditional faith practitioners. That's not the focus of this show. Our focus is on the controversial, on the taboo—on that which forms outside or beyond the conventional level of thinking, while also considering how current science and current realizations adapt into that.

And I can think of no better way to jumpstart this new season and this new expression than by touching base with a dear friend of mine—a great tantric teacher and dakini—Valentina. She's a choreographer, dancer, tantric, yogini, healer, and teacher. Some may know her from her performances with Madame Zingara in South Africa. I caught up with her in Bali over Zoom for this deep and electric conversation.

If you're curious about the path of sacred sexuality, the real mystery behind full-body orgasms, the tantric view on demons, and the integrated whole of light and dark, this episode is for you.

Sit back, relax, and remember—live deliciously.

Darling, it's absolutely exciting to see you again. It's so good to have your energy on the show. It's really nice to connect. It's been a long time since we met in person, and I'm really glad to be here with you—and Kali, on your side. She's an important guide for me. Yes, she's also blowing kisses and seems jealous you're in such a beautiful homeland.

Where are you now?

I'm in Bali. I've been spending the South African winter here. There's a lot of Kali energy here—demons with big tongues, undulating wave aesthetics. In the Balinese tradition, the demons are more rounded and wave-like, while Indian iconography is more sharp. The long tongue is just part of the aesthetic, symbolic of chaos and time and death and transformation. Kali governs time, space, and death. Many see her as demonic, but that's the gateway to shadow—the parts of ourselves we often avoid. And you, Valentina, are an artist of that realm. You've done such powerful work as a tantric, a healer, and a guide through the Sacred Heart.

So let me dive right in with something big: so many come to tantra or magic seeking sexuality, but they don't realize the real obstacle—what they must overcome—is themselves. What's your take?

The real challenge is facing yourself. We think technique will save us, that a teacher will give us magic formulas. But ultimately, it's the journey into self. The only real doorway into reality is through you. There's no bypass. Reality is seen through your own lens. That lens is called you.

You can't understand reality without knowing yourself. And many have never been educated into the journey of the self, so they think they don't matter. But from a tantric view, there's only one point of consciousness—your perspective.

People want the mind. But this is the journey of the heart. It requires courage and commitment.

And then there's Kali again. In Balinese Hinduism, which is very tantric, reality is layered into three levels: demons below [chaos], gods above [divine order], and humanity in between. But unlike the Western goal of ascending to the light, the Balinese path is about balance. Not conquering darkness, but harmonizing with it. We're not here to fix things or to battle evil. We're here to hold the balance.

And this makes the density of human life sacred.

Exactly. In Western traditions—especially Catholicism, which I was raised in—the heart is demonized. But here, the density of darkness, the shadow, gives light its meaning. We must embrace both.

That reminds me of that old parable about the two wolves—the one you feed wins. But the one you don't feed becomes destructive because it's neglected. The devil is always there—not to be feared, but to be embraced.

Yes. It's not about avoiding it. It's about realizing you are both the good and the bad. And it's through your “bad” that your integrity is born. Integrity is only meaningful because you've tasted what it's like to be out of it.

So many try to turn their darkness into light. But fear is fear. Anger is anger. If we try to convert them into something else, we are denying their richness.

When I am afraid, I am fully here.

When I am angry, I am filled with fire.

If I can sit with it—not act on it or direct it—but truly feel it, it becomes something rich, powerful. It's the same fire as love or passion.

And then love, too, can become obsession if you attach it to outcome. If I project it onto someone and need them to return it, I lose the beauty of it. True love is in the experience, in the feeling of it, not in the reaction it receives.

It's about being whole in yourself. Because when we try to freeze love, or make it permanent, we create suffering. Attachment is what freezes us.

And fear is the most profound teacher. In my work, I have a meditation called “The Erotic Power of Fear.” You must make love to your fear. Not avoid it—become it. Let it consume you. Say to it, “Let me die now.” Because if you don't, it holds you on a leash. You live half a life.

Those who seek full-body orgasms don't need technique—they need surrender. And only those who face their shadow can open to ecstasy.

So much wisdom in that. And it's funny because the mystical orgasm isn't wild and loud—it's a quiver. It's subtle. Because the body has become so transparent, it can receive everything. But this also raises the question of worth. How much of our own ecstasy do we allow ourselves to feel? Many don't feel worthy of it.

The only requirement is desire. Do you truly desire ecstasy? If so, you'll go through the fear. If not, you'll stop. Some people want comfort more than truth. They want to love until it rips them open. And then they stop. But if you want God, you must be willing to lose everything—your marriage, your reputation, your identity.

That is the integral sacrifice.

And once through the gate of initiation, when the Kundalini begins to rise, many are overwhelmed. Their perception shifts. Their energy changes. What should they do when that happens?

Fall in love. Love it so deeply that you don't want to go back. You can't go wrong on this path. The journey is toward your own heart. It's not about speed. Integration is key. Going too fast can fry the nervous system.

And when the journey begins to affect our relationships—when we've changed, but others haven't—what then?

Love your mystery more than your history.

That mantra will pull you forward when the old identity becomes too tight. People will either fall away or learn to love you as you are.

And when the conversation is too hard to have—just drop into the heart. Be curious about them. Let them feel seen. You don't need to prove anything. Let your presence speak.

This brings us to something many younger women and men struggle with—pornography and a wounded view of sexuality. What advice do you have?

Sex begins in the heart. If a woman's heart is closed, her yoni is not open. No matter how wide her legs are, he's not inside her. And for men, if they don't connect their sexuality to their heart, even the biggest cock means nothing. The real power of a man is his tenderness. The tip of the penis is the exposed heart. It's sacred.

Arousal is a gift. And a woman should not feel obligated to do anything with that. She can simply say thank you. We've been taught that attraction means obligation. But in Tantra, your arousal is your own responsibility.

This is the reversal of the modern paradigm. Woman is the initiator. And man must offer his presence with reverence.

And this makes addiction to sex or porn unnecessary. Because once you've had a true tantric experience, it fulfills you so deeply that you don't need more.

Tantrikas don't have sex all the time. It's rare. Because the love affair becomes with reality itself.

For those who want to work with you—what's the path?

Start by watching my content. Do the course “The Yoga of Sex” on my website. Do it alone.

Then with your partner. Then, contact me. I work with people who are devoted to truth—those who are ready to know why they're here in this body.

And remember: life is a love affair with your heart. Sing, dance, create beauty. Don't be consumed by fear. Make art with your fear.

Even if we're on the brink of destruction—especially then—make love with reality.

That, my friends, is the path.

Live deliciously.