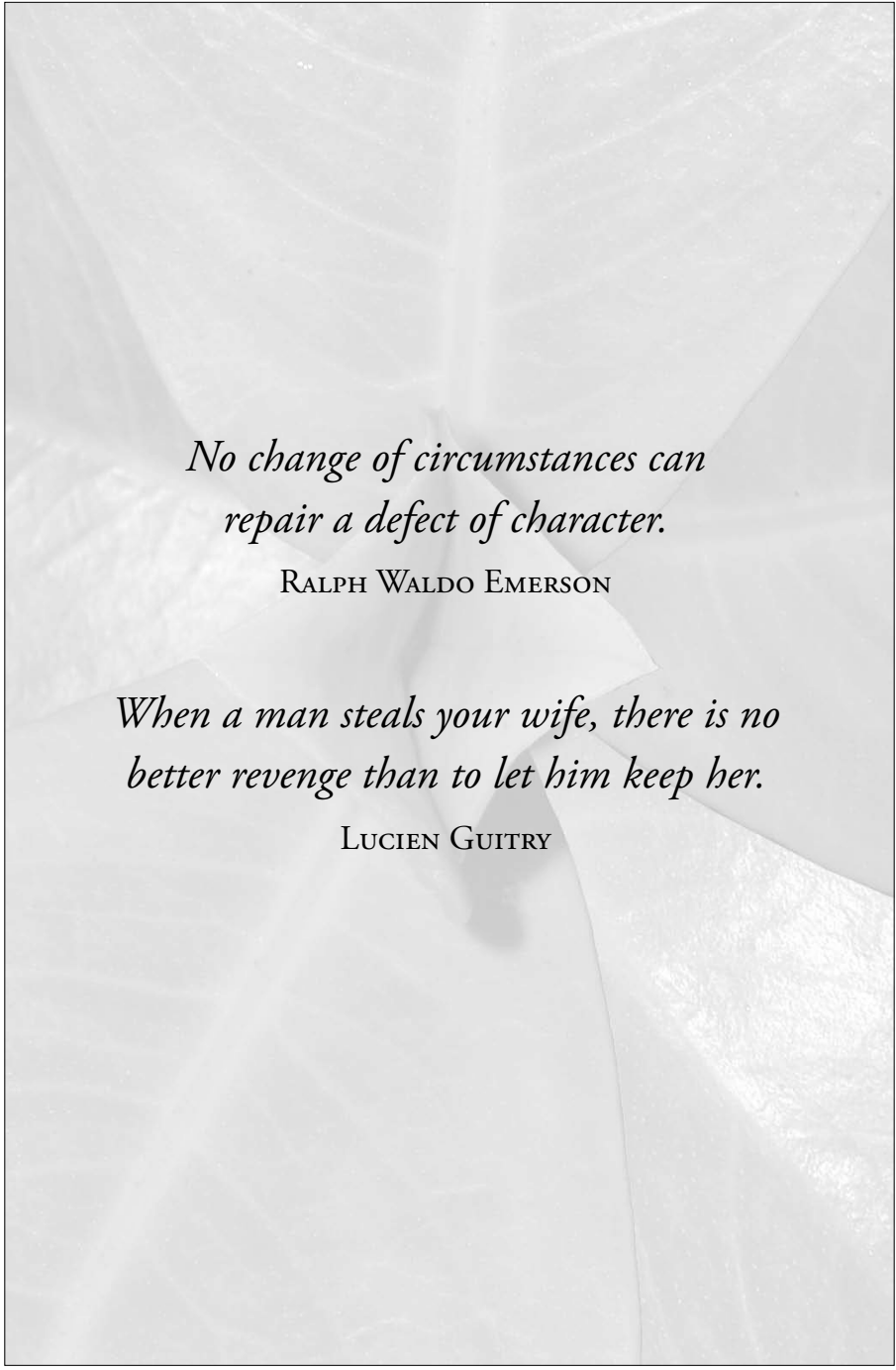


# Selecting a Goddess

## SELECTING (RECOGNIZING) OUR PARTNER

**A**t some point we will feel ready to create partnership in our lives. When meeting a potential candidate there are questions we should ask ourselves. Does our potential partner resonate with us? Does she resonate more than just sexually? Is there a deeper connection? Do we like how she shows up? Does she align with our values? And more importantly does she align with our *core* values? Core values are values that are non-negotiable. Core values are those values that, if compromised, preclude us from continuing our relationship.

Is our potential partner rooted in herself? Some ways to tell might be: She listens carefully and does not seem overly concerned with “fixing” our emotions. She allows us our process without getting into reaction. She voices opinions without necessarily feeling a need to defend them or needing consensus. She feels no need to brag or to show off. She shows integrity in her daily affairs. She expresses anger without slinging blame or guilt. She makes clear requests. She is accountable. She allows herself to be wrong. She self-discloses in an appropriate way. She is empathic without being ingratiating. She is



*No change of circumstances can  
repair a defect of character.*

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

*When a man steals your wife, there is no  
better revenge than to let him keep her.*

LUCIEN GUITRY

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sensitive to our needs without fawning. She is strong without being demanding. She sets boundaries without being hypercritical.

Now we can re-read the previous paragraph and turn the mirror back on us: Are *we* the kind of person we would want to have as a partner?

Our potential partner will always tell us ahead of time how she will treat us in the future—we just have to *listen*. Is she still friends with her former partners, or does she speak of them with *contempt*? Does she confess their sins and speak of how *horrible* they were; conveniently neglecting to mention that she *chose* them, and that she was responsible for fifty percent of those relationships? Is she perpetually the victim? Does she flirt and then feel contempt for men when they respond? Does she always need to be rescued? Is she cheating on someone *with you*? Does she tell how she *got back* at her landlord? How does she treat women that she doesn't like? How does she treat people that she doesn't need? Is there anyone she *hates*? Have you caught her lying? Can she be purchased? If so, what would be the cost? How does she act when she doesn't know what to do? Is she accountable? What is her relationship with her family, particularly her father and mother? Where and how is she likely to not show up, to *not* look into her mirror?

Remember also that women's perceptions of their former partners can be remarkably self-serving and one-sided. Before we get all pumped up in some self-righteous huff about that *other* asshole, we should remember that some women play men off against each other because they like to watch the sparks fly. It can make them feel *desired* as they watch those men *jousting* for them.

When we first meet our potential partner, we may be smitten. You know the feeling—our glands swell, our heart pounds, our eyes glaze over, and our brain switches off as blood is shunted to more urgent parts of our anatomy. Regardless of our hormonal or cardiovascular challenges, this is the time we should pay *close* attention to our potential mate. This is when we gather information about how she is put together. We compare values, feelings, and compatibilities.

Most importantly we watch and listen. We ask questions. We listen to answers. What do those answers mean? We extract *possible* meanings from the information, but we wait until we have had more time before drawing conclusions. We gather information but we do not make snap judgments. Red flags are noted and filed. If appropriate, we ask for clarification. This process may seem somewhat impersonal, but it's a sane counterpoint to infatuation, hormonal obsession, and the danger of a carnival mirror. Consider how many relationships we have had in the past in which we've ignored important signals from our partner. We need not judge her; we are just seeing if we are compatible. There are thousands of spectacular and well-differentiated women out there who would make terrific mates, but not for us.

Sexual compatibility does not a relationship make. It is only one vote out of many. Well, maybe more than *one* vote, maybe *two or three*. But it should not stuff the ballot box, rushing us into commitment. Depending on how high sexual compatibility is on our values list, we can navigate accordingly.

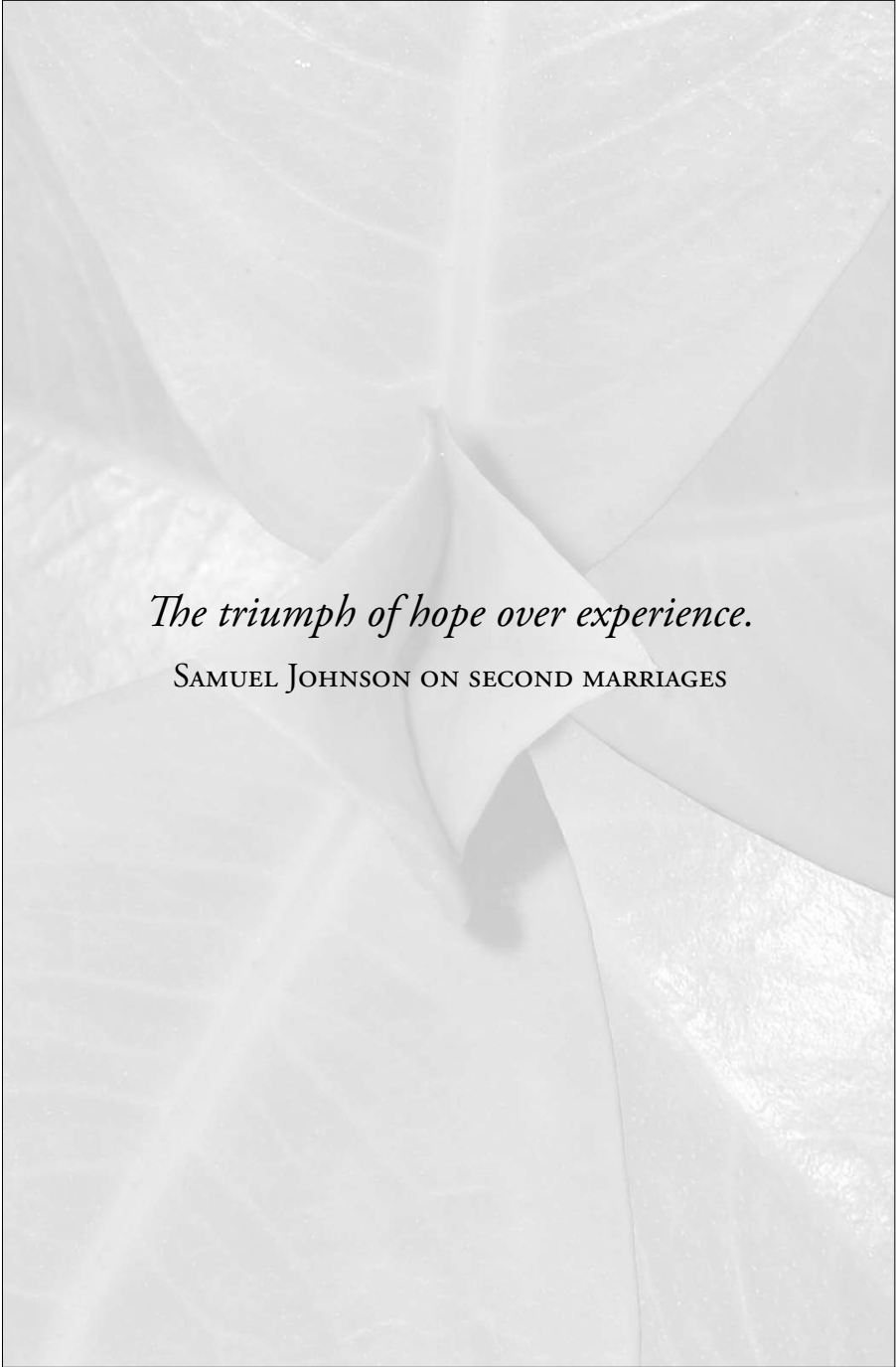
### RUSH TO RELATIONSHIP

Many of us *over-commit* at the beginning of a relationship. Sometimes we are so desperate to get into a bed or a relationship or a marriage that we talk ourselves into things, things that are not based on reality.

Some of us will lie to a woman in order to get what we want, but this is not what we are discussing here. Lying to a woman, including lies of omission, in order to get laid is so far down the evolutionary ladder that it makes slime mold seem appetizing.

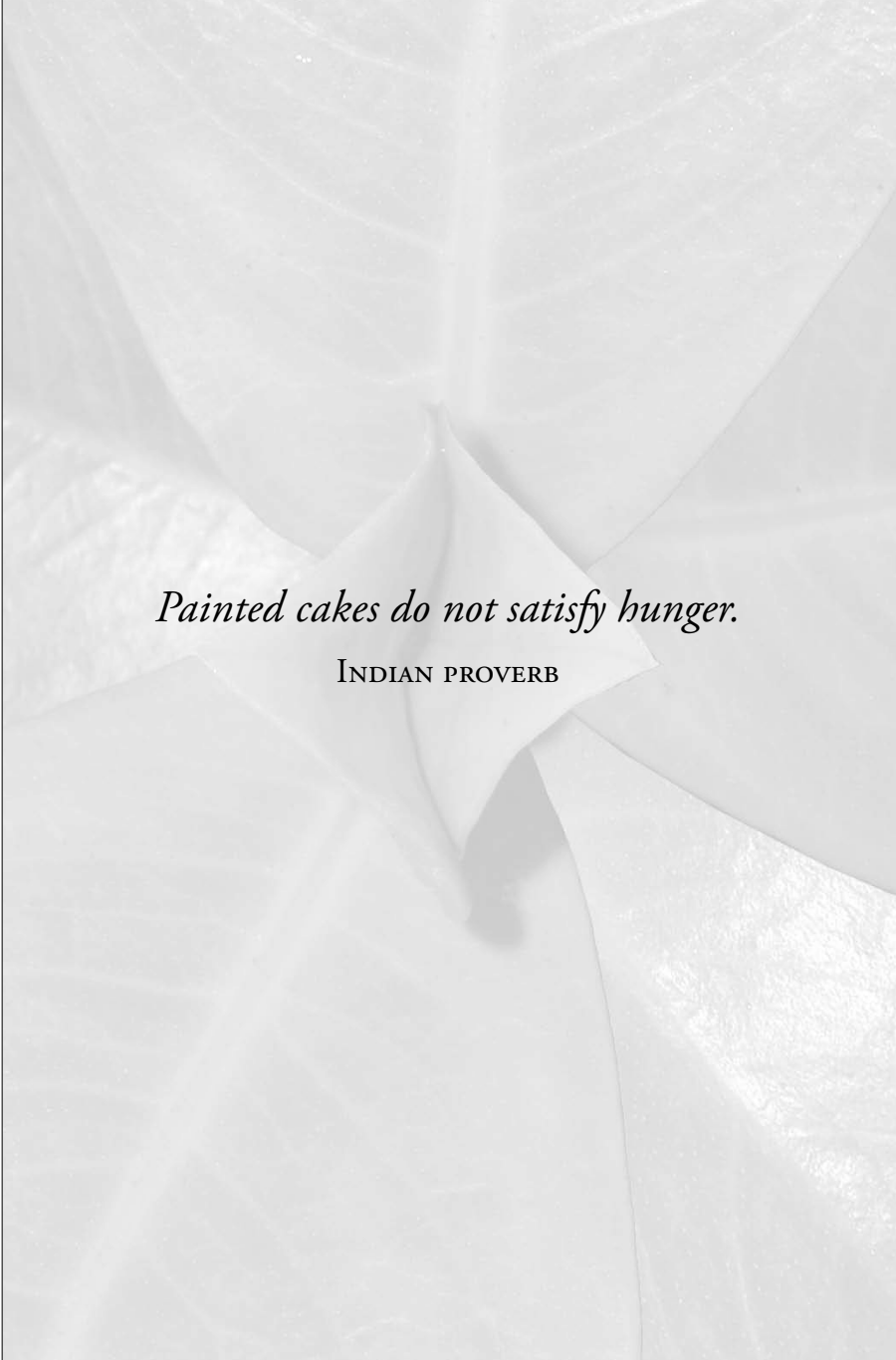
For the rest of us with at least minimal aspirations to integrity, in our blinding glandular rush to bond with another *we often only see what we wish to see*.

We may believe what our potential partner tells us rather than understanding that she can only tell us what she knows *at that time*. Like us, she may not have herself completely figured out. She may



*The triumph of hope over experience.*

SAMUEL JOHNSON ON SECOND MARRIAGES



*Painted cakes do not satisfy hunger.*

INDIAN PROVERB

## Selecting a Goddess

honestly believe that she is equipped to handle situations that in reality she is not. And we may think that we are ready to handle things for which we are not really prepared.

Seeing our woman as she really is and not as we, and she, would *wish* her to be is obviously very important. It becomes even more important if there are children involved in the relationship. If we are involved with a woman we are almost always involved with her children to one degree or another, and she with ours. If we misunderstand the person to whom we are about to commit, we risk not only our relationship with her, but we also put the children at risk as collateral damage should things fall apart.

If we are Internet dating the situation becomes even more treacherous. Geographical distance, pounding hearts, and swollen reproductive glands can make perilous bedfellows. We may think that the only way to really get to know our potential beloved is to move, either she or us, including career, family, home, etc. While this may be true, it also puts us at risk for losing much more than a potential relationship if we are hasty. This situation becomes even more convoluted and difficult to navigate as we get older, acquire property, and begin to have families. If we are far from our potential partner we may have some difficult choices to make that involve more than just ourselves individually.

There is only one unpleasant and necessary solution for all of this.

*Time.*

In our rush to partner with our potential beloved we may overlook the importance of getting to know her over time. We will need to see things over time, good and bad, as they rise and fall over months and years.

### OUR INFLATABLE GODDESS

From the time we are born, men and women are inundated with inflatable anti-gravity fantasy images of what our bodies ought to look like if we are to be sexy. As young men, many of us entered puberty