

- Gertrude uses many images associated with Spousal Imagery as Bernard used it from the Song of Songs.
- There is also an extant Latin text for the consecration of virgins which is liturgical, beautiful and spousal.
- One finds in Gertrude: the kiss, scents, caresses, lover, friend, bridegroom, ardent lover, spouse, pursuer, beautiful youth

Other Images of Affective Union with God

- Wrapped in swaddling with Jesus– no separation
- Heart, Wounds, internal stigmata, etc
- Wound of love
- Maternal: nursing the infant Jesus at her breast

Features of Female Love Mysticism

- *Excessive mentis*
- *Ecstasis*
- *Inebriatio*
- *Unus spiritus*
- *Jubilus*
- *Mors mystica*

Gertrude's Feminine Self

- Unselfconsciously feminine
- Namings for Christ and God mirror her feminine self in the Latin words of address. She knows she is in the image of God
- Untroubled with sexual language for her relationship with Christ/God
- Steeped in Bernard who gave her this language
- An open question about how the erotic and the mystical were woven together for her

Vocabulary for God or Christ—all Feminine Gender in Latin

- Goodness *Bonitas*
- Charity *Caritas*
- Cherishing- love *Dilectio*
- Compassion *Misericordia*
- Peace *Pax*
- Filial love *Pietas*
- Wisdom *Sapientia*
- Truth *Veritas*

Gertrude's Spiritual Exercises

- **Rebirth (baptism /confirmation) inner renewal**
- **Spiritual Conversion**
- **Dedication of the Self (Consecration of a Virgin renewal of vows)**
Divine Blessing
- **Following Christ (Making Vows as Response to Call)**
- **Mystical Union**
- **Jubilus (Praise, Jubilation, Thanksgiving with music and instruments)**
- **Life in Death (Preparing for Final Union modeled on Christ's redemptive death)**

Litany to the Sacred Heart

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- **Heart of Jesus, hypostatically united to the Eternal Word**
- **Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty**
- **Heart of Jesus, holy temple of God**
- **Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High**
- **Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven**
- **Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity**
- **Heart of Jesus, vessel of justice and love,**
- **Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love**
- **Heart of Jesus, in which are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**
- **Heart of Jesus, in which dwells all the fullness of divinity**
- **Heart of Jesus in which the Father is well-pleased**
- **Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all received**
- **Heart of Jesus, rich unto all who call upon you**
- **Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness**

Praises of Mechtild

Johna Peterson

**O burning mountain.
O chosen sun.
O perfect moon.
O fathomless well.
O height surpassing all
O clarity beyond all measure
O wisdom depthless bright
O mercy unending
O strength none can resist
Crown of all majesty...
The lowest of thy creatures sings thy praise.**