

Anarchy: The Tension Between Moral Authority and Political Autonomy In Opposition To Various Systems of Domination and Violence/Non-Consent

Once upon a time (year 50 of the Common Era) a radical quasi-Jewish movement of pacifist justice activists were oppressed by the Roman Empire. The persecution went on for more than 200 years, as the movement lost its egalitarian nature, got less radical, consolidated as a more patriarchal monotheistic cult, called Christianity. But before it became palatable enough to become an officially sanctioned religion by the slowly crumbling Empire, it was still an outlaw cult for Jesus Christ, and still a pacifist anti-government pluralistic group of monotheists. The subversive movement, and gross violence of the Empire was causing a morale problem with the soldiers (just before the year 300 C.E.), and military recruitment waned. Emperor Claudius II thought warriors were too tightly connected to their wives and kids. To stop the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engagements in Rome. Meanwhile, a lawful longstanding religious practice was for the young rich men to use fresh sacrificial animal skin to slap any willing young woman, a blood blessing to ensure fertility those ladies. They'd also do a ceremonious whipping on the crops. That was the Italian feast of Lupercalia (three-day festival honoring wolves and Roman history).

In popular defiance of Claudius II's regime, one of the inspiring characters with unlawful religious responsibilities was apprehended by the Roman police, and imprisoned for over a year. His name was Valentine, and he had been performing outlaw marriages for young lovers. After Valentine was arrested, the Prefect of Rome, had condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. At the time of Lupercalia, around the year 269 or 278 C.E., he received the death penalty, just like his heroes (Jesus Christ and various "saints").

But while he was imprisoned, he further subverted the rules of social engagement (prisoners are deemed monstrous in their guilt, worthy of torture and state-sponsored murder, contrasted with alleged goodness of governing authorities, cops & jailers). He kept writing letters. Legend has it that the jailer's daughter (or the judge's daughter) was interested in the subversive anti-war and anti-violence fringe cult called Christians, so that she got baptized, against her father's wishes.

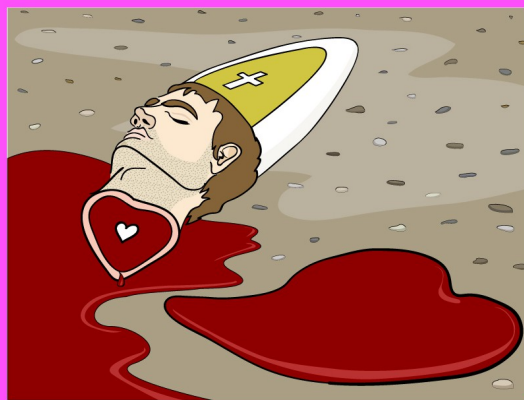
For his faithful "flying of kites" or passing notes and keeping relationships going with those who were outside jail, and for his martyrdom, the surviving churches called him Saint Valentine. Honoring his memory with a critique of unjust imprisonment waned through the centuries, so it was easy to popularize the date as a romantic love thing in the 1700s in England (via a nursery rhyme). then greeting cards 100 years ago. Saint Valentine's Day was a holiday for the dominant Catholic Church until 53 years ago, when February 14th was supplanted by other saints of higher renown (translators & founders of the Cyrillic alphabet).

About 30 years ago prison abolitionists began to reclaim its original meaning, and had fundraisers with conversation hearts, freshly emblazoned with abolitionist slogans.

How To Be A Subversive Valentine



HISTORY: Lupercalia For Fertility



**History: Outlawing Soldier Marriage
and Persecuting Enemy-Lovers**

Every Generation Learns the Same Things... and folks forget traditions, re-tell history, commit appropriation, reclaim or sanitize...



Letters of Support, Affirmations

Regardless of Legends and Lies...



Radical Recognition in New Century

Support Prisoners' Rights!



Respect the Dignity of Inmates!

Love & Solidarity Forever!

