

SUBMISSION



JIMMY DE SANA

INTRODUCTION BY WILLIAM BURROUGHS

S U B M I S S I O N
J I M M Y D E S A N A

SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS

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INTRODUCTION

Look at these pictures in *Submission*...My dear, it's all so *Christian and medieval and gloomy*. Precisely. Jimmy de Sana, your intrepid photographer, has witnessed and preserved for posterity the unspeakable rites of these benighted natives, rites as clearly derived from Christianity as a black mass. All deviant sexual behavior was suppressed for centuries by the Christian church under the most drastic sanctions and from prudential considerations the deviant concealed his activities from the public eye. The public eye in those days was not equipped with a camera and there was no mass media to make S&M a household word.

Look at these pictures and behold the havoc wrought by Christianity, the whole dreary panorama of guilt, fear, sin and punishment. The deviant is no longer in danger of the stake, but he is still confined in the straight jacket of his own reactive sexuality. The masks are symbolic for both the S and the M are submitting to impersonal forces rather than to another human being. The chains are also symbolic forged in the fire and brimstone of a Christian Hell.

Aleister Crowley, a great foe of Christianity said: "Do what thou wilt is the whole of the law." Do these people know what they want to do? The very word 'submission' contains the paradox of wanting and not wanting. And this ambivalent position can only be maintained by a double ignorance of not knowing what you want to do and not knowing what you don't want to do. Can this ignorance survive the impersonal click of the camera? Can such a paradox exist in an age of total confrontation?

William S. Burroughs