

## Article 177: Eudora the Barmaid part 2

Begin by reading or rereading Article 176.

Whenever Eudora drank too much, she declared happily, "It keeps the laughter going": and truly it did. It kept her happy, ...well, it kept her from feeling too unhappy ...for a while; and then she would find someone else to be happy with. But as her attraction to Niklias and their relationship and bonds grew, she could not rise above her feelings for him, for no one could match up to him ...or become his equal. No one was good enough, ...and though he pushed her away, she carried many longings and fantasies with her about him ...and their possible life together, so when he stopped traveling about and bought a tavern in a coastal town, she happily stayed with him. And Eudora, a friendly buxom lass, truly enjoyed the sailors who frequented their popular tavern. And though she worked hard, life was happy. Or was it? Let's see.

Eudora could sing with the proudest of the sailors ...and laugh and pleasure with them. She could drink with the best of them. She could do with them whatever she wanted, because they were there and she was, ...to them, so adorable. Well, adorable may not be the correct word, but we'll use it. You understand what we mean, ...do you not? Eudora could twist them around her pretty little finger. She only needed to gesture, or say the things she knew would entice them, and they would do whatever she asked; and she allowed them to do what they wanted with her, ...so it was a cheerful time. Well, it was not entirely cheerful, ...you understand. Life is not always happy and untroubled, so we are telling only of the gay and friendly times.

Well, Eudora and Niklias felt their life at the tavern offered them whatever they wanted to have, ...and they didn't have to work too hard, for many sailors were willing to give Eudora whatever she wanted, ...whenever she wanted it, ...however she wanted it, ...and she wanted it! She was greatly pleased to have such control over other people. And the popularity of her sport~or her actions~made the tavern extremely prosperous. But, ...well, there was just one little catch to all this: Niklias was her husband ...but no one knew that. And Eudora certainly didn't behave as though he were. And from the acts she performed, or the things she did, no one ever guessed.

Eudora did these things because it created a cheerful and exuberant life for her ...and she gained the things she wanted. And she gained the riches she felt she deserved, because, as her popularity grew, and her body and actions grew, the tavern grew ...and she and Niklias prospered together. And they never revealed~or even hinted~that they were married. They had separate rooms ...and Eudora pretended to live alone above the tavern in a place away from Niklias. And though she often took men to her room, she never looked upon that as improper, because, after all, the

money she was making was also Niklias' and she was happy. And he too was happy, ...well, in a way he was happy.

Now, if we said this was a happy time, would you believe us? Eudora laughed a lot, she had a great deal of companionship and a lot of men who adored her, and she had all the things in life she wanted, ...so she was happy, ...was she not? Well, she was and she wasn't. She was happy because she had all these things, and she wasn't' happy because they were all a lie. When Eudora felt most happy, she had a tendency to feel she could only be happy when she was untrue to herself, ...when she created an untruth or a falsity about what she was doing ...or when she concealed her true feelings and actions.

Well, that may have been all right for Eudora, but is it right for you? To be truly happy in life, and in everything you do, always be true to yourself and others. Show no falsity, live truthfully. For then, you won't have to do things to make you happy, nor will you have to pretend that you are happy, ...and you won't have to entice happiness through pleasure or gratification, for happiness will be the way and manner in which you live your life. And in that, no matter what, you will discover true happiness. And in being true to yourself, you **are** happy. And life is strong and cheerful, joyously fulfilling, and truly enriching.

Always remember that ...and accept no substitutes ...as Eudora did. How are you leading your life today? Do you really know? Are you being true? Are you faithful to yourself and others? Or are you accepting substitutes for what you truly desire? Are you seeking riches from life or the richness of yourself? Do you know? Are you willing to be guided by what you truly want? Or are you living from one pleasure and gratification to another? Have you opened a Pandora's box of evils and ills and dissatisfaction in your life? And if so, what are you willing to do about that?

Remember, if you try to change one-thing-at-a-time, each change will oppose other things~including your old beliefs, thoughts, and ways~which will maintain your usual state of confusion and turmoil, ...then, to gain some temporary measure of relief and consistency, you will quickly return to your old beliefs and ways~even though they appear different~and nothing substantial changes, ...however, by truly changing yourself, everything in your body and life will change.