

Nite Hunt ([00:01](#)):

Hello, I'm Nite Hunt. My pronouns are he/him/his. And this is OurTable: Trans spirituality conversations. OurTable is a project of enfleshed where we create spiritual nourishment for collective liberation. You can learn more about our work at enfleshed.com. As the trans faith intern at enfleshed. I'm excited to be the host of OurTable, an audio project that brings trans people together to have the spiritual and religious conversations we want to have on our own terms. Our Table will be made up of four conversations each with a different theme and different guests. Today, we're talking about divinity and sex with our phenomenal guests here Reverend KC and J Mase the Third. There will be discussions of sexual violence and other sensitive body and sexuality conversations. So please pay attention to your own needs and listen in at your own pace. For everyone, for perhaps, especially for trans people, sex is complicated. We can feel awkward and confused and have really complex feelings in and around and about our bodies. Sometimes our sex partners don't know how to be supportive. We're fetishized, we face incredibly high rates of sexual, physical, and emotional assault. Transphobia and other prejudices are there own barrier with the added bonus that some of us have religious trauma around sex, born from purity culture. On the other hand, good sex can be healing, a source of regular pleasure and joy. It can help us connect with our bodies. And also, we know trans people are hot, a divine glimpse, for sure. So today we want to dive right into the complexity with special attention to how sex can be spiritual, sex is political, and sex can be a form of repair or healing. But first let's start with some introductions.

J Mase III ([01:51](#)):

Let me just say name and pronouns, that what we doing?

Nite Hunt ([01:54](#)):

Name, pronouns, and where you are in the world.

J Mase III ([01:57](#)):

So Hey everyone. My name is J Mase the Third, J Mase, or Mase, for short. I use he/him/his pronouns, and I am currently based in Seattle, Washington, but I'm from the magical land of Philadelphia,

Rev. KC Slack ([02:09](#)):

Hey everybody, uh, um, Reverend KC Slack, um, and pronouns, are they/them. I am currently located in Los Angeles, California, but I am always and forever from Cleveland, Ohio.

Nite Hunt ([02:23](#)):

Nice. I have no geographical understanding of the U.S. even though I've been in school for at least 15 years. So y'all are from the US and that, thank you for that. Um, but let's begin with the first question. What would you consider to be a moment your faith, religion, spirituality felt like home to you, if it ever has?

J Mase III ([02:51](#)):

I would say a time, uh, it felt like home for me was especially, I've been doing this project with a colleague of mine, a lady named Lady D called "The Black Trans Prayer Book." And we put together a retreat of a whole bunch of Black trans folks from all over the US and some people from outside the US. Um, and that felt like home. Like, I think I'd always been searching for spaces, especially around, uh, faith in which it was people who all shared a faith identity. Like I would go to it. I grew up in a Muslim

Christian background and household and, um, you know, I'd go to places that were all Christian and were all Muslim. And, you know, uh, the Black Trans Prayer Book space was space words, books of many different traditions, but are all have the understanding of Blackness and transness being divine. Um, and so that actually tied us together much more spiritually than any other kind of theology I've ever encountered.

Rev. KC Slack ([03:41](#)):

Um, I feel like, uh, faith, religion and spirituality are all different questions for me. Um, my spirituality kind of always has felt like home even when I was younger and like struggling with, uh, I grew up in a, I didn't actually grow up in Cleveland. I grew up in a small town in Northeast Ohio, uh, where basically everybody was really purity culture, Evangelical Christian, um, if they were anything at all. And so there was some struggle there, but I was never actually that. And so there was this like tension between feeling at home in my spirituality and my relationship to the divine and, like, what religion was. Um, but as far as, uh, religion or like faith with a name, uh, I mean, Unitarian Universalist, Unitarian Universalist minister. But when I first started going to, a UU church, there was a morning where I was sitting at the welcome table and, uh, one of the worship associates came by and a friend and I were sitting there and I was, uh, still identifying as a woman then. And the worship associate said like "good morning, ladies" and my friend and I kind of looked at it like, eh, and she said, "okay, good morning sluts." And that was just like that: I could be that, not sure about ladies, but I could, I could be sluts. And that was like, oh, I could stay here, stay here.

Nite Hunt ([05:07](#)):

Nice. That's an amazing like way to be introduced into like a religious space and just like ladies naw sluts and like, yeah, absolutely. Uh, I really feel, um, Mase, what you're talking about of like, not feeling and also KC of like, not feeling at home, like within a religion, but within spirituality, because that reminded me, which I'm surprised I haven't thought about in awhile, but I went to this, um, this place space called T camp. Um, and it was like, it's just trans folks. And it, I mean, we, we talked about many different things in many events and many of happenings happened there, um, like workshops and just like hanging out and talking, but it was also at camp, the De Benneville Pines. Um, so I've just been at that camp regardless of UU for many of the time. Um, but I remember on the closing day, just like everyone being together and we were all laid out in the what's it called? Not the gymnasium, but the, um, like the concert hall space.

Rev. KC Slack ([06:16](#)):

Oh, uh, the coffee house?

Nite Hunt ([06:19](#)):

Yes. Uh, and we were just like all laid out there together, like laid on top of each other, some laid with like other people, some sitting in chairs, just like all being together, like in the sun. And it was just like amazing. And I remember like being in that space and I was like, you know, that I wouldn't, that wasn't religious at all, but like spiritual, like feeling close to the divine. Like, I remember that I remember feeling that, um, and it was like one of the few times, cause at the end we were asked, like, if you wanted to like write a letter to your future self. That was like one of the times I felt like I was actually saying something realistic versus like, just being like, I don't know what I'm supposed to say to you good luck five months from now, I guess, take some time to sleep during finals week. Um, but yeah. So thank y'all for sharing. I appreciate that. Um, but I guess, yeah, jumping into the topic of talking about sex and sluts for that

matter of, do you like when being in religious or spiritual or like both places, the crossover in between, um, how do you think the movement towards sex positivity has been within like those spaces? Do you think it's been like definitely not, you know, unilateral, but for the better possibly writ large?

J Mase III ([07:53](#)):

For the better question, mark, I guess it depends where you are. Um, I don't know. I think for myself, I've been primarily when I've been going to worship spaces, I've been primarily being in spaces with other trans and queer people who I think have a different positionality than most cishet spaces. I think that most cishet people are scared of their body and they're terrified of sex and they're terrified of everything, you know, they're terrified they're own shadows. They don't, they've never really investigated stuff about their relationship to their bodies and relationships and stuff like that. Um, yes. I mean, I would say that I have benefited from spaces in which, you know, a lot of the people that's, um, I learned some of the greatest politics from some of the greatest, um, language around my body around sex and stuff like that came from people who were also within spiritual spaces. Um, so I have a good experience in that way. I've also had terrible experiences around dealing with lots of shame when I was younger and all those other kinds of things. So, um, I wouldn't say for everyone that it's gotten better, I would say that there's, um, we're in a time right now where there's more spaces that are accessible for folks that need them want them and, um, feel fulfilled by that.

Rev. KC Slack ([09:07](#)):

Yeah. I would absolutely agree with that. I was, uh, when you asked the question, I mean kind of a little face at the term of sex positivity, because I haven't really complicated feelings about that as, as a movement. Um, because especially where it becomes led by white cis hetero people. Uh, it doesn't actually, especially with thin white cis hetero people, it doesn't speak to, uh, almost anything that I've ever actually experienced. Um, and it stays in this place. It's like very theoretical place of like, no, you can just think your way through stuff or you have a body and you actually have to like, feel stuff with your body. Um, and I think like the conversation feels a lot bigger than the conversation that was happening when I was younger. Um, and the conversation in, um, in the world that I live in now is really different than in the world that I used to live in. But also like the world I used to live in still exists, right. People are still like deep in purity culture. That stuff is still very much happening. And sometimes I think happening in an even more intense way as a reaction to some mainstream sex positivity, right? I think about like Nadia Bolz Weber, melting down purity rings to make a statue of, of a vagina, which is a thing I have like 27,000 feelings about. Um, but there's a, like a strong reaction from conservative christians to, oh no. Like we can't, I don't know, let purity become vaginas. I don't really, I can't quite follow the train of thought, but there's a lot of feelings going on over there and, um, yeah. So yes and no.

Nite Hunt ([11:01](#)):

That's fair, yeah. Okay. Well, I guess bouncing off of that, um, what kind of language do y'all think? Okay. I'm just going to ask the question then I can ask another one, if, if this doesn't quite stick, but it reminds me of like, what kind of language would y'all want to see happening or being used as part of like within divinity spaces or like within religious and, um, spiritual spaces. Because I know Mase, you had mentioned already of like, um, what your, what your unique experiences around them. Like, what you're looking to create right now is like a space in literature for people who've experienced like domestic violence and like sexual violence. And so like, um, what kind of language do y'all think within, and, you know, KC, you're a sex educator. Like how do you think, um, like those types of spaces could actually be using helpful language to reach those types of folks?

J Mase III ([12:08](#)):

Uh, so the difficult part I would say is I'm a person who feels very connected to spirituality and faith. I also kind of want to abolish religion cause I can't, I don't believe you can have autonomy within hierarchy. I just don't believe that we can truly be our full selves in those ways. Um, even though I would say that I definitely use the language of Islam and Christianity as a framework for some of the ways that I think about my faith, um, in terms of, uh, and yeah, so right now a lot of the work that I'm focusing on is I'm creating a theology for survivors of violence, I think. And maybe and KC you tell me if I'm completely off base with what about to say, so just reel me in if I got to go out too much, but so one of the things that came up for me when you were talking about, um, the ways in which, uh, sex positivity culture or the ways that it's spoken about in mainstream spaces only talks about sort of one lens or one space.

J Mase III ([12:57](#)):

I also oftentimes see just a huge lack of nuance, not just around culture and all this kind of stuff, but just again, robbing people of autonomy, because what if I can live at a, to me, sex positivity doesn't exist. If I am forced to also have to feel sexual right or if I feel like after we push a certain type of way, I got to a certain point in my life just very recently, I'll say the last few years where I'm like, I actually don't want to have a lot of sexual partners. I actually don't want to be sexual with people all the time. Like I actually, there was this, um, I had such, um, even anxiety for me talking about some of these things today, because there's some things that I've yet to articulate because even as someone in my mid, late thirties, uh, as a trans person, who's experienced so much, um, trauma in the world, I have so much complicated relationships to sex that, um, I'm just now at a place where I'm deciding what I actually like and what I don't like and what I want to do and what I don't want to do.

J Mase III ([13:49](#)):

And so to me, religious spaces have to, um, hold space for our bodily autonomy, you know, and have to have space for us to, um, be able to have a full range of experiences. So I don't know, there has to be a space for people who are survivors, who their trauma causes them to, um, be repulsed by sex and like deal with that. And maybe that's something that they're able to work through in lifetime. Maybe that's something they live with their entire lives, right. And that's okay. They can still have a fulfilling life. Um, there are spaces in which maybe I am someone who is, uh, feels very connected to sex. And I want lots of sexual partners. I want to have lots of sexual experiences during my lifetime and that, um, that could be a healing practice to me, that could be a sacred experience for me. Um, and so I need to have space for both those people to sit in that same, uh, faith space and be able to feel like they're connected to their higher power.

Rev. KC Slack ([14:42](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. I very much, I very much agree with that. And I, I was thinking as we have been talking about this, about how different this conversation with me now is then it would have been like six years ago. Um, when I was still in seminary six years ago, I still primarily identified as a woman. And, uh, part of my project is like reclaiming my body was having a lot of sex with men. Um, and I, I don't do that anymore. And, and I've been thinking about it a lot lately because as the pandemic sort of starts to be less, the most important thing in my brain, I started thinking about, am I going to want to date again after this? Who am I going to want to date? How does that even work? How does that even work in my body and gender as they are right now?

Rev. KC Slack ([15:30](#)):

And I, one of the things I talk about a lot when I'm teaching sex ed, is that it's okay for stuff to change. Um, and I think a lot of the time, even in faith spaces, which I think should be more connected with it being okay to change, we get really stuck on this idea that you're supposed to be one way for your whole life. Um, and that, like, there is a thing about you and it is always true. And, uh, that's not been my experience of literally anything. Um, and so I think like having the space to be, to let your identity change and to let your identity in relationship to how much you want sex and for it to be positive to say no, as much as it is positive to say yes. And I think for a lot of us who come out of like really purity culture spaces, uh, saying yes, a lot, is a really liberating thing initially, and then maybe it isn't anymore. Um, and maybe it is, and I don't know, you know, you make your own decisions about that, but we get really stuck on the idea of the thing that it means to be free is to say yes a lot. Um, but freedom is also being able to say no when literally whenever you feel like it. Yeah.

Nite Hunt ([16:51](#)):

I definitely, I feel those stories of like, um, like learning to not want to have sex has been like a big changing point throughout the pandemic for me, because like being a masculine person, definitely that expectation of like, you have to, like, want sex all the time, or, like, you have to have, like, a high sex drive and, um, uh, sort of being trans. I was always like, really nervous about that because when I was pre-op and having sex with like CIS gay men, I was like, I don't get it. I don't...

Nite Hunt ([17:29](#)):

I don't, I guess we are both here [laughing], I don't get why you're here. And I'm like, um, I have this like long term friends with benefits and he has been with me since both, Uh pre-op and post-op, um, like when I was pre-op we'd be having sex and I'd be like, in the middle, I'd be like, you know, this is gay, right? And he's like, yes, I know this is gay. I was like, okay, just making sure. Yeah. And then post-op, he was like really gentle because like, my scars are still pretty new and I was like, this is so gay. And he was like, yes, it's still gay. Cause he's like, not, he doesn't identify as gay. And like, he's not interested in having sex with other men. And I'd be like, if you're not interested in having sex with other men, why are you interested having sex with me? And he's like, because - I - we're friends and I like having sex with you. And I was like, okay, I'm watching you buddy. But, uh, and then once, like I settled down into my current relationship, I was like, my whole perspective changed as far as like, oh, like I feel a lot more, I mean, cause my partner is also trans. And so like, there are a lot of like, like a weight off my chest with like, there are like all these assumptions and burdens are, I felt like I had to act or not act doing sex. And then it's like, when I went there, I was like, okay. It's like, we're both figuring it out and having fun and seeing what we're comfortable with and now, and what we're not comfortable with. And just like being able to cuddle or just being able to spend time. It's just like much more fulfilling than just like, um, wanting to have sex with all these people. Also like the anxiety of trying to have sex with cis women just through the roof. Cause I'm like, I just feel like secretly like, okay, I don't have a penis and they'd be like, what? Okay. And I'm like, I don't, I don't know what to tell you. I mean, I guess I can have one like toys, but like, I don't know what you're expecting here. So, um, but I'm learning to appreciate more now. Um, like, cause I'm still in my early twenties, so of like saying no to sex or like actually learning what you want out of sex versus like just sex. Um, but like you said, if like, you know, different people are different places, I'm like, it can mean different things for different people, but I appreciate y'all saying that, but

J Mase III ([19:55](#)):

There was actually a learning moment I have just, or a thought I was having when you were talking specifically about, um, you know, when you were questioning your friend, like why do you want to have sex with me? It's like, it's actually, so I do, you know, in the world, I think that why have sex with cis people where there's so many trans people in the world, but, um, in the case of, for any kind of person who would have sex with, I think there's, there's this beautiful place of like, do I have to worry about any person's entire history or is it like just important that they're attracted to me that we're attracted to each other, that we can have a positive experience with, you know, separate from all the other things that might be happening in our lives. I think sometimes we're seeking out perfect partners that don't exist, you know, which puts us in another sort of dangerous situation. Um, yeah.

Rev. KC Slack ([20:40](#)):

Yeah. And then, um, thinking a lot about like what it means for cis men who think they're heterosexual to be attracted me at this point. Um, and like my personal preference right now is: I need you to be able to explain how that works for you. Um, but I can imagine a world where just like, I don't know, that's your problem. And as long as, as long as we're like having a good time, I don't really care what your identity is doing. Um, I think like, man, I think a lot about the, the habit that a lot of queer people have gotten into of like really narrowly defining our identities in like in a search for being able to explain ourselves, which, I get, but I also am increasingly disinterested in, um, I don't remember, I have this very kind of odd experience of finally getting to the point where I was like, oh no, they/them pronouns all the time. I am not a girl. While I was in a chaplaincy residency at a Catholic hospital. It was a real fascinating choice that happened in my life. Um, but having that moment then, and then having to be like, wait, uh, shit, how do I do this? Um, and spending all of his time being like, all right, I am the only, the only person here who is not a monotheist. I am the only person here who is trans. I'm the only person here who is queer. I am the only person here who is polyamorous and spending that whole year, just constantly trying to make myself make sense to people. Um, I'm done. I don't care if I make sense. That's not my problem. Uh, me making sense to you is not my problem. Me making sense to you is not like how I get you to give me the liberation coins. You don't actually have those. And just increasingly I just don't care about being legible. Um, and I'm interested in seeing what that's gonna mean in the future about relationships. And when I think about that in, in the context of spirituality, in the context of religion, um, you know, I actually also have a religion that nobody understands and myself in a space of like just a little bit too much of this for, for people. But, um, I'm wondering about like the freedom that exists in not needing to be able to say exactly what your doctrine is, right. Which is like a whole Unitarian Universalist thing, but we're not as comfortable with it as I would like us to be. Um, and so, yeah, I think there's a real learning edge in what if we just make other people's confusion, their own problem.

Nite Hunt ([23:35](#)):

Do y'all think there are ways for like when exploring confusion, tangentially, um, within oneself of like, whether it be not necessarily like the sex as in the act, but of like, you know, exploring one sexuality, explaining one's body, um, explaining like attraction and their place in the world and like how to present, how to present themselves. And then at the same time of exploring like religion or not religion, but like spirit, well I guess, yeah. Exploring religion, exploring divinity, exploring their spirituality and like, how do you think those are conversations that really influence each other? Cause I think at least for me, I know there are a lot of ways that I would ignore my sexuality when thinking of exploring my religion. And it's like, now it's, it's irrefutable. Like I need, like, it's something it's a, it's a crossroad I'm going to have to camp in for a bit before like moving forward. So would, yeah.

J Mase III ([24:42](#)):

Um, so I know, I mean, again, I guess I think the space of, uh, uh, you know, just how is sexuality connected to our healing or how is sex connected possibly to our healing for people, you know? Um, I think to me, because again, I'm in the, uh, in the space of thinking more about sexual trauma often, uh, I often think about, um, how religious spaces make it hard, to be honest about our trauma, perpetuate trauma, uh, by having a lack of knowledge or having, um, no kind of types of accountability, especially when we talk about violence of any kind that usually in most religious spaces, there's this, um, place in which people talk about the existence of violence, but not necessarily what to do with survivors. Um, so I don't, I think to me, uh, being clear about what my own experiences were and how the religious spaces I was in was not, were not, um, showing up for that or had the capacity to show up for that, that did make me clear about not that my, that my faith or spirituality was wrong, but that the space that I was in was wrong. Um, and so I think sexuality and understanding what I needed around that helped me to better find spiritual spaces that, um, get my values.

Rev. KC Slack ([26:07](#)):

Yeah. Um, reaching kind of a similar point, but from a different direction. Um, I, one of the things that I most value is the kind of connection with people where it's not about the words that you use about yourself. It's not about how you explain yourself. It's literally just about like the, the vibrations between the two of you. Um, and that can be, I get a little, that sounds a little precious. That sounds like that's a real, a real precious way of saying it. But, um, I, um, I have a lover of, I've been seeing on and off for six or seven years. And so who has been with me through like the whole beginning of my transition and like the, the moment of my being like, oh shit, and the moving more fully into that. And, um, one of my, one of the most like spiritually connecting and healing experiences for me is getting to have sex with him in a context where like my gender just disappears, um, and where like anything could be happening what's happening is fucking, um, and we are together in that moment of, of pleasure. And I, this is really like, so precious given the, the sex is actually not. Um, but, um, but there's this like freedom and this space of almost like the most direct way to God that I know how to get to of like, there isn't anything, but what is happening, um, which is, I think maybe about like my nervous system being too overwhelmed to overthink it, but that is really like deeply spiritual and lets me know when I'm in spaces that I don't belong in and in spaces that don't suit me because if like, if someone can be fucking me and see me that fully, and you can't have a conversation and see me a little bit, I don't need to be here at like, if I can connect like that with anybody, then I should be able to connect in some ways with some people. And if a space is, is wrong and I can't be all the way myself there ever...uh... much less anywhere close to how myself I can be with my partners, then it's not a place that I need to be in. It's not a place that's serving the full development of my like spiritual and emotional self.

Nite Hunt ([28:44](#)):

That's amazing. That is...that's beautiful. Uh, I, it makes me wonder like because Mase is talking about sexual healing and then you're talking about pleasure and pleasure being a point, a starting point from which you were able to...When being in other places, being like, okay, you know, like it'd be, um, I guess like, uh, or you can correct me if I'm wrong, like a yardstick to measure other encounters for. And so, and Mase also talked about moving into a place of finding where your values are being met. And so is, is there, um, how would you, I guess, like, I'm wondering, like how would I go into, uh, I mean, this question is complicated. I, I want to say religious space, but I don't...what I guess what I'm implying is a religious space and, and finding that yardstick of like, if pleasure or finding a place of values when dealing with sexual healing, how do you know you're in a space for that to happen? But I guess I also want to know about where that happens like spiritually, but just because it happened spiritually. It

doesn't necessarily mean it has happened in a religious space. So I guess both parts of if that's acceptable. Like if that question, if that makes sense.

J Mase III ([30:13](#)):

I mean, I think that I'll speak for my own beliefs, I guess, in the sense that I believe that, you know, everywhere that you go, you know, creator is there, right? So I don't need a particular building or, um, particular space. What I do need is people that help me center myself in that feeling, right. That I, you know, um, and so I think, um, that level, um, places that make me feel ashamed or embarrassed or places that make me feel like, uh, not, um, like I'm not, uh, my analysis, my thoughts, my, um, again, this distance between who gets to articulate who, uh, a connection with creator. Like if there's like what I think about, um, uh, bishops say like that they are closer to God than you are like an imaam of some kind or whoever, you know, to me, those are not spaces I want to be. Um, and those are not spaces for, um, spiritually link is also, I think there's this way to, uh, a bit of what KC was talking about and having this experience around sex and like fucking a person and, um, feeling that kind of transcendence, I think there is a deeply spiritual place that trans people have to be, um, especially Black, Brown, Indigenous trans folks around us existing, you know, we've existed through colonization through people that specifically sought to target us because of our connection to spirit, because of our connection of someone giving us a role for a body or a name for by, you know, saying no to that. And that's being able to, to discern a future for ourselves that other people could not even imagine. Right. And so I think any place that does not any space of spirit that does not understand the level of transcendence that trans people invoke and what we have to do to get here, um, to be in front of someone's ungrateful ass, right? Like I'm also gonna find, um, body healing or sexual healing or any of that, or even an analysis that helps me reach that at some point down the line.

Rev. KC Slack ([32:08](#)):

Mm. Yeah. I, I'm kind of from like, from the angle of finding joy in a place, if I spend more of my time explaining myself than existing, um, if, if it's like an inquisition rather than an open-hearted inquiry, right? Like I am willing to be in spiritual spaces where somebody needs like a, Hey, wait, how does this pronoun thing work? Um, and I've been in, uh, the metropolitan community churches, which were founded as gay churches. I there's one of them that I go to, uh, here in Hollywood that like I had to do a little bit of explaining about how the pronouns worked. But also the first Sunday I was there, the special music was from a group called Bad Bears and the Leatherman for Jesus. Um, and it was just like, okay, like you can have joy. And when you ask me questions, it's because you want to know me, not because you want to tell me that I'm wrong about me.

Rev. KC Slack ([33:09](#)):

Um, and so like, I don't, I don't go places where people think I could be wrong about me and I don't go places this where people don't think that I'm the expert on my own experience and where I don't see other people being respected as the experts on their own experience. Um, that's really like fundamentally important for me when I'm looking for a community that I could worship with. I like to, I like to go to church. I like to be in worship spaces with people. Um, though most of my personal practices, super alone, I liked be able to do that sort of communal thing. And most of the time, uh, the best gauge of if that's going to work is, do you want an explanation or do you want to know me?

J Mase III ([33:59](#)):

Yeah. Something else that's coming up for me. Just even hearing you kind of talk about this too. I'm also thinking like, I don't want to go places where I don't hear any prayers from sex workers. I don't want to hear, I want to go to a place spiritually in which they demonize pornographers or people that create content that we're all consuming. I don't want to be in spaces where people lie about their sexual practice or that, you know, um, young people are taught that masturbation is a shameful thing. Right? So all that, to me, leads to, uh, stuff that disconnects you from your body and inevitably connect disconnects you from your spirit. Because if you can't even be here, you cannot go inward. Okay. That's not possible.

Rev. KC Slack ([34:39](#)):

Absolutely.

Nite Hunt ([34:41](#)):

Yeah. That's, I mean, that's true. I haven't, I haven't been in a religious space for a while, even pre- the pandemic. So it's, it's always kind of odd when I go into one. Cause I always feel like I'm in a trench coat and a top hat and I'm just like blending into the background. I don't know. [laughing]

J Mase III ([35:07](#)):

Spaces

Rev. KC Slack ([35:09](#)):

I don't do that. [laughing]

J Mase III ([35:12](#)):

I feel like in cis spaces, I always feel like I'm 12 years old. Like, it doesn't matter what I'm doing or what I'm wearing or how to speak. You always feel like I, it wasn't look like I'm five years old right now. Like it just, just their whole existence is different, you know? Um, yeah.

Nite Hunt ([35:29](#)):

Uh, so this is, I guess, I don't know how much of a useful question this is because I am inexperienced. So I'm curious about, um, but y'all seem to know a little bit about it. So I would like to hear more is where in the moment between like, I guess intimacy or if there is a moment between intimacy and fucking, um, would, does that feel divine or like where do you grab joy between that? Is it sometimes like, is there a moment you're going, like with the partner or with partners where you're like, it's not necessarily about the fucking it's about joy or are there moments where it's like, I'm just actually here to fuck? Um, or is it like with certain people it kind of ebbs and flows different ways or I, I mean, I know I'm not, not necessarily trying to make a binary, but yeah.

Rev. KC Slack ([36:28](#)):

Uh, for me at this point in my life fucking is about joy. If there's not a joy to be had, I don't particularly want to do the fucking and I will, I will go to bed. Um, that's the sleeping is joyful. Uh, if this is not going to be joyful, than I'm going to be asleep,

J Mase III ([36:46](#)):

Sleep and water - two things you cannot make up for later in life, okay?

Rev. KC Slack ([36:51](#)):

Yep. Um, so I like, you know, like not all intimacy is fucking, but all fucking is intimate. Um, and I no longer have sex with people who I can't feel fully present with. Um, I think I got that out of my system with the last of the like very cis men that I slept with at the end than now.

J Mase III ([37:15](#)):

Um, I would say, I think that again, because we all, sometimes I think we're dishonest with ourselves about what our sexual experiences actually are, you know, and I had to take stock for myself as like, am I enjoying sex? Am I enjoying the people I'm having sex with? Is there something, what is it that I need to do to like, change, shift some things around? Because honestly, I think for most of my life, I don't think that I've had positive sexual experiences. Um, and it takes a lot for me to think about even being honest with that, not just for myself, but even just saying this out loud, because I think that, especially for so much of us as trans people, sometimes we put through, we get put through a lot of from other people. Um, we, you know, uh, outside of maybe even if you have your own dysphoria stuff, but like this stuff that people put onto you and we end up sometimes being in sexual, romantic relationships that we actually don't want, but we think that we have to be in something else in order to feel fully affirmed. Right. And so I have friends and loved ones who, um, who have wonderful sexual relationships with trans people who do also wonderful healing work as sex workers, um, and trans folks, um, doing that work in that, I feel like it's clearly divine. Um, some of us are not having that experience. Right. And I think that I look around trans and the queer community. Like we've talked so much about sex, like all y'all in having good sex. Like [laughing], some of you are having a bad time.

Rev. KC Slack ([38:27](#)):

Some of you are having a bad time!

J Mase III ([38:30](#)):

Some of you are having a bad time and not being clear. And so just, I, KC. was talking about what you thought about this pandemic about like, well, you want to date again, well, you want to do stuff like during this pandemic, I'm like, maybe I never would have sex again. Maybe I'm good. Like actually like, oh, what's been defined for me is again that bodily autonomy and saying like, there's some stuff that's been happening with myself. It's actually been more traumatizing than anything. And actually don't want to do that again. Right. Um, I'm sure, like, there'll be times in my life while I will be sexual again and like find people I want to be sexual with, but my standards have changed. What I, uh, you know, being clear about where my divine energy is like, um, being fat attracted by the other person isn't good enough. Like, so I just like, I am attractive. We, as trans people are attractive, but of course someone's going to be attracted to you. And, um, yeah. So I think even just the divine place for me around sex and stuff like that, as I've stopped chasing it, I spent so much of my time, my energy on questions, or like wanting to be intimate with people physically or do all that stuff and being like, instead of asking, like, is this person or situation worth my energy? Like of all the things that I could be channeling right now, is this going to go to a place that's actually going to pour into me? And so I think, um, yeah, I'm actually loving that right now.

Nite Hunt ([39:45](#)):

Yeah. That's amazing. I feel that though of like admitting to yourself whether like, it was actually good sex. Cause I'm like, I feel like out of all the partners, oh, well, not even partners out of all the people I've had sex with. Like maybe only three times was actually like good. And most of those times are like with

my, with my friends with benefits and we've just been having sex for a while. So I'm like, hope something was working out here. Um, but it's just like, yeah, like I feel like nowadays when I talk about sex, it's more of just being like, I'm able to say I have sex, have had sex, or like to recount some wild stories that I did. Um, or wild places. I've had sex more of just being like, than actually like enjoying it. And then now that I have like someone I want to invest time with, it's like, okay, now I want to do this for the enjoyment. But most of the time, it's just like, I like telling wild sex stories. And I just think they're funny. That's like, I just kinda want to do it. Cause it's funny. And I'm like, I think doing this is a joke. Not because

J Mase III ([40:48](#)):

Do you actually enjoy it? Like it being a story is different than enjoying in the moment. And for me, what I realized is like, um, good sex to me. Isn't like, did you have an orgasm? Did it last a long time? Was it built like all that stuff's like, was that fun for like a few, for a little bit? Sure. But what was the after effects? What actually happened afterwards or during or before that you're still thinking about like, did someone say something to you about your body or something like that during that time that made you sit up at night? Like, did you have to process with your friends about it later? Did you, did your after did y'all both decide, but you like cuddling or not? Did you decide this? Did you act, did you, did you want to talk to that? What happened? Right. Um, and then being like, huh, like I was actually, um, I started dating someone like really right before the pandemic started and we were kind of going through some stuff and I was like, this person doesn't treat me well, this might, and you know, we're during pandemic. I can't date other people. I'm not whatever, you know, I have some, I have a, um, uh, some lung, uh, situation. So I don't, so I'm not playing with COVID and all that kind of stuff. Right. And so I was, uh, you know, I was like, oh, if I break things off with this person, chances are, I'm probably not gonna have sex again until after this pandemic. And I was like, that is actually way more worth it, actually that I said it out loud to myself. And I was like, that's the, that's the best option. That's the best case scenario, but I can actually choose to only engage with people that made me feel good. Not just in a moment like sex by itself to me is, um, for my ministry, your ministry might be different for some, I have a friend, she, you know, she loves sexual. You know, she has lots of different, not just stories, but lots of experiences that fulfill her and all the different types of ways. That's her ministry. My ministry is like, I want all the sleep I want. I do. I want to do some writing. I will split some poems. And then at some point in my life I'm going to die. And I think that's great. I feel great about the trajectory of my life right now.

Rev. KC Slack ([42:34](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. I, uh, there's such a difference between like, is this actually serving the thing that I'm trying to do or like, am I collecting some experiences for no apparent reason? Um, and one of the things about that, like pre-transition in seminary time of sleeping with a lot of cis hetero dudes for me, um, this made other people really uncomfortable at the time was that I wasn't doing it necessarily because it was super fun. Um, I was doing it because I needed to prove to myself that I could. Um, and like people don't like it. If you say that you're having sex for like a functional reason, whether that function is to get money or to like prove something to yourself, people get real weird about that. But I like, I was a fat girl, I'm a fat trans person. I, I needed to know that I was in charge of myself enough that I could, I could just fuck and it could not matter. Um, so that I could make decisions about what actually did matter because the world that I was given was so wrapped around cis hetero men's opinions and cis hetero men's opinions of my body and like being worth them, which is like a nonsense idea. But I had to work that out of my physical body and the way I did that was like, all right, like I can make the internet give me an endless number of available men and I will some of them. And then I will never speak to them again. And this will be the arrangement that we all knew we were getting into and then it'll be over. And when that

stopped being the thing I wanted to do, I found that the relationships that I went on to have, and the relationships I've had since then are way less anxious than everything before then I am much more able to say like, okay, this is actually like something that I want to do, or is it just something that I'm doing because I can, cause I know the difference. Um, and I didn't before.

Nite Hunt ([44:37](#)):

Yeah. That's I feel like I'm getting like so much clarity within myself, like hearing y'all talk. And it's just like, I don't realize how much I don't talk about sex now versus like when I was at school and I had like other trans folks that talk about, talk through sex with and about. But, um, I feel that if like having agency, cause I think there were a lot of moments where I would have not, not a lot, but there were quite a few moments where like I had sex with like incredibly attractive cis men. And I'm just like, I'm just here. So I can say no. And Like, I just want to be here for like long enough for my mom to be like, where are you? And then need to come home and be like, oh, I was out. I was like, I didn't, I didn't actually care about being there or like the blow job or the ha like, whatever it's like that, I just, I just need to be here long enough for my phone to ring. And then I'm going to go, which I did. I would just leave after that. It'd be like, wow, I just had sex with this like incredibly attractive person. I'm like, anyway. Um, and just especially as like a trans guy of like, be like, okay, if this like this cis gay and they're like very stereotypically attractive we'll have sex to me then like this makes me a guy, right. And then, um, but not doing that now. It's, it's nice. Cause it's like, it's not something like, I feel like I'm chasing for that validation.

Rev. KC Slack ([46:08](#)):

Yeah.

Nite Hunt ([46:08](#)):

So, but I, I feel that like being able to say, it's like, no, I just did it for a purpose. Um, feels very relieving. Yeah. That that's good. I'm going to practice saying that more. I'm going to go talk to my grandma about it. I talked to my grandma about everything.

Nite Hunt ([46:29](#)):

Yeah. My grandma is amazing. When I came out as bisexual, she, the first day she told me, she was like, all right, we're going to have to learn how to do a blow job. And she has this whole thing. Would you all like to hear how my grandmother gets blow jobs? Okay. So she takes like, she takes anything. This is a white claw. Um, and she's like, all right, first, you look at it and she's like, you examine it. Make sure there's nothing weird going on with it. You don't want to catch nothing. She's like, if it smells funny, just leave. And I'm like, all right. And then she's like, it has some skin, you pull it back and you go, and then you walk, that's it, This blow on it [blowing noise]. And my mom would get so mad and she'd be like, don't tell that child that that's how you're supposed to do it, that's not how you're supposed to do it! And then my grandma would be like, well, you explain it. And then my mom would be like, no. So, but yeah, my, um, when I first told my grandma about like my sucking dick experiences, she's like, you know, honey, I never suck Dick in my whole life. My grandma's 82. I was like, you're lying. And she was like, no, she's like my ex-husband's would come to me and ask them to give them blow jobs. And I would say, take your dick down the street and go get it blown. And then when you'd done, you come back here and act like you got some God-damn sex. I love that because of my grandma also grew up like very the Puritan culture. I'm like, you only have sex with your husband. And then after her first husband, she was like, okay, I'm going to have all this sex. But she was like, Hmm. He used to suck dick, I ain't putting no

dick in my mouth. You don't know where that thing's been put at other places. And she was like, yes. Yeah, my grandma, she is, she's a firecracker. She does not let anything slow her down.

Rev. KC Slack ([48:25](#)):

It seems like such a gift.

Nite Hunt ([48:29](#)):

Um, no, I appreciate, um, y'all just like the honesty of just being like, and you know, and being real about like, it takes, there's a learning curve of being like, what is the function of sex? Cause I think part of the, part of the thing that was really hard for me to grasp for a while was just the idea of how important sex is supposed to be of like, it's supposed to be like this capstone thing and relationship if like you're sexually compatible with your partner and which like, I guess, but when I started looking at it more from like a polyamorous perspective, I was like, why don't I could be sexually compatible with someone else? Like I want like what I want, I don't want to just be focused around sex with this person. Like if we can't have sex, that's great. But it's like, I want to know everything else about them. Um, you know, what do they like to draw? What kind of art they, like, what do they act to study? You know, it's like, are we going to like, can we watch Netflix together? That's what I really want to know. Like, can we, do we laugh at the same things? You know, are, are they going to be like xenophobic? You know, there's other things I want, I am concerned about whether than just like, if I'm sexually compatible and then being able to like, let that go or like that. Not wanting to be a focus of why I'm seeing people was just much easier when, excuse me, when trying to date, because it wasn't that I, like, I could definitely fuck on the first date, but it was like, I imagine if I could do that, I would just have sex with you. I actually want to like, try to get to know you though. So yeah, like, but, but I appreciate the, like there's still language argues in for it. Cause it's like, because like, like y'all were saying, it takes a moment to admit it, which is like, I guess the, the can be pivotal. It was pivotal for me. And I imagine like thinking more about this conversation later will continue to be inspire me. Um, but yeah, so I to thank y'all for that, you're welcome. Uh, I feel okay. I just talked to a whole bunch, so, but it is a time check. And so it is five 25, I think we're all on Western time. Okay, cool. So about five, 10 or about 10 minutes left because we started a bit late. So as the, are there any like closing statements or anything else y'all would like to talk about as far as like, oh, you know, anything we talked about in that conversation, but like from not religious, but spiritual stuff, you know, or moving against religion to, to the fucking and to intimacy and advice would, y'all like to give to trans folks moving throughout, throughout their sexual and divine journey.

J Mase III ([51:17](#)):

Um, oh my KC, did you have something to start off with?

Rev. KC Slack ([51:21](#)):

I, I could say something if you're not ready to say something

J Mase III ([51:25](#)):

I'm a pontificating a little bit, I'm organizing some thoughts in my brain right now. Yeah.

Rev. KC Slack ([51:32](#)):

Um, I think right now the message that I want to give to other trans folks as they like figure out where they're at on sex and like what they want to do after this pandemic and what it means to be religious or

spiritual and a person with a sexuality, which is everybody. Um, but is that if you get to remember that you are always the expert on you and that your experience of with God, however you call God experience of your path in the light of the divine, or however you want to make that works is you're always the expert on that and it can change and you can be wherever you need to be. But your autonomy, your ability to say yes or no. Whenever you feel like saying yes or no is by itself. Holy. Um, and getting to say yes or no to whatever you want to say yes or no to is itself a practice of spirituality.

J Mase III ([52:41](#)):

Yeah. And I would just share also this place of, I really like what you said about, um, things can change, right? So you might, uh, your relationship to sex can change over time. I think that transness in and of itself as a divine gift. Right. Um, and it's a sacred Rite of passage, um, this place in which what I would hope for all trans folks is that for those of us that wish to be sexual, um, that are sexual, um, that, uh, you know, or coming back into sexuality in some kind of way that we are able to engage in situations that are worthy of us. And so also acknowledging that, um, you know, there's this place in which I think sometimes we feel, uh, I know I, and I, you know, it could be different generationally or just even location wise where people are. Um, but you know, I know that there are so many of us that feel so down about our bodies, there's feel down about the ways that we exist in the world. And just knowing that, of course people are attracted to you. Of course, there'll be one that will love you and care for you in the way that you deserve. Um, and so that there isn't, but I hope for those of us that feel like this need to be affirmed by people that are unworthy of that, um, that we learn to have more grace for ourselves, more care for ourselves than we do for people that cause us trauma or harm.

Nite Hunt ([54:06](#)):

Amen. Thank you for that. Thank you all for this. And like coming and speaking and sharing your experiences and, um, talking with me here and talking to the listeners, uh, I really appreciate y'all's like wisdom and honesty here. Cause it, it was very enlightening to me and it will continue to be, I know I'm just going to be like pondering about this for awhile. So thank y'all for that. I appreciate it. Ya'll be here.

Rev. KC Slack ([54:35](#)):

Thanks for having us.

J Mase III ([54:38](#)):

Thank you.