

*Women in Love* (1921) has, despite the title, an extraordinary emphasis on the male love affair (though it is non-genitally expressed) between the wealthy Gerald Crich and the schoolteacher Rupert Birkin. These aspects were further explored in the "Prologue" to the book, which Lawrence withheld from publication. The theme of male bonding is treated in a less satisfactory political context in *Kangaroo* (1923), which is set mainly in Australia.

Throughout Lawrence's later wanderings in Italy, Mexico, and New Mexico he struggled to achieve what he regarded as a proper balance in his relation with Frieda. The sexual theories presented in his prose writings reveal the impress of Sigmund Freud, though mingled with remnants of Victorian prudery. As late as 1929 he asserted that "masturbation is the deepest and most dangerous cancer of our civilization." In his paintings, however, he strove to capture images of "phallic consciousness." Having lived a life that was consistent in its intense productivity, Lawrence died of tuberculosis at the age of 44.

After World War II the eloquent advocacy of the critic F. R. Leavis brought the reputation of D. H. Lawrence to its zenith. A number of his works were filmed in a richly colored style that created the image of Edwardian opulence for the later twentieth century. Some have noted that the admiration for the primitive and irrational in Lawrence's work sometimes borders on fascism, and that he seems in some respects to have been an intellectual who turned on the intellect itself because of his failure of self-acceptance and integration. Although Leavis and others have hailed him as a model of sexual sanity, his inability to come to terms with the strong homosexual component in his essentially bisexual makeup renders his example problematic.

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### LAWRENCE, THOMAS EDWARD (1888-1935)

British soldier and writer. His friends remembered his boyish looks, impish sense of humor, and many-sided geniality. He was famous for his legendary military activities in the Middle East during World War I, which earned him the sobriquet "Lawrence of Arabia," and for his account of those activities in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom: A Triumph*.

Lawrence was born in Tremadoc (Wales) and educated at Oxford. After he finished his history study, he worked as an archaeologist in Carchemish (Syria) until war broke out. He then served as an intelligence officer, first in Cairo and later with the Arab army, which was allied with the British against the Turkish overlord. His strategic insight and his inspiring example helped make the Arab revolt a success. While serving colonial interests, he tried to help the Arabs politically at the Peace Conference of Versailles (1919) and worked as an advisor to the Colonial Secretary (1921-22). In the meantime he had become a folk hero as "the Uncrowned King of Arabia," an ascription he in part liked, but mostly hated because he felt unworthy of it.

Lawrence's torture and rape by the Turks in Dar'a (Syria) in November, 1917, when he was imprisoned for a short time, was an intense personal humiliation, even more traumatic because it made him aware of hidden desires within himself. The writing of the epic confession *Seven Pillars* (1919-22) made it absolutely clear to him that it had not been "a triumph" at all. His integrity had been "irrevocably lost" personally and politically, for which he could only feel indescribable shame and guilt. In this and other respects, Lawrence demonstrated reactions now known to be typical of male rape trauma syndrome. His boyish romantic idealism ("a man on his tip-toes trying very hard to fly") yielded to a fatalistic and even nihilistic realism ("men on their very flat feet stumbling over a tacky and noisome earth"). Unclean

like the leper, he felt forgiveness was impossible, which made him forswear decent living. Afraid of himself, of his obstinate will, he chose the path of degradation and the shackling of his soul, looking for security in submission. He went into the armed forces (1923–35) as a kind of mental suicide, in the hope of becoming an ordinary man. Colonel Lawrence enlisted as a private in the Royal Air Force as John Hume Ross and later as T. E. Shaw. But publicity followed him, which led to exclusive intervals, transfers, and a two-year stay in the Tank Corps. Unfortunately he could not escape himself: he remained "a unicorn strayed amongst sheep." Aimless and failing to find rest, because he could not reach the ideal standard which was an absolute in his life, he was killed in a motorcycle accident just two months after he left the RAF.

Lawrence's life can be seen as a continuous battle between mind and body. Thanks to puritan upbringing by his dominating mother, sexuality became associated with guilt and sin, humiliation and pain, and with a loss of integrity. Everything bodily had to be suppressed, a belief that led him to asceticism. His obsessive self-control was shattered in pain and fear when he was tortured and raped by the Turks, and led to a loss of his "citadel of integrity" and his "crown of manhood." The desire he felt at that time was like an inner demon which had betrayed him, and this made penance necessary. Chastisement by young men was the humiliating punishment he inflicted on himself, but this was probably also the only way to release his sexuality without loss of integrity, because pain neutralized the enjoyment and purified the soul ("only our pain is never masquerade"). Distrust and fear of himself and others made real intimacy almost impossible.

Instead there were many male friendships. Men were less emotional and possessive than women, and therefore more trustworthy and facile as company, and also their bodies appealed more to his

sense of beauty. He idealized Middle Eastern intimate friendships between men which in his eyes showed perfect love because they were spiritual relations above all, even if sexuality entered: "friends quivering together in the yielding sameness with intimate hot limbs in supreme embrace, found there hidden in the darkness a sensual co-efficient of the mental passion which was souls and spirit in one flaming effort." The only time he came close to a friendship like this was with Dahum (1896–1918), an Arab boy he met at Carchemish, with whom he had a very intimate, but probably nonsexual, relationship for three years. But Dahum died of typhus at the end of the war, just before Lawrence had a chance to see him again: "and now not anywhere will I find rest at peace." After the rape at Dar'a it became even more difficult to open himself to another, and, like many others in the army, he spent life "in the enforced celibacy of their blanket's harsh embrace."

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### LEADBEATER, CHARLES WEBSTER (1854–1934)

English clergyman and occultist

Although in later life he liked to romanticize his early circumstances, Leadbeater was born to ordinary lower-middle-class parents in Stockport. Unable to attend university, he nonetheless obtained orders