

Rope. And The Ties That Bind!

Bondage (everything else & rope) >> Rope (western & eastern)

Mind-numbing, torture, quick-pain, slow-enduring pain, decorative, western-style Damsel in Distress (tied to a tree, on the railroad tracks, office secretary), performance, photographic suspension, shibari, hojojitsu, kinbaku...

Functional Bondage ~ (any kind of rope)

Tied eagle spread on the bed? Hogtied and tickled? Functional bondage is about using rope to assist something else. Generally, I think of it as for restraint, but it could also provide support, leverage, or some other practical application: blindfolds, gags, handcuffs, leashes, collars, etc.

Tie 'em to the bed to fuck 'em... but it never seemed to go quite right or be as sexy as I thought it should.

Decorative Bondage ~ (nylon, cotton, MFP)

Bondage can be aesthetically pleasing in and of itself, and sometimes the primary purpose is decoration. IE, I get to tie up naked girls in sexy ways.... my next step in trying to get the sexy back.

The first thing that comes to mind is rope clothing, such as corsets, bras, and rope dresses. Often this is seen more from the western side with colored ropes rather than in Shibari techniques.

Sensual Rope (hemp, bamboo, silk, cotton)

There may or may not be a *ōpurposeō* to putting on the Rope other than just the feel of the experience, whether it is the restriction of the bondage, the caress of Rope across skin, or the physical closeness between partners. In the Japanese eastern style this is called *Ichinawa* or the 1 rope technique. In the western side of the pond, we merely called it sensation play. Silk and bamboo are wonderful for this.

Painful Rope (jute, palm, coconut, sisal)

Masochistic Rope is about pain. Yes, it is related to Sensual Rope, but the goal is a specific type of sensation. The pain can come from the way the Rope is tied, or from the physical challenges induced by the ties. In the Japanese eastern style this is called *Semenawa*. In the western side of the pond, we merely called it sensation play.

Predicament Bondage (hemp, jute)

Predicament Bondage is a rather evil way to tie, in which the Top creates a challenge for the Bottom in that no matter what position the Bottom is in, the Bottom experiences some amount of discomfort. Good ol' damn if you do, and damn if you don't. Makes no difference to me, other than which way will you squeal more. Home Depot has a wide range of toys available for you to pick from.

Escape Games

Some Bottoms are natural eels who want nothing more than to escape their Rope. Escape Games play into this by creating ties for the purpose of being *ōinescapableō*. The Bottom waits until the Top has finished the tie and then tries to wiggle, flex and strip to get out of the Rope.

I was teaching a class for one of the other local dungeon owners and we tied the model. She wiggled out of his side in like 12 seconds, and mine in like 95 seconds. So I spend 3 minutes and re-tied her and she took about 3 minutes to get out of it. But it was those 3 minutes I watched her tricks, and then re-tied her again in 3 minutes and she couldn't get out of it, for at least 45 minutes; we ran out of cell phone battery, trying to record it. She tiered her body out and was cutting into her wrists beyond what I was willing to have her hurt herself, so I undid a couple of lines, and she was able to get out in another 3-4 minutes.

Personal Benefits

Everyone is going to get their own thing out of Rope. What someone might get as a Top could be vastly different from what they will get as a Bottom - or not. For me some of the Personal Benefits of playing in rope, is I get to connect more intimately with a great many more people. I get to be happy playing with a partner (for however short a time) with rope.

Play

Play may seem obvious, but it really isn't. Despite all the sexy photos of studly men tying up bendy-flexy dolls, rope doesn't have to be serious. Ninety percent of my rope play is silly play, like bubbles and sidewalk chalk. Rope is edge play, no doubt; one of the tools we use to kill people with, but done safely and with awareness of risks, it can be all sorts of fun.

Learning

Rope is something for which you can learn a couple of ties to bind your boyfriend to the bed and be perfectly happy. Or you can challenge yourself to learn how to safely tie someone over a fallen log at the base of a waterfall in the middle of the woods. For that safe suspension, you would want to learn about physics, engineering, physiology, and first aid; some techniques for tying might come in handy too. To be good at rope bondage, you have to study, practice and learn

Problem Solving

Problem Solving is related to Learning, but is somewhat tangential. It isn't about learning new techniques, it is about applying the techniques you know in novel ways. Perhaps you have a partner who would love to do a box tie, but can't put her arms behind her back due to a shoulder injury. Or maybe a friend who is afraid of heights wants to be suspended. Or it could be that you need to figure out how to do a hogtie with two silk scarves and a shoestring. The ways to solve problems is endless.

Creative Expression

I think this one is probably self-explanatory. However, if you need more convincing, please click over to my photographs on FetLife. I almost don't have fantasies anymore; I think up some sick shit and go find someone who wants to do with me. Hey, want to go out to the lake out in a deserted area and let me tie you to a water-level pole, or stake you out to poles pounded into the rocky sandy beach, as the speedboats cruising past causing the waves to lap your face, and see what kind of other fun things we can do. Anyone want to ride Big Daddy's pony bar?

Meditation

Of all of these personal benefits, this is probably the most esoteric and least understood from the outside. However, rope can be a Meditation for both partners. Partly why I created RopeYoga. When tying, there is a focus on the experience of tying itself - the soothing and repetitive feel of rope running through the hands or across skin; the breathing of the Bottom as they sink into the rope; the Top's focus on creating the experience for the Bottom. This is the aspect of rope that is most frequently written about when people are trying to answer the question of "Why Rope?" but there is so much more to it.

Experiential

Experiential learning is the process of learning through experience, and is more specifically defined as "learning through reflection on doing" The physical experience of rope as opposed to watching.

In the end, we all have our own reasons to enjoy Rope, just like any other kink. There is nothing right or wrong about your opinion on rope.