

## How to Survive as a Man in Eurythmy School

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Category: Eurythmy

For the recently graduated class at Eurythmy Spring Valley

*The author, who earlier survived an Artistic Year at Eurythmy Spring Valley, dedicated the following introductory remarks and verses to the School's 2012 graduating class.*

Those new to eurythmy will immediately notice that the movements on stage are unlike the movements that most characterize the modern world: The world is hard, eurythmy is soft; the world can be violent, eurythmy flows; the world easily overlooks or can even try to eliminate our essential humanity, but eurythmy, like the esoteric science of anthroposophy that gave it birth, views the world itself in terms of human nature.

Where the world, and much of our civilization, tends toward death, eurythmy seeks to awaken *life* in our consciousness and deeds.

Life is of course the very opposite of death, and so in order to penetrate the sphere of life, which anthroposophy calls the *etheric* world, we have to be ready in all details to give up the assumptions upon which we rely in order to navigate the material world. Instead, we must draw new expectations from the mysterious laws that govern the realm of life itself. These are opposite to the rules we take for granted.

The following poem shows how this schooling in living, or *etheric*, processes can have important practical consequences.

### How to Survive as a Man in Eurythmy School

An occult school reverses  
The laws of physicality,  
And finds in every dissonance  
Etheric musicality.

Eurythmy, an etheric art,  
Is always thus transposing:  
The students sleep while they're awake,  
And waken when they're dozing.

But most of all, the sexes switch:  
The so-called weaker vessel  
Will dominate, and rule, and win  
Whene'er the genders wrestle.

No match for women's spirit-strength  
Is men's materiality,  
Whose power crumbles when it meets  
Demure ethereality.

So, gentlemen, if you enroll,  
Expect that ladies' might  
Will overwhelm, and give you choice of  
Neither fight nor flight.

Keep firm in mind polarity  
Those moments you feel cursed,

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Decide that it's a blessing, for  
Here everything's reversed.

Remember, only female love  
Can serve you such a beating,  
What looks like fierce hostility  
Is tender, kindly meeting.

Take heart, stout knight, by sisters crushed,  
Adopt the woman's plan—  
Know that your loss counts as a gain;  
Surrender while you can.

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