

# Ritual

*by* gerard varni

He understands the magic of sacrifice. Every decision he  
Makes in this life determines who he will become and  
His impact on others. Ritual is meaningless,  
Inconsequential; it is menial, leading to abject misery.  
True experience is the only genuine celebration of faith,  
And the assumption of personal responsibility is the only  
Measure of spirit in every orbit of his existence.  
Experience is veracious and honest; action, the only moral  
Dimension that matters, that is undeniable and pure.  
The rest is counterfeit. He is sculptured by the reaction  
Between being and environment. Intellect and emotion  
Are deceitful. He is shaped by experience; it is unerring  
And authentic, the single reality that leads to wisdom.  
Yearning, tenderness, enchantment — they cannot be  
Achieved through ritual.  
The journey may be excruciating,  
Violent, severe; but it will be exquisite.

