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Breakfast with ROSY: an evaluation

in every town there are ritualistic things which one does. Yes there are ritualistic things which one does in every town. and people who do not live in the town probably regard them as very strange. no doubt they regard them as very strange, but some of the people do not regard them strange who live in the town, or they would not be. Ritual could not be if people regarded the ritualistic things as strange. no it could not exist. But ritual does exist. And it exists in every town. In every town there are rituals. And it is hard to determine whether towns make rituals or whether the need for ritual makes towns. it is hard to decide.

and in this town in which I live breakfast with Rosy is one of the rituals observed by some of the people. It is one of the rituals. and her house is a place of ritual. Her house is a place of ritual. Places of ritual have always been sacred. And the sacred places have always been one of the problems of record. and breakfast with Rosy is one of the rituals. It is hard to say whether this is because Rosy's house is one where breakfast can be had gracefully and graciously; because the flowers on the table and the views into the garden fit into it, but they do fit into it, are essential to it; or whether the whole of Rosy's house has been so admirably adapted to being lived in; being lived in with due respect to privacy, personal privacy and group privacy, and still a place of estimably efficient group utility. And it is a house where there is a play of color; and a house where there is an individuality expressed in all of the rooms; and at the same time a house with certain reservations. . . . the reservations implied by the very character of the lady of the house. It is a house with reservations, and some of these reservations are admirable reservations, and all of them are specific reservations in a house which grow out of the specific character of the lady of the house, and are rather a clue to what is accepted as admirable in my city and my time. It is accepted to be admirable that a house be a house with specific reservations growing out of the specific character of the ladies of these houses. It is considered to be desirable and admirable that houses have a character, have the character of the people who live in them to them, It is considered admirable that houses are not abandoned half way houses where one sleeps because one must sleep somewhere. It is considered admirable that a house is a place where ritual can be. Where ritual is, where the rooms and the garden show the cherishing of the lady whose house it is.

and this is why breakfast with Rosy is one of the rituals in my town. and it is a rather important ritual because there are not too many places such as Rosy's house; and this is because in my times the tendency has been away from houses like Rosy's house; and the tendency has been away from people like Rosy and this is very particularly why breakfast with Rosy is one of the rituals in my town in my time.

and it may seem odd to many people that this is so, but this is so; and it is particularly so because there are so many people who marry and live in an apartment or in a house, and one can go into the house, and one can have breakfast in the house, but it is rather important that one has breakfast only because one has the habit of taking food in the morning, and that there is no other reason than this for having breakfast . . . there is no other reason at all; and it is important surely to some people that there be a better reason surely to have breakfast than simply that people have the habit of taking food in the morning. It is important to some people that there is a better reason than this, and because this is important breakfast with Rosy is one of the things which is a ritual in my time. For having breakfast with Rosy is like having breakfast in an old house which was built and lived in, in a more gracious generation; and it is particularly important because Rosy's house is not an old house built in a more leisurely generation, but it is the way it is and it is ordered in the way it is because Rosy has taken the way of life of a more gracious generation, and that because she has done this has been a matter of high decision with her.

and the very odd thing is that this has nothing to do with Rosy's being outdated, for Rosy is not outdated. But Rosy has accepted certain criteria which she has used to fashion a mode of living a way of living. And the accepting of these criteria has been a matter of high decision with her. And her house is a place of ritual. It is a place where ritual is. And this is important. It is perhaps important to make one's house a place which shows a mode of living. . . . which manifests certain criteria. This is perhaps important and regrettably uncommon in this town which is my town, and this country which is my country and this time which is my time which is becoming almost a generation of furnished apartments, an era of furnished rooms. . . . an age of rented lodgings. and that is why breakfast with Rosy is so important to some of the people in my town.

KENNETH L. BEAUDOIN