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The problem lay buried, unspoken for many years in the minds of American women. It was a strange stirring, a sense of dissatisfaction, a yearning that women suffered in the middle of the twentieth century in the United States. Each suburban housewife struggled with it alone. As she made the beds, shopped for groceries, matched slipcover material, ate peanut butter sandwiches with her children, chauffeured Cub Scouts and Brownies, lay beside her husband at night, she was afraid to ask even of herself the silent question: Is this all?

- Friedan, Betty

Man is not the enemy here, but the fellow victim.

- Friedan, Betty

It is easier to live through someone else than to become complete yourself.

- Friedan, Betty

A woman is handicapped by her sex, and handicaps society, either by slavishly copying the pattern of man's advance in the professions, or by refusing to compete with man at all.

- Friedan, Betty

Instead of fulfilling the promise of infinite orgasmic bliss, sex in the America of the

feminine mystique is becoming a strangely joyless national compulsion, if not a contemptuous mockery.

- Friedan, Betty

The feminine mystique has succeeded in burying millions of American women alive.

- Friedan, Betty

Strange new problems are being reported in the growing generations of children whose mothers were always there, driving them around, helping them with their homework --an inability to endure pain or discipline or pursue any self-sustained goal of any sort, a devastating boredom with life.

- Friedan, Betty

Single women have a dreadful propensity for being poor. Which is one very strong argument in favor of matrimony.

- Austen, Jane

Femininity appears to be one of those pivotal qualities that is so important no one can define it.

- Bird, Caroline

Feminism is hated because women are hated. Anti-feminism is a direct expression of misogyny; it is the political defense of women hating.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Feminism is an entire world view or gestalt, not just a laundry list of women's issues.

- Bunch, Charlotte

I hate discussions of feminism that end up with who does the dishes, she said. So do I. But at the end, there are always the damned dishes.

- French, Marilyn

If Miss means respectably unmarried, and Mrs. respectably married, then Ms. means nudge, nudge, wink, wink.

- Carter, Angela

A woman cannot do the thing she ought, which means whatever perfect thing she can, in life, in art, in science, but she fears to let the perfect action take her part and rest there: she must prove what she can do before she does it, -- prate of woman's rights, of woman's mission, woman's function, till the men (who are prating, too, on their side) cry, A woman's function plainly is... to talk. Poor souls, they are very reasonably vexed!

- Browning, Elizabeth Barrett

The trouble with some women is they get all excited about nothing, and then they marry him.

- Cher

Women are a sisterhood. They make common cause in behalf of the sex; and, indeed, this is natural enough, when we consider the vast power that the law gives us over them.

- Cobbett, William

Woman is not born: she is made. In the making, her humanity is destroyed. She becomes symbol of this, symbol of that: mother of the earth, slut of the universe; but she never becomes herself because it is forbidden for her to do so.

- Dworkin, Andrea

The woman who can create her own job is the woman who will win fame and fortune.

- Earhart, Amelia

A woman's heart must be of such a size and no larger, else it must be pressed small, like Chinese feet; her happiness is to be made as cakes are, by a fixed receipt.

- Eliot, George

We women are always in danger of living too exclusively in the affections; and though our affections are perhaps the best gifts we have, we ought also to have our share of the more independent life -- some joy in things for their own sake. It is piteous to see the helplessness of some sweet women when their affections are disappointed -- because all their teaching has been, that they can only delight in study of any kind for the sake of a personal love. They have never contemplated an independent delight in ideas as an experience which they could confess without being laughed at. Yet surely women need this defense against passionate affliction even more than men.

- Eliot, George

Of all things upon earth that bleed and grow, a herb most bruised is woman.

- Euripides

They talk about a woman's sphere, as though it had a limit. There's not a place in earth or heaven. There's not a task to mankind given... without a woman in it.

- Field, Kate

The Woman-Soul leadeth us upward and on!

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

The higher mental development of woman, the less possible it is for her to meet a congenial male who will see in her, not only sex, but also the human being, the friend, the comrade and strong individuality, who cannot and ought not lose a single trait of her character.

- Goldman, Emma

Older women can afford to agree that femininity is a charade, a matter of colored hair, ecru lace and whalebones, the kind of slap and tat that transvestites are in love with, and no more.

- Greer, Germaine

Maybe I couldn't make it. Maybe I don't have a pretty smile, good teeth, nice tits, long legs, a cheeky ass, a sexy voice. Maybe I don't know how to handle men and increase my market value, so that the rewards due to the feminine will accrue to me. Then again, maybe I'm sick of the masquerade. I'm sick of pretending eternal youth. I'm sick of belying my own intelligence, my own will, my own sex. I'm sick of peering at the world through false eyelashes, so everything I see is mixed with a shadow of bought hairs; I'm sick of weighting my head with a dead mane, unable to move my neck freely, terrified of rain, of wind, of dancing too vigorously in case I sweat into my lacquered curls. I'm sick of the Powder Room. I'm sick of pretending that some fatuous male's self-important pronouncements are the objects of my undivided attention, I'm sick of going to films and plays when someone else wants to, and sick of having no opinions of my own about either. I'm sick of being a transvestite. I refuse to be a female impersonator. I am a woman, not a castrate.

- Greer, Germaine

What is important in life is life, and not the result of life.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

The question arises as to whether it is possible not to live in the world of men and still to live in the world.

- Bernikow, Louise

A true man hates no one.

- Bonaparte, Napoleon

The man, most man, works best for men: and, if most man indeed, he gets his manhood plainest from his soul.

- Browning, Elizabeth Barrett

Men in general are quick to believe that which they wish to be true.

- Caesar, Julius

Only when manhood is dead -- and it will perish when ravaged femininity no longer sustains it -- only then will we know what it is to be free.

- Dworkin, Andrea

In this society, the norm of masculinity is phallic aggression. Male sexuality is, by definition, intensely and rigidly phallic. A man's identity is located in his conception of himself as the possessor of a phallus; a man's worth is located in his pride in phallic identity. The main characteristic of phallic identity is that worth is entirely contingent on the possession of a phallus. Since men have no other criteria for worth, no other notion of identity, those who do not have phalluses are not recognized as fully human.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Someone has to stand up for wimps.

- Ehrenreich, Barbara

Men's men: gentle or simple, they're much of a muchness.

- Eliot, George

Men are what their mothers made them.

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo

Macho doesn't prove mucho.

- Gabor, Zsa Zsa

The little man is still a man.

- Goethe, Johann Wolfgang Von

The tragedy of machismo is that a man is never quite man enough.

- Greer, Germaine

All societies on the verge of death are masculine. A society can survive with only one man; no society will survive a shortage of women.

- Greer, Germaine

When a man is wrong and won't admit it, he always gets angry.

- Haliburton, Thomas C.

All men are homosexual, some turn straight. It must be very odd to be a straight man

because your sexuality is hopelessly defensive. It's like an ideal of racial purity.

- Jarman, Derek

It is easier to know men in general, than men in particular.

- La Rochefoucauld, Francois De

How beautiful maleness is, if it finds its right expression.

- Lawrence, D. H.

Men were only made into men with great difficulty even in primitive society: the male is not naturally a man any more than the woman. He has to be propped up into that position with some ingenuity, and is always likely to collapse.

- Lewis, Wyndham

Sometimes I have a notion that what might improve the situation is to have women take over the occupations of government and trade and to give men their freedom. Let them do what they are best at. While we scrawl interoffice memos and direct national or extranational affairs, men could spend all their time inventing wheels, peering at stars, composing poems, carving statues, exploring continents -- discovering, reforming, or crying out in a sacramental wilderness. Efficiency would probably increase, and no one would have to worry so much about the Gaza Strip or an election.

- Mcginley, Phyllis

A man that is ashamed of passions that are natural and reasonable is generally proud of

those that are shameful and silly.

- Montagu, Lady Mary Wortley

It is much more easy to accuse the one sex than to excuse the other.

- Montaigne, Michel Eyquem De

A woman simply is, but a man must become. Masculinity is risky and elusive. It is achieved by a revolt from woman, and it is confirmed only by other men. Manhood coerced into sensitivity is no manhood at all.

- Paglia, Camille

Men are the dreams of a shadow.

- Pindar

He may have hair upon his chest but, sister, so has Lassie.

- Porter, Cole

There are only two kinds of men; the dead and the deadly.

- Rowland, Helen

Most men act so tough and strong on the outside because on the inside, we are scared, weak, and fragile. Men, not women, are the weaker sex.

- Rubin, Jerry

Man is the only animal of which I am thoroughly and cravenly afraid of.

- Shaw, George Bernard

The male function is to produce sperm. We now have sperm banks.

- Solanis, Valerie

It is funny the two things most men are proudest of is the thing that any man can do and doing does in the same way, that is being drunk and being the father of their son.

- Stein, Gertrude

One of the things being in politics has taught me is that men are not a reasoned or reasonable sex.

- Thatcher, Margaret

All men are two meters tall... give or take a meter.

- Unknown, Source

What God wants are men great enough to be small enough to be used.

- Unknown, Source

I only like two kinds of men; domestic and foreign.

- West, Mae

I go for two kinds of men. The kind with muscles, and the kind without.

- West, Mae

Men are like sheep, of which a flock is more easily driven than a single one.

- Whately, Richard

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

- Twain, Mark

Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Help others achieve their dreams and you will achieve yours.

- Brown, Les

Men mistake friendship, but not sex, for love; women mistake sex, but not friendship, for love.

- Wastholm, Peter

Friendships that have stood the test of time and chance are surely best, Brows may wrinkle, hair grow gray, Friendship never knows decay.

- Unknown, Source

There can be no friendship where there is no freedom. Friendship loves a free air, and will not be fenced up in straight and narrow enclosures.

- Penn, William

The worst solitude is to have no real friendships.

- Bacon, Francis

There is a scarcity of friendship, but not of friends.

- Fuller, Thomas

True friendship comes when silence between two people is comfortable.

- Gentry, David Tyson

Men have defined the parameters of every subject. All feminist arguments, however radical in intent or consequence, are with or against assertions or premises implicit in the male system, which is made credible or authentic by the power of men to name.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Wild intelligence abhors any narrow world; and the world of women must stay narrow, or

the woman is an outlaw. No woman could be Nietzsche or Rimbaud without ending up in a whorehouse or lobotomized.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Women's fashion is a euphemism for fashion created by men for women.

- Dworkin, Andrea

By the time we are women, fear is as familiar to us as air. It is our element. We live in it, we inhale it, we exhale it, and most of the time we do not even notice it. Instead of I am afraid, we say, I don't want to, or I don't know how, or I can't.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Women have been taught that, for us, the earth is flat, and that if we venture out, we will fall off the edge. Some of us have ventured out nevertheless, and so far we have not fallen off. It is my faith, my feminist faith, that we will not.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Men who want to support women in our struggle for freedom and justice should understand that it is not terrifically important to us that they learn to cry; it is important to us that they stop the crimes of violence against us.

- Dworkin, Andrea

While gossip among women is universally ridiculed as low and trivial, gossip among men, especially if it is about women, is called theory, or idea, or fact.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Male supremacy is fused into the language, so that every sentence both heralds and affirms it.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Romantic love, in pornography as in life, is the mythic celebration of female negation. For a woman, love is defined as her willingness to submit to her own annihilation. The proof of love is that she is willing to be destroyed by the one whom she loves, for his sake. For the woman, love is always self-sacrifice, the sacrifice of identity, will, and bodily integrity, in order to fulfill and redeem the masculinity of her lover.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Marriage as an institution developed from rape as a practice. Rape, originally defined as abduction, became marriage by capture. Marriage meant the taking was to extend in time, to be not only use of but possession of, or ownership.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Women are an enslaved population -- the crop we harvest is children, the fields we work are houses. Women are forced into committing sexual acts with men that violate integrity because the universal religion -- contempt for women -- has as its first commandment that women exist purely as sexual fodder for men.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Money speaks, but it speaks with a male voice.

- Dworkin, Andrea

The fact that we are all trained to be mothers from infancy on means that we are all trained to devote our lives to men, whether they are our sons or not; that we are all trained to force other women to exemplify the lack of qualities which characterizes the cultural construct of femininity.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Women, for centuries not having access to pornography and now unable to bear looking at the muck on the supermarket shelves, are astonished. Women do not believe that men believe what pornography says about women. But they do. From the worst to the best of them, they do.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Childbearing is glorified in part because women die from it.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Seduction is often difficult to distinguish from rape. In seduction, the rapist often bothers to buy a bottle of wine.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Sexism is the foundation on which all tyranny is built. Every social form of hierarchy and abuse is modeled on male-over-female domination.

- Dworkin, Andrea

No woman needs intercourse; few women escape it.

- Dworkin, Andrea

Men renounce whatever they have in common with women so as to experience no commonality with women; and what is left, according to men, is one piece of flesh a few inches long, the penis. The penis is sensate; the penis is the man; the man is human; the penis signifies humanity.

- Dworkin, Andrea

I am in politics because of the conflict between good and evil, and I believe that in the end good will triumph.

- Thatcher, Margaret

It may be the cock that crows, but it is the hen that lays the eggs.

- Thatcher, Margaret

Any girl can be glamorous. All you have to do is stand still and look stupid.

- Lamarr, Hedy

The little rift between the sexes is astonishingly widened by simply teaching one set of catchwords to the girls and another to the boys.

- Stevenson, Robert Louis

Not being beautiful was the true blessing... Not being beautiful forced me to develop my inner resources. The pretty girl has a handicap to overcome.

- Meir, Golda

There is no remedy for love than to love more.

- Thoreau, Henry David

Don't be humble, you're not that great.

- Meir, Golda

Whether women are better than men I cannot say, but I can say they are certainly no worse.

- Meir, Golda

To be successful, a woman has to be better at her job than a man.

- Meir, Golda

An education obtained with money is worse than no education at all

- Socrates

Enjoy yourself -- it's later than you think.

- Socrates

Once made equal to man, woman becomes his superior.

- Socrates

Be slow to fall into friendship; but when thou art in, continue firm and constant.

- Socrates

No man undertakes a trade he has not learned, even the meanest; yet everyone thinks himself sufficiently qualified for the hardest of all trades, that of government.

- Socrates

One thing only I know, and that is that I know nothing.

- Socrates

Nature has given us two ears, two eyes, and but one tongue-to the end that we should hear and see more than we speak.

- Socrates

How many are the things I can do without!

- Socrates

I was really too honest a man to be a politician and live.

- Socrates

I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think.

- Socrates

To find yourself, think for yourself.

- Socrates

True wisdom comes to each of us when we realize how little we understand about life, ourselves, and the world around us.

- Socrates

There's no reason to bring religion into it. I think we ought to have as great a regard for religion as we can, so as to keep it out of as many things as possible.

- O'Casey, Sean

A cult is a religion with no political power.

- Wolfe, Thomas

A myth is a religion in which no one any longer believes.

- Feibleman, James

There is only one religion, though there are a hundred versions of it.

- Shaw, George Bernard

Religion. A daughter of Hope and Fear, explaining to Ignorance the nature of the Unknowable.

- Bierce, Ambrose

Give us a religion that will help us to live -- we can die without assistance.

- Hubbard, Elbert

People in general are equally horrified at hearing the Christian religion doubted, and at seeing it practiced.

- Butler, Samuel

When I do good, I feel good. When I do bad, I feel bad. And that's my religion.

- Lincoln, Abraham

Most men's anger about religion is as if two men should quarrel for a lady they neither of them care for.

- Halifax, Edward F.

To know a person's religion we need not listen to his profession of faith but must find his brand of intolerance.

- Hoffer, Eric

You never see animals going through the absurd and often horrible fooleries of magic and religion. Dogs do not ritually urinate in the hope of persuading heaven to do the same and send down rain. Asses do not bray a liturgy to cloudless skies. Nor do cats attempt, by abstinence from cat's meat, to wheedle the feline spirits into benevolence. Only man behaves with such gratuitous folly. It is the price he has to pay for being intelligent but not, as yet, quite intelligent enough.

- Huxley, Aldous

Although every organized patriarchal religion works overtime to contribute its own brand of misogyny to the myth of woman-hate, woman-fear, and woman-evil, the Roman Catholic Church also carries the immense power of very directly affecting women's lives everywhere by its stand against birth control and abortion, and by its use of skillful and wealthy lobbies to prevent legislative change. It is an obscenity -- an all-male hierarchy, celibate or not, that presumes to rule on the lives and bodies of millions of women.

- Morgan, Robin

Next to inflation, majority rule is the most ingenious scheme ever contrived by government. Most people have never dared to question the basic morality or logic in the assumption that the majority should have power over the minority. A majority of the people in the South once believed in black slavery. Did that make it moral? A lynch mob is majority rule stripped of its fancy trappings and its facade of respectability. In a community where homosexuals outnumber heterosexuals, should the majority have the right to outlaw sex between married partners of the opposite sex? In a community where atheists outnumber non- atheists, should the majority have the right to outlaw the practice of

religion? ... a dictatorship allows only a small number of people to interfere with the rights of others, a democracy makes it possible for great numbers of people to impose their will on others -- through the force of government. Is an act of aggression more right if carried out by the majority than by a dictator? Since approximately half the eligible voters vote this means that approximately 75% of the people are ruled by 25% of the people.

- Ringer, Robert J.

The language of truth is unadorned and always simple.

- Ammianus, Marcellinus

When you educate a man you educate an individual; when you educate a woman you educate a whole family.

- Maciver, Robert M.

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