

The feminization of American men

Brothers. Put your testosterone on the shelf and step out from your man caves into the sunlight for a moment and take a look around at our USA. You'll probably notice that many things are different from when you were a young man five or six decades ago. America is heading down the home stretch into the final stages of a national feminization of its men. That said, if you are in your sixties or seventies you are probably feeling like the last lonely pachyderm in the last traveling circus. Truth is, many of us that grew up during or immediately after WWII are seeking the safety and certainty of the traditional male/female roles of the past rather than embracing the frightening (yes, I said frightening) feminine transformation of the present. We're worried that our gender merit badges which we earned with the help of our mothers and sisters will be ripped from our sashes and stomped on by a legion of entirely different women who view us as the sworn enemy of female progress.

Any woman reading that last sentence will probably say that it sounds like the last desperate gasp of power from men who've been dominating or controlling our society for far too long. But you'd be wrong. We're trying to understand what motivates a growing number of women to lash out at 'traditional men'. It's not hard to distinguish between women who value our input and want us to join them as partners in the struggle for equality and those who would castigate us for our 'toxic masculinity.' The latter group's tactics of full-on, in-your-face confrontation, accompanied by accusatory rhetoric clearly reveal their sympathies. While their dissatisfaction with the status quo didn't start with the election of an alpha male as president in 2016, it did intensify it. The rejection of 'one of theirs' after so much hype and hope for a female president added fuel to their fire of discontent and set up a resounding win at the 2018 ballot box for Congressional seats. Bravo, ladies. Well done.

With their votes, they told us White males to move out of the way, that the 'sisterhood' was coming and they were not going to take any prisoners. This was painfully evident in the Judge Brett Kavanaugh nomination hearings when men were told to "shut up and step up and do the right thing for a change," by Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawaii. Her statements were echoed by several other female Senators who didn't apologize for reversing our system of the presumption of innocence when it came to accusations of a sexually abusive nature against Judge Kavanaugh. Senator after Senator came forward and told us that we men were not allowed to defend ourselves. We were guilty because "all victims (women) must be believed." That, gentlemen, is what we're up against - a movement like #MeToo - that has painted us as genetically-predisposed predators who are guilty simply because of our 23rd pair of autosomes!

We should have seen it coming when nearly half a million women protested the election of Donald Trump on the Washington Mall and actresses proclaimed, "I am your worst nightmare...an angry woman" and "sometimes I dream about burning down the White House." I stop short of claiming that all women who protest restrictions on abortion and support paid family leave and free birth control pills, etc. are anarchists or radicals, but I do believe that many have a collective blind spot when it comes to men and men's rights. Maybe it's time that we men don the dildo hat and take to the Mall to protest the way we're being treated by those feminists that accuse our gender of being 'toxic' and refuse to acknowledge our positive influence on society AND on the women's movement! If this gender war continues under the banner of toxic masculinity much longer, women will soon demand that all newborn male babies be tattooed with a warning label on their tiny behinds.

Male/female relations are like the tectonic plates that make up the crust of our earth. They move and replace or offset each other. (We've seen that happen when women took to the streets to demand the vote a century ago.) Sometimes that movement of the seven plates results in earthquakes; other times it's volcanic activity. Our gender relations also move and grow and retract. Women have made substantial gains in our society. No one can argue that point. What we can argue is whether they've done it with or despite men. I would posit that it has been with our help and that we must continue to support any movement that has the leveling of the playing field as its goal..

My brothers, I know that you're confused, and I would expect nothing less. This goes for those of us White males who are over the hill and have seen ourselves become targets of opportunity and for our younger brethren who are desperately trying to figure out how to get in touch with their feminine side and make it work for them. Ladies, it will do no good to demonize us or marginalize us because whether you like it or not you still need our support. Jack Nicholson's character in the film, "A few good men" talked of the paradoxical relationship we have with men who protect our country, and it parallels the duality of women's feelings about men in general.

It went like this: *"You can't handle the truth! Son, we live in a world that has walls, and those walls have to be guarded by men with guns. Whose gonna do it you? I have a greater responsibility that you can possibly fathom. ...You don't want the truth because deep down in places you don't talk about at parties, you want me on that wall, you need me on that wall! We use words like honor, code, loyalty. We use these words as the backbone of a life spent defending something. You use them as a punchline. I have neither the time, nor the inclination to explain myself to a man who rises and sleeps under the blanket of the very freedom that I provide, and then questions the manner in which I provide it. I'd rather you just said 'thank you', and went on your way."*

The truth is, we cannot afford to abandon each other, even when we're opposing each other in a so-called 'war of the sexes.' The only way to win that war is to stop regarding each other as enemies and to accept and value the things that make us different but equal. It will do no good for men to allow themselves to be deconstructed using phony blueprints or worse accept a re-engineering into something we're not. We must come together and reject any and all attempts to create a victim class of either gender. Identity politics must never be allowed to gain any purchase in the relationship between men and women.

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