

SPARK 185

DISTINCTION: A woman does not need a man to make her into a woman.

NOTES: There is a story about Mike and Jim, shipwrecked on a tropical island, who were saved by natives from a culture where woman were classified in value from one cow to nine cows. On that first night Mike falls in love with a village woman with knotty hair, slumped shoulders, a chip on her shoulder, and a gap in her teeth whom everyone knew to be worth a mere two cows. Mike declares he will stay on the island to pursue his future there with this woman while Jim escapes on a raft, vowing to return to rescue his friend. Two years later a sailboat drops anchor and Jim rows ashore seeking his long-lost companion. The locals direct him to the nine-cow-woman house at the end of the path. Jim finds the house and knocks. A gorgeous tropical goddess answers the door and invites him to sit while she calls her husband. In walks Jim's buddy Mike! After hugs Jim asks, *"Hey Mike, whatever happened to that two-cow woman you fell in love with the first night we shipwrecked?"* *"This is her."* says Mike. *"No way!"* is Jim's puzzled response. *"Yessiree Bob!"* says Mike. *"Let her tell you herself."* The woman speaks. *"It's true. It was me. You see, Mike refused to pay only two cows for me. He told the chief that the assessment was wrong, that I was actually a nine-cow woman. People thought Mike was crazy. I even thought he was crazy. But Mike refused to get off it. He worked hard and earned nine cows for me, built me a nine-cow house, made us a nine-cow wedding ceremony, and always performed the nine-cow rub-her-feet-every-night-before-she-goes-to-sleep ceremony. He persisted in regarding me as a nine-cow woman. Finally I had no choice. I gave up my self-image. I had to change my mind about me."* At that point she smiled radiantly and Jim could see the gap in her front teeth.

Ah, yes. Back to reality. Here we are, born and raised in a capitalist patriarchal empire where men do not have to grow up. I find that most common question from women who are activating their inner resources for connection and learning to negotiate 5-body intimacies is, *"Where are the men?"* Where are those illustrious Beings who create and navigate extraordinary spaces for appreciating the beautiful nuance in the archetypal feminine? Where are the men who stand mightily on guard so that nature is protected, children are safe and respected, adolescents are fully initiated into adulthood, and life on Earth has a future? Where are those men?

As a man I feel immeasurable grief and anger struggling to answer this question. I am forced to admit that modern men are oblivious. We are deranged. We remain imprisoned in the patriarchy, not even noticing it. We are hollow, robots, Zombies who adopt our father's thoughtware and follow in his footsteps. We are afraid to self-observe, feel, or speak out for fear of betraying the patriarchy that gives us our weak but only acceptable identity. We are hypnotized by hype, blindly adopt suicidal values, and use hubris to pretend ignorance of consequences. We abandon, punish, compete with, and are terrified of women, aliveness, and independent thinking. We feel nothing, and crush anything that feels with brute aggressions. We do not admit our wasted potential. We die like dogs, corrupt, decadent, greedy, deprived, alone.

EXPERIMENT: The experiment for men is to study *Blog037 Men's Culture in Archarchy – a three step checklist*, and then accomplish the three steps, in reality: <http://clintoncallahan.blogspot.com/2015/03/blog037-mens-culture-in-archarchy.html>.

The experiment for women is to confirm the steps you have already taken in the women's liberation movement. (Liberation from what? From the patriarchy, of course. The men's liberation movement has not yet actually started.) Some suggestions for confirming your previously accomplished steps and for taking further steps include:

1. Once a day for five to seven minutes, turn yourself energetically around and gaze back into the source of the archetypal feminine. You are already jacked in to Her. She is there behind you. She has always been there. Pause. Gaze (with closed eyes, if you like) into the feminine source until you are saturated in the direct experience of Her clarity and power. Direct experience floods in and nurtures your cells. Let Her thoroughly validate you. Can this empowering source of the archetypal feminine ever leave you? (No.)
2. Notice that the archetypal masculine principle of *holding space* cannot NOT be there. It has always been there. Spaceholding as a principle cannot disappear or the universe would collapse. The spaceholding nothingness of the archetypal masculine is the place in which the space-enriching everythingness of the archetypal feminine exists. You can radically rely on recognition and appreciation from the archetypal masculine even if there is no actual man around to enact that for you. Each time you walk somewhere, walk in a space that is already held for you as a sanctuary by this archetypal force of nature. Do not interact with anyone unless you are in this held space.
3. Every time you take an action or make a choice that is reasonably responsible, such as wiping the counter, making a shopping list, arranging logistics, etc. (ad infinitum) let the action itself feed you. This is a responsible universe. When you responsibly take care of things the universe reciprocates. Conserve your own energy. Use the universe's energy to be conscious and responsible. Then you don't need recognition or acknowledgement from a man. Find any belief you carry from a religion or social system that says you need a man to be a woman. Let it break apart and dissolve on the rocks of reality until you are free of it. Reclaim the inner space for your adult Being. Adulthood is a gateway to the archetypal. Enjoy the adventure.
4. Women could vanish the patriarchy overnight by telling any man (or woman...) who loves you that if they work even one more day for a government or a corporation or a school that serves the Rule of Law of western civilization you will never sleep with them again. The Rule of Law of western civilization systematically annihilates life on Earth. Anyone who follows that law is criminally insane. Anyone who enforces that law has already forfeited their life. There are zillions of lifestyle changes that immediately create regenerative cultures. Most would also include intimacy with you through creative collaborating. If the man lacks possibilities invite him to ask you for a few ideas. Please take out the patriarchy before it takes out life on Earth.

With head bowed,
Clinton