

THE FEMINISTS
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VAGINAL ORGASM AS A MASS HYSTERICAL SURVIVAL RESPONSE

I suppose we all have put aside the speeches we prepared before last night. In the face of Martin King's death, one must tell the truth as plain as one can.

I was asked by the Medical Committee for Human Rights to speak on Sex. Alright, I really will.

The oppression of women by men is the source of all the corrupt values throughout the world. Between men and women we brag about domination, surrender, inequality, conquest, trickery, exploitation. Men have robbed women of their lives.

A human being is not born from the womb; it must create itself. It must be free, self-generative. A human being must feel that it can grow in a world where injustice, inequity, hatred, sadism are not directed at it. No person can grow into a life within these conditions; it is enough of a miracle to survive as a functioning organism.

Now let's talk about function. Women have been murdered by their function of child-bearing exactly as the black people were murdered by their function of color. The truth is that child-bearing isn't the function of women. The function of child-bearing is the function of men oppressing women.

It is the function of men to oppress. It is the function of men to exploit. It is the function of men to lie, and to betray, and to humiliate, to crush, to ignore, and the final insult: it is the function of men to tell women that man's iniquities are woman's function!

I'm telling it to you as straight as I can. Marriage and the family are as corrupt institutions as slavery ever was. They must be abolished as slavery was. By definition they necessarily oppress and exploit their subject groups. If women were free, free to be where they like, free to choose their lives, there would be no such institutions as marriage or family. If slaves had had those those freedoms, there wouldn't have been slavery.

Until D.N.A. or something similar comes through, women are the only source of new organisms. Men cannot continue to force women to produce children. The society as a whole can decide what it wants to do about its birth rate, and then the women can be asked to contribute their special capacities. But if women don't want to, that's the breaks. If a woman decides to help out, she has absolutely no responsibility for the child. The child is not her's.

it belongs to society. It is society even now, or rather men, that decides whether or not women have children; children are the whole society's responsibility.

I'm not going to fall into the male-supremacy trap tonight of "who's going to take care of the children", and the "working-mother-delinquent-child" blues. Last night's events reminded me that there's no more time for injustice, euphemistically known as "social justice". It's irrelevant to the emancipation of women what happens when women free themselves from the institutions that maintain them in their oppressed state. It wasn't the responsibility of the slaves to think up, develop, experiment, and prove superior a new economic system for the South before they were emancipated, and it's not our job to figure out what happens to the kiddies before women free themselves. And women will free themselves. I'm just here to tell you men about it so you can expose your sadistic hostility towards your wives and mothers a little more, a little sooner, so they'll revolt quicker. I don't see why women should lose any more of their lives than they have already.

I'm assuming as I write this that I'll be reading it to liberal men. You're a real prize bunch. You quiver with horror over Vietnam because you identify your hide with the boy sent over there. You pontificate, but mostly just shake your head, over black people because you know if they get too uppity, you outnumber them nine to one, and you know that they know it. That's an extra kick. But do you get uptight about women! There are those of you who try to lay a woman to put down her protests. (I expect nervous laughter here.) Then there are those who pat her on her ass and say, "Gee, baby, it's too bad you're inferior but that's your function and I think that's great." What's great? She's great? Of course that's not what you mean. You mean it's great that it's her function to be inferior. But she can't face that so she twists it to mean that you think she's great. And because she's the cheapest maid going and sleeps in your bed, you let it go--more or less. We all know how uncomfortable it is to be around disgruntled maids nowadays, and as for hostile sex, what other kind is there?

Oh yes, sex. Your kind. The kind you wanted me to titillate you with by speaking here tonight. What could be more amusing than a Femi~~ist~~ talking about sex? Obviously, if Feminism has any logic in it at all, it must be working for a sexless society. But sex you want? Sex you're going to get.

Vaginal orgasm is an excellent illustration of the way men oppress and exploit women. It's ironic that you insist men and women respond the same in the one place no one can deny men and women are different--in their genitals. This difference is the basis for the whole distinction between men and women and the ground for the inequities that are heaped on women by men. But men have no shame. That's what power does for you--like Johnson raping Vietnam. And Johnson has the gall to say the Vietnamese want us to be there, to keep the free world safe for democracy. He means, as your enlight-

ened pocket books now know, that we're there to maintain the oppression of the Vietnamese to keep the world, by object lesson, safe to exploit for the United States. And as we see the little life left in the country being burned out of it, Johnson had the gall to tell us the Vietnamese were loving it. Try that argument with women, baby, and you'll be home free.

A man's penis and a woman's vagina are obviously different. Male orgasm is analogous to clitoral orgasm. Where, then, does vaginal orgasm come from? People say it's learned. And by God you'd better learn it, lady, especially if you're with a liberal man; you'd better to learn to shuffle, nigger, because if you don't you won't get the job. And you want to eat don't you? Why should she learn vaginal orgasm? Because that's what men want. How about a facial tic? What's the difference?

And love. As long as we're on sacred cows, let's finish them. What is love but the pay-off for the consent to oppression? What is love but need? What is love but fear? In a just society would we need love?

In a free society, you cannot have the family, marriage, sex, or love. You will have your Vietnams, and more, you will have your murdered Martin Kings, and more, you will have your Revolution unless your wives and mothers free themselves, because that's where the foundations of oppression and exploitation are laid. You are going to have to have your power wrenched away from you right where you live, and you're not going to like it. And that's tough shit.

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To the women in the audience, I say: think about these things with the man you love and want the most. Scratch his love, and you'll find your fear. You'll be afraid you'll die, and the woman will die, but your life will be born, and you'll begin to be free.

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To the men in the audience, I say: move on over, baby, or we'll move on over you--'caus al de good niggers is daide!!!

Ti-Grace Atkinson
Philadelphia
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