

WOMB
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PATRIARCHY

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Where does sensitivity, emotional intelligence, and personal autonomy lie? In our biggest prison: fear. Patriarchy is a materialization of fear, fear of the wild, of the natural, of the unknown aspects of creation. There is no space for honoring and listening to the natural in an agenda of output and productivity. There is no space for that which isn't regimented, no time to appreciate the slower pace and variation within a natural creation process.

Patriarchy says: Life is to be controlled; it is to be controlled because its power is to be feared.

The woman's body and the Earth are synonymous. They are the nest of creation, the place where life force and energy comes into physical form. Not one physical form, but millions of different expressions of life, take their own appearance, each carrying their own information to be shared with others, to complete the whole. Each physical body seen is a unique expression. It is wild, it may be unknown, it may not be understood. It is autonomous. It is a tree, it is a deer, it is a running river, it is a male bodied human, it is a female bodied human. Each has a voice that can sing the most beautiful songs if it is met with acceptance and freedom as it expands.

Look around. The trees are labeled with plaques, cut down and burnt as biomass, hidden under the lies of green energy. The deer are shot for fun, hung on the walls of homes as an ego trophy, hidden under the lies of the importance of population control, as if the ecology of the natural environment isn't to be trusted. The rivers are dammed and averted from their natural flowing

patterns, collecting toxic runoff and pollution, hidden under the lies that the interruption of the natural for human's needs is acceptable, that sustainability need not be questioned. The humans are pitted against each other in competition, unable to hear their natural impulses and follow their natural rhythms, hidden under the lies that the patriarchal structure and all of its creations are true and healthy.

It is no surprise that the woman's body and her womb, the most sacred and powerful place of creation and energy flow, is stifled, harmed, and objectified under the patriarchal rule. It is a literal source of life, and therefore needs to be controlled and, ideally, made profitable.

In the patriarchal society, women's sexuality is simultaneously overly exploited and repressed. Its repression is one result of its exploitation. When "women's sexuality is...a commodity, control over which belongs rightfully to men," (Reddy, 1985, p. 1) it can't be experienced in its true form, which is one of wildness, purity, and power. Leopoldina Forunati describes that in the "capitalist male/female relationship," it is not the relation of two "individuals but rather a relation of production, an (unequal) exchange which takes place between women and capital, mediated by men." (Gregory, 2017, pg. 3) Rather than sexuality being an expression of desire and pleasure and creation, it is a form of production to create more humans to power the machine of society. Contrasting with man's sexuality being a "function of his personal enjoyment and well-being, woman's sexuality has been considered as

society's property to be used to further its aims, whatever the cost to her own welfare." (Fortier, 1975, p. 280) Birth is not a sacred act to be revered and supported, it is a task of reproduction. The gift and power of women to bring fresh life into this world has been thwarted into "demands of childbearing and childrearing," funneling women "into lifetimes of servitude to capital and to men, without a say in the policies of the state that structure their relation to both their effective masters." (Gregory, 2017, p. 3)

Patriarchy says: Women are reproductive tools. Exploit them. Birth=life, life must be controlled.

Birth control. Birth **control**. Control of birth. Control of life. Who is the controller? Products produced by mass companies. Who invented the most common methods (the pill and IUD)? Men. How does birth control affect the body? Artificial hormones; (it doesn't matter.) Less acne; (great, you are more beautiful!) No menstruation or an artificial cycle; (a blessing, and if it does occur, at least it is controlled.) Possibly "increased risk of blood clots, strokes, breast cancer, irregular spotting, severe pelvic inflammatory disease or uterine perforation, heavy, crampy periods, urinary tract infections, cervical inflammation, and allergic reactions." (Weschler, 2015, p. 12) Why do women, who are fertile only a few days per cycle, have to take on the health risks of birth control, while men, who produce millions of sperm per hour, don't? Why are there only forms for women marketed? (Ibid.) Officially unknown; (women's bodies are safe grounds for these experimental alterations, as long as they can still produce.)

Imagine...

"A NEW INTRAPENAL CONTRACEPTIVE

The newest development in male contraception was unveiled recently at the American Women's Surgical Symposium. Dr. Sophia Merkin announced the preliminary findings of a new study conducted on 763 unsuspecting male graduate students at a large midwestern university. In her report, Dr. Merkin stated that the new contraceptive-the IPD-was a breakthrough in male contraception. It will be marketed under the trade name "Umbrelly."

The IPD (intrapenal device) resembles a tiny folded umbrella which is inserted through the head of the penis into the scrotum with a plungerlike instrument. Occasionally there is a perforation of the scrotum, but this is disregarded since it's known that the male has few nerve endings in this area of his body. The underside of the umbrella contains a spermicidal jelly, hence the name "Umbrelly."

Experiments on a thousand white whales from the continental shelf (whose sexual apparatus is said to be closest to man's) proved the Umbrelly 100% effective in preventing production of sperm, and eminently satisfactory to the female whale since it doesn't interfere with her rutting pleasure.

Dr. Merkin declared the Umbrelly to be statistically safe for the human male. She reported that of the 763 graduate students tested with the device, only two died of scrotal infection, three developed cancer of the testicles, and 13 were too depressed to have an erection. She stated that the common complaints ranged from cramping and bleeding to acute abdominal pain. She emphasized that these symptoms were merely indications that the man's body had not yet adjusted to the device. Hopefully, the symptoms would disappear within a year.

One complication caused by the IPD was the incidence of massive scrotal infection necessitating the surgical removal of the testicles. "But this is a rare occurrence," said Merkin, "too rare to be

statistically important." She and other distinguished members of the Women's College of Surgeons agreed that the benefits far outweighed the risk to any individual man." (Ibid.)

The absurdity of something like an IUD is revealed when it is taken out of the normalized view of alteration of the female body. The cruelty and disregard to the sensitivity of the body in which it inhabits is seen as acceptable when it is the female body. After all, she is a commodity.

Birth control is marketed as a way for females to control their reproductive cycles and to prevent pregnancy. Thank you, patriarchy, for giving women the choice to prevent pregnancy by offering her a wide array of harmful and terrible options. Most women have found a way to settle with one option, knowing its drawbacks, but accepting them, trying to believe that they actually aren't anything to worry about. If a woman chooses to utilize birth control from an autonomous position with full knowledge of how her fertility functions, on an anatomical and spiritual level, then it is a good choice for her. The reality is often the opposite. A woman chooses birth control because she believes it is the only way to not experience an unwanted pregnancy. She chooses birth control to accommodate the perceived sexual demands of her partner. She chooses birth control to eliminate her painful menstruation. All of these choices are fueled by a lack of listening to and understanding the body, a lack of respecting its slower pace and subtle voice, and a lack of reciprocal relationship, with oneself and another.

Historically, "in American medicine, women are most often the victims." (Poppe, 1979, p. 20) The 19th century

was the century of sexual surgery. Isaac Baker Brown "'invented" clitoridectomy and it was accepted as a "cure" for female masturbation," (Ibid.) in 1858. Proclamations that "women are subject to hysteria, insanity, and criminal impulses by reason of their sexual organs," (Ibid.) were made in the 1860s by Dr. Isaac Ray. The "invention" of female castration, or removal of the ovaries, to cure this insanity came in 1873 by Dr. Robert Battey. (Ibid.)

In the words of Maya Angelou, "A wise woman wishes to be no one's enemy; a wise woman refuses to be anyone's victim." A revolution from the inside out is in order. It isn't a revolution of fighting, it is a revolution of firm choice held by embodied knowledge and deeper knowing. We will gain true reproductive freedom by choosing how we, as the home and bearers of life, relate to the flow of life through us. The reclaiming of our female bodies will not be given to us. It must be individually sought out through the pure desire of our internal conversations that lead us to ask the questions of why we are shameful of our menstruation, why we know nothing about the innate intelligence of this system and our fertility, why we are fearful of connecting to this direct portal to life in our bodies, why we believe that the elevated emotions and sensitivity that accompany it is a burden rather than a gift. Resources and information outside of the mainstream medical world are abundant and await us when we recognize our importance and power enough to seek them out.

Women say: We do not fear the power of life. We respect and honor the processes innate within it.



conscious transformation

burden to gift

effort to nourishment

shame to honor

innate wisdom waits

cycling every month

in a process of gestation and birth

mirroring

the universal pattern

showing

the ultimate truth

for you

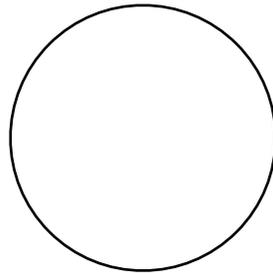
to be

when the love

permeates

the cells

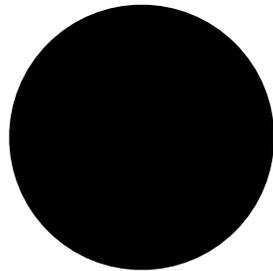
of your own infinite being



movement in stillness

the waters within your womb

hold you in safety



seeds

of creation
of flowers
of the womb
to bloom
is a choice
receiving
the energy coming from
infinity
and back to
infinity
creation is eternal
it is timeless
fueled by the space where nothing lies
forget your ideas
and receive
the power of eternity



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