WOMAN, THE INHERENT INJUSTICE OF BEING A

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The concept of inherent injustice is in itself a complaint against the universe (its essential structure, as preached West by Stoicism & East by Taoism) or its management (theism, the biblical God). Let's look at the concept vis-a-vis the female human reality, essential & existential.

1. I took heart from the 300,000-600,000 outpouring for last Sunday's Washington March for Women's Equality / Women's Lives, a greater outpouring than for the 1963 "I have a dream" March. Some 400 organizations--civil rights, political, religious, feminine, & a few other agendas--agreed against eroding a woman's right to control her reproductivity, a right Roe v. Wade affirmed as Constitutional as within the sphere of legitimate privacy. Overturning Roe would (1) chaotize state legislatures, (2) increase the poor/rich gap (the poor being unable to travel from no-abortion states to abortion states or countries), (3) increase the incidence of unsafe-illegal abortions, & (4) fail to reduce the current abortion-rate....But is it fair to name "patriarchy" (as some banners & placards did) as the antonym of reproductive freedom? If you were to ask a marcher about this diametrical, you'd get a back-formed definition of "patriarchy," ie a definition crafted as the opposite of reproductive freedom! Being dishonest to language is, in the long run, a disservice to any otherwise worthy movement.

2. Call it built-in injustice, **bio-injustice**, if you like. (I don't, as I explain later.) A just sexual design would involve female & male equally throughout the reproductive process. As it is with our species, the male, in comparison with the female, does almost no work inside or outside his body: the work-burden could hardly be more unfairly distributerd. In many women I have seen a smoldering rage against this arrangement. This rage should be factored out & bracketed when anyone attacks "patriarchy," else men will be falsely accused of running on women a bad number only God could have run on them.

3. Well, could God have helped it? Of course he (sic) could have! Gestation in utero is only one of many reproductive arragements God thought up & put into action. Take **frogs**, eg: obviously a just arrangement, male & female doing exactly the same amount of work. Frogs don't have to parade for "Women's Equality" in reproduction. And on the male side, frogs have a justice advantage: Mr. Frog can be certan of paternity, whereas Mr. Man can have at most only a high degree of probability.

4. The privileged have the choice of surrendering their privilege or protecting themselves against the resentments of the un- & under-privileged. Since being a human male is a privilege I can't surrender, my choice is either to protect myself against female resentment or capitulate to the injustice of being falsely accused & abused. Often, on occasions when I've refused the latter course, I've been called a sexist!

5. In our present sociopolitical atmosphere it takes courage for a woman to **accept** the bio-injustice & attendant social inferiorities, more courage than to accept passing up motherhood, which disadvantages a woman even if her man pitches in on childrearing & housework.

6. Consider that the inherent injustice may be not in being a woman but in being a woman who **defines "justice" as equality with men**, something Mrs. Frog has naturally. All their lives both Mr. & Mrs. Frog have individual bodies: Mr. Human always has an individual body, but Mrs. Human sometimes (when pregnant & nursing) has also a social body, a body not only her own: she both is a society & carries future society. What a privilege & joy in God's creative wisdom! But what a social burden, hurling her into unfair workworld competition with men!

7. In the Apr.-May CATHOLIC RADICAL, Claire Schaeffer-Duffy: Unlike men, women have been victimized by their reproductive reality. They have borne more children than they wanted....Some have died in childbirth. Others have died during illegal abortions. Unlike men, women have not been allowed to perceive their bodies as their own. Critique this whine in the light of the above. Margaret Fuller said, "I accept the universe": does C.S-D.? Where does her (il)logic lead? Whom is she blaming for what? How stands abortion in her confused call for freedom?