

1. We do not know to what extent the male represents a further development from the female. True enough in utero: we all begin as female. And true enough in voce: we all begin with girls' voices. But true neuronally--e.g., no great women composers of music--or only culturally?...But cancer is "a further development": a hypermasculine culture is self-canceling. Did God limit the development of the female so that the species would not commit hybris suicide? But even if one were to conclude so "in general"--how inhuman, "in general"--thank God it did not apply to Elizabeth the Great or to...or to...or to....But....But....But....Thank God for the darkness: we would have done even worse with the light.

2. SEXIST/FEMINIST HISTORIOGRAPHY? The traditional machismo way of writing history (everybody invisible but successful warrior-kings) is yielding to psychohistory and sociohistory--what happened to persons and to people(s). This humane development is unambiguously furthered by all liberation movements, including feminism. What I wish to record here is that Christianity, with its late-prophetic tendency to view society from the bottom up, is happier with this revisionist historiography. As early as one-third of a century ago, I had from the president of the University of Chicago a course titled "The Common Christian [sic: not "common man"] in Early Christian Times." His very powerful wife, who early relieved him of his sexism, sat there knitting...silently....with the self-assurance of Madame deFarge....

3. Which brings up the question whether language is a male invention and therefore (?) incurably masculine; whereas the nonverbal, being more powerful and earlier (on which cp. #1, above), is feminine. Is language a divine gift to/through males to keep them from being overwhelmed by females? If so, will females' equal ownership of language further punish males? If so, will "purifying" language of the generic use of the pronoun and pronominal adjective further the pseudofeminization of males and the pseudomasculinization of females? And is there already evidence that the "adult" male is becoming more dependent on the "mature" female?

4. Since the Western Roman Empire was more masculine and the Eastern more feminine (Theodora, etc.), the new Western interest in the East (here, Eastern Christianity) is helping feminism. Eastern Christian mysticism goes in big for Breath, Glory, Presence, Wisdom, Teaching--all, in Hebrew, feminine nouns! E.g., George A. Maloney's THE BREATH OF THE MYSTIC (Dimension/74), though George does not mention this interesting Hebrew-language fact. He does, however, analyze our morbid condition as low-on-feminine (p.6): "rich in [masculine] techniques, poor in [feminine] intuitions, in feminine receptivity to the inner voice."

5. George has promised me he'll do an NYTS workshop on Christian yoga. Yoga (Hinduism) is more feminine, Christianity more masculine: INTEGRATION! He's more into prayer as a state of experiential existence [feminine] than as praxis [masculine]...in line with today's hunger for the mystical: yoga, transcendental meditation, zen, occultism, Gurdieff, Cayceism, Tibetan Book of the Dead, and you name it.

6. Time belongs to men and space to women, says Auden. Make something of it, but not too much, say I.

LITANY OF PRAISE AND HOPE

- Leader: Let us not falter in hope! Let us offer our praise and our lives to the Lord.
- Men: God of the patriarchs. . .
- Women: God of the matriarchs. . .
- All: In line with all your faithful people in every age, we offer again ourselves and our gifts for the service of your kingdom!
- Women: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. . .
- Men: God of Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel. . .
- All: Grant us the courage to cling to your promise, even if all the world seems hostile and our own hearts judge us failures.
- Men: God of Priscilla and Aquilla. . .
- Women: God of Moses and of Miriam. . .
- All: May we, too, labor in harmony to bring our people out of bondage and darkness.
- Women: O God of Deborah, a mother in Israel, greatest of Israel's judges. . .
- Men: O God of Solomon, the wisest of kings. . .
- All: May our lives be but mirrors of your justice, lived out in the wisdom of unswerving faith.
- Women: Great God of Lydia, seller of purple. . .
- Men: Master of Paul, a maker of tents. . .
- All: Guide us into the world unafraid to lend our hands, as well as our voices, to your service, and eager to involve ourselves with all of your children.
- Men: And for the lives of all righteous women,
- Women: For past and present men of faith,
- All: For the ministries taking form within us, and for all the callings yet to be: THE LORD'S NAME BE PRAISED!

-Gail Anderson Ricciuti