

# What Is a Female Epic?

- A text, poetry or prose, that:
  - Was written by or attributed to a female author
  - Explores epic themes
    - Heroism, nation building, religious authority, and a quest motif

# Why Female Epics?

“Both in subject matter and in form, epic may well be the most exclusively gender coded of all literary genres; so much so that epic and masculinity appear to be almost coterminous.”

Bernard Schweizer, *Approaches to the Anglo and American Female Epic, 1621-1982*