

Vocabulary in *The Subjection of Women*

Compiled by AcadeMe for the Homer Project

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wive	v.	to marry a woman
protract	v.	delay defer
ennoble	v.	to make (someone or something) better or more worthy of admiration <i>a life ennobled by suffering</i>
overstep	v.	to go beyond what is proper or allowed by (something) <i>The judges overstepped their authority. [=the judges did something that they are not allowed to do]</i>
civilize	v.	to teach (a person or group of people) to behave in a way that you think is more polite and gentle <i>Her parents hoped that boarding school might civilize her some.</i>
avow	v.	to declare or state (something) in an open and public way <i>She avowed her innocence. = She avowed that she was innocent.</i>
outlast	v.	to last longer than (someone or something) :to continue to exist, be active, etc., longer than (someone or something) <i>We watched him outlast his opponent in one of the greatest boxing matches of all time.</i>
pillory	v.	to publicly criticize (someone) in a very harsh way <i>The press pilloried the judge for her decision.</i>
interdict	v.	to lay under or prohibit by an interdict <i>interdict drug shipments</i>
kidnap	v.	to take away (someone) by force usually in order to keep the person as a prisoner and demand money for returning the person <i>She had been kidnapped (from her home).</i>
ordain	v.	to officially make (someone) a minister, priest, rabbi, etc. <i>He was ordained (as) a priest.</i>
plebeian	n.	a member of the common people of ancient Rome
irrepressible	adj.	impossible to hold back, stop, or control <i>He has irrepressible curiosity.</i>
serf	n.	a person in the past who belonged to a low social class and who lived and worked on land owned by another person <i>medieval serfs</i>
unfettered	adj.	not controlled or restricted <i>unfettered [=free] access</i>
rivet	v.	to attract and hold all of someone's attention usually used as (be) riveted <i>I was riveted by her story. [=her story was so interesting that I was giving all of my attention to it]</i>
patrician	n.	a person who is a member of the highest social class :aristocrat
diametrically	adv.	completely or entirely <i>His position on the issue is diametrically opposed to that of his partner. [=his position is the exact opposite of his partner's position]</i>
culprit	n.	a person who has committed a crime or done something wrong <i>The police eventually located the culprits.</i>
discordant	adj.	harsh or unpleasant in sound

		<i>discordant music</i>
frustrate	v.	to cause (someone) to feel angry, discouraged, or upset because of not being able to do something <i>It frustrated him to miss so many games because of injuries.</i>
regal	adj.	of, relating to, or suitable for a king or queen <i>He has a regal bearing. [=he is very dignified, authoritative, etc.]</i>
inexorable	adj.	not able to be stopped or changed <i>an inexorable conclusion</i>
weighty	adj.	having a lot of weight :heavy <i>She grabbed a weighty book off the shelf.</i>
commoner	n.	a person who is not a member of the nobility <i>a prince who married a commoner</i>
mischievous	adj.	causing or tending to cause annoyance or minor harm or damage <i>a mischievous puppy/child</i>
relic	n.	something that is from a past time, place, culture, etc. often + of or from <i>relics of ancient China</i>
specie	n.	money in coin
elevate	v.	to lift (something) up <i>The doctor told her to elevate [=raise] her leg.</i>
nobleman	n.	a man who is a member of the nobility
blacksmith	n.	a person who makes or repairs things made of iron (such as horseshoes)
infallible	adj.	not capable of being wrong or making mistakes :not fallible <i>I never claimed to be infallible.</i>
inflict	v.	to cause someone to experience or be affected by (something unpleasant or harmful) <i>These insects are capable of inflicting a painful sting.</i>
hindrance	n.	a person or thing that makes a situation difficult :a person or thing that hinders someone or something <i>She wanted to sign up for the class, but the cost was a hindrance. [=the class cost too much]</i>
grind	v.	to crush or break (something) into very small pieces by rubbing it against a rough surface or using a special machine <i>Grind (up) the coffee beans into a fine powder.</i>
industrious	adj.	working very hard :not lazy <i>He is an industrious worker.</i>
detriment	n.	something that will cause damage or injury to something or someone usually singular often + to <i>He saw the new regulations as a detriment to progress.</i>
deem	v.	to think of (someone or something) in a particular way <i>The building was deemed [=considered, judged] unsafe after the fire.</i>
unrestricted	adj.	not controlled or limited in any way :not restricted <i>I was granted unrestricted access to the documents.</i>
unfit	adj.	not proper, suitable, or acceptable often + for <i>The movie is unfit for children. [=children should not watch the movie]</i>
tyrant	n.	a ruler who has complete power over a country and who is cruel and unfair <i>The country was ruled by a corrupt tyrant [=despot] for decades.</i>
forbid	v.	to order (someone) not to do something <i>I forbid you to go!</i>
beforehand	adv.	in advance :at an earlier or previous time <i>They'd agreed beforehand [=ahead of time] to leave early.</i>
yoke	v.	to connect (two animals) by a yoke

		<i>The two oxen were yoked together.</i>
precede	v.	to happen, go, or come before (something or someone) <i>Riots preceded the civil war.</i>
incompetent	adj.	not competent: such as <i>an incompetent worker/doctor</i>
procure	v.	to get (something) by some action or effort :obtain <i>She managed to procure a ticket to the concert.</i>
presume	v.	to think that (something) is true without knowing that it is true <i>I presume [=assume, expect] (that) you'll fly to Chicago rather than drive.</i>
bondage	n.	the state of being a slave :slavery <i>He delivered the slaves from bondage. [=he freed the slaves]</i>
oppressive	adj.	very cruel or unfair <i>The country is ruled by an oppressive regime.</i>
impartial	adj.	treating all people and groups equally :not partial or biased <i>an impartial analysis of the case</i>
deprive	v.	to take something away from someone or something :to not allow (someone or something) to have or keep (something) <i>The change in her status deprived her of access to classified information.</i>
prescribe	v.	to officially tell someone to use (a medicine, therapy, diet, etc.) as a remedy or treatment <i>My doctor prescribed this medicine. = This medicine was prescribed by my doctor.</i>
condemn	v.	to say in a strong and definite way that someone or something is bad or wrong <i>We strongly condemn this attack against our allies.</i>
disclose	v.	to make (something) known to the public <i>He refused to disclose the source of his information.</i>
avail	v.	to be useful or helpful to (someone or something) <i>Our best efforts availed [=gained] us nothing.</i>
indignation	n.	anger caused by something that is unfair or wrong <i>The decision to close the factory has aroused the indignation of the townspeople.</i>
dispose	v.	to cause (someone) to be likely to do or have something + to or toward <i>His upbringing disposes him to question authority.</i>
guild	n.	an organized group of people who have joined together because they share the same job or interest <i>the local artists' guild</i>
practicable	adj.	able to be done or used <i>There's no practicable [=feasible] way to do the experiment with the current technology.</i>
presumption	n.	a belief that something is true even though it has not been proved often + that <i>The presumption is that the thief had a key to the store.</i>
motif	n.	something (such as an important idea or subject) that is repeated throughout a book, story, etc. <i>The wallpaper has a flower motif.</i>
suffrage	n.	the right to vote in an election <i>women who fought for suffrage</i>