The Best Kind of Feminism

A small child screams in fear, crying out for his parents. Something terrifying is directly underneath his bed, waiting to get him as soon as they leave, and he just knows it. As soon as the mother and father enter into the bedroom and check under the bed, the monster has magically disappeared. The parent’s believe this to be enough to put the child’s worries to rest, but he knows that just because the parents don’t find the monster doesn’t mean that it doesn’t exist. Feminine writing is a monster hiding under the bed, able to be known from a distance, but never confronted directly. This form of writing, which is neither constricted to women, nor necessarily “girly”, embodies instead the “vague” position that women inhabit in relation to “the center,” according to Lacan’s psychoanalysis. While it’s very nature may prevent it from ever being directly defined, feminine writing reveals its nature as it seeps through the cracks and into masculine mainstream society.

The word feminine instantly calls to mind blooming summer dresses, flowing locks of hair, and a good bit of deception and heartache. While feminine writing may not necessarily address the emotional prowess that women possess over men, it does allude to the “freeness” that is often associated with their image. Whereas men are thought of as hulking, dolty, aggressive brutes, women are their exact opposite - elegant, delicate, and typically witty as well. A masculine piece of writing would therefore be simple, definite, and accessible. Anyone should be able to comprehend it, as dictionary definitions will apply across the board. A feminine piece of writing, however, escapes these petty boundaries that men have been occupying themselves with for centuries. Rather than be direct or up-front, feminine writing (like females themselves) is shrouded in mystique, with far more “play” allowing for a far greater range of interpretations. Poetry is a realm that almost always embraces the feminine side of writing, especially when plays-on-words or double-meanings subtly wait below the surface. Exact wording is never the focus of feminine writing, but rather the myriad of possible interpretations, meanings, and lessons that it *doesn’t* directly express.

As said earlier, feminine writing doesn’t necessarily have to come from from someone who has breasts and a vagina. Gender, which is a socially constructed concept to poststructuralist feminists, is not bound by organs or physiology, but instead exists beyond/throughout the human body and mind. In this way, gender is being tied to a specific mentality or style, which isn’t necessarily a good way of looking at things. To the feminist, a man will always be *more* comfortable with the masculine form of writing, while women will gravitate towards the airy, the uncertain. This is because men exist in a much closer proximity to Lacan’s Phallus or Center, while women drift lazily in the far orbits like the once-planet Pluto. The very fabric of language is processed differently by the male and female minds due to the “positions” they “inhabit” beyond the physical realm. Though men may have the capability to write in a “feminine” style and women can choose to be direct or “masculine,” they will naturally succumb to their gender’s method of using language.