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Mythology

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Gender Equality Not According to Joseph Campbell

Males are on the top. Women are on the bottom. Males are in control. Women are not in control, or subordinate. Males are what the world revolves around. Women are merely insignificant little flecks on the earth that nobody cares about. Males are the exceptional and stronger version of the sexes. Women are the inferior and weaker version of the sexes. Joseph Campbell thinks of males and women as being those very ideas. Joseph Campbell stated in his video titled *Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth: Love and Goddess,* that, “Particularly if you cut the female out and don’t have any — I mean, if the male is on top like this and the female is the subordinate all the way, you have a totally different system from that when the two are facing each other” (Campbell). I disagree with Campbell’s thoughts about men and women for the following reason: women are capable of doing the same things that men are capable of doing, therefore neither of the sexes are on the top or on the bottom.

People have this preconceived notion that the things that men do can be only done by a man. And the truth of the matter is that women can do the same things that men can do. For instance, when Bill Moyers said that, “In the primitive planting cultures, woman contributed importantly to the economic life of the community by participating in the growing and reaping of crops. And as the mother and nourisher of life, she was thought to assist the earth symbolically in its fertility. In fact, some believe there was even a golden age of the goddess until she was driven from the imagination by the emergence of patriarchal authority” (Moyers). Women did everything back then, they grew the crops, helped with the economy, and the community. Those are some of the things that men can do as well. So women can do anything that men can do. Life would have probably stayed this way, but sadly the patriarchal authority came to be aka male authority. If women can do the same things that men can do, they are now equal sexes. They are hypothetically facing each other instead of the male being on the top and the women being on the bottom. The world will be different if people realize that/this. If this could happen in the near future, women could be presidents too, or women could be better respected in the work place, or women could have the same pay as men do. There wouldn’t be a difference whether you are a male or whether you are a women. The thing that people will see is that you are the same, you are both people.

Even though Campbell may think of his idea of the male being on the top and the female being on the bottom being correct, I disagree with him. I disagreed with Campbell because women can do anything that men can do. Despite the differences anatomically between a male and a female, they can be thought of as the same.

Pandora and Eve

Characteristics that describe someone can be a good thing or a bad thing. One can use it to describe somebody in a good way by calling them pretty, happy or nice. One can use it to describe someone in a bad way by calling them demeaning things, such as rude, arrogant or loser. Pandora was created by Zeus to have some bad and good traits such as the following: irresistible, a bitch, a nag, beautiful, mischievous, troublesome, and worthless. Zeus created Pandora to be someone who embodies all of those things in order to punish man. If a man sees through these things, and accepts Pandora for having those qualities, then they can have children with Pandora. Another women that is worth mentioning is Eve, from such myths and stories as Adam and Eve, and The Bible. When comparing and contrasting Pandora and Eve from the Old Testament, I found some similarities and differences. They are as follows: they both are women that were created for a particular reason, and the way that they were created is different. Both Pandora and Eve are also portrayed as the source of evil.

The similarity between Pandora and Eve is that they were both created to please man. Eve was created when Adam was all sad because he made two of every animal known to man. So from that sadness came Eve, and she was created to be a friend or lover to Adam. Similarly Pandora was created when Zeus was angry at Prometheus for helping mankind and making fire, so because of this, he created the beautiful Pandora to tempt man. Through the temptation that Pandora gave to man by her beauty, this temptation ultimately pleased man. The differences between Pandora and Eve are as follows: Eve was created out of Adams body, and Pandora was created as creature, not as a women. When Adam needed a companion when he was lonely after seeing the animals, he created Eve as a women. Adam created Eve as the opposite of man, but still created her as a human being. On the contrary, Pandora was created not as a human being, but created for evil intentions of revenge by Zeus. Pandora was created as what would be the most punishable and tempting person a person can be. She was created by traits, and not as a human. Pandora is essentially a creature. Women such as Pandora and Eve are portrayed as being the source of evil. Pandora is portrayed this way because she was created for the sole purpose of being evil and getting revenge by Zeus. She was created for evil purposes, and she wasn’t created as being innocent in the beginning like Eve was. Pandora was evil from the beginning. Eve is portrayed as being evil because even though she was created as pure innocence in the beginning, her environment turned her evil. The serpent made her evil, when she ate fruit from the tree. That is why both of these women are portrayed as being the source of evil. Women in general in myths are portrayed as being the source of evil, because men are seen as being the perfect person, while women are seen as being evil. Also, if you look at fairytales, women are often seen as being evil, more than men are.

Two “women” named Pandora and Eve of different backgrounds can have similarities and differences. And women in these myths are seen as being the primary source of evil. Pandora and Eve go through things like eating a seemingly innocent fruit to seducing a man. These two myths or stories show how women are badly treated and thought of by men.