

A Phallogentric Study of Women: Blurring the Binaries Betwixt Gender

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Abstract:

Literature specifies on the paramount of Dominance, Power, Love and Leadership. These are patterned structurally synonymous with patriarchal society, there is a sense of deviation that penetrated in certainties of womanhood. Woman- a supposed Bi-Gender are meant to submissive beneath the patriarchal order. This paper attempts to explore the hostile concretes of women's sociality and leadership through a depiction of an epitome character "The Egyptian Queen". The paper succumbs to investigate the harsh realities of life and significantly the power politics that was pivotal during world war. Significant approaches have been made by many critics to justify on the realities of Gender and Power that eventually was parallel and equilibrium was never escalated rather patriarchal society exercised the hegemonic attitude over women. To justify on the concretes of "Women" and "Leadership" a true iconic figure is roped in for an absolute apprehension. Marking the margins of the iconic figure" Cleopatra" a societal personality that accelerates on power synonymous with women. Early days were solidly denounced for patriarchs and matriarchy was conveniently ignored. But this paper approves the justification of women being powerful and productive in terms of Nationality, Patriotism, Power, Intellectuality, Rational and Moral behavior.

Determined power politics persisted in England so much that it was not in a position to accept a female ruler in power. In ancient arena of language, society and literature men or precisely the patriarchy society wanted women or the so called the other Gender to be submissive beneath the clutches the sexual hegemony since they considered themselves to be the superior gender of all times. One such establishment of Gender hierarchy and gender stereotyping is questioned by the epitomization of the character Cleopatra in the novel "Antony and Cleopatra". The very title signifies men in power: ANTONY and CLEOPATRA and it's not CLEOPATRA and ANTONY. This epitomization is proven explicitly in the society in which they existed. They promoted women to be the material makers and pleasure renderers. So, when this ideology was questioned people disliked such characters. Cleopatra was the first women ruler in the history who overpowered men with sovereignty, supremacy and diplomacy. Her character portrayed her ecstasy of her intelligence, bravery and political learnings. Her leadership quality is sensed out where she learns Egyptian language by herself. Though being a queen it does not necessitate for her to learn a new language, to which she might have a translator beside but her passion for Egypt and her determination to retrieve the glories of Egypt, pictures her with an absolute quality of leadership. She herself believed to epitomize her relationship between the throne and of the society. With the assertion of all these attributes and with the acquisition of political knowledge and power has ardently justified Cleopatra as a sincere pharaoh of Egyptian land. It was right then during those days women had some sense of power and supremacy to hold and play power politics. Identifiable characteristics of these women give us a sense of

importance that a women played pivotal in the society.

Keywords: Personality, Emotional Intelligence, Power, Patriarchy and Matriarchy.

Women are an infinite dynamic person whose participation is fundamentally essential for a proper governance. The stereotypical implication astutes to prove women as a subservient cadre but the society's Reformation proves the regeneration of ideology, breaking the mythical aspects of patriarchal hegemony. The research approves the sense of supremacy of women in power in ancient Egypt. With a deeper analysis of how Cleopatra has led her life and credibility of the feminine urge to be in power was properly established is what defines the intellectuality of the women character in the novel Antony and Cleopatra. This aids to sense out some inspiration to the women of the 21st century, proving that women have true honor and respect that is prevalent in the society. The pages in the history of the novel Antony and Cleopatra declares that Cleopatra with her sense of beauty and charm owes men beneath her also her intellectual being makes her an ardent ruler of Egypt. She was more notable for her wit and intelligence than for beauty. Few sources sense out to a portrayal of Cleopatra being a seductress, it is because few texts reason out on the concretes of the Roman empire, where the still stick to mystery as how their two great men and possibly their powerful warriors indeed fall for a woman. In order to understand Cleopatra, we might look into the concretes of the regional and the political setup. She intended to capture a dynasty that demands the life of their kings in order to retain power and to save her's with respect and regard to save her throne. The compulsion was made such that Cleopatra was forced into an exile by her brother and to save her life with the support of Julius Caesar. She ultimately won him and also gave birth to 'childless' Caesar and wanted that child to be the successor of Julius Caesar but he had other plans. He was against the decision of the queen and rather wanted his nephew named 'Octavius' to take the throne. Though she managed to bring in political stability with Egypt and Rome. After Caesar's assassination Cleopatra made her adventures of friendship and love with Antony and resumed to be loyal unlike to Caesar she was. With an invasion of Octavius into Egypt that gave Cleopatra a chance for Sustenance, which is if she handed Antony to him her life would be spared. Eventually Cleopatra chose the end of existentialism than betrayal

Cleopatra's high caliber and potential is of high relevance to the 21st century women in the world. Her attempts to learn the local language and incorporation of learning Egyptian culture has brought in the awakening of nationalism and her identity. Cleopatra has led many battles in order to save Egypt from alien forces. Along with beauty she possessed powers which the other women were never exposed to. It is believed that none other than Cleopatra led an army to defend her land from intrusion.

The significant paramount in the play "Antony and Cleopatra" Cleopatra learns her power and the major theme of "Gender bending" is depicted through the characters of Antony and Cleopatra.

"I laughed him out of patience; and that night
I laughed him into patience; and next morn,
Ere the ninth hour, I drunk him to his bed,
Then put my tires and mantles on him, whilst
I wore his sword philippian. (2.5.21-25)

These lines sense out the deviation of stereotypical norms and fundamentals of patriarchal order. Cleopatra takes Antony drunk to his bed and takes advantage of him. Cleopatra sneaks and grabs the sword from Antony which is an ultimate symbol of phallus that represents his power, superiority, and his military

rankings. Henceforth the representative phallus of Antony no more signifies the power or precisely power with patriarchy and the is aborted from him by Cleopatra. Cleopatra taking the sword of Antony represents the emasculation of power of autonomy and parallels it with Cleopatra's authority over him. Aftermath Antony himself admits the supremacy and the hegemony that Cleopatra has over him where he says "you did know/how much you were my conqueror and, that my sword made weak by affection, would/ obey it on all cause" (3.11. 71-71). By this statement Antony approves of his admission to submission. Antony "weakens his sword" signifies his shift in power from male to female. This sentence is the embodiment of the transition period of power from men to women. At this point the women get to make an access of power and make patriarchal concepts applicable to them. On the other hand Cleopatra admitting the powers of Antony and her masculine qualities exercise control over him through bodily merits and beauty as plays the role of a sexual aggressor which is commonly considered as uncommon in the early days of Shakespeare. These instances sense out the concepts of gender fluidity that demonstrate the purpose of androgynous. Indeterminacy of sex and allied attributes is the biggest arena to question both men and women on the grounds of culture and sexuality. The ambiguity of sex and gender are represented through the most pivotal characters namely Antony and Cleopatra.

The courage and the power of the sword that the woman empowers is the attitude that the man lacks. The opening lines of the play Antony and Cleopatra, we find two Romans commenting on the fluid interactions of Antony with the Egyptian Queen, Cleopatra. The very image gives us an insight of how man has fallen for women on all grounds. They seem paradoxical to each other. The characters have deliberated to have such social fixations of ambiguity in nature that is represented through their characters. The societal implication has put a way to stem gossiping to be an ardent factor of femininity but the characters namely, Philo and Demetrius though being a soldier they step down from their authoritative positions of state and they engage in gossiping. Alongwith they de-legitimize the power that Antony has over his province. Most of the men or the patriarchal figures in the play are indirectly held within the clutches of femininity. Certainties approve to be feminine qualities approved by the stereotypical societies that critically is enabled by the patriarchal society in different spaces of time and life. The entire Egypt and Rome view Cleopatra with their signified and amplified "Male Gaze" that structurally instructs woman to be personified physically for their desires. Knowing all these Cleopatra has never given back on the courage and desperate need for the retention of her Egyptian land. The ideology of the representative male gaze denounces women to be passive with the critical representations of the society. Demeaning of the society did not affect Cleopatra in either ways. Eventually she grew more powerful and proud. In contextualizing feminism, power and freedom are truly the arbitrary attitudes of Cleopatra's nature and individualism. The power that she had over the notable rulers of Rome and Europe has driven many men across the gender concepts of passivity and submissiveness. Given the prevalence of the male gaze, the social conventions of conservative traditionalism are broken by the feminine justifications that are represented through the character Cleopatra in the novel. Test of objectification of femininity and the female body is overthrown and internalized feelings of power and masculinity. This is proven by Cleopatra in the novel, where she admits to the principles proponents of male gaze where she physically unite to transgress men's desire but ardently process it to be personification to overthrow male and precisely the embodiments of patriarchy. She makes a clear picture of how sexual orientation is presented and makes efforts to transgress as a legitimate royal Queen and also turns splendid among other monstrous pharaoh. Her costumes also give us an implication of how powerful she is on throne. Her crown and the robe bestows true royalty and is of great significance when it comes to feminine gender. This is like they have sought equity in the

domains of Culture and Gender. Cleopatra's final days intensifies the determination of power and borrowed masculine behaviors, where she approves to choose death to life when it was capitalized by the Roman king, Caesar. No man takes that courage to end his life for Egypt, and that gently proves the masculine ideas and powers that she has as a woman. Here, Shakespeare through the cardinal representation of Cleopatra blurs the binaries between Gender and Sexes. The conclusion of the play suggests Shakespeare's strong ability to create and recreate the scenes of reconfiguration of the strict parallels on Patriarchy and Matriarchy that can bring ambiguity in the pursuit of life. Cleopatra's character representation is made such where, they socially contradict the stereotypical implications of female gender. Cleopatra, through her character, brings in the national awakening and senses out the demarcations of Matriarchy. This representation questions the traditional conservatism and proves to contradict mere existentialism of feminine gender. Cleopatra uses her final breath to reflect on the nature of death. Using dramatic irony to contrast male versus female approaches, Shakespeare undermines and comprehends the gender binary.

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