

MIRROR OPPOSITES

Everything in gender is mirrors: as male and female are the same . . . but different, the mirror-opposites are the same . . . but different.

Men: more respected/less loved

Men are more empowered to elicit intellectual credibility.

Accountability without compassion is ruthless. It is what we more often direct at men. It is respecting men but not loving them.

Men are deemed somehow more “important.”

Men’s words and deeds are deemed more “important” and “newsworthy” than women’s. Men are more readily granted authority and obeyed.

Historically: Men were emotionally suppressed: Men were granted a kind of societal sanctioned “ownership” of intellect, competence, prestige; toughness, strength, and courage. But men’s tears were suppressed.

Steroid abuse: Males choosing a self-destructive, sometimes fatal path in their efforts to achieve a societal ideal (a “G.I. Joe” physique).

Men feel the obligation to live up to the standards of a superhero.

Men Dominate

Men have overt power.

Men ply power through the strategies of hierarchy.

Men get the credit at the cost of being blamed.

Men withhold commitment.

Men live with shame

The male emotional legacy is shame—shame for perpetrating violence and war, shame for crude “Neanderthal” sensibilities, shame for “pornographic” carnal desires, shame for manifesting human evil.

Angelizing women has led to excessive shame in men.

Women: more loved/less respected

Women are more empowered to elicit empathy—caring, concern, compassion.

Compassion without accountability is infantilizing. It is what we more often direct at women. It is loving women but not respecting them.

Women are deemed somehow more “valuable.”

Women’s lives and bodies are better protected and more “valued” than men’s. Women are granted more *intrinsic* value as lovers, spouses, and parents.

Historically: Women were intellectually suppressed: Women were granted a kind of societal sanctioned “ownership” of beauty, grace, goodness, home, family, and parenting. But women’s creativity was suppressed.

Anorexia: Females choosing a self-destructive, sometimes fatal path in their efforts to achieve a societal ideal (a “Barbie Doll” physique).

Women feel the obligation to live up to the standards of a supermodel.

Women Manipulate

Women have covert power.

Women ply power through the strategies of solidarity.

Women evade blame at the cost of being credited.

Women withhold sex

Women live with fear

The female emotional legacy is fear—fear of walking the streets at night, fear of rape, fear of male physical strength, fear of incompetence in “a man’s world,” fear of powerful men.

Demonizing men has led to excessive fear in women.