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Reading Response 2

What is the overall purpose/thesis/point of the chapter/essay/article?

The overall purpose is to break down the dynamics in the modern independent woman's life. Simone de Beauvoir says " Being a woman poses unique problems to an autonomous human being today", she argues that men's vocation does not contradict his destiny as a male and for women is quite the opposite. I agree with the author when she says today working women don't lose their femininity nor does she lose their sexual attraction, at least not in all cases. The point is to discuss the struggles that the independent woman faces in a still male-dominated society and the paradoxes in the dynamics between the sexes.

How does the author (or authors) make their point(s)? What do they discuss? What evidence and examples do they give?

A very interesting point is when the author reveals how things play differently when it comes to sexuality. Women feel attracted by men considered "superior", not too docile. Women in general rarely find it as satisfying to buy a man, so a brothel for women doesn't exist because women are different than men. Men seek to possess the woman beyond that which she gives him, he demands her consent to be a defeat according to the author. An example she gives is when she mentions a man that doesn't prove himself interesting, who doesn't take himself seriously, who doesn't make himself heard becomes bothersome.

How does the author conceptualize women? men? gender?

She says that sometimes women try to play the game with masculine weapons which men don't enjoy because they tend to defy them too often and be obsessed with stunning triumphs over them but if men were content to love a peer instead of a slave then women would be content with their femininity and would become more simple and natural. For me, the issue is still quite current for women that like me seek to be successful, to do it all and have it all. It is a constant strive for balance. Feminine and Masculine energies.

What is your personal reaction to the piece? How does it make you

feel? To what extent do you agree/disagree and why?

When the author says "the independent woman—and especially the intellectual who thinks through her situation—will suffer from an inferiority complex as a female" I totally related to it because I have been considered successful but unable to conceive which is quite frustrating, it's almost as if nature doesn't allow me to have it all. I enjoyed the text a lot, Simone was so ahead of her time. The way she describes sexual attraction for powerful males while being a powerful woman herself is so on point, it's hard to achieve but it's this constant game of love, attraction, and power that makes it appealing. I'm not a feminist, I'm not a misogynist, none of the sexes should give up their characteristics to find balance, unless they want to, everyone just wants to be equals.