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“I” has lived in me for the last thirty years or so by now and knows no other body but mine. My mind operates in female packaging, adapts reflexes and movements for female attire and reacts in a female way to both fellow-females’ and males’ actions and remarks. To date women are still striving to understand men with a woman’s mind and men are still striving to understand women with a man’s mind. Woman’s bodies mainly covered in soft and vulnerable fat tissues may well be representative of their easily-hurt emotions or ‘heart’. Likewise, men’s bodies covered in muscles and a strength superior to that of women, may well be representative of their not-so-easily penetrable and enduring emotions or ‘heart’. With the issue of gender and equality on paper we still hang around in a society where women are destined to challenges such as life-long employment with a male boss, fostering their husband’s children and doing their utmost to keep their husband home after years of marriage.

Although nothing near the ‘innocent’ sex, a woman’s life, from a legal procurator’s desk, is still harder than that of a man. Blame it on nature, emotions, biological and psychological challenges, child-minding, social restraints, educational and employment opportunities as well as pennilessness – women always seem to be at the losing end when compared to men. Although some might be fooled that this is a negative way of looking at things, it might well be that it is a realistic point of view. This article is inclined towards the anthropological observation of the interaction between men and women, and outlines the fact that a woman’s success in life is intimately tied to her physical appearance (liable to change as time goes by), a man’s success is intimately tied to his social status (liable to betterment as time goes by). This could be at the root of women’s obstacles to obtaining or retaining a career as well as their over-all life tragedies.

A woman's life cycle starts shooting off away from her male colleague's destiny as soon as maturity is on the horizon. Young girls are usually hit by instant romance. Young boys are usually hit by a sudden attraction to destruction and experimentation. While girls start drawing love hearts at the corner of their copybook during their early teenage years, boys start dreaming about car crashes and looking at girls' bodies the way they eye car models.

Later on in life both sexes have an amount of years wherein they can actually fall in love and start a family. Come the thirties, most married couples start missing the unmarried days and some are attracted to extra-marital relationships. Women are particularly protected from such possibilities by most of their time being employed in the care of children, while men are freer to run around at large shopping for adventures.

No matter what status a woman has reached, her love-life starts getting difficult in her thirties. The three main categories at this stage are : the married woman hanging to her husband's arm (who has usually also undergone the giving-birth bodily challenge), the already separated woman back on the market, or a budding spinster. In all three cases keeping up appearances is a stressful exercise and jealousy for well-trimmed fellow-females a sentiment hard to ignore.

Men don't go through very stressful bodily changes of the boa constrictor style. Their obesity usually arises out of over-indulgence in earth's gastronomical delights. Moreover, physical appearance is usually rated second-best in a woman's choice of her partner. However, a woman's strong-point – no matter what level of intelligence or personality she enjoys - can only be her appearance. Intelligence hardly counts when it comes to the selection of a good chat at a pub from a man's point of view. Physical appearance however also counts at choosing the right secretary at an interview, or the right salesgirl.

A man's sight usually stops at the surface and the apparent - the instantly and readily available. This is partly due to the fact that women are the only sex that can improve

their appearance through cosmetics and hair-do's, and with most imaginative clothing, men being left with few looking-better techniques with some not even having the tools for a proper hair-style left in place. On the contrary - women tend to go deeper and look for additional, not so readily decipherable assets, whether voluntarily or because they have to (to compensate for the not-so-good looks most often met). Most of the time their opposite sex can still afford beer-bellies of various sizes, apart from the fact that most men occupy social positions and own cars that might entrap some women. A complex formula of pluses and minuses usually is going on in any woman's mind upon the first encounter with a man.

It is ironic that the sex enjoying the longest life expectancy, women, that is, should get married to an older member of the sex enjoying the shorter life expectancy. This is quite a good guarantee that a woman will also have to put up with bereavement in her older days. However, such traditional set-up is too hard to dismantle anyway. Most women are rather attracted to sugar daddies. This of course, also has its consequences.

As they grow older men start realizing the ever-increasing number of possibilities as more females reach the age of maturity while older females engage in a continuous battle for looking younger. Women, on the other hand, start seeing their possibilities always diminishing due to ever increasing competition as well as ever-decreasing older men available.

When it comes to promiscuity it has been scientifically proved that men are way ahead. Men are the naturally promiscuous sex trained to be faithful. Women are the naturally faithful sex trained to be promiscuous. The result is unavoidable. It's either making men faithful or making women unfaithful. Whichever the easiest. At this day and age we know which are the prevailing tendencies of which sex that have won over.

By time women seem to have become as promiscuous as men, either in a 'if you can't beat them join them' attitude or out of a vindictive move. Some men even opt to generously go out with more than one woman not to break their hearts, and some women

hang on to their men fully knowledgeable of his active promiscuity. Obviously, this does not make the Church's preaching in favour of faithfulness in Maltese non-divorceable marriages any easier. One regular question to ask an old acquaintance when you meet him/her at 3am in a dark pub in Paceville is "Are you still married?" This does not really augur well for a sound society, however, morality apart, I have seen too many women suffering at the other end of my table, just as Appogg people see everyday.