

Mutual Respect
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Since it is already out of the papers and with his confirmation, it would be easy for me to skip over the recent Supreme Court Nomination hearings. As a male, I would like nothing better, but I am also a priest and there were things within it event that I feel must be talked about.

The accusations that made about the candidate were numerous and serious and exposed (once again) a dark cloud that hovers over our society. The ladies of the "Me too" movement have exposed the harm and damage experienced by woman who have finally found their voices to condemn this ignorance.

This cloud was, and still is, allowed to exist. For countless years to this Day in this country, as well as others, it has existed, but I am talking about our society.

There is a biased attitude between male and female genders, weighted on the male side. It seems that it has always been so and the weight of that alone, is used sometimes to justify this attitude.

It is a deeply rooted delusion in our psychological make up that "men" are more important, more entitled and more deserving than women. This attitude was carried here by our ancestors from our former countries.

No matter how long it has existed or where it came from these delusional double standards have been foisted on both genders and at some point had to be taught.

It had to be passed down from generation to generation to generation. The problem is that it still exists!

It seems that no matter how "Enlightened" our society becomes, the extreme opposite of that enlightenment, ignorance, exists and that is where this attitude comes from, pure ignorance.

The attitude towards women is an unequal double standard in which negative Male behavior towards women is sometimes over looked as "boys being boys" while the object of that behavior, girls or women can be severely physically or psychologically, damaged and it is wrong.

After a particularly bad school shooting, a commentator made this observation, "Americans love to have children but they just do not like to raise them."

Well, if the parents don't teach them, who will?

If the parents don't give their children a set of values they need to get along in our society, who will?

If the parents don't teach their children what is right and what is wrong, who will? If the parents don't do these things for their children, what kind of society are we going to have? What will their karma, or lack of karma result in?

Yes, it is true that the Buddha did not initially allow women into the sangha but I think that was more a product of Indian society (male dominated) than any short-coming on the of the part women themselves. Do you think that the infinite wisdom and boundless compassion of Enlightenment would be denied to women??

All this is not to say that there hasn't been some progress made but has it been enough though? Is there equanimity between the genders? I think not, but that is what must be acknowledged as true.

Is there anyone here not born of woman?

Have women contributed to our society all throughout our history? Is there some kind of imaginary game or competition going on between the genders?

Does everything we do in this society have to be a contest?

These questions have to be addressed for our society to evolve.

We have to remember that we are the authors of change, we are the architects of our society and that is our responsibility.

I must confess that as a younger man I too was a part of that ignorance we spoke of and I am ashamed of it. Fortunately, I have known some strong compassionate women in my life and they showed me where the line was and I have respected that line ever since.

I do not know if this would be an empty gesture but we cannot really know the contents of another's life. If anyone here has suffered abusive treatment of the nature discussed, I am truly sorry. Somebody has to say that, somebody has to apologize.

Namoamidabutsu