Kaytlyn Varnadoe

Dr. Mallory

World Literature

30 April 2018

Feminism and Power in Women

 Feminism is the main theme of the epic story of “The Book of Ladies”. There is so much to be discussed about feminism just from the first few paragraphs of the book. The four main characters in the book are Christine, Lady Reason, Lady Justice, and Lady Rectitude, each woman with their own point of views. These women have their own opinions and statements about the powerful women of the world. Through these characters’ they bring the feminism and power from women to life.

 Women each and every day are faced with many different challenges. It can be a variety of things such as work ethics, taking on new task, or even inventing stuff. Christine asks Lady Reason if women ever invented any new kind of knowledge. Men are certain to have created most things in the world which is correct, but women should have more of the opportunity to create as well. According to Lady Reason “there are still those men who go around claiming that women know nothing of any worth” (The Book of Ladies 801). Lady Reason gives many examples about women creating new forms of knowledge, she even mentions Carmentis whom invented the Latin alphabet. Carmentis was the first lady to replace the Greek and Hebrew alphabet with her own writing. Without this great invention of writing many things would not be possible in today’s world such as reading God’s will. Women are good for inventing things just as Lady Reason proclaimed.

 Women are often labeled as the weaker sex or more frail than men. “Men have therefore argued that it is these things that make the female sex inferior and of lesser value” (The Book of Ladies 789). According to Lady Reason females are often not always the weaker sex that this is a false statement. We cannot blame nature for creating us and shaping us the way we are, some might be built more lean and stronger, and others be tiny and weak. Lady Reason gives many examples on others that might be different she tells the story about Alexander the Great. He was one of a kind with traits of being short and sickly, but he was the most courageous person. Women each and every day are looked down upon because they don’t have the features men do. Men think that women lack strength when moving heavy things, and lacking courage to stand up for themselves.

 Lady Reason gives many more examples to Christine about the brave women of the world today. She goes on to tell about the amazon queen, Thamiris that was once being taking over by another king. The King Cyrus was coming to take everything under his own control and brought his men to help him. Thamiris was not worried as she suited up with armor ready for battle. The men were each slain by the heavy rocks the women were rolling over the cliff. She was mighty and ready to fight this man for the sake of her town. “The ladies of Amazonia were so successful in warfare that they were feared and respected by all other nations” (The Book of Ladies 793). This example shows just how men think that women cannot handle themselves. The queen showed that just because she was a woman she could still rule her country and attack anyone that messed with it.

Throughout the overall views each Lady had on women’s traits, rights, or education. The Lady’s each had a great point of view on feminism. Women are not often thanked enough for all that they do in today’s world and men should not get the credit all the time. I think through the Book of Ladies they had great points to women around the world, with great advice, intelligence, and kindness.

Work Citied

Pizan , Christine de. “The Book of the City of Ladies .” *The Norton Anthology of World*

*Literature*, Martin Puchner , pp. 781–807.