

Men and Women Are from Mars, Zontar Is from Venus Opinion

By Gary P. Posner

Or at least so say the “woke” (in so many words). And there can be no disputing the latter of those two cosmic assertions, as anyone who takes the time to watch this Emmy-winning CNN documentary (at least I think that’s what this is) will no-doubt concede (tinyurl.com/Zontar-Venus). But my title’s pre-comma premise may actually crater under critical scrutiny.

Most of us “baby boomers” already had an inkling, but in 1992 the world was officially notified that men and women (in general, with of course many exceptions) are so inherently unequal — not merely in terms of procreational plumbing and muscle mass, but psychologically — that we might as well have evolved on different planets! That year’s *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus* by John Gray was to become not merely the #1 bestselling non-fiction book of the decade but, per Wikipedia, “a part of popular culture and the foundation for the author’s subsequent books, recordings, seminars, theme vacations, one-man Broadway show, TV sitcom, workout videos, a podcast, men’s and ladies’ apparel lines, fragrances, travel guides and his-and-hers salad dressings” (tinyurl.com/Yes-Salad-Dressings-Seriously).

Though the book’s author was but a thinly credentialed relationship counselor, a bit earlier that same year, *Time* magazine’s January 20 cover (tinyurl.com/Time-Different) depicted a boy and a girl with this headline: “Why Are Men and Women Different?” The subtitle: “It isn’t just upbringing. New studies show they are born that way.”

Naturally, there are many who reject such an “offensive” notion. As but one example (given my lazy-ass Martian predisposition to stop after the first Google “hit”), see this 2017 article, “What planet are women from again?” by Stephanie Buck (tinyurl.com/What-Planet). She finds Gray’s approach “cosmically weird” and his “sexism ... downright laughable,” but explains how she persevered: “By the time I was halfway through [the book] I had softened to the grating gender stereotypes. As a woke millennial, I had trained myself to replace mentions of ‘man’ or ‘woman’ with the word ‘person.’”

So the “woke” envision both sexes as having evolved on the same red planet. And Beck implies that perhaps this truth has begun to sink into Gray’s gray matter: “Then in January 2017, Gray published a new book: *Beyond Mars and Venus: Relationship Skills for Today’s Complex World*. It’s a whole new set of rules for today’s woke relationships and relaxed gender roles.” But, alas, she makes clear that Gray still has a ways to go, since, “At worst, it’s a masochistic hate-read that makes you feel even more alone.”

Ouch! OK, let’s accept, for now, the woke premise that my title’s opening line is correct, and that Zontar’s home planet is *not* the origin of womankind writ large but only of Zsa Zsa Gabor and her merry maidens (tinyurl.com/Zsa-Zsa-Venus). Assuming the following single example (see my previous “lazy-ass” excuse) is representative, please ponder how well the woke position comports with this reasoning:

The former “Bruce” Jenner was born a “male” and lived “his” life as a “man” until transgenering into “Caitlyn,” who

now lives “her” life as a “woman” (though still a genetic “male” — the XY chromosomal pair in one’s cells cannot be changed to XX/female). What could have possessed Caitlyn to undergo this radical transformation? She was not raised as if a female. She grew up to be a tall, muscular man, so much so as to win an Olympic decathlon gold medal. She also married three times (all females/women) and fathered six children. And as she wrote in her memoir, with regard to any sexual attraction then or now toward males/men, “I have never had the inclination.”

So what *did* possess Caitlyn to be so certain that she was a woman — not a man — as to undergo not merely hormonal therapy but transformative surgery? As she told one interviewer, though she was living her life outwardly as Bruce, from early childhood “there was always this woman that lived inside of me” (tinyurl.com/Jenner-Always). And as she put it to another, “[It’s a] misperception that people transition because of their sexual desires. ... Transitioning is about nothing else but your soul” (tinyurl.com/Jenner-Soul).

Caitlyn’s references to the woman inhabiting her very soul certainly suggest having been born with a feminine brain housed within her formerly masculine body. Perhaps, despite the XY factory specs, one of God’s gestational helpers mistakenly painted her attic with an XXtra coat of estrogen after the downstairs plumbing had already been installed. Or, put another way (à la John Gray), perhaps her manly body came from Mars, but her womanly brain came from Venus.

Critical Thinking as Defined by the National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking, 1987



Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action.

In its exemplary form, it is based on universal intellectual values that transcend subject matter divisions: clarity, accuracy, precision, consistency, relevance, sound evidence, good reasons, depth, breadth, and fairness. It entails the examination of those structures or elements of thought implicit in all reasoning: purpose, problem, or question-at-issue; assumptions; concepts; empirical grounding; reasoning leading to conclusions; implications and consequences; objections from alternative viewpoints; and frame of reference.

Critical thinking — in being responsive to variable subject matter, issues, and purposes — is incorporated in a family of interwoven modes of thinking, among them: scientific thinking, mathematical thinking, historical thinking, anthropological thinking, economic thinking, moral thinking, and philosophical

From the Foundation for Critical Thinking