

CONCERNING THE MASTERFUL MAN AND THE SUPERIORITY HE WANTS

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Do women prefer masterful men as lovers and husbands?

From the beginning of the world men have cherished the belief that the strong arm is as effective in love as in war. And many a middle-sized, middle-aged citizen whom you and I think of merely as "Mamie Jones' brother" or "Susie Johnson's husband" goes through life with the delusion that he is a Caesar of sentiment, an invincible Napoleon of sex.

But does anybody take him seriously? Has he really any reason for believing that women like his airs of conquest, his swaggering assumption of superiority to them?

Rosa Mayreder, a German feminist, has written a brilliant book, "A Survey of the Woman Problem," in which she discusses the power of the strong-arm in love and asserts the vogue of the masterful man is very much on the decline. She says swaggering in men is the equivalent of coquetry in women—that it is, in fact, masculine coquetry, but adds that, outside the realm of sex, the "superiority" of the masterful lover seldom asserts itself. She says for inferior men "woman is always the best audience." However tame and feeble they may be in reality these men like to swagger before women's eyes like stage heroes.

"The man with a genius for love" is just the opposite of the masterful man in this author's opinion. He is all sympathy and respect for women and realizes that she is "the other half of his soul," as Goethe expressed it.

Now what do you think about it? Less than 50 years ago the romantic novelist, in describing the first soul-

ful meeting of the drooping heroine and the dark, melancholy, arrogant hero, did not fear to write "Claribel took one look in those flashing eyes and realized that at last she had found her master!"

It's my opinion there are still plenty of Claribels alive, that there is unfortunately a type of woman who enjoys being browbeaten and bully-ragged by men. No one who has spent much time in those clearing houses of family strife, the domestic relations courts in our big cities, can fail to realize women actually exist who do not object seriously to being beaten by their husbands. Discussion of their peculiar characteristics does not belong in a newspaper. It is part of the strange pathology of sex.

We must remember the woman who takes the masterful man at his OWN VALUATION is sometimes laughing in her sleeve. If, by conceding the superiority of the masterful man, you can induce him to do all your thinking, to work for you, to permit you all the follies of irresponsibility and expect from you nothing but the cuteness of a kitten playing with a ball of yarn, it takes strength of mind and genuine moral force to do it!

And that is practically what women have done for a long time. They concede the masterful man all the superiority he wants—and put him to work for them! But I don't believe they love him as they do the man who has too much brains to swagger before them. I think even in Turkish harems there must be wives who view the peacock poses of their fractional lords with a smiling, profound contempt!

In more progressive countries the masterful man is getting rather scarce and pretty soon he will disappear from earth altogether and re-
lieve that awful "isolation" not wholly held by the dodo!