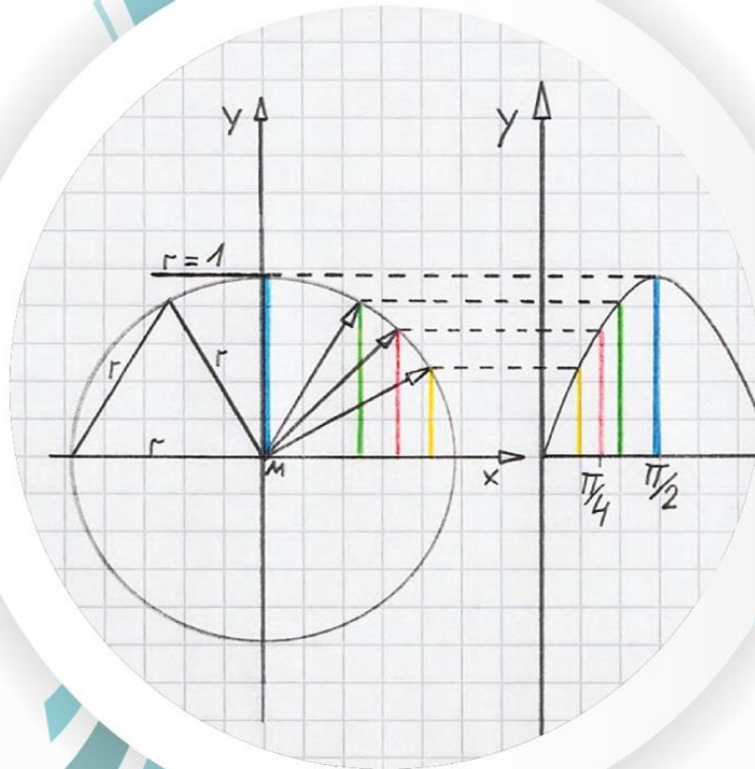


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PHILOSOPHICAL CONCEPTS OF MASCULINITY AND FEMININITY IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

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Abstract. In the article, while providing information about the philosophical concepts of masculinity and femininity in ancient philosophy, we can see, first of all, that the concepts of femininity and masculinity are expressed in a changing interpretation.

Keywords and concepts: masculinity, femininity, male, female, feminism, stereotype, gender, gender equality, gender roles, gender identity.

Masculinity and femininity are characteristics that determine the basis and important part of society. Their development is related to the presence of gender stereotypes. However, this does not prevent a person from taking occupations typical of other sexes, showing atypical behavior or being worse than other people. This law has existed since the dawn of time, and the debate continues.

Masculinity and femininity have been noted by various researchers as the main forms of gender expression. These aspects are studied and researched in religious teachings, as well as from ancient philosophy, by people of today's social society, in particular, by sociologists and psychologists.

Gender, in turn, can freely be the “out-of-body expression of gender” in certain social and cultural conditions of human existence. The understanding of gender identity is related to the equally real existence of male and female genders. Gender identity itself is a biological sex related to a person’s internal feeling of himself as a representative of a certain gender, that is, as a representative of a certain gender, male, female or other category, social and cultural stereotypes about the behavior and qualities of a certain gender.

Masculinity and femininity are concepts that define normative characteristics that characterize women and men, respectively. The concepts of “femininity” and



“masculinity” are understood differently in different societies and cultures. From the point of view of psychology, these concepts have deep historical roots. Equated to the main characteristics that make the difference between the female and male sexes. We will mention the meanings of these concepts separately. We will try to illuminate the essence.

Femininity is a set of qualities, behavioral characteristics and external factors that distinguish a woman from a man. It can be said that the women’s movement seeks to balance the rights of men and women. Feminists categorically reject femininity and masculinity as criteria for female and male gender. Femininity is a set of characteristics that describe typical female behavior prevalent in society.

Masculinity is a set of characteristics that distinguish men from women, which include aggression, strength and other characteristics that help to be the head of the family. Previously, only a man was the breadwinner, he had to be strong, brave. He had no right to stay in a critical situation and always had to be responsible for his surroundings. Even now, when the roles of women and men are mixed, masculinity is the basis of male behavior. Masculinity refers to the entire symphony of characteristics and stereotypes that characterize male behavior.

The concepts of masculinity and femininity refer to biological sex (sex), while the concepts of masculinity and femininity are concepts related to gender. The word “gender” is actively used in conjunctions such as sex hormones, sexual organs, biological sex, sexual relations, and gender with concepts such as gender differences, gender approach, gender equality, gender discrimination, gender evaluation.

We will cite the opinions of some philosophers about the philosophical nature of masculinity and femininity, its main distinguishing features in ancient Greek philosophy. They tried to justify their views through mythological teachings and philosophical views.

In the teachings of the Greek scientist Socrates, we can see the concept of women as equal natural rights. In his opinion, he “proposes that the police should



obey only logical and just laws, and only then can the freedom of men and women be ensured”¹.

In the teachings of Plato, another ancient world philosopher, we can see a dualistic approach to the equality of men and women. For example, although he admits that God created both men and women equally, he denies the participation of women in the management of an ideal state. He does not perceive a woman as a sexual object, he sees her as a person who is at a lower level than himself. The Great Allama left no role or function for women in child rearing other than childbirth, as all other functions were performed by men or slaves. According to him, men are naturally superior to women. In the beginning, there were no women on earth at all, only men whose spirits were known and who were compared to the stars. A person who has lived a good life returns to his star and lives a blessed and happy life in spiritual harmony².

Plato’s student Aristotle, on the other hand, appears as an “anti-feminist”. In his writings, Aristotle covered general views on male and female personality. According to his ideas, a woman is a subordinate creature by nature, and if she serves someone, especially a man - the head of the family, she thought that the main purpose of her life is to do everything to ensure that the man’s life is the best, most rational, balanced and orderly.

Aristotle’s principles of femininity and masculinity are fundamentally different from each other. He says that the spiritual principle of the male gives form to the female material, gives it movement, brings the soul. Therefore, it plays a big role in creating a new life. Aristotle associates life or the soul with the body. He believes that the female body is colder than that of men, so women have less soul and live much less than men. This judgment of Aristotle reflects the real demographic situation of ancient society. In fact, the life expectancy of women was much lower than that of

¹ Dictionary of Antiquity. Publishing house “Progress”. - Moscow. 1989.-C. 595..

² The daughter of Sulaiman Qari F. The woman is honorable. - T.: Movarounnahr, 2004. - 21 p..



men. So, compared to man, woman is a kind of original creation, an incomplete man³. After that, St. Thomas Aquinas also called a woman being “an unfulfilled man”, a “second-order”⁴. We can see similar ideas in the same-sex human model described by the philosopher-physician Galen. According to this model, the female body was considered a biologically imperfect male body. In Galen’s scheme of structural and morphological adaptation of reproductive organs, the female body has the same genitals as the male. The only difference between them is that, due to the “lack of vital energy” in women, these organs are located inside, and in men, they are said to be outside⁵.

According to the famous philosopher Democritus, the source of movement of living bodies is made of atoms. The atoms in the body parts of men and women are also located differently. For example, the atoms in a man’s body are very dense, and in a woman’s, they are sparsely distributed. As a result, men have a lot of physical strength, their bodies are hard, while women’s bodies are soft. With this, Democritus wanted to show the differences between men and women.

In general, it can be said that the state ideology of the time was created as a derivative of the mythology of the time. Because in antiquity, we can witness that the concept of woman was used in a negative sense. But people try to keep power in their hands by making it their duty to rule over women, including it in holy books and laws. Take, for example, the laws of Hammurabi in ancient Babylon. This law was a combination of civil and criminal laws, according to which girls belonged to their father until they were married, and the future husband had to buy them from the father. In this way, girls were turned into a source of income. Making money by selling a woman has not lost its importance to this day. Although ancient Egyptian and Judean women fought for their rights reflected in a number of laws, according to religious beliefs, women were represented as inferior, disgusting, “sinful” creatures.

³ Ryabova T.B. Woman in the history of the Western European Middle Ages. – Ivanovo: 1999. - P. 15.

⁴ Voronina O.A. Opposition of matter and spirit: gender aspect // Issues of philosophy. 2007. No. 2.

⁵ <https://nplus1.ru/blog/2019/09/25/is-gender-fluid>.



So, masculinity can show signs of individuality not only in psychology and behavior, but also in appearance. The factors determining masculinity and femininity are gradually changing, and in the 21st century, that is, in the age of information technology, women are not only passive-reproductive, but also courageous, and can fully fulfill the tasks performed by men.

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