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### Boys Will Be Boys

Today in the 1500s, we are currently living in what many call “a man’s world.” Here in jolly ol’ England, men are the only ones with jobs, money, and really an important role in society. Women are here, of course, but they are not allowed to go to school, which is where a successful life begins. Wealthy girls can be homeschooled, but most women are just taught basic household skills in order to do their two jobs: housekeeping and childbearing (Thomas). As a man, I have the right to command my wife to do whatever I want, and she is obligated to obey me, because it is a “crime against [our] religion” (Alchin) for a woman to be disobedient. All girls must get married, or else be “a burden to their families” (Secara). Women really have no choice of what they want to do, because men do all of the important jobs. Except, of course, for Queen Elizabeth, who has no husband, nor any male relatives who would be able to obtain her power and keep it where it rightly belongs: in the hands of a man.

Some people, especially some women, think that the way they are treated is unfair, because they believe men and women were created equally by God. They believe that they are victims of “stereotypes, simplifications, and gross exaggerations” (Papp & Kirkland), because they think that not all women are the same, and they should be allowed to think for themselves. Some even go so far as to blame men for their faults, because they think that we raise them to be how they are and control their personalities (Papp & Kirkland). Many women are also against arranged marriages, and feel they have

the right to “raise objections” (Alchin) against them, because they want to choose who they spend their lives with. They think that they have the right to oppose the way that society lives.

Women and men are not equal; women are submissive to men. Saint Paul has even written in the New Testament that women should not “usurp authority over the man.” Women are not victims of any stereotyping, because all woman *are* the same, and have “two faults: everything they say and everything they do” (Papp and Kirkland). They also have no right to oppose important practices such as arranged marriages, which form partnerships between powerful families and bring dowries into the picture, which aid newlyweds financially. Dowries also *protect* women from abuse and divorce, because if either occurs, the man must return the money, which no man would ever want to do (Encyclopedia Britannica). Therefore, they should really think before speaking out against what is right and what could potentially help them.

Everyone here in England knows that women are not equal to men, and for many reasons. For one thing, the Church advertises the principle that it is a sin against our religion for a woman to disobey a man. John Knox, a Protestant leader, has written, “Woman in her greatest perfection was made to serve and obey man” (Alchin). Catholicism, our religion, is our life. We obey what is said because everyone knows that what is written in the Bible and what is said by our Church is right. Also, women don’t *need* an education; the role of lower class women is to take care of the home and kids after marriage. Upper class women, who may have gotten private tutors, have maids and servants to do their work, and spend their free time “writing letters, singing, dancing, strolling in the garden, playing with dainty little pet dogs, and poring over needlework” (Papp & Kirkland). If a woman was educated, she could easily “compromise [her] virtue”

(Papp & Kirkland) by reading unclean romances. Chastity is a must for any young girl, because that is what is taught by the Church. Women are also just not capable of learning. They are “physically unable to saturate the same material as men” (Jafar). Women who are smart and who speak a lot are considered masculine, and annoying! Good women are soft-spoken or, even better, silent (Golub & Bryant). Furthermore, the law enforces the beliefs of the Church and of society. Any disobedient woman can be beaten by her husband without charge (Golub & Bryant). This implements the fact that women were created to serve and obey men, because if they don’t, they are punished. It is not cruel, because they are protected from extreme harm if the neighbours think the beating is too harsh and the man is charged for domestic violence. The way society works now is not causing anyone problems, so it must be fine.

The way women are treated is right because they are not as strong or as capable as men are. The job of women is to serve and obey men. Everything right now is working just fine: men work, which brings them money, and women have husbands to rely on. Men use their money to take care of their wives and children, so no one is being neglected (Thomas). Since everyone is as healthy and as well off as they can be, I say that we should just let it be and leave things how they are, and continue to follow the teachings of our religion and our law. In doing this, everyone will remain healthy and happy, if the plague doesn’t kill them first.

## Annotated Bibliography

Alchin, Linda "Elizabethan Women." *Elizabethan Era*. N.p., 16 May 2012. Web. 17 May 2014. <<http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/>>.

This is a website about the Elizabethan Era. From this website I learned that the Church supported the subjection of women and about John Knox's famous quotation about how women were made to serve and obey men. This is a credible source because it ends in .org, there is an author, and almost all of the information I found was also said on other websites. I would recommend this to others because it is easy to read and has lots of information on many topics from the Elizabethan Era.

The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. "Dowry (Marriage Custom)." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, 2014. Web. 17 May 2014. <<http://www.britannica.com/>>.

Golub, Christine, and Jonathan Bryant. "Rights of Women." *ENGL 250h at UMBC*. University of Maryland, 2014. Web. 17 May 2014. <[http://userpages.umbc.edu/~rfarabau/engl250h/wiki/index.php?page=Rights\\_of\\_Women](http://userpages.umbc.edu/~rfarabau/engl250h/wiki/index.php?page=Rights_of_Women)>.

Jafar, Ebtisam. "Redefining Renaissance Ideas of Women Gender Roles in Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure"." *Cedar Crest College*. N.p., 2014. Web. 24 May 2014. <<http://www.cedarcrest.edu/>>.

This is an article from a university's website. From this source I learned why women were denied the opportunity of schooling. This is a credible source because it is on an educational website and has an author. I would not recommend this website to others because the article was not on my topic, but gave background information about my topic before talking about one of Shakespeare's plays.

Papp, Joseph, and Elizabeth Kirkland. "The Status of Women in Shakespeare's Time."

*EXPLORING Shakespeare*. Cengage Learning, Inc. Detroit: Gale, 2003. Web. 17

May 2014. <<http://www.gale.cengage.com>>.

This is an article on a website that gives information on many topics. From this source I learned that men used to make pamphlets against women and put them out in the town advertising feminine stereotypes. I also learned about reasons why women were not educated. This is a credible source because the website is dedicated to giving information on various topics for educational purposes and has two authors. On this website I found information I had read elsewhere and also new, relevant information on my topic. I would recommend this website to others because it gave lots of information and was easy to read, but very long.

Secara, Maggie. "Love and Marriage," *Renaissance, The Elizabethan World - Life in Tudor England*. N.p., 14 July 2001. Web. 17 May 2014. <<http://elizabethan.org>>.

Thomas, Heather. "Elizabeth I." *Elizabeth I*. Elizabethi.org, 2014. Web. 24 May 2014.

<<http://www.elizabethi.org>>.

This is a web page on a website dedicated to the Elizabethan Era. From this website I learned the roles of women in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and how they were still cared for very much by their husbands and families. This article gave a different view on my topic than the other ones I've read because its main point was that life for women was not as bad as many people think it was. I know this is a credible source because the website ends in .org and there is an author who writes about many topics within the Elizabethan Era. It was also updated on a very recent date. I would recommend this website because it has many topics on the Elizabethan Era and gives relevant information that is easy to read.