

Do You Know Any Women, Mike?

8/8/14

Mike Buchanan, leader of the political Party "Justice for Men & Boys" has appeared on many TV show debates, putting the opposing case to feminist panellists. On at least two occasions to my knowledge, the feminist, abandoning even the semblance of rational argument, has resorted to saying,

Do you know any women, Mike?

or,

Don't you like women, Mike?

Obviously these sneering remarks are intended to mock, shame and denigrate.

My question is - why?

Why do these questions have the power to shame a man? I commend this question to your attention because the answer is very revealing.

Notice that reversing the gender results in nothing that a woman would find shaming. Asking a feminist the question "don't you like men?" is entirely unnecessary - and if you bothered to do so said feminist would be happy for the opportunity to drown you in the misandry of patriarchy theory. No shame there - quite the opposite.

So why is it that men are shamed by such questions - and why are women so well aware that they will be, and hence can use such remarks to punish a man?

I used to think that it was because such remarks sounded like a veiled accusation of homosexuality. Many years ago there may have been some truth in this. But there is no longer any stigma in being gay. If this is all there were to it, these remarks would have lost their force. But they have not.

So why does the suggestion that a man does not have a relationship with a woman have such potential to denigrate and shame?

There is only one possible answer: that society teaches us that a man who does not have a relationship with a woman is a sorry, pathetic, abject creature, unworthy of our respect. In other words, the fact that such sneering remarks have the power to shame is proof of the essentially misandric nature of our society - because their power resides in the presumption that a man's existence is justified only by his relationship with a woman. In other words, men have no intrinsic value. Men can attain worth only in as far as they are of value to a female. No woman - whether feminist or not - would tolerate the implication that her worth was conditional upon a relationship with a man. So is our society misogynist or misandrist?

The correct response which a man should make when confronted with these sorts of remarks is,

Do not dare to imply that my worth as a human being requires the validation of a woman. It does not. A man is valuable in and of himself, irrespective of any relationship with a woman. Do not dare to imply otherwise.
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