

BUT WHY, WHY, WHY DO MEN VISIT PROSTITUTES?

A text addressed to male readers

WE MEN HAVE A BIG PROBLEM. It's gnawing at us and it makes us worried and anxious. It makes us angry and aggressive when people bring it up. Many of us pretend that it doesn't exist. Most of us are ashamed of it, others claim that this is what it is to be a man – and that there isn't anything we can do about it. This is what we are like. End of discussion.

I am, of course, writing about male sexuality. A friend of mine defines it like this: "to empty yourself in anyone available". That's what pornography, prostitution and sexism is all about. This is an absurd way of viewing sex as something automatic, mechanical, and as something that you simply should be able to do. Sometimes the debate gets so sick that it refers to it as a Right. The Right to empty yourself in anyone available.

A man is not a real man if he's not automatically turned on by big boobs, fetishes, hips etc. Do cartoon pictures of men with their tongues hanging out, you know, the typical horny man, make you feel a bit sick? If you ask a homophobe, he will tell you that gay men aren't real men as they aren't turned on by women in miniskirts.

Does it make you angry when women say "everyone knows what men are like"? Discredited.

The problem is that they are right. We all know that a man is a stupid, horny idiot, that is the core of male sexuality.

Sexual robot. To always be able, willing and wanting to have sex.

To empty yourself in anyone. Or anything. To get turned on by the mechanical and impersonal because the whole point of objectifying women is that we turn women into commodities, into something that we can buy. It's not a person you get turned on by, it's a body, an object, a thing. To be against prostitution and sexism is about all of this. Please help us get away from this self contempt, away from this type of male sexuality.

It's hard for men to discuss sex. All men have a "secret" to protect; thoughts we are ashamed of, thoughts that we aren't willing to accept or understand. To discuss in earnest this shame and insecurity is to leave yourself wide open and all men know that this is dangerous. We don't even dare to be completely naked with the people we say we love.

"You shouldn't reveal everything". Why not?

Our most tragic defense is when we say that we're ALL the same. We plead with women: "please say that you are like me" and women who love their men confirm: "of course that's the way it is".

But it isn't.

Women didn't create the prostitution industry, women don't consume porn, women don't rape and women don't buy sex.

It's men who do, and sure it's true that we don't want to know and therefore loudly claim that it's the women's own fault and responsibility. But nine out of ten women in the sex industry want out. And not a SINGLE man wants his own daughter to become a prostitute.

We are only fooling ourselves.

I THINK THAT IT'S THE MALE SEXUALITY that needs to change. I think that we're quite mental actually. If sex is only an urge, an automatic reaction like eating or spitting, well then masturbation would be the goal of sexuality. But sex is also a longing to belong and a longing for closeness. Long or short term. Sex can be used to achieve great things.

So why do we men sign up to a sexuality that's all about control, availability ("married men get to shag more"), contempt, use, ownership and, in the end, money? "Well, it's more expensive to pick someone up in the pub". To be a real man within the limits of this perceived sexuality we need to hate our longing, get rid of it, and squirt.

And if the longing is directed at a woman – which it often is – it turns into controlling and owning. If there isn't a woman around to own, we substitute her for a picture of a woman. Porn, fetishism, rituals. For women, the zipless shag could be a way to liberate herself from a world of oppression, control and hatred. A way to own her own body and sexuality.

For us men it's something completely different.

Self abuse. To empty yourself in anyone available.

No, I don't think that this is good for us. It makes us despise women. But those who despise whores are really despising themselves.

Isn't it quite revealing that men who visit whores talk about them in such a derogatory way? Isn't it quite revealing that the word itself is one of the worst insults we have? That we shout "fucking whore" when the words are really about men's screwed-up sexuality?

IMAGINE THAT A PSYCHOLOGIST gets a patient who tells him/her that he views sexuality as a mechanical problem which can be solved if you pay a woman to pretend to like to give you satisfaction. The psychologist would view him as a sick man with warped thoughts and ideas, as a man who would need help to get to the bottom of the problem and work out where these thoughts really stem from.

The individual punter is a tragic person.

But when there are more than one million punters a day and society is legalizing it and try to create a "decent" industry to handle it – then it's all of a sudden viewed as something completely normal

and not even worth discussing anymore because "this is the way it's always been".

But a society that accepts prostitution is a sick society, independent of whether it's through hypocrisy (Poland), passivity (Sweden) or legalization (Germany).

I THINK THAT PORN AND PROSTITUTION stem from this so called normal, frightened, male sexuality – the sexuality you and I live with. We men find discussions about whores uncomfortable as there is a frightened understanding of it within us all. The steps from "normal" sexism in entertainment, to male magazines, to porn, to prostitution are shadowy and the fog is deep.

Two out of three German men do not pay a whore for sex. But nine out of ten men fantasizes about it, or at least about having a woman in that same situation; an object available to him. We are all presumptive punters. The whole male sexuality is about the same form of control and usage. Do you look your beloved in the eyes when you reach orgasm?

No, I don't think that it has to be like this. I think that we are human being who can choose a different way to react and live. I think that if we feed what makes us feel bad, it'll grow worse. To fight prostitution is something natural and obvious. But I think that it would be good if the fight was also about questioning what it is to be a man.

All men are against trafficking. And still it increases.

Few men admit that they visit prostitutes. Those who defend legalization blame the women or claim that they want to "protect" them from even more horrible situations. Nobody states the obvious truth; that prostitution only exists because men want it.

Men claim that OTHER men probably need it.

Men are ashamed about the porn they consume. We make ourselves pathetic.

I think that we all know that there's a different way to live, a different way to meet each other. Sometimes we even get to experience it.

A short, lust filled, two sided meeting. A lifelong one. Happiness on equal terms. A meeting where we dare to look each other in the eyes.

I don't think that we want to empty ourselves in just anyone available.

I think that we should get rid of this mechanical view of male sexuality.

What do you think?

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