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Masked Marginalization

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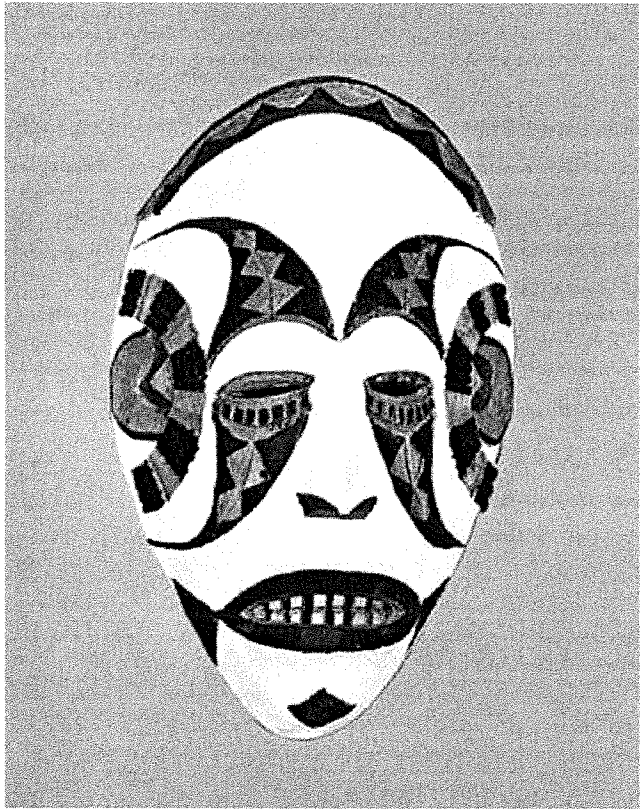
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MASKED MARGINALIZATION

Moreen Akomea-Ampeh

ABSTRACT

I was inspired to write this reflective piece after a personal encounter with a close female relative and wanted to demystify the notion that marginalization of women no longer exists. This thoughtful piece presents a vivid description of the objectification of women concerning women's physique in this twenty-first century. Therefore, this piece acts as a wake-up call to our blindness to this 'normalized' issue. It also shows the traumatic experiences of women and the various hurdles they face.

Reflective prose

We all know that girl who is a victim of any of
Sexual, psychological and physical violence
The movements on the internet like #MeToo and #TimesUp made them open bags of horrors
Those bags of horrors had been inflicted, have been inflicted, are being inflicted
And they will be inflicted by no other than a two-legged creature
No words under the sun could be used to describe him

For he comes in many different colors, shapes and status
He is the one who grants women access to good grades or job postings in return for sex
He is the one who praises his fellow for exhibiting martial skills on *his* woman
He is the one who watches another as they engage in a foursome of an innocent lady
He is the one who rips off the femininity of a lady such that she considers herself inferior
He is also the one who strips off women of some advantages because of an archaic mindset
Again, he is the one who makes a woman feel ugly and shapeless in her own body

Yesterday, it was all about these women being marginalized
In the hands of structural and systemic discrimination
When several movements stood up against those actions
But now, what has become of it
I thought this generation will look at the woman from a different angle and support them
I bubbled with joy with births of movements combating against the marginalization of women
But hell to that for it happened to be just an optical illusion
As marginalization of women has been packaged anew and fortified by those men

Those same men who had once said beauty was equivalent to acceptance
Are now behaving like the Pharisees
Killing the jovial spirits of women and blindly leading them to the bottomless pit
Where they continue to throttle them with adjectives
And categorize them as the ugly and the beautiful
As if this torture was not enough, they proceeded and invented the trend: *ideal woman*

Which caused a spark among women and society by and large
And made many women painting unrealistic pictures of themselves
To the extent of rejecting their true identities
Because these women are all craving to be the ideal woman
At the expense of exposing their bodies to surgical instruments and other medical complications
Undoubtedly, they become the ideal woman
Capable of getting the Prince Charming
And wooing the crowds with their external features

The harm ignited by these men yields destruction
As it kills the spirits of those women who do not fall into the category of an ideal woman
And cannot even afford a three-square meal let alone plastic surgery
But have compulsively joined the quest of this ideal woman
Thus, becoming emotionally traumatized
But with this trauma weighing their bodies down
Many continue to live in lands of solitude
As they think their futures are as bleak as the vast ocean

With this loss of faith in humanity
They resort to either suicide or retreating and recoiling themselves in shells
As the remedy to their shame and solitary
And to the brave women who have been left behind
They feel guilty for filling their rumbling bowels
But I think it is high time you answered the question
Is being born a woman a crime or a curse