
Extract 1: P.177 ‘Men who decide to eschew meat eating are deemed effeminate; failure of men to eat meat announces that they are not masculine... Football players drink bear because it’s a man’s drink, and eat steak because it’s a man’s meal. The emphasis is on ‘mansized portions’, ‘hero’ sandwiches; the whole terminology of meat0eating reflects this masculine bias. Meat and potatoes men are our stereotypical strong and hearty, rough and ready able males... One’s maleness is reassured by the food one eats... What is it about meat that makes it a symbol of celebration of male dominance.’

Questions:
1. What is it about meat that makes it a symbol of male dominance?

2. Is vegetarianism associated with being effeminate? Give reasons.

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**Extract 2: p.179 ‘The word vegetable acts as a synonym for women’s passivity because women are supposedly like plants. Hegel makes this clear: ‘The difference between men and women is like that between animal and plants. Men correspond to animals, while women correspond to plants because their development is more placid.’ From this viewpoint, both women and plants are seen as less developed and less evolved than men and animals. Consequently, women may eat plants, since each is placid, but active men need animal meat.’**

Questions:
1. Why do you think plants have been associated with passivity/femininity?

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**Extract 3: p. 179 ‘... Mary Douglas suggests that the order in which we serve foods, and the foods we insist on being present at a meal, reflect a taxonomy of classification that mirrors and reinforces our larger culture. A meal is an amalgam of food dishes, each a constituent part of the whole, each with an assigned value. In addition, each dish is introduced in precise order. A meal does not begin with a dessert, nor end with soup. All is seen as leading up to and then coming down from the entrée that is meant... To remove meat is to threaten the structure of the larger patriarchal culture...’**
Men who batter women have often used the absence of meat as a pretext for violence against women. Women’s failure to serve meat is not the cause of the violence against them... As one woman battered by her husband reported, ‘It would start off with him being angry over trivial little things, a trivial little thing like cheese instead of meat on a sandwich. Another woman stated ‘ A month ago he threw scalding water over me, leaving a scar on my right arm, all because I gave him a pie with potatoes and vegetables for his dinner, instead of fresh meat.’

Questions:
1. Does removing meat threaten the structure of patriarchal culture?

2. What kind of foods would you insist on being present at a meal? Is there an order?

3. Are there gender differences/generational differences in relation to meat?