

The dismantling of patriarchy

Dumisani! *woza*, your mother is on the hologram. I am going to a friend's house and we will be discussing a history essay this time. I need to fly and I will talk to her later. We both know you will not be doing any studying. The topic is 'The dismantling of patriarchy in the 21st century and I need to do good. Believe me now? Patriarchy? I have witnessed patriarchy. Here we go again. Shut up and listen, what do you know about patriarchy? I just know it was a period where men dominated. Really? How am I supposed to know *gogo*? it happened years ago. Well, it officially ended the year I was born, a lot of things had changed, it was like a whole new world, the impossible had been done, women were rising, women were shining and most importantly women were women and women were human. What do you mean *gogo*, were they never human before? Listen to the whole story Dumisani. I will never forget the year 2100, Zanezintle Mbukeli became the first female president in our country, I cannot explain the empowerment women felt after that, she reminded our country and the world that again it was possible and that was change and women never looked back.

Women were oppressed in the past and a woman's role was undermined in the past. Women were limited to child bearers who stay at home and look after the house and were taught to not think beyond but that was about to change, one woman dared and questioned why and that simple why is what led us to where we are today. Patriarchy would have been here and more developed over the years, but that woman who thought beyond dreamed, and questioned stopped it all. I am a woman, I am a queen, I am a nurturer, I bring life on earth and I bring nothing but love and warmth yet the world wanted to take all that away. Let's travel through time, I can take you to the BCs, the 1800s, you name it all and you will see that women were made up to be spineless, spiritless, and meek. 'Do not wear that dress, it shows the shape of your body and men will stare' my grandmother would say to my mother. There is this word 'men', in the past, it had to be stuck in a woman's head. Do not say this to a man, men require respect, do not walk around men, beware of men when you are alone, and do not trust men, imagine being taught to be so cautious from an early age. You are getting emotional *gogo*, it must have been very hectic.

Do you know being disrespected because of gender, by a gender that has been deemed as superior? Do you know the feeling of getting abused sexually and having people blame it on your sexuality? Do you know being told you are not good enough or cannot do enough because of your sexuality? all that because of gender. Anything that was regarded as not 'masculine' was subjected to submission and regarded as unimportant. After so many years on planet Earth or the whole wide world, only in 1825, an all-women union was formed and women were paid less mind you and it has also been proven that men had better chances of being chosen for a job than women and only in late 1800s women formed sports clubs, can you believe in 2022 that women were still earning less in sports than men and that was when feminist movements were at their prime, those years were when awareness in regards to patriarchy was spread, whether through art, being vocal or protesting. Feminism was empowered because a lot was still wrong, even at the time we had 'believers' that saw women as inferior. That explains why the National Women's Day is so prominent, but how did everything come to a change *gogo* because we are all the same now, I mean I know mother is a woman and father is a man but I never saw any differences because they both play the same role.

Well, women and feminists realized that for years they had been talking, protesting, and spreading awareness but that never worked. The key was education and unlocking young girls' minds. Women discovered that everything was all in the mind and how we had been raising our girls was how we were breaking them. It all started with the labeling and stereotypes, being human and being called human was what was strived for because before you are transgendered, female-gendered, male-gendered, or any other gender you are human. The education system changed and developed and it was suitable for everyone because one of the things that were added was the gender roles in society and the effect they had in the past society. Children were born and would be differentiated as to their gender but them being a certain gender did not limit them to do certain things, in schools from an early age children from all genders would play with all kinds of toys, for change activities were not associated with certain gender and it was so crazy for scientists to discover that all genders loved netball, all genders loved doing house chores or different activities and all genders wanted to play the submissive, dominant or equal role in the world and relationships depending on that person.

People from all over the world were supporting the gender role movement and for a change in our system and the government and everyone was involved, unlike in the past when feminist movements were dominated by women, all genders gathered and it was around 2070 where a new movement was formed 'pro-ism' where everyone was pro everything, there was no discrimination, stereotypes or stigmas and everyone was just one and for the first time in forever we all stood for something together. There was power in men, women and other genders working together and a lot of things changed and a lot of discoveries were made because gender roles were not holding people back and everyone was free to explore and express themselves. There was a period in the 21st century where mental illnesses were rising and viruses were rising and everyone was going through something but after the gender issue resolution and feminism and masculinism movements collided and came to an understanding and a promise that the future generations will never live to feel what women in the past felt and treated, everything changed and the world was suddenly bright and beautiful again word such as gender-based violence, rape, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, humiliating or against their will virginity tests, workplace discrimination and everything that diminished women was never to be heard of.

History is interesting after all *gogo*, from now on you will explain everything to me. *Hayi angeke*, it was just for this patriarchy assignment and I just wanted to show you where women come from and how hard we had to fight to get to where we are today. It was bad *gogo*, meaning I would have close to five women in the past and nothing would be done about it and my wives would do everything around the house. Stop it Dumisani. I am just pulling your leg *gogo*, we live in a very beautiful society, a society where men don't feel different from women or other genders, a society that is not ruled by outdated norms, a society where everyone is themselves, safe, empowered and free. I wish women in the past, more especially the ones in the 21st century because they are nearer, would travel to the future and see that their hard work has paid off. Stop it with your jokes! But *gogo*, it has paid off so much that no one even mentions gender anymore, we are all the same and equal and that is what women have strived for all these years.

Glossary:

Dismantle- To take apart or take to pieces.

Dumisani- A male given name meaning praise.

Gogo- Grandmother in South African Nguni languages.

Hayi angeke- no I will never

Hologram- A picture of a whole object, showing it in three dimensions.

Patriarchy- A social system where power or domination is held by men.