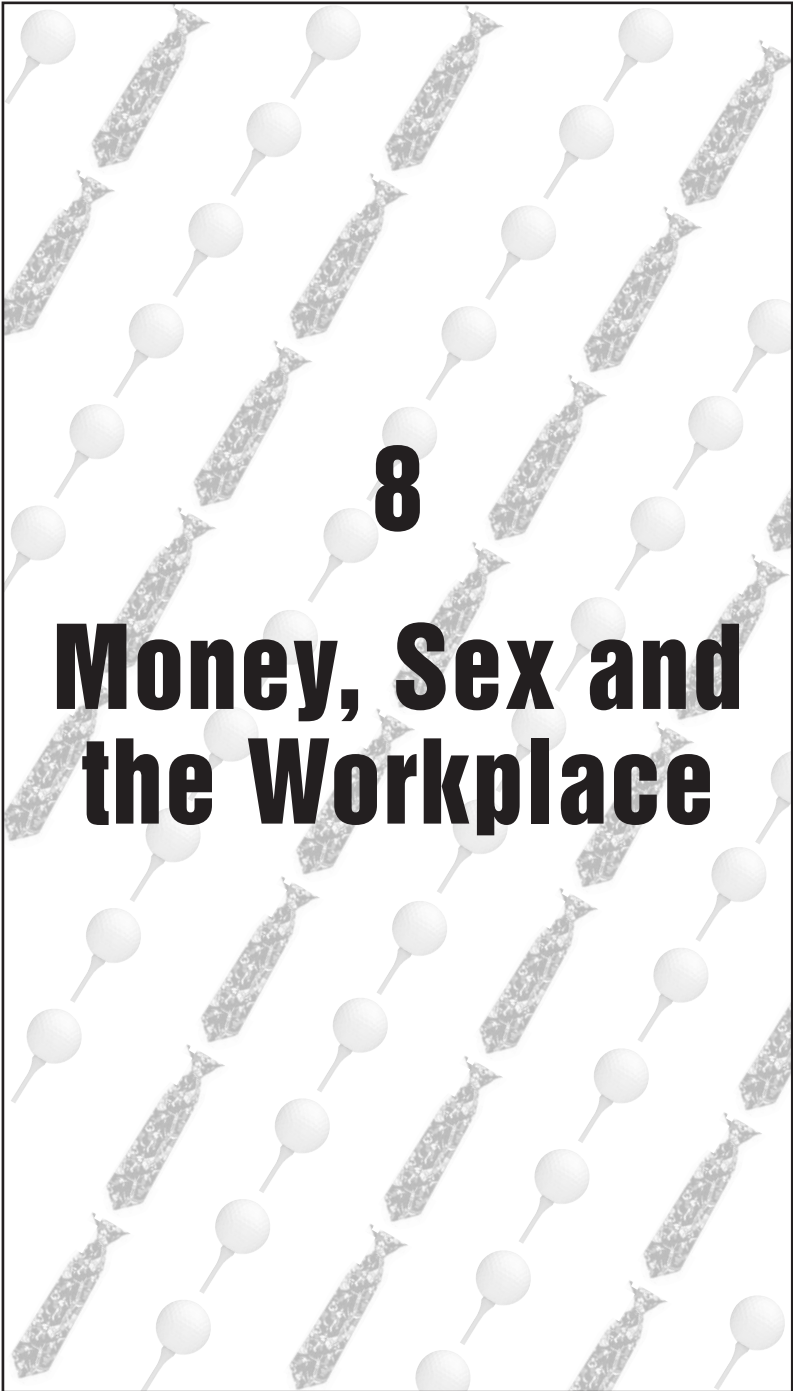




8

Money, Sex and the Workplace

Shouldn't Women Be Paid As Much As Men?

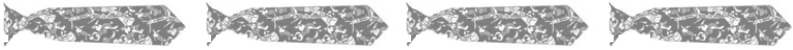
We still have a very patriarchal culture which denigrates and devalues the feminine. Our culture is changing slowly, but for many years everything that was considered good was a product of masculine energy. Today, people who are aggressively working their way to the “top” are still considered good and productive members of society. But if people are really enjoying each other, communing with nature, or obviously delighting in the sensual pleasures of the body, they aren't really looked upon as people who are contributing something valuable.

To make good money, we are expected to sacrifice our family life, our intimate life, even our personal health, while we push, push, push toward success. Most high-paying jobs in our culture entail an incredible amount of mental focus, organization and competition. Therefore, for both men and women, the masculine energy is more highly paid than the feminine.

It is not just men who are paid more, it is the masculine energy itself. Men and women are paid more for performing analytical and competitive masculine tasks than for feminine tasks, including anything involving a connection and sensitivity to the elements of nature, to true healing, to the preservation of life, and to loving, cooperative relationships.

Of course women and men should be paid the same amount of money if they do the same task. However, even deeper than a sex bias is the higher value our culture places on masculine, rather than feminine, styles of working, for both women and men. At this point of civilization's self-destructiveness, it may even be true that, temporarily, feminine tasks are more important than masculine tasks for our future on Earth. In any case,

in order for both men and women to be paid what they are worth requires that our culture let go of its bias to overvalue masculine energy.



Why Does His Financial Irresponsibility Bother Me So Much?

In our economically driven culture, when a man is weak in his direction and vision, the first thing his woman will tend to discuss with him is money. When a man isn't clear in his vision, it's rare for his woman to say, "You are not clear in your vision and I'm losing trust in you." Rather, she will tend to say something like, "Do we have enough money for rent? What have you been doing for the last month? I'm concerned that we're not going to be able to pay our bills."

In our culture, money is an easy measure of a man's or woman's masculine ability to guide his or her life and get what he or she wants. Money reflects whether a man or woman is able to cut through obstructions and achieve a goal, at least in the world of commerce. Money is something you can hold on to and count, whereas a subtle yet fundamental distrust of your partner is more evasive. Usually when a woman is disturbed about her man's way of dealing with money, her feelings are actually a reflection of his lack of purpose, his lack of deep, intuitive certainty of who he is, and his inability to fully penetrate his woman's heart with love.

The cure for this is not necessarily to make more money. Usually, the cure for a man is to really define his vision, become clear about it, and live up to it on a daily basis. Then, his woman will feel his masculine energy as it is liberated

from self-doubt. She feels his loving certainty expressed as commitment and full presence in relationship. She becomes certain of his love.

She usually doesn't need him to earn a specific number of dollars, although money may be part of the issue. She is not usually satisfied by his dollars as much as she is by his presence, his humor, his integrity and his depth of love for her.

In our culture, the demand for financial security is actually a demand for masculine energy, in a man or a woman. Because masculine skills are paid more than feminine skills, men and women must either cultivate their masculine or learn to get by with less money. When it comes to sexual polarity, money itself is not an issue. However, you will still find yourself depolarized when your partner is not paying his part of the bills. His lack of masculine integrity is a turn-off. The problem is not the lack of money itself, but your partner's lack of confident, clear and passionate masculine energy.



Why Do We Always Fight About Money?

If you are carrying the masculine energy in your intimacy, if you are supporting your man financially and arranging your living circumstance together, you will not be able to feel him as a *man*, unless he contributes strong masculine energy in another way. If he doesn't contribute strong masculine energy in some way, you will be able to relate to him as a housemate or even as a close friend, but, over time, you will lose your sexual polarization to him. His lack of masculine energy won't turn you on.

How can you trust him as your source of loving, masculine

force if he doesn't have it together enough to handle his life? You may still trust each other as friends, but you cannot fully trust each other as polarized lovers in committed intimacy if you are financially supporting him because he is not competent enough to do it.

It might be appropriate under certain conditions, of course, for a woman to support her man financially. Perhaps he is finishing work on a novel or a painting. Perhaps he is volunteering his time for important political or social causes. He might choose to serve humanity in a nonpaying position as a religious or visionary leader. Every situation is unique. There are many situations where a man could be full in his masculine energy, confident, passionate, and directed, and still be supported financially by his woman.

But if you don't trust your man because he is undirected, scattered, ambiguous or otherwise weak in his masculine energy, this will undercut your relationship, reducing your passion, your sexual attraction and your trust of each other.

A man feels his relationship with money is somewhat equivalent to his relationship with sexuality. If you are critical of his money-making abilities or career direction, even in the kindest way, it will turn him off. He will feel it in his body as if you were saying, "You are impotent and you don't satisfy me." He will feel it as a direct insult of his masculine force.

Have you noticed that usually when you talk about money with your man, he gets either weak or angry? It's really difficult to make suggestions in this area without causing a real scene.

In our culture, financial competence is frequently a good measure of masculine competence, though not always. It is understandable that a successful man is often a turn-on, and a man with weak masculine competence is often a turn-off. It is

also understandable that discussing money with your man is as sensitive as discussing his skill, or lack of skill, as a lover.



Why Doesn't He Like to Talk About My Workday with Me?

If you are in your business mode day after day, it will probably depolarize your relationship. Even if you are good at business, your man will mostly experience your masculine energy—and men (masculine men, at least) are not polarized and attracted into intimacy by your masculine energy because they already possess masculine energy. It is your feminine love and energy that feel like gifts to them. The rest is just business. They could hire an accountant or a business associate to work with them on the finances. But nobody can hire a goddess.

If you are talking business all the time, it is like your man running away from cockroaches or sitting around listlessly watching TV all the time. You are each failing to live your sexual essence fully.

When he loves you, when his life is clear, directional and motivated for the highest good, he is full in his sexual essence and you are polarized by his masculine energy. You can trust him. You can relax as a woman and feel his masculine love deep in your heart. You feel his full presence. He is sensitive to your needs. You can feel his integrity, humor and happiness.

Likewise, he is polarized by your feminine love which opens his heart and gives him life. He may appreciate your business acumen just as you may appreciate his taste in clothing. But if

his taste in clothing ruled his life, or your business activity ruled yours, you would not feel polarized toward each other. Your passion for one another would decrease and conflict would increase.

It is fine, of course, for you to be highly successful, creative and powerful in the business world. We should each learn to give our natural gifts, whatever they are. However, in addition to being successful, if you want a man who will ravish you in love, day after day, who will always be there for you, who will penetrate your heart with his loving no matter what your mood, then you must reciprocate his trustable masculine energy with your trustable feminine. Regardless of your financial success, in polarized intimacy you must be free as a goddess, connected to your heart, wild, gifting with love, dancing without inhibition in the light and the dark.

Your masculine force may be a key to your financial success in our culture, but your feminine force is a key to fulfilling reciprocation in the emotional dance of sexually polarized intimates.



What If I Am Better at Handling Our Finances Than He Is?

Is it more important to do things your way rather than his way, or is it more important to magnify sexually transmitted love in your relationship? This is a moment-by-moment decision. It might take your man an extra 10 minutes to figure something out without your help, but in exchange for those 10 minutes you may enhance emotional and sexual polarity by empowering his masculine energy. It is up to you to decide if the trade-off is worth it.

For many couples, the woman is better at financial matters than her man. She is better at making financial decisions, budgeting and investing their money.

Arranging the finances involves masculine energy: organizing, planning, projecting, disciplining spending behavior and setting and reaching goals. If the woman takes financial responsibility for the couple, it will tend to depolarize the relationship—unless it is done very artfully.

One way to handle the finances with minimum conflict is to set aside a certain time and place in which you function as business partners rather than as intimate partners. You might say, “For the next hour, let’s go to the kitchen table and do finances.” For this hour, your man isn’t going to experience you as his woman, in particular. He will experience you as a financial planner. He may argue with you or be bored with you. This switch needs to be all right with you. For this hour, he isn’t going to treat you as his woman, as his wife or as his lover, but as a financial consultant.

Then, after an hour, clearly switch out of your role as financial consultant. Perhaps you take a shower and change clothes to help you shift the energy. When you come back together as intimate partners don’t bring up the finances again until your next meeting, if at all possible. Handle the finances completely during the appointed hour, or however long it takes. This is one way for you to handle the finances without unintentionally depolarizing the relationship.

Another way is to arrange the finances without projecting masculine energy toward your man. Just sit down with the books and take care of business. Don’t involve him. Because you do it yourself, he doesn’t experience your masculine energy. He knows you are taking care of it. He appreciates that you are better at it than he is. But he doesn’t experience

your masculine energy face to face. Whoever handles the finances, and how they are handled, are crucial factors in the presence or lack of sexual polarity in intimacy.



Why Are Men Often Hostile Toward Professional Women?

In our day-to-day lives, especially in our “modern” culture, both men and women must be highly developed in their masculine energy in order to survive economically. Unfortunately, a woman in her masculine energy at the workplace should expect men to treat her somewhat like a man, which might mean swearing or verbally pushing her around, as men do with each other as friends. Men make blunt comments with each other fairly frequently. A man might be with his best friend and say, “Don’t be an idiot. That’s the stupidest thing I’ve ever heard.”

One aspect of the masculine form of communication is the assumption of mutual warriorship, involving the challenge of self and other. If you don’t mind being treated this way, like one of his male counterparts, then it’s fine to project masculine energy. You will be treated like a fellow warrior—although some men may become confused by a woman warrior.

It’s difficult for some men to deal with you if, at your core, you are very feminine, yet you are being very masculine to get a job done. These men feel your naturally attractive feminine energy and also feel the sword of the masculine from you. A man must shut off his sensitivity to your feminine energy if he is to relate to you as a business associate rather

than as a source of feminine energy.

It is only recently that women have been expected to act like men do. Before this period of history, for both good and bad reasons, men and women often had separate domains of work. This division eventually became a role that each sex was put into and then was expected to perform in accordance with rigid stereotypes. This role typing is entirely negative; men and women should have equal access to everything. They are free to be any way they want.

In the last 30 or so years women have excelled in high-paying professions that were previously the domain of men. But this kind of work does have its consequences on intimate relationships: It's hard to let go of your accumulated masculine energy at the end of a workday.

Imagine that all day you are in the fast world of business. You make quick decisions and tell people what to do. Come six o'clock it's hard to flip a switch and be a radiant goddess, a deeply relaxed woman. It's not so easy to let go of a day's worth of masculine energy. This is one major cause of the deadening of sexual polarity between intimate partners who both work at jobs that require masculine energy.



Does Working with Women Ruin My Man?

Imagine a man who spends the whole day at work treating women as sexually neutral associates. At the end of the day he comes home to his woman. He has just spent eight hours closing off his sexuality and the flow of his emotional-sexual feelings. When he comes home to you he is not very sensitive. He is rather closed and weary.

At work, most men are sexually attracted to many women every day. The way a man often responds to feminine energy is with sexual interest. It is not a mental choice so much as an innate, bodily polarization. Women experience this polarization too, but it is not necessarily so directional or sexual.

Imagine you are sitting and talking with a group of women friends and a really handsome, powerful man walks into the room. Your energy, as a woman, shifts. The way you hold yourself shifts. Your breath may even shift in response to the masculine energy.

Men have a similar response to the feminine, but their response often includes sexual attraction. When men are together with other men, a lot of what they talk about is women—their bodies, their sexiness and their attractiveness. Most men don't act on their frequent sexual desires. Instead, most men confine their sexual activity to their chosen partner. However, a large percentage of a man's sexual life is spent fantasizing about having sex with other women.

As a woman, you probably don't experience a struggle within yourself because you want to go to bed with dozens of men you see every day. Some women would, but not most. However, most men are. It might be difficult for you to find this out, because very few men will admit it to a woman. However, most men are rather polygamous, at least in their secret desires.

Most men spend part of their day at the workplace suppressing their sexuality, suppressing their feelings of attraction, and suppressing their native masculine response to the feminine energy of the women they work with. When your man comes home to you it's hard for him to sweep you off your feet and tell you how much he loves you. He has spent his whole day shutting down his response to the

feminine. He has turned himself off to the feminine.

So, even though it's positive socially, politically and economically for men and women to have equal access to all positions, it has served to undermine our intimate emotional and sexual lives. How much of your workday involves subtle flirtation or innuendo? Sexual energy is almost constantly being transmitted between men and women at a subtle level. All of this was avoided in more traditional settings where men and women had their own separate cultures. But today is a different time and we are learning a new way to live.



When Discussing Business, Why Do Men Like to Exclude Women?

Men are actually not as good at being businessmen when women are around them. For one thing, when men are in their masculine energy and are with a woman, they often feel sexual energy toward her. Their masculine and feminine energies create a natural arc of polarity.

So, if men don't want to be sexually distracted by their women co-workers, they have to cut back their masculine energy. But when they cut back their masculine energy, they also cut back on their decision-making capacity, their aggressiveness and their ability to focus.

There is another aspect to it. When several men are around a woman, they compete for her. It happens automatically at the biological level. Not only are the men in the room working on a deal, they are trying to look good in front of the woman.

For these reasons and more, many men don't like women around when they are doing business. Men may not fully

understand the dynamic of sexual polarity, yet they feel it. They don't admit, "Well, I compete with other men when she's around so I'd rather she be out of the room." Instead, men say to one another in exasperation, "Women!" They can't admit the sexual dynamic, yet it is obvious to most men.

Polarity is a real force. It is something to be honored. The presence of feminine energy changes masculine energy. Men and women must respect the force of sexual polarity and find creative means to work together. They need to understand each other's natural sexual response without being judgmental about their differences. Sexual polarity is a big factor in the workplace, whether we like it or not.



How Serious Are Men's Sexual Fantasies About Their Female Co-Workers?

Most men are sexually attracted to many different women every day. If you ask them, "How many times a day are you sexually attracted to women?" they might honestly answer, "How many women do I see?" A good portion of their day involves being sexually attracted to women, although they don't usually act on it.

When men see an attractive woman, they don't necessarily feel an emotional desire for relationship. It's more like the desire for an ice cream sundae, for a moment of delicious pleasure. It doesn't necessarily have any emotional depth to it. They are not thinking about leaving their wives every time they see another woman. It's a momentary biological desire.

So if you are an attractive woman in the workplace, the men are going to be sitting there fantasizing about sex with

you. You may wonder, “What the hell is going on here?” You are just trying to do your job.

But there is also another side to this play of attraction. If you are going to your workplace wearing makeup, dressing attractively, aware of your sexiness, then you are expecting to be seen as a woman. You are not shaving your head and going to work in a gray sack or something like a nun’s outfit. If you were, then you might be able to avoid this whole dynamic. Or maybe not—men at work might still be polarized to your sheer sexual energy, with no embellishment at all.

The way men experience your attractiveness is as sexual desire in their bodies. So they think you must feel the same sense of desire in your body, “She’s open to sex.” Of course, you may not be feeling this way at all. But that’s their natural bodily response to your natural feminine energy.

All of their lives, men learn how to cut off their sexual desire so they don’t get into trouble. When men get together, though, they can relax and let it out. They talk about the women they have seen and want. Men know how meaningless it is. They may say, “Did you see Betsy? I’d really like to have her!” They don’t think about the whole issue or feel the emotional depths of it. It’s more like, “I’d sure like some chocolate ice cream!” The other guy says, “I’d like some strawberry ice cream.” Then it’s back to work. There’s no depth to it at all.



Should I Support Myself Even If He Wants to Support Me?

For many men, meeting the challenge in the marketplace or elsewhere is itself rewarding. It might be the struggle of

surfing a wave, writing a novel, struggling with inner demons through meditation or with opponents through martial arts. But it is the struggle itself, the battle, that many men really enjoy.

Although women also enjoy money, success and becoming full in their art or profession, they don't necessarily enjoy the sheer struggle of it: getting out there and competing with others, seeing who's better, and making it happen against all odds. This competitive struggle isn't as attractive for most women as it is for most men.

Men love battles, struggles and competition. If they aren't living it in their lives they get it through football games on TV, combat movies, financial gambles, spiritual searches, arguing philosophy and politics or creating a war. But most women are not as interested in these things as men.

To honor each other's uniqueness as woman and man we need to go through a period of learning that it's not about who "should" do what. If I'm afraid of cockroaches, it's not something that I should be embarrassed about. If my woman is heavily involved in playing high-stakes poker games, fine.

Your man may be moved to cherish you and protect you in a certain way, not because you are weak, but because you are radiant, precious and beautiful to him. He knows that when you have to go out and compete in the masculine-dominated business world, you will have to dampen your radiance and take up the sword, to some extent. He may want to relieve you of this obligation. On the other hand, you might really enjoy and excel at business. It's an individual matter. You and your man will have to learn your unique ways of gifting each other.

You may be equally happy and able to take up the sword and compete in the world of hardball business as you are able to be fully relaxed, radiant and open in love and sensual ecstasy.

But the fact is, as a culture, we have denied the feminine, and many women live a life compromised by masculine economic pressures in a masculine business world. Taking on so much masculine energy stresses their body, breath and emotions. They experience a sense of emptiness and anxiety. Due to holding excess masculine energy in their bodies, and protecting or hiding their feminine energy by neuromuscularly “armoring” themselves, many women may eventually experience symptoms of physical disease, especially in the more feminine parts of their body.

We deny the feeling of sweet surrender. We suppress the ecstasy of the heart. For whatever reason, the momentum of the world has led to the masculine force being more accepted than the feminine. The masculine is considered productive and efficient, but it's not necessarily the most fulfilling. We can make the happiest choice of both, the way of the sword and the way of the goddess, once we know the value of both and can experience both without stress. The warrior can gift the goddess, and the goddess can gift the warrior, whether we are talking about the warrior and the goddess inside each of us or the unique gifts shared between partners.