

Metaphor of Sacrifice: Woman's Body

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Abstract

Within the patriarchal order, with a centralized and territorial approach that creates social norms, the woman struggles with the gender roles assigned to her in order to reach the self. In establishing these norms, both the masculine dogma and the institutions that are shaped in accordance with it, such as the politics, family, law, religion, economy etc. play a central role in placing women in society. Women are forced to pay a price in achieving gender equality in this world that is built not by themselves, and their body is at the forefront in their struggle to achieve equality, which ironically happens to be what is behind their marginalization. Women who attempt to liberate their bodies under circumstances in which they operate only with the rights they are granted in patriarchal societies, where development and change are slow, are in a continuous struggle to get rid of the pressure that dominate the body. In the context of the Turkish literature, the poems written by women poets expressing the will for emancipation and making women's voices heard with a feminine language are striking. In Gülten Akin's poem "Kestim Kara Saçlarımı" (I cut my black hair), "hair", which is a phenomenally significant part of the female body, is symbolized as a price to pay in getting rid of all kinds of gender roles that prevent women's freedom. In Emel İrtem's poem "Veređen", women pay a price for their existence in their attempt to free themselves from the confines of the patriarchal society as they are set, by displaying behaviors such as "laughing", "being visible", and "speaking", which are banned again by the the patriarchal society itself. The quantitative and actional prices that women struggling for liberation and identity within the patriarchal dominant system have to pay in Akin and İrtem's poems turn out to obtain an existential concept of a price in Gülce Başer's poem "Kumandan".

Keywords: Patriarchy, woman, sacrifice, body, gender roles, poetry