

Understanding Patriarchy (2004)

Essay written by Bell Hooks

As we continue on our journey of World History, there are certain concepts and ideas that are worth examining a bit longer and at deeper level. The concept of patriarchy is one of those ideas. Although this term and concept was developed and institutionalized during the beginnings of agriculture, continuing to permeate the development of societies, both urban and rural, it remains a pertinent concept in today's modern world. This word is thrown around in discourse without any true grasp of the deeper meaning and history of this term, concept, and why it still influences actions-political, social, cultural, economic, etc.- today. This is why we are going to dive a bit deeper into truly understanding this term, concept, and practice before analyzing how it manifested itself throughout the Classical World.

A. Before reading:

1. Who is the speaker/writer? What is the background of the speaker? When did she write this piece? (look online)
2. What is your own knowledge or definition (do not look up) of the term or concept of PATRIARCHY?

B. While reading and listening:

1. Keep in mind SOAPStone
2. Listen to the reading of the essay as you read along. (on YouTube)
2. Annotate with purpose and understanding focusing on the following questions listed below and be ready to discuss on Thursday.

***Focus questions (while annotating):**

1. What is Hook's definition and understanding of the term, concept, and idea of patriarchy?
2. What is Hook's experience and perspective of patriarchy and the understanding of this concept?
3. How does Hook address the idea of patriarchy as "natural" and how does this idea reinforce the idea of proper gender roles for males and females? What do you believe is the purpose of this system in society?
4. How does Hook present the roles of schools, institutions, and religion in perpetuating patriarchy in modern society?
5. What does Hook believe is the role of both men and women in the perpetuation and challenging of patriarchy?
6. What solutions or actions for changing the current system of modern patriarchy, does Hook present?
7. What is the author's message, purpose, argument of the piece. Identify (underline or circle) at least THREE quotes/statements/passages that reveal the message/argument of the piece.