

que desaparecen en los contornos de Boriquén.

Y aún cuando no lo logra,

regresa y se lanza testarudamente de los cielos,

retornando a su pasión,

lanzándose a ella,

dejándose caer en ella,

en chubascos,

lloviznas

y aguaceros

que cantan la oda a Ochún.

I, a societal 'male,' am privileged

Cesar A. Cruz

(not a poem, a *repeating reality*)

I, in your eyes am seen as a Mexican Male.

I, in your eyes am poor.

I, in your eyes am oppressed.

I, in your eyes am a slave.

In my eyes, my people face daily cultural, economic,
and political castration.

In my eyes, my class-the poor, the working debt peons,
face enslavement-like conditions of torture, misery, and pain.

But, in my eyes, as a **male** in this society, I must admit I am
privileged.

In my eyes, we, as males, are privileged.

In my eyes, as a straight man, I have not been beaten,
slaughtered, ridiculed or castrated, for being society's 'crooked'

gay, bisexual or trans-gender.,

I have been privileged,

I am 'normal',

I am 'straight.'

In my eyes, as a recovering Catholic I am privileged by
'Man'kind's interpretation/perpetuation of the bible which

says:

"MAN was born in the likeness of GOD,
woman was born from one rib of MAN."

I am privileged.

(1) I can open up any HIStory book and find males
well, if not excessively, represented.

(2) I can get married without having to even think of
changing my last name, my past, my history, my self-
worth, *my identity*.

(3) I can have sex with 10,000 women, like our sports
HEroes, and be glorified as a "stud," "the mack-daddy," and as
a 'real' MAN.

(4) I can be pro-life or pro-choice, or switch at my
earliest convenience, without having to go through the physical
torture and emotional pain of an abortion.

(5) I do not have a double shift of having to clean the
house, wash clothes, iron, cook, wash toilets, scrub floors,
remove mildew over and over again without

end while still maintaining a 'real' job. If I do cook, I
am praised. If I do housework, I am glorified. If I take
my children out to a public space, I am seen as a
'liberated GOD-like man.'

(6) I can wear the shortest shorts, be bare chested, and
not worry about revealing too much, looking "slutty",
or "asking for it." Nor I am judged by the size of my
breasts, the plumpness of my ass, the amount of make-
up I wear or don't wear, the shape of my body, my over-
all "looks."

(7) I am not sold perpetually as a sex object in ads, tv,
movies, and the mass-media.

(8) We, as males, run the U.S. Congress (80%). ran
Congress (100%). And, we will continue to run Congress.

We as males are 100% of all U.S. Presidents.

(9) I can rape, violate, dehumanize and sexually assault,

and I'll more than likely 'get away' with it in court.

Society won't even ask me why I did it, but they'll ask the 'victim' what she was wearing, did she struggle, did she 'ask for it', how could she have allowed for it to happen at all.

' Maybe it didn't occur after all.'

(10) I am not morally, socially, culturally, or religiously responsible' for child raising.

(11) Male-centered households are 'normal.' Women-centered households are deviant, poverty stricken, 'morally' wrong.

(12) If I claim sexism, I will receive far more attention, support, empathy, and 'societal concern' than a woman.

(13) I have the 'option' of speaking out and confronting patriarchy while still benefiting from its existence.

(14) I don't have to be educated to earn more money than women.

(15) We, as males, own and control nearly all corporations and industries, including those that serve the female population; i.e. cosmetic industry.

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I, a societal 'male', am privileged.

It is imperative to note that male privilege is *enhanced, reduced and/or limited to* by one's 'RACE', 'CLASS', 'SEXUAL PREFERENCE', 'AGE', 'RELIGION', 'ETHNICITY', 'POLITICAL AFFILIATION', and many other factors.

You have to **W.A.S.H. M.E.** into something I am not, for me to receive all the privileges, benefits, power, fame, and glory that patriarchy has set up for me.

WHITE, ANGLO-, SAXON, HETEROSEXUAL,-
MALE,-ELITE: WASH ME.

a personal account of privilege.