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## Why Women Need Egoism

Fraulein Lepper

February 12, 1899

Women have become more degenerated through altruism than men on account of their different conception of the meaning of altruism. Although the creed of the male altruist professedly is “to make others happy first,” he insists upon it that his food is always properly cooked, his house and children must be clean, his wife is expected to submit to his marital rights, etc., etc. A male altruist has drawn up a set of laws, called by him marital duties, legalized by himself, which secure his comfort and ease. These duties must be fulfilled by the wife at all cost, no matter whether she is made unhappy or loses her health by them. The wife through her lack of time to think for herself believes this set of household laws or duties must be strictly obeyed in order to be a true woman. The consequence is the noticeable ugliness and bad health of female married altruists. Their habit of ceaseless giving or slaving makes them a disgrace to altruism. If it were a virtue to give profusely like the sun, as the Bible teaches, to give would make the giver more and more beautiful. If a “virtue” degenerates physically and mentally, it is a vice which should be shunned.

Where is salvation found for woman or is she destined to remain a contemptible slave? Disappointed altruists who desire to

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be healthy, beautiful, happy and wise will find in egoism their only salvation, because it teaches self-knowledge. Woman will learn to get hold of herself, to be her own guide. When she becomes clear-sighted through a rational way of living, she will herself discern where her duties lie. The duties of an egoistic woman lie in the same direction as those of an egoistic man, namely, first to make herself happy and secondly to make others happy. No egoistic woman will give a gift: unless she has received one of equal value. She will make no one happy unless she is made happy like wise. This just and wise doctrine will act as a beautifier on women of all ages. The young will be made more beautiful and attractive and those advanced in years will be rejuvenated by it.

To an ambitious woman egoism offers a special inducement, because the knowledge how best to supply the needs of her body will rapidly develop her already great intuitive powers, in consequence of which she will be able to outwit any intellectual giant of a blunted psychic nature.