Barren

Sanaz Bayat

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Barren

By Sanaz Bayat¹

Abstract

In many cultures, women who get a divorce because of their spouse’s romantic betrayal are not truly embraced by their families and society. They are not just faced with unending, often failing struggle to claim their legal rights. In addition, their marital failure, stamped on their face, denies them any better life post-divorce. Common views toward them often intone such women’s uncommitted wrongs and wreath about the husband’s betrayal which burrows into their soul. This condition often leaves these women with few choices: to leave and wade through the darkness of socio-cultural abuse or to stay and borne about their grief and love, stuck in their hearts like an arrow. I meant for “Barren” to punctuate a remembrance of the unheard voices of such women who are too prostrated to leave.

Keywords: Love, Trust, Unfaithfulness, Women, Right, Barren, Death

Who will believe my poem
when my death meets me
in your bed
if it were filled with
your unfaithfulness?
Though yet God knows
it is as a tomb
which stops my breath
and darkens my eyes
but shows not your part.
If I could write the love of
my heart
and in my verse measure the weight
of your betrayal
the whole city would say
“this woman lies
such unfaithfulness never
touches such a heart.
So ages come

¹ Born in 1990 in Iran, Sanaz Bayat teaches literature and writing courses at University of Isfahan and University of Kashan, Ir. She is interested in Women’s literature and is currently doing research on Lynn Nottage’s and Marilynne Robinson’s fiction. She has published articles on Marilynne Robinson and her haiku is published in Acorn, a journal of contemporary haiku.
and my poem yellowed with its age
(as my face yellowed with my age in your house)
will be forgotten, like old women of less grace than grumbles
And your betrayal
will be called a woman’s rage
or a feminist pose.
But were some women of my tribe
to reveal and cry your lies
you should be stoned twice,
in my rhyme and by their cries.