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## **A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO SEX, ETC.: A MODERN ADVICE BOOK FOR MEN.**

*Stephen K. Baskerville*



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### **ABSTRACT**

*Sexual self-control lies at the foundation of every successful civilization. By encouraging both male and female promiscuity, men handed control over the terms of sexuality to women, and of course it was the worst women who availed themselves of the new power. Today, the sexual rules are dictated and constantly changed by feminists whose strategy for gaining power offers men easy sex and then criminalizes male sexuality by calling it sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, or trafficking. The best way to avoid harassment accusations is to avoid feminist-inclined women. You might also consider the wisdom in adopting the old rule of politely refusing to speak to any woman to whom you have not been properly introduced.*

**Keywords:** gentlemen, males, manhood, manners, sex

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## WHAT CONDUCT MIGHT BE DESIRABLE FOR THE MODERN GENTLEMAN?

What authority does one man have to pronounce upon the behavior of other men and tell them the right and wrong way to live their lives? As much as anyone else, I suppose, since no official rules have ever been codified for either manners or manhood, other than the test of time and the willingness of readers to accept what a given writer prescribes. I have tried to overcome this limitation by consulting my predecessors over the ages and competitors today. Advice books for men go back to the Middle Ages and continue to issue forth from the presses and the internet. Existing books treat the more obvious points, and nowadays details are readily available on the internet. My aim here is to point the gentleman reader in the right direction and provide him with the larger principles that will help in distinguishing good advice about sex from bad.

## SEX

It is hardly news to say that men are obsessed with sex, especially young men. This is precisely why young men should not be permitted to rule the world without serious guidance and preparation. Every stable and prosperous society insists that men must get their sex drive under control before they can claim leadership, but young men who are raised to do this at an early age have a big advantage. Getting control in other ways is also important. Needless to say, immoderate alcohol and drugs and other indulgences are also not conducive to self-control, and they make you quite the opposite of a gentleman. But in some ways sex is the big one.

A little history and some current politics may impress on you how high are the stakes and what you have to lose or gain. Controlling your sex drive is more than a matter of heeding the scolding of your maiden aunt. Sexual self-control lies at the foundation of every successful civilization.

The obvious and outstanding example in our own political culture is, once again, the Puritans, who created America, modern Britain, and effectively all the modern English-speaking countries—that is to say, history’s most successful societies. As we have seen, they also laid the foundations for the creation of the archetypal gentleman. The Puritans were the first – and in many ways the real – founding fathers of what became the United States, and they continued to exert a dominating influence into the generation of the American Revolution and well beyond.

Meanwhile in England, they also created the world's first revolution and effective representative government, thus laying the foundation for the British empire and the political culture of the other English-speaking nations. The Puritans were breathtakingly important.

Their very name is synonymous with self-control through ascetic morality, including (but not limited to) matters of sex. The poet John Milton wrote of Oliver Cromwell, "A commander first over himself; the conqueror of himself, it was over himself he had learnt most to triumph." The Puritans made self-control through moral discipline the basis of an ethic of public service that created history's most stable, prosperous, and free societies. Virtues like diligence, frugality, punctuality, sobriety, duty, obedience, and, yes, chastity were what put the Anglophone nations at the forefront of modern history, which they have dominated ever since.

More recent counter-examples may make the point more vividly and show the dangers of not doing it right—especially recent cheap and dangerous imitations.<sup>1</sup> The most obvious is Islamism, the radical form of Islam, which is also obsessed with sex. This deadly ideology seeks to impose a superficially similar but far more extreme puritanism with much less successful results, creating societies of instability, stagnation, and of course terror. And yet, their superior level of self-control may be putting western society at their mercy. Not only getting sex under control, but how we get it under control, is vitally important.

Since the rise of the Playboy culture in the 1950s and 1960s, many men seem to feel entitled to have as much sex as they can get, and some have managed to get plenty. (It was this cultural change, incidentally, that debased the concept of a gentleman's club from a place to which men retreated for a brief respite from women to a place they repaired to express lewdness towards women.) This is foolish, and we are now paying the price, as shown clearly in the recent epidemic of accusations of sex (or gender) crimes: sexual harassment, sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual this and sexual that. By their sexual self-indulgence, men today have put a weapon in the hands of their enemies to enslave themselves. (In Othello Casio exclaims, "O God, that men should put an

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<sup>1</sup> Even atheistic regimes like the Communists, who tried to codify sexual license, found they were not exempt from this rule and had to re-impose order. "The Revolution...cannot tolerate orgiastic conditions!" Lenin thundered. "Dissoluteness in sexual life is...a phenomenon of decay. ... Self-control, self-discipline is not slavery, not even in love."

enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains!” Shakespeare was speaking of alcohol, but the gonads can betray you equally well.) In this sense at least, it may truly be said that men have brought their troubles upon themselves.

When sex becomes the dominant currency in a society, then that society becomes dominated by people who can control the market in sex and effectively use it as a tool and a weapon to increase their power. This is not heterosexual men, who have nothing to gain and everything to lose. It is women, especially politically radicalized women, and more recently militant homosexuals and transgenderists who will get the upper hand, many of whom do not like men like you. Conventional wisdom today believes differently, that it is men who benefit from sexual promiscuity. But conventional wisdom is seldom wise.

It is true that every society practices a double standard. Men are permitted and sometimes even encouraged to be more sexually promiscuous than women. Some women complain that it is unfair, but there are logical reasons for it. Social stability demands the sexual discipline of women more than that of men. We can see the reasons today all too plainly, as single-mother homes are exploding and with them the welfare rolls and bankrupted governments and taxpayers. Armchair moralizers quickly blame this on male irresponsibility. Male irresponsibility plays a part, but a small part. The decisive factor is female irresponsibility. The reason, as the late Shakespeare scholar Daniel Amneus pointed out, is not because men are better but because of simple biology. If 95% of the males are chaste, the remaining 5% can sire as many bastards as the entire 100% together, if the women are willing. If 95% of the females are chaste, the problem is under control.

Recognizing all this however does not absolve men of their culpability for our present troubles; far from it. First of all, men (again, young men) since about the 1950s have not only indulged sexually themselves, they have also encouraged female promiscuity, for obvious reasons. This was a fatal mistake.

Hugh Hefner, founder of Playboy magazine, saw the early feminists as allies because they too were celebrating free, uninhibited sex. He assumed their motives were as simple and crude as his own. He was lusting after women. But the feminists were not lusting after men: They were lusting after power. Later, he was shocked and perplexed when they turned against him and

denounced him as an oppressor of women. But this was predictable. Like other hedonists, he was a fool and walked straight into a trap. But I must say, many of us in the 1960s and 1970s were similarly foolish.

By encouraging both male and female promiscuity, men handed control over the terms of sexuality to women, and of course it was the worst women who availed themselves of the new power. Though many people think that women are naturally in charge of the realm of sex, children, and the family, this is never true in stable societies. They were always kept under control by older women and older men. The reasons have now become painfully clear: The natural weapons of power-seeking women are two: sex and children. Today, the sexual rules are dictated and constantly changed by young, highly-politicized women. They do this not so that they can have more sex, but so that they can have more power, which they acquire by using sex as a weapon against men. This is the clear trajectory of feminist politics: offer easy sex, and then criminalize male sexuality by calling it sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, trafficking, and so forth. And it does not stop there because you can criminalize even the responsible men and fathers through divorce.

All that free sex that men (some men) enjoyed in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, was a massive honeytrap, even if no one consciously planned it that way. We were lured into the trap by the temptresses of sexual pleasure. Now the trap has been sprung, and we are paying the price with accusations of quasi-crimes which criminalize us as men and by divorce proceedings that confiscate our children and criminalize us as fathers.

Coming from the generations that allowed this mess to happen, I can only urge young men to learn from our mistakes and not perpetuate them. Your task is to undo the mess. If you wish to resume your role as the natural leader of society, you must get this chaos under control. It will not be easy, and you must start with yourself.

## **PROMISCUITY (YOURS)**

It is also true that advice books like this one traditionally winked at male promiscuity. But we cannot wink at it any longer, for now we can see the consequences, such as a trip to court or to jail. The proof of this is that some men are already spontaneously withdrawing from marriage and

even from female companionship altogether in the Men Going Their Own Way (MGTOW) movement. Some seem to think that if they do not marry or have children, they can continue to have sex for recreation without consequences. This is foolish, for the feminist-dominated gendarmes have more ways than ever to punish you, and they are devising new methods all the time. So it would seem that circumstances have now made this a good time to make up for the excesses of the past and show a little caution. Others go so far as to boycott not only marriage but sex too, so at least they are more consistent. It is ironic that this new impromptu celibacy, born of necessity, seems consistent with some traditional religious practices and perhaps testifies inadvertently to their wisdom. If men are going to forswear sex, they may as well do so out of principle rather than out of fear. After all, fear opens you to contempt and ridicule – thus today’s complaints about male fear of commitment, puerility, and similar clichés – whereas principle gives you authority.

In fact, the entire MGTOW complaint illustrates the triumph of bad women, who have been allowed to ascend to unchallenged heights of power because of the past self-indulgence of bad men. You should understand this as definitive proof that recreational, extramarital sex, so far from not hurting anyone, has serious consequences. If you are going to toy with the affections of women and use them for easy sex—no, you are not a criminal; no, you are not a rapist; no, you do not deserve prison or even eviction from the university; and nothing can possibly excuse false accusations or a legal system so crooked that it rewards them. But you are a cad, and you are playing with fire. Never forget the old line about how “Hell hath no fury...” If I may wax theological about it for just a moment – and you can add this to the list of practical benefits from religion – a false rape accusation may be a hideous miscarriage of justice from man, but it is a perfectly valid reminder from God of a higher law which, as a gentleman, you are expected to observe.

So by all means, join the MGTOW men and abstain from sex with my blessing, but while you are at it, at least direct your boycott at a constructive purpose: to marginalize bad women, encourage good women, and possibly even—despite your professed intentions—find one of the latter to marry.

## PROMISCUITY (HERS)

Having established sexual control over yourself (like Cromwell), you now have the authority to encourage it in others. This does not mean that you perch yourself atop a public soapbox and start threatening passers-by with hellfire and damnation. The place to begin is with the women you choose and how you treat them.

This is not just cheap quasi-feminist piety; quite the opposite. For it means not only that you must refrain from indulgence with promiscuous women; it also means that you must grasp the nettle and insist on chastity from any woman with whom you associate and certainly from any you intend to marry. This is your duty not only to yourself but to other men and also to good women and true ladies. If you think this is some old-fashioned prejudice on my part and that you are being broad-minded by dating or marrying a woman who is promiscuous, you are asking for trouble. There are two sound reasons why men have traditionally demanded chastity and even virginity from women they plan to marry. You ignore this at your peril.

First, there is no reason that she must remain faithful, because the terms of divorce today are such that she will not be penalized for adultery or for deserting her marriage. On the contrary, she will be rewarded, and it is you who will be punished for her adultery or desertion. Second, you will have no guarantee that any children produced will be yours. Here again, she will not be punished. You will. You could well end up paying 50%-75% of your salary for eighteen years (or more) of child support for children that are not even yours.

But today's extreme circumstances reveal a deeper and more universal principle: A promiscuous woman cheapens the currency of sex. This is why, contrary to feminist victimization dogma, the main enforcers of the sexual double standard are women, and a promiscuous woman is far more likely to be labeled a slut and ostracized by other women than by men. She makes it more difficult for other women to use their sexuality as leverage to get good men (i.e., gentlemen), which is what sensible women do. A promiscuous woman is willing to exploit her sexual allure as a tool and a weapon, perhaps because it makes her feel attractive or loved or simply powerful. But in any case, the promiscuity is only the beginning. She has more methods for weaponizing sex nowadays than ever before, and they include accusing you of crimes and quasi-

crimes against which you cannot defend yourself.

Of special note here is the problem presented by divorced women and single mothers. Marrying a widow is a time-honored tradition in many cultures, and some even make it an imperative on the families of the deceased (the Old Testament, for example). It not only provides the children with a father but also relieves the society of having to provide for his family. Today's phenomenon of mass divorce and single motherhood is a different matter altogether and has precisely the opposite effect. Marrying a divorced woman and especially a single mother is one of the most dangerous things you can do. Yes, it is possible that she was truly abandoned by her husband through no fault of her own, as the media like to report. Not only are there women to whom this does happen; some are treated by the divorce system as inhumanely as are men. (Often their husbands had some professional connection with the divorce industry.) But such women usually do not have custody of their children. Statistically, in any case, it is far more likely that she is willfully depriving her children of their father from her own private grievance. If so, she will not hesitate to do the same to any children she has with you. At the very least, a woman who has broken her marital vows owes you a detailed explanation of the grounds upon which she did so, and you are well advised to insist upon hearing and verifying it before you take vows with her.

So, stop pretending you know better than thousands of years of history and every stable civilization and every credible religion. For your own sake, and for the sake of good men and women everywhere, be a good man, avoid bad women, and find a good one.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT (ETC.)**

Yes, these nasty little subjects keep coming in and ruining a good moment. That is precisely what they are intended to do: poison romance between men and women. But this is a serious problem and must not be avoided, say the scolds in their self-fulfilling way. Yes, it is indeed a problem, because they have made it one.

Sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual misbehavior, sexual misconduct, sexual abuse—no one really knows what these terms mean, and that is precisely the point of using them. They are intended to be vague, and they are constantly being redefined (even rape), so that whatever you do (like writing an advice book for men) can be made to fall into one of these categories if an



aggrieved woman or an ambitious prosecutrix wants to bring a legal case against you. It is therefore essential that you cut through the jargon and the posturing and understand these matters clearly. The only way to avoid falling afoul of these accusations is to avoid the practices—and the people—that occasion them.

Most people still think that sexual harassment refers to men in positions of superior authority using their leverage to extort sexual favors from female underlings. This is what you are supposed to think, because if you think that is all it is, and you know that you would never do such things, it will be easier to snare you. Needless to say, such is the behavior not of a gentleman but of a cad and bounder. And not surprisingly, such behavior has been prohibited by professional and legal codes since long before the feminists used the accusations to leverage political power.

But if you think this is all there is to it, then you think that it is the concern only of cads and not of you, in which case you are either a fool or simply an average man. Today this term refers to any romantic overtures from any man whom a woman considers beneath her. As posters on the Washington Metro and elsewhere declare quite clearly, if the woman welcomes the advances, then miraculously they are not harassment. It is her subjective state of mind, not your objective deed, that determines if you are a criminal. In short, this is a tool to criminalize male behavior, and that means you.

The best way to avoid harassment accusations is to avoid feminist-inclined women. Do not pursue them, and do not associate with them. The first time a woman starts dropping lines about gender equality let her know that you regard that as a direct threat to you. The next time drop her.

At the risk of really revealing retro behavior, you might consider the wisdom in adopting the old rule of politely refusing to speak to any woman to whom you have not been properly introduced. There are ways to meet good women. Talking to strangers is generally unwise, at least in the western world and especially in urban settings, where good women do exist, but they are likely to be camouflaged by a sea of wannabe prosecutrices.

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This article includes excerpts from Steven Baskerville's recently published book, [A Gentleman's Guide to Manners, Sex, and Ruling the World: How to Survive as a Man in the Age of Misandry— and Do So with Grace](#).

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