

Who's the Bird Brain?

Dear Lynne,

Got a wise opinion on this 'bird feeder' story, or is gender not part of the circumstances? It seems like a mother or even a female *might* describe the part of sharing with God's creatures differently. *(However, I put out my first bird seed yesterday so I've not encountered their behavior yet.)*

Love,
Martha

Bird Feeder

I bought a bird feeder.

I hung it on my back porch and filled it with seed.

Within a week we had hundreds of birds taking advantage of the continuous flow of free and easily accessible food.

But then the birds started building nests in the boards of the patio, above the table, and next to the barbecue.

Then came the poop. It was everywhere: on the patio tile, the chairs, and the table... everywhere.

Then some of the birds turned mean: they would dive bomb me and try to peck me even though I had fed them out of my own pocket. And other birds were boisterous and loud. They sat on the feeder and squawked and screamed at all hours of the day and night and demanded that I fill it when it got low on food.

After a while, I couldn't even sit on my own back porch anymore.

I took down the bird feeder and in three days the birds were gone.

I cleaned up their mess and took down the many nests they had built all over the patio.

Soon, the back yard was like it used to be... quiet, serene, and no one demanding their rights to a free meal.

Now let's see... our government gives out free food, subsidized housing, free medical care, free education; and allows anyone born here to be an automatic citizen.

Then the illegals came by the tens of thousands.

Suddenly our taxes went up to pay for free services. Small apartments are housing five families. You have to wait six hours to be seen by an emergency room doctor. Your child's 2nd grade class is behind other schools because over half the class doesn't speak English.

Corn Flakes now come in a bilingual box; I have to press "one" to hear my bank talk to me in English; and people waving flags other than "Old Glory" are squawking and screaming in the streets, demanding more rights and free liberties.

Is it time for the government to take down the bird feeder?

John Doe, concerned citizen

Dear Martha,

I've been mulling your question about the guy and the bird feeder, and will attempt a serious answer. Although he's ranting about illegal immigrants, I will steer clear of that larger issue, and address only his invitation to the birds via the bird house he built. However, both scenarios are loaded with gender differences and subtleties that range from micro to macro.

My comments will highlight some of the things I learned about the masculine reality from Joseph Tanenbaum's book, *Male & Female Realities: Understanding the Opposite Sex*.

Analyzing the story:

All action was taken by the man: I bought... I hung... I fed... I fill... I couldn't... I took down... I cleaned... I have to press... (Allocation of his energy for which he'd like to be acknowledged.)

All material elements mentioned were the man's: My back porch... my pocket... my porch... my bank... (inferred) my country. "My" indicates possession. Everything is seen in relation to him (and as a direct reflection of him, his choices, and his ability to control). All else is external and excluded.

All material elements *not specifically mentioned* by him he perceives to be his— other wise he wouldn't give a hoot what happened to them: ...free (thanks to me!) and easily accessible food (my feeder!) ...the patio, chairs, table (mine!) ...my barbecue (oh, the sacrilegious straw!) ...my Corn Flakes changed ...my language is threatened ...my flag ...my streets ...my rights and my free liberties... Everything is his—again, a direct reflection of his perceived power; or at least assumed to be under the control of his greater brotherhood.

The only thing that "we" shared and was "ours:" ...we had hundreds of birds... our government... our taxes... Men want to please their partner, but partner must share equal consequences in uncontrollable issues.

Proclaiming his accomplishments: Within a week the birds came (I assumed that was his original purpose)... we enjoyed them (but *I* didn't want them to bring their poop with them)... *I* solved the problem in *three* days (even though the time he wasted hanging and feeding and undoing and cleaning could have been used in far better ways)... *I* found a scapegoat—illegals (because he couldn't say he was wrong for interfering with nature and hanging a feeder over his head)... soon the back yard was back to status quo (men no likee change)... no "one" demanding their rights (he doesn't have to demand his rights since he's obviously a man in a man's world; and an "automatic" citizen being born here and all). Males allocate their energy and hate for it to be wasted. They will put up with the status quo rather than risk a change that might not work. They measure everything and keep score. Demands for his time or energy must be worth the reward he'll receive. If something goes wrong, he'll look for others to blame before looking inside him self for possible 'cause.'

Examining the betrayals from his perception: If he was married, the feeder was probably his idea. If so, I'd guess little wifey said, "No, honey. They're too messy." He proceeded with the project anyway (probably to avoid a bigger one she had on his to-do list), sure that she would love it once the birds came to "take advantage" of the free food. Which the birds did of course, but then betrayed him with their unexpected behavior. They kept him

awake at night; they attacked and bombed him when he entered “their” feeding territory, they made messes; and little wifey probably said, “I told you so!” Even she betrayed him by taking the birds’ side; just as the illegals betrayed him by asking for something more than a pitiful wage for doing the work that legals won’t do anymore—like cleaning up human poop in public restrooms. His own back porch betrayed him. Then the government betrayed him by raising taxes, and Kellogg’s followed suit to capture the illegals market for his Corn Flakes. And people in general betrayed him by having the audacity to exercise their rights as to which flag to wave, although it’s a free country. **From the male’s perspective, what works for his reality should work for everyone’s.**

Examining his final question: Is it time?... (he won’t risk saying *it is time*). And once again, he looks outside himself for someone else to do the work and then ultimately blame—the government. **Calculated risk; external blame; energy allocation.**

Examining his *capacity* for compassion: Disdain (?) over five families in a small apartment while he enjoys his outdoor patio with his mansion in the background; you have to wait in the ER but he doesn’t because he’s insured, benefited, pensioned, and subsidized by taxpayers of every heritage including you and yours; he’s “automatically” the favored one of two genders and thus entitled to the lion’s share; your child is behind in school but his excelled because there was only one language (implied but can’t be proven); and anyone who demands more rights and free liberties (doesn’t liberty mean free?) needs to be starved out because it will mean less for him even though he doesn’t like birdseed or it’s outcome. Voila! He perpetuates the starving margins that Sir Charles Galton Darwin predicted will always be manipulated by the wealthy. Obviously bird man has more compassion for the birds that don’t need him at all than he has for children, women, and his brothers. He assumes his brothers don’t need him ‘cause *he* had to self-make; and since the children and women aren’t his, he’s in no way responsible for them and doesn’t want to know about them because of the (unconscious) energy drain on his psyche, i.e., blinders. **Exclusivity; avoidance of non-beneficial pain; favored gender rewards; internalizing failure; ad infinitum...**

Hope this helps in understanding different realities. And to answer your original question, yes we know how women include (share) everything. The problem is we expect men to be like us. The truth is—they can’t and will never be. And so women can stop whittling on their own fingers long enough to learn of the male reality, include and respect their truth,

retain compassion for their biologically-evolved driving forces, and adjust (but not die-out) accordingly. (Relates to concessions women make, and the ability of women to 'hold' the male reality.)

Love back,

Lynne