Anahis Lorenzo

FWQIS 10108

Professor Elisabeth Von Uhl

September 13,2019

Literacy Narrative

Sigmund Freud is the founder of psychoanalysis- a method for treating mental illnesses such as hysteria. Hysteria is uncontrollable emotion such as anxiety/nervousness, shortness of breath, sexual desire, etc. According to Freud, hysteria was only for women because they could bear children. Since the doctors couldn't tell what hysteria was, they would not pay as much attention to their patients as they should. They wouldn't care for their patient or show any sympathy to them until Freud talks about hysteria and how he tries to 'cure' them. Then all the doctors tried to figure out what hysteria was and used some of Freud's methods such as psychoanalysis, to get to the unconscious mind. Female in the 1800s to 1900s were dehumanized, objectified, and treated as slaves.

At first, I couldn't tell what the image was until I saw a clear picture of it. I was bothered, the fact that the model has one woman looking weak with a bunch of men sitting down looking at her and one man over her. It seemed to me like she was some object to them; the men in the room objectified her, they also dehumanizing her. She looked so helpless, and not one of those 'men' seemed to worry about her. Is there something wrong with her? If there was, the men wouldn't have noticed because they are too busy trying to crack the code of the female mind and body. It's like they as men have/need to know everything and that's annoying. There wouldn't be anything in this world that would be okay for men not to have to know, which goes back to men thinking they need to know everything. It's like she was an experiment; nobody would care if she was alive or not. Out of all the men sitting, I came across two men wearing aprons, and I was just curious about why there were wearing aprons. For a second, I thought that there were men from different jobs attending this little lecture, but then I heard some discussion saying how it could have been that they were pathologists. As for the nurses, I had thought that they were there for some assistance, but then I looked closely and saw that they had a worried face. It could have been that they had no say in trying to help the girl because the men in the room have the most power. It seems to be that the patient had hysteria and the doctor who is giving the lecture was trying to figure out what was causing the hysteria.

Women at that time weren't able to work or be themselves. They were like slaves, honestly. They had to cook for the 'man of the house,' they had to bear their husband's children, they had to clean up after everyone. It's like being tied up; women couldn't satisfy themselves because they had to do everything for their husbands; they wouldn't have spare time for themselves. Not only does this bother me, but it also confuses me. It leads me to come up with more questions, such as, if this fascinated the men, did they find any joy in doing this to a woman?

I understand that we are in a different century now and how things were dealt with back then was different than it is now. It's the 21st century, our parents raised us uniquely, but that doesn't change the fact that it is upsetting. Seeing a woman looking helpless and not getting the treatment that she needs to 'cure' her is frustrating. Especially when men try to involve themselves in a lot of things like in this case, a woman. Seeing a group of men trying to study her and act as if they were helping her bothers me the most. I had never thought over a picture I would feel so much emotion towards it. A part of me is surprised that men would do this but having an image that shows it, is what boils my blood.