

Patriarchy

Patriarchy is a parallel to matriarchy, but enters contemporary discourse at a very different point. We may be said to live, currently, in a patriarchy, certainly not in a matriarchy, but certainly not in the kind of patriarchy which the present American scribblers—he is now in his nineties—lived through. That early America—we talk the Midwest—was not a single slab of cultural stone—how could it be in the passage of two World Wars, one Depression, and the transformative reshaping of culture and society under Franklin Roosevelt's administration?—which left a deep transformation on the still new country? The older patriarchy, if I may risk speculative talk, will in my case have featured a confident and reticent power gender, in which Dad controlled the nuclear household, brought in the family cash and car—yes, we talk middle class—and felt embarrassed by too much darned 'ladies conversation.' We will have lived through a social stage in which, we knew, the pater we needed was going to be required to 'green,' before we would know how fully to make use of him.

The future of the patriarchal, in this culture veering into uncharted waters of need, will depend on the balances struck between the leaders and the followers in the upcoming male trends in self-definition. Any sign that the patriarchy might turn *trans* are the merest speculation. Will the answer not depend on the action and decision needs exercised by the core cultures activated tomorrow? Return to a warrior setting might encourage the older knifecentblade cultures of the past, while the demilitarization of mankind's defense systems could lead to a century of cricket and teacakes. There is reason to believe that tomorrow's patriarch will favor his softnesses while watching the drones criss cross overhead.