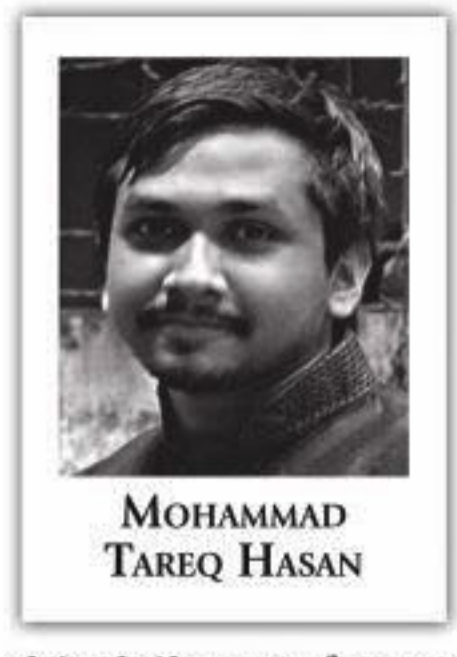


The concept of dominance in sexual violence



MOHAMMAD TAREQ HASAN

RECENTLY, we have witnessed a spike in the incidents of rape and also an increased commentary on our perception of it. One of the recent op-eds, published in

this daily, was focused on rape of males and our (especially men's) reluctance to accept the possibility that even men can become victims of rape. The focus of the piece solely addressed why men do not speak up about their experience of being sexually violated. The reason behind "male silence" was identified as patriarchy, which makes rape an especially shameful experience for men.

In my opinion, this reasoning is compelling; nonetheless, we have seen a response to that piece just a few days ago, which claimed "[...] there are more layers to peel off this metaphorical onion [the rape culture] than just one (patriarchal mandate)." Surprisingly we did not get a clear idea about the *act of raping* in the second op-ed piece published in this daily.

While trying to deconstruct our understanding of rape we should first try to understand what the victim supposedly loses, and the perpetrator gains, from the act. We will miss out on some insights if rape is regarded as only a "sexual act".

Within a particular cultural context, rape inflicts the perceived loss of *chastity*. Thus, we can infer what a perpetrator gains through rape. Sexual pleasure is not the only objective; rather rape, from a perpetrator's perspective, is an *expression* and *exhibition* of power. Within our value system, rape can be an intrusion in the most intimate sphere of a person or in some cases, of the family, clan, or even an entire nation. Thus, rape is



often used as a weapon during wars to instil fear in victims along with their communities.

The emphasis on *chastity*, which rape is supposed to violate, can be clarified if we have a look at the history of evolution of marriage and the origins of family. As Friedrich Engels in *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* has argued, monogamy was not practiced during the earliest times of humanity. Exclusive sexual right to a particular woman or man evolved historically. Sexuality of a person has become an exclusive right to be obtained. Thus, by rape only the individual person is not affected, it is a ploy that can be used to humiliate the entire nation as well.

There is no denying that rape provides the perpetrator a form of pervasive sexual pleasure, nonetheless, there is more to it. Cases of rape reveal that males of every socio-economic class are involved in raping. *Women in power* are also involved in rape or sexually assaulting males. What do these diverse cases imply? I believe rape is a way of establishing *dominance*—an unequal relationship between two persons, communities, or nations where the dominant has access to social, economic, or political resources.

A focus on *dominance* and rape as *expression of power* will not obscure the multiple facets of motives; rather it will facilitate our understanding. High-profile individuals like Harvey

Weinstein, a Hollywood producer, have been accused of rape of multiple women which indicates their need to impose their dominance over their victims.

The idea of *dominance* could also explain cases where perpetrators are from the disadvantaged part of the society. In many cases, women (also males in some instances) were raped in rented taxis, in public transports, or even at home by house helps. We could infer explanations from the fiction *The Diary of a Rapist*; here Evan S Connell describes a man who, scorned by his wife at home and superiors at work, becomes angry at everyone. The fiction indicates how social circumstances could lead to a person becoming

extremely violent. Thus, rape is not an act of violence over the *weaker sex*; rather over a person of *weaker social position*. Or the act of a person of weaker social position violating the women (or even men) of perceived higher social status, assuming a *powerful position* through the act. These crimes can be a *reversal* from the passive position generating a new symbolisation as psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan has claimed.

If we consider rape as an enforced sexual relation through *dominance*, we can then take in account the case of marital rape and could get away from presupposing about the existence of only male coercion and violence that the recent *#MeToo* movement was plagued with, as Slavoj Žižek has argued.

Through the lens of *domination*, we can uphold that women's worth as humans cannot be diminished by the sexual act over her body. Rather both males and females are worthy beyond their human bodies. Nonetheless, violation of *consent* regarding sexual acts refers to violation of the control over one's own body, the epitome of the modernist thought.

Rape is more than just a physical act—it is readily understandable from the case of a male rape victim from Gazipur who committed suicide not immediately after being raped, rather only after he was tormented by the possibility of the news of him being raped getting publicised. Therefore, beyond a gender lens to reflect on the myriad discernible motives, the concept of *dominance* could give a lead. Of course, more open discussion on individual liberty and consent could eliminate some of the shame that rape imparts on the victim and rather afflict the perpetrator.

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The pioneer of the Green Revolution

MD ROUSHON JAMAL JEWEL

TODAY marks the 10th death anniversary of Dr Norman E Borlaug (1914-2009), a shining star in the history of global food security and mankind, who dreamt and led the Green Revolution. Borlaug sowed an ambitious dream in the solitary wheat field in Mexico in the 1940s and harvested the Green Revolution in late 1960s.

He appeared as a visionary leader with a gigantic dream to end hunger. A universal war was launched silently against hunger with scientific approach, innovation, dream and leadership. The miraculous high yielding semi-dwarf wheat variety was developed with two decades of rigorous hybridisation. This promising variety was popularly named as "miracle wheat" for its miracle yield potential and disease resistance. Exploiting the same research protocol, high yielding rice varieties were developed within a few years in South Asia.

The spectacular increase in wheat and rice production from 1965 to 1969 brought about a revolution in global food production. Wheat yield increased by 4 to 5 times in Mexico. By 1969 more than 50 percent of total wheat area in India and Pakistan came under Mexican semi-dwarf variety. These two countries harvested more than double production in 1969 compared to 1964. Afghanistan, Indonesia, Kenya, Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Morocco, Iran and Turkey responded very quickly to the new wheat varieties.

Borlaug, a former wrestler in Minnesota University, was awarded the Noble Peace Prize in 1970 by



Norman E Borlaug

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

the Norwegian Nobel Committee in recognition of his ground-breaking contribution in pioneering the Green Revolution. Borlaug came to be known as the "Father of the Green Revolution". Besides, he was awarded the prestigious Congressional Medal and Presidential Medal of Freedom by the United States, India's Padma Vibhushan award and dozens of other accolades and honorary doctorate degrees.

Green Revolution in the 1960s was indeed a great milestone for human civilisation. After WWII Malthusian economists predicted serious consequences for humankind due to the burgeoning population

throughout the world. Global unrest and widespread hunger were predicted due to shortage of food. Global peace was feared to be destabilised by hunger, poverty and human misery. Before the Green Revolution, the per capita availability of cereals was less than 300 g per day, it is currently more than 1,000 g.

The golden rays of the Green Revolution touched the soil of Bangladesh immediately after its liberation in 1971. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman responded to the Green Revolution very quickly and appealed for an agricultural revolution in the new-born country.

The government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman attached the highest priority to agricultural development. During Bangabandhu's rule, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Cotton Development Board, Horticulture Board and other necessary infrastructure were established. Farmer-friendly agriculture policies were formulated. All out support was provided to farmers. Norman Borlaug visited Bangladesh in 1999 and Bangladesh Agricultural University awarded him an honorary doctorate degree.

Borlaug devoted his life to his dream to achieve and promote food security and sustainable agriculture. At the end of his life he was happy with the status of food availability in the world, but he was also very concerned about the unabated chemical aggression, sick trade war, distorted market, widespread pollution, endangered biodiversity and threatening carbon issue. He cherished a lifelong dream for an "Evergreen Revolution" for sustainability, peace and stability.

The reality of the 1960s and 2010s are not of the same severity and dimension. In 1960s, low productivity in agriculture was the biggest concern, while sustainability, green issues and climatic change have become the key challenges for the present world. We must address these grave global issues with green innovations, technologies and policies. We must put all our efforts to move towards a sustainable Evergreen Revolution.

Agriculture in coming years is going to be much more challenging than ever before due to climate change, declining natural resources and distorted market policy. Currently, around one billion people (16 percent of the global population) suffer from chronic hunger at a time when there is more than enough food to feed everyone on the planet. Recent studies suggest that in order to feed 9 billion people, the world will need 70 to 100 percent more food by 2050.

We should not rely on yield increase only to ensure food security. Borlaug shed light on changing diet, reducing waste, crop intensification and expanding aquaculture. We have enough technologies in our hands to fight against hunger; however, to address the food security challenges in the coming days, the world needs a visionary leader, a dreamer, a change maker like Borlaug, who will lead the fourth generation (4G) agricultural revolution with sustainability, equity and justice. We hope that the United Nations as well as other international organisations will play leading roles to sustain global food security.

Borlaug is still an eternal source of inspiration, even in the age of Precision Agriculture, Genetic Engineering and Conservation Farming. His revolutionary spirit and vision need to be shared from generation to generation for the welfare of mankind. Let us carry forward the legacy of the Father of the Green Revolution into the future.

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ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

September 12, 1974
A Coup in Ethiopia ousts Emperor Haile Selassie.

Selassie, a member of the Solomonian dynasty, was a key figure in the modern day history of Ethiopia. He died on 27, August 1975 due to an apparent "respiratory failure".

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Color-based
- 7 Rudiments
- 11 Right away
- 12 Shoulder muscle, for short
- 13 Patched up
- 14 Vicinity
- 15 Book makeup
- 16 Dropped-tomato sound
- 17 Telegraph period
- 18 Call it quits
- 19 Hammer or sickle
- 21 Unoriginal
- 22 Maudlin
- 25 Low digit
- 26 Gaelic
- 27 Kitchen coverings
- 29 Track count
- 33 June honorees
- 34 Labrador explorer
- 35 Matching
- 36 Pacific nation
- 37 Hand or foot
- 38 Out of bed
- 39 Photos
- 40 Change back

DOWN

- 1 Highway exits
- 2 Bothered
- 3 African nation
- 4 Thorough
- 5 Super serves
- 6 Went ahead
- 7 Modify
- 8 "Les Troyens" composer
- 9 Without doubt
- 10 Put into words
- 16 Hawks
- 18 Crowd sounds
- 20 Some signs
- 22 High singers
- 23 Tile material
- 24 Israeli city
- 25 Touches base
- 28 "Golden Boy" playwright
- 30 Humiliate
- 31 Raft pilot
- 32 Publicity act
- 34 Make sound
- 36 Mariner

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.

BEETLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker

HOW WAS LUNCH?
TOO MUSHY, IT LACKED TASTE. I'VE HAD BETTER

WHO ARE YOU TO CRITICIZE?!!
COOKIE HATES IT WHEN I REHASH HIS HASH

ZOE IS READING "CHARLOTTE'S WEB?"
UH-OH. THINK SHE'LL BE TRAUMATIZED BY THE ENDING?

TODAY AT SCHOOL WE HAD A SHELTER-IN-PLACE DRILL, AN ACTIVE-SHOOTER DRILL AND A HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EVACUATION DRILL. IT WAS FUN!

I THINK SHE'LL BE FINE.

I'M NOT.

BABY BLUES

by Kirkman & Scott

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

B A B A R C O L A S
O N I C E A D I M E
O G R E S R E N E E
T E D O W L E L F
E L I L A Y I I I
D A N C E S G N A T
T O S S O U T
S O H O A N T H E R
H U E T I E E V E
A S H I L L S I N
S T A U B A V A N T
T E N S E N O N C E
A D D E R E N D E D