

I Am a Dangerous Woman

I am a dangerous woman
Carrying neither bombs nor babies
Flowers or molotov cocktail
I confound all your reason, theory,
realism
Because I will neither lie in your ditches
Nor dig your ditches for you
Nor join your armed struggle
For bigger and better ditches.
I will not walk with you nor walk for
you,
I won't live with you
But neither will I try to deny you
Your right to live and die.
I will not share one square foot of this
earth with you
While you're hell-bent on destruction
But neither will I deny that we are
Of the same earth,
Born of the same Mother
I will not permit
You to bind my life to yours
But I will tell you that our lives
Are bound together
And I will demand
That you live as though you understand
This one salient fact.

I am a dangerous woman
Because I will tell you, sir,
Whether you are concerned or not,
Masculinity has made of this world a
living hell
A furnace burning away at hope, love,
faith and justice,
A furnace of my Lais, Hiroshimas,
Dachaus
A furnace which burns the babies
You tell us we must make
Masculinity made Femininity
Made the eyes of our women go dark and
cold, sent our sons-yes, sir, our sons-
To war.

Made our children go hungry
Made our mothers whores
Made our bombs, our bullets, our 'Food for
Peace',
our definitive solutions and
first strike policies
Yes sir
Masculinity broke women and men on its
knee
Took away our futures
Made our hopes, fears, thoughts and good
instincts
'irrelevant to the larger struggle'
And made human survival beyond the
year 2000
An open question.
Yes sir
And it has possessed you.

I am a dangerous woman
because I will say all this
lying neither to you nor with you
Neither trusting nor despising you.
I am dangerous because
I won't give up, shut up, or put up with
your version of reality.
You have conspired to sell my life
quite cheaply
And I am especially dangerous
**Because I will never forgive nor
forget**
Or ever conspire
To sell yours in return.

(Joan Cavanagh has served many jail
sentences for acts of civil disobedience.
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Joan Cavanagh