**The Opposite of Rape Culture is Nurturance Culture**

by Nora Samaran

I teach college literature. Research: race theory, CanLit, print news media. speculative fiction geek. [#TWS2018](https://twitter.com/hashtag/TWS2018?src=hash). [http://norasamaran.com](https://t.co/6DZz4qBuwm)

**Key Points to consider:**

* The opposite of masculine rape culture…

(**a complex set of beliefs that encourage male sexual aggression and supports violence against women. It is a society where violence is seen as sexy and sexuality as violent. In a rape culture, women perceive a continuum of threatened violence that ranges from sexual remarks to sexual touching to rape itself. A rape culture condones physical and emotional terrorism against women as the norm . . . In a rape culture both men and women assume that sexual violence is a fact of life, inevitable . . . However . . . much of what we accept as inevitable is in fact the expression of values and attitudes that can change)**

…is masculine nurturance culture: men increasing their capacity to nurture, and becoming whole.

* “Rape is about violence, not sex. If someone were to hit you with a spade, you wouldn’t call it gardening.”
* Men finding and recuperating the lost parts of themselves will heal everyone. If men grow up learning not to love their true selves, learning that healthy attachment needs such as EMOTIONAL SAFETY, LOVE, TRUST, NURTURANCE, CONNECTION are weak and wrong, two things can happen:

1. They may be less able to experience women as whole people with intelligible needs and feelings for autonomy, safety, attunement.
2. They may be less able to make sense of their own needs for connection, transmuting them instead into distorted but ***more socially mirrored forms.***

* To heal rape culture, men need to build nurturance skills, of themselves and others.
* Men have capacities to heal that are particularly masculine. To transform this culture of misogyny, then, men must do more than “not assault.”
* Attachment needs are healthy and normal and are not “female.”
* Neuroscience: **the experience of having responsive, attuned parents, who recognize needs for both freedom and exploration, and the need to come back hand have comfort and attunement, literally shapes the LIMBIC BRAIN :** it supports a variety of functions including [emotion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emotion), [behavior](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Behavior), [motivation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motivation), [long-term memory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Long-term_memory), and [olfaction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olfaction).[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limbic_system#cite_note-medlineplus-2) Emotional life is largely housed in the limbic system, and it critically aids the formation of memories.(we *can* change the world.)
* **Codes of masculinity:**
* a set of conventional principles and expectations that are considered binding on any person who is a member of a particular group
* In [linguistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics), **code-switching** or **language alternation** occurs when a speaker alternates between two or more [languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language), or language [varieties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variety_(linguistics)), in the context of a single conversation. [Multilinguals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Multilingualism), speakers of more than one language, sometimes use elements of multiple languages when conversing with each other. Thus, code-switching is the use of more than one linguistic variety in a manner consistent with the [syntax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syntax) and [phonology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phonology) of each variety.
* Arts Based Research: What is happening here? What do you see? What else?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGhoLcsr8GA>

**The Opposite of Rape Culture is Nurturance Culture**

**Your Assignment:**

Find evidence in your life of positive masculinity. What do you think defines this concept? What would/does it look like? Is it “nurturance culture,” as Nora Samoran’s article proposes?

1. Collect **visual evidence** of healthy masculinity, as you see it, in your life. This could be a story you write and print out. A photo. A memory. An advertisement. Anything, but it has to be a concrete, hard copy, visual that will be placed on our collage. *Please note: this will be on display publically as form of activism; do not include anything that you are uncomfortable sharing outside of this class.* If you are using something personal, be sure to gain the permission of anyone in the picture ie Dads! Brothers! Sons!

(see Mz. Hope’s examples).

1. Choose one or two pieces of evidence that you would like to include in your statement and that you feel supports your visual.
2. Write a short paragraph (5-7 sentences) which describes the visual and links it in some manner to the evidence you found in one of the two articles.