

☞Rose -water☞

Some thoughts on the reading of *On the Education of Women* by Choderlos de Laclos, in consideration of Chamfort's rhetorical question to Marmontel.

a seductive error appear reckless the sensory and the intellectual vice becomes habit blush with shame and anger deluded by false promises burn with noble desire forced to blush a blow against the social pact disfigured by our institutions the hands of nature an attraction to pleasure a fear of pain natural impulses more difficult happiness seems paradoxical senseless and unjust painful limbs a softer resting place the work of nature delightful and strong interest and vanity alone to bathe her child in a nearby stream placing him on her breast beneficial warmth reciprocal benefit abandoned at birth the charge of nature this wise governess he drinks and bathes relaxation, pleasure and the only tonic woman among women unchaste speeches or readings precocious fruits violate her laws a delicately laid table satisfied appetite unlikely fictions flabby idleness inflamed her imagination the eyes of the body

the cry of nature seeing nature in the forest the tenderness of a mother covered with down a bleak tedium nature's laboratory a secret ardour even more restless the first rays of sunlight illuminate her in her bath useless remedy the sweet perfume of flowers a touching harmony the disturbance in her heart an involuntary motion delicious joy her point of perfection freedom, strength and health the wealth of the natural woman soft flexibility a bath of clear water sustained passion moist eyes and burning sighs the law of nature the flesh softens

the eyes of nature the sweet cares of love afflictions of the spirit driven by secret motives those she fears the vast solitude of the forest her enchanting air, her magical power the idol and victim of fortune cold, sprightly and playful a thousand fears still wet on her cheeks accidents of sorts the more bitter the regrets the most philosophical stoicism an idle dream the question merits discussion the state of nature the enjoyment of the pleasures

obtaining what one desires in pure nature capable of perfection the wild girl picked up in the woods of Champagne consistent habits neither slaves nor tyrants deprived of these advantages scorn and ill humour depraved nature a violation of the law of nature isolated in the woods urged by her desire the weight of our institutions the fruit of our intuitions the necessary impulse of natural instinct that natural and immutable instinct nature creates only free beings

a natural law weak and a slave the skill to bind the hands of her master the laws and customs the social contract the right of conquest the law of the fittest even the women came under this law this same idea of property civil existence this abuse of force the state of nature the first vices of society the basest and most arduous work idle and capricious masters

the pleasure they procure them such treatment the servants of the house to substitute skill for force their only resource was to seduce they wished to consent they practiced the difficult art of refusing even as they wished to consent they knew how to arouse and direct desires as they pleased their weakness condemned them the state of perpetual war with the help of caresses their slavery has become all the harsher the basis and guarantee of every contract the only source of our passions the narrow circle of a single society numerous contradictions the natural woman always difficult and contradictory this state of inaction alien sentiments

every glance cast upon them was an entire examination the cool sense necessary to form judgements the power to refuse or grant the feeble resistance of a feigned refusal

the object itself the most practiced men still make mistakes sometimes the variations of place and time ideas of pleasure it is rare, it is ineffective we comply with prevailing convention

it suffices to change places moral relations voluptuous sensations ceased to be the only bond that joined them soon submitted absolutely dependent the semblance of gentleness and tenderness more flattering to the spirit of domination rigorous virtue the expression of submission

the depravity of the customs the expression of vivacity and pleasure an attentive observer the customs of a nation excited by the sight of the difficulties the charm of a sweet languidness the intoxication of expressed pleasure a fortunate illusion the hope of pleasure

the appearance most favourable to pleasure hold them in complete dependence in favour of natural beauty the false gleams of a long succession of illusions the state of perfection taking the best advantage more variations taking advantage of the gifts of nature the charms of the imagination a stimulus of sensual delight every woman or almost every one can perform on herself the quality of ideas the quantity of needs useful to many for protection prompted by the fear of pain the attraction of pleasure a softer sense of touch a more agreeable shape

the gift of nature without freshness there is no beauty a smooth skin inflamed blood the convulsive laughter of noisy merriment the fatigue of pleasure in the state of exhaustion rigorous cleanliness a gentle cosmetic too strong an odour a temporary triumph the shortest path nature has traced the action of a tender gaze that expression of the eyes the great impulses of the soul false and perfidious the expression of pleasure the ardour of desire

the reflection of the rouge placed upon their cheeks