



The representation of gender issues in *Le Calvaire* and *Le Journal d'une femme de chambre* by Octave Mirbeau

Masculinism, a departure from anarchism

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Abstract: If Mirbeau can be sensitive to the female cause and stage rather modern heroines, he nevertheless remains prisoner of a masculinist discourse that prevents him developing a radical critique of patriarchy. In this article, we will try to identify the persistence of such a discourse in *Le Calvaire* and *Le Journal d'une femme de chambre*, published fourteen years apart. We will also see how the representations of gender that the two works shape constitute a departure from the libertarian speech of the author.

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