A Moving Manifesto

We are so tired of being small, we want to be expansive. Feminism is the name of our expansive living, breathing space. Who are we? We are the ones that awaken those around us, and we will do that as feminists through our work, each of us does exactly this. We confront those issues left in the dark. We are all children of the Earth, and we begin by trusting enough to listen.

You must know this, reader: this is a safe space. Every word on this sheet of paper will transcend to you, and back to us; you are a safe space. Do not fear your experiences, as we do not fear ours, only ask if your experiences have the oxygen to be remembered; recorded.

How do we recognize feminism, you might ask? In this time and age, we have come to the conclusion that whether female, male, transgender, gay or a person of color, feminism can be universal throughout. Feminism is the struggle to release all from the tightening and blindsiding bonds of patriarchy. Because of our vast diversity, we keep the word feminism to have a solid idea to stand together by, one with a long and great history.

How can we abandon our shackles welded by systematic patriarchy? We think it may begin with honesty, and understanding. We love each other even through standing in the faces of hatred. As much as we are raised to believe that individuality is of the utmost importance, even more valuable is the individual’s place within a community. Today we are stronger and connected to everything because of our found revelations of our places within space.

In order to defeat oppression, may we transcend? Yes, we say transcendence is possible. We shall show you ways in which we choose to transcend. In life, one must try and make the most ethical choices one can. We understand that it is never ethical to make choices for another being, or impose our choices. Respect is letting others exist as they do, and pursue their own happiness.

We believe there is nothing more powerful than gently rejecting oppressive systems of society. Sometimes, all you have to do is say “no,” though it seems radical decision making by the dominant culture. You can say “No, I will not partake in what you are doing because I will not impose on the choices of others.” If we are to return to peace, if it was ever a place we lived, or will live, it will be throughout the means of resisting systematic violence, in every single form it exists. We must not only imagine it, we must practice it every day in the simplest choices we make. Through practice comes existence. Furthermore, we are not who we say, but what we do. Character is not measured by intention, but by the consequences of our actions.
We are all on this journey together, but sometimes the journey feels lonely. Life is beauty and struggle, just to survive is enough. Stories of suffering mirror our own, but everything comes down to how we use things, as well as past experiences. Meaning is use. Everyone we know, and everything we do, transforms us. Embrace the change. Value your community, and your place within it. We would like to remind you, dear reader, that you are loved. We are connected to each other on such an extreme level that we rely on using other life to survive. This is not inherently bad, and we are not inherently bad, as Hobbes would suggest.

Feminism is synonymous with peace, with mutual and individual understanding, we cannot have peace if we practice sustaining systematic violence in our daily lives, or our momentary choices. We cannot have understanding, real movement with fluidity, without examining ourselves, knowing who we are, and examining the philosophies and modes of living of others, and society in general. Feminism is something we can move with, to challenge and understand ourselves with, as well as always using it to humanity’s advantage.

Peggy Corlew
March 2015