

Analysis of Patriarchy in Hanna Lynn's Athena's Child

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ABSTRACT

¹ In patriarchal society, men are in a superior position than women. In this society men should be in charge and women should follow along, this causes ⁷ women to be placed in a subordinate or inferior position. Patriarchy is important to discuss because Patriarchy is a socially-constructed system where males have primary power. It affects many aspects of life, from political leadership, business management, religious institutions, economic systems and property ownership, right down to the family home where men are considered to be the head of the household. The aims of the research are to analyze the reflection, the patriarchal systems portrayed and the effects of patriarchy on the victims in the novel. The literary work that is used in this research is Hanna Lynn's Athena's Child. This novel is based on the famous Greek mythology retelling of the story of Medusa. This research is conducted by using qualitative method and library research. The analysis is based on the theory of the Patriarchy's by Allan G. Johnson and Sylvia Walby's patriarchal structures. The research shows patriarchal system that occurs in the novel entitled Athena's Child by Hanna Lynn and the effect to the victims.

Keywords: patriarchy, male domination, women oppression

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1. INTRODUCTION

¹ In patriarchal society, men are in a superior position than women. In this society men should be in charge and women should follow along. This causes women to be placed in a subordinate or inferior position. According to Lerner (1989), Patriarchy, in its wider definition, means the manifestation and institutionalization of male dominance over women and children in the family and the extension of male dominance over women in society in general.

¹⁶ Patriarchy refers to male domination both in public and personal scope. Male domination is an important aspect of patriarchal society and is perhaps the number one reason for patriarchy in any sort of society. Men see themselves as better, stronger, and smarter than women. As explained in Pam Morris in her book Literature and Feminism (1993) that male domination revolves around social structures such as laws, educations, employment, religions, families, and cultural actions.

The literary work that is used in this research is Hanna Lynn's Athena's Child. This novel is based on the famous Greek mythology retelling of the story of Medusa, one of the three monstrous Gorgons. Medusa was a snake-haired female who turned anybody who looked upon her to stone. In this novel, the story is started by telling is that Medusa is cursed and she is finally killed by the hero Perseus, who uses her severed head as a weapon against his enemies. The author states from this book that Medusa lives as a monster but she is not born as a monster because she is being cursed by Athena, the god of war. From her storyline in this novel Medusa and other characters in this novel have face several harassment and oppression from male with high status in society. She is also oppressed and sexually harassed by the gods and later she is being cursed even if it is not her fault.

The Novel that is used in this research is Hanna Lynn's Athena's Child. In this research the writer will explain and discuss with much emphasis given to the patriarchal society that happens in this novel. This is related to how in Greek, women have virtually no political rights of any kind and are controlled by men at nearly every stage of their lives. The most important duties for a city-dwelling women are to bear children--preferably male--and to run the household. In this novel the famously known

'Medusa,' the monster is created, not because she commits a sin but because she said 'no' to a powerful man. It shows that she dares to deny the patriarchal system.

2. METHOD

This research will attempt to analyze the patriarchal system that occurs in the novel entitled Athena's Child by Hanna Lynn. This research applied both intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. In intrinsic approach, the researcher applies the theory of patriarchy. In extrinsic sociological approach is use to analyze the character experiences. This study will use qualitative research. Qualitative research is descriptive and is usually used to analyze its means to explain or describe the result of the analysis. This means that the data will be presented in the form of a written description and does not concern with statistical number. The instrument of this research is the researcher herself as the main observer who participates in observing and analyzing the data, since all of the assembled data are collected without any equipment. The researcher accomplishes the process of the process of data collection and after that organized as needed for the study.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section will explain the analysis of patriarchy in, Hanna Lynn's Athena's Child. The novel is a retelling of a Greek mythology Medusa, it reveals the story line from how she gets cursed until her death. But from the story line there are characters that are the victims of patriarchal society including Medusa. This chapter is the analysis of how the revelation of patriarchal system and the impact of the patriarchy. The analysis will be structured in multiple subchapters and the theory to support the analysis is the Patriarchy's defining elements by Allan G. Johnson and Sylvia Walby's six main structures in defining patriarchy.

3.1 Reflection of Patriarchy in the Novel

Reflecting upon the patriarchy in this novel, what it would mean to live in a society that support male needs more than female. According to Pan Morris (1993), women's interests are always ultimately subordinated to male interests, constitute the social order known as 'patriarchy', a designation which applies to almost all human societies past and present. Sometimes women also have a role in a patriarchal society, but only in a sense that is submissive and subservient to men. This subchapter explains how male have power against woman, how male corruption is being reflected and how dominant male can be in a society based on this novel. Patriarchy's defining elements by Allan G. Johnson is being used in this analysis.

3.1.1 Male being Dominant

One of the earliest and strongest forms of inequality in human history is male dominance. Traditional gender role in the common society causes male dominance that can make female become powerlessness one. The problem of male domination as a historical phenomenon that has its origins in a particular set of circumstances rather than in any fundamental quality of human nature or culture. In this subchapter, the objects of this novel carry the appropriate issue that is related to the male dominance. Take a look at this paragraph:

Her eyes glanced across Medusa as her feet skipped over the ground. Both landed beside her husband. She took his hand and swept her arms around him, grimacing in pain as she did so.

Medusa's eyes were drawn to her belly. A belly where, only hours ago, a small heart had trembled, so tiny that only the gods could have heard. (Lynn, 2020:25-26)

From the quotation above, Cornelia's husband has the power over her wife, even though from the story Cornelia found out that her husband has an affair with another woman Cornelia stills grants her husband request. Cornelia's husband dominates her because he feels that she needs him and he fulfil her needs, even though he acts arrogantly he thinks that Cornelia would not be able to fights back. His dominances towards her makes her weak and powerless she had no choice but to come back to him even though Medusa offer her to line in the temple of Athena.

3.1.2 Male Identification

Male Identification are interested with characteristics associated with the identification male itself. It could be said as the masculine norms in patriarchal society. Man should be the guidance and be a ruler in the family or the society. This novel has the reflection on how man have the power and identification.

'Please ...' Her voice was that of a child's begging for their parents' belief. 'I did nothing. You must believe me.'

'Hideou—'

'Aretaphila!' Thales' voice shook the air. His fists were clenched, the white bone of the knuckles glistening through papyrus skin. 'Our child has come to us. She has trusted us. (Lynn, 2020:25-26)

From the quotation above Aretaphila, Medusa's mother is blaming her for the cursed Medusa's received. Thales stops the words Aretaphila sayings, from how he stops her he is giving the dominant and the power of the ruler of the family. He has the respect he holds in the family and no one in the family have the courage to against him.

In Greek mythology Men's perceptions is about masculinity. To be man ¹² relate to perceived notions, shared by both men and women, about how "real" men behave and, importantly, how men are expected to behave in specific settings in order to be considered "real" men. Men should be the provider and the richer in patriarchal society.

Some men brought bribes disguised as gifts before offering their hand in marriage. Some brought lies disguised as promises or an agreement that their brothers would marry Medusa's sisters when they came of age, "despite their lesser looks". (Lynn, 2020:25-26)

From the quotation above, men in Greek mythology could have any woman to marry them. The more gifts they could offer the more changes they ca marry the person they wanted to. It's just a matter of prices they could pay. If a man cannot offer anything to the person they wanted to marry, then that man is a failure because in Greek mythology one of the male identifications is to be wealthy.

Others would snort and scoff and try to make out that what they saw was nothing special, mundane even, but it was an act, for they all had eyes and what they saw may well have been carved by the hand of a god. (Lynn, 2020:25-26)

From the quotation above, Male in Greek mythology can get whatever they want. They can lie, they can use their wealth to get anything they wish for. They fulfil their lust, they see women as an object, they pick women like a man buying a fruit. In Greek mythology when male finally gets the women they want, they will feel as they have achieved their masculinity to fulfil their male identification.

3.1.3 Male-centered Characters

Many women are considered inferior and marginalized in Greek mythology. In some cases, women are often only seen as side characters, including in the work, social, political, and even in the family. As a result, women do not have the same opportunities as men in many aspects of life. Male are seen as superiors and the main characters in patriarchal society. When a man has wealth and high social status he is basically seen as a powerful human being. The power of a man can be used to oppress female or male to be under his control.

Poseidon had other thoughts at play. Beautiful, devious thoughts. The first week he had come as a merchant; wealthy, handsome, alluring. It was a disguise he had picked for many such occasions. He carried a flask full of wine and a purse of gems that he tipped on to his hand and demanded extravagant prices for. Women and men flocked around him, eyes wide at the sight. (Lynn, 2020:32)

The quotation above shows how Poseidon can be what he wanted to be to get what he wanted. The phrase *"The first week he had come as a merchant; wealthy, handsome, alluring"* (Lynn, 2020:32), shows how powerful he can be. He has wealth, looks and social status, which is the most important aspect for man to fulfil themselves in patriarchal society. Poseidon just by being there he can easily be the main character to the people around him. The phrase *"Women and men flocked around him, eyes wide at the sight."* (Lynn, 2020:32), reflects on how Poseidon seen as a charming person who is being the centered character and people around him acknowledge his existence as the centered character.

Another reflection of male centered characters from the novel is from the character of Poseidon again. How he is being known having a bad temper and have to face Medusa's fierce action towards him. In Greek mythology male are seen as all-powerful and dominating, while women were shameful and deceitful. When a woman decides to now follow what men says it will bring anger to the man. Because in Greek mythology males are seen as the centered characters.

*Trembling, Medusa stood firm and faced his watery eyes.
'I have misled no one,' she said. 'This is the temple of Athena, and you are not permitted to enter here.'
His face lost any trace of amusement. His eyes darkened.
'I am Poseidon,' he said. 'And I will enter where I choose.'
(Lynn, 2020:36)*

From the quotation above, Poseidon does not please with medusa's actions. He then recalls his name, from the phrase *"I am Poseidon,"* he said. *"And I will enter where I choose."* (Lynn, 2020:36), shows how arrogant he is, where he does not want to be refuted. When Medusa decides to now follow what Poseidon says it brings anger to the him. The anger that came from disappointment and Poseidon himself know how powerful he is and it would be a shame if he does not get what he wanted.

3.2 Patriarchal system portrayal in the novel

In her book *Theorizing patriarchy* by Walby (1991), stated the relative importance of different sites of woman's oppression and how it varies over time and between different social groups. In this book she argued a new way of theorizing patriarchy. From this book Walby stated that there are six main structures in defining patriarchy. They are paid employment, Household production, Culture, Sexuality, violence and lastly state.

3.2.1 Paid Employment

According to Taylor Harriet (1998:21), Women function is not only as a mother and housewife but also, they have the right to get their career outside domestic works. This means as the people who is living in a society full of people, there should not be a border for man and woman to achieve what they wanted to achieve. But in the patriarchal society it is hard for a woman to achieve such a thing because of how man have the authority to every jobs. Sometimes when a woman manages to have a job the same as men does, she got less payment, just because they think woman does not have the strength same as men. Because of these things women in Greek mythology choose marriage and stays with their husband even if they got abuse. Surviving a single life as a woman is hard in Greek mythology.

'You would turn me into an islander. A farmworker.' Her pretty face contorted. 'You would have me digging in the dirt and sharing a mattress of straw with the rats and the vermin? How could I live such a life?'
'You would live it. You would be alive. You do not need to return to him.'
'Yes, I do. (Lynn, 2020:24)

From the quotation above, Cornelia does not want to be farmworker, because she knows how hard her life would be, when she is become a farmworker, she would not have the wealth from her husband anymore. In Greek mythology woman need men to have a better life because men have the qualifications to get a well-paid job. It would be a hard time for Cornelia to start a single life without her husband wealth. Therefore even if she got plenty of abuses she still wanted to be with her husband.

3.2.2 State

The state of patriarchy refers to the state's support to its patriarchal, racist, and capitalist interests by choosing not to intervene or being slow in intervening in cases of injustice against women. In this patriarchal society women are unlikely to have formal power and representation. In this novel the state is the condition that take place in the story.

'Tell me then, Father-who-has-never-lied. What kind of husband would the great King Polydectes make for my mother? A fair one? A just one? Would he be like you and never raise a fist? Tell me, Dictys. What will this marriage entail for my mother? What right does he have to come here and claim any woman he chooses?' (Lynn, 2020:87)

According to the quotation above the Perseus mother is being suited by King Polydectes, and Perseus wanted to deny that because he thinks that King Polydectes does not deserve her mother. From this paragraph King Polydectes can have anything that he wanted because he is the king in that

state. Nobody could not deny his wills and everything can be his if he wished to be. This explains that the state in the King Polydectes rules is supporting every movement that he does, he can have anything he wants, he even can have any woman he wants.

3.2.3 Household productions

The household refers to domestic environment where the housewife and her role in running or managing her family's home. The role of housewife is looked down as an easy work in the patriarchal society. It is hard to get out of this domestic system, because it is a determination for a woman in patriarchal society. In Greek mythology male fears that women would become promiscuous, disloyal, and uncontrollable. Therefore, a good woman is a woman that is loyal to their husband and always do what the man says even if it against what the woman desire.

From this novel all of the women that are married have a child, and their duty is to marry, bear children, and provide around the house. From the phrase *"So, when he finds me, he will kill a skilled woman? And my daughter, what sort of life would she have by growing up on the rocks of an island?"* (Lynn, 2020:23), shows how that her husband will find a way to find her even if she goes to another island. This shows how powerful her husband is over her. Cornelia cannot go against her husband cause if she does, she will live a miserable life, and she do not want her daughter to live a such a life.

3.2.4 Culture

Culture represents the patriarchal relations in cultural institutions and regulate the behaviour of women in public places. social class as a division of individual classes based on levels of individual's position in society that can be determined by wealth, education, occupation, and others has a part in gender discrimination. In the patriarchal society, the discrimination against woman is not only influenced by the gender itself, but how the culture works in that place including how the social class works. When the woman is on lower class, they have less power and authority so that it makes a stronger discrimination against them.

Medusa stepped back, her muscles shaking. She took hold of one of the candles and thrust it out in front of her, pointing the flame towards the man. The melting wax gave way between her fingers, searing her skin, but she did not let go. Not until his body was only feet away from hers, only inches from the flame, did she hurl it with all her might. (Lynn, 2020:36)

From the quotation above medusa feel afraid when she steps back from Poseidon. Even Medusa muscle is shaking because of her fear, she tried to defend herself with anything close to her. She holds of one of the candles and thrust it pointing the flame towards Poseidon, hoping she will scare the man.

The laugh echoed around her.

'Did you expect that to hurt me?' He snorted, in her face. 'And I thought you were wise, Medusa. What kind of priestesses is Athena keeping here if they think that a tiny flame could even mark a god? I fear she has been misled. Perhaps we both have.' (Lynn, 2020:36)

From the quotation above Poseidon is more powerful than Medusa, Poseidon refers himself as God and medusa is only a priestess. Medusa is on lower class; she has less power and authority so that it makes a stronger discrimination against her. In Greek mythology the gods could exercise their

powers on one another and on human beings as they wished, for their own vengeance or pleasure. Therefore, Poseidon can do anything to Medusa because how powerful he is.

9 The culture of women always become the second one in Greek mythology always been a thing. Greek mythology, when it came to displays of male importance and power in the patriarchy, also upheld the prominence of men's positions in the community over the harsh attitude towards women. When compared both male and female, female always in a subordinate place.

2 Women hold knives more often in the day than men ever do, yet it is not women who stab their husbands to death when they fear adultery. Women gather in clusters with friendships stronger than steel, yet it is not women who beat their husbands to the ground in gangs when a hint of wrong-doing echoes in the air. It is not women who require lover after lover, then make promises of love which they recant when darker hair and deeper eyes are cast in our direction. (Lynn, 2020:28)

According to the quotation above, since a long-time woman always puts in the second position. There is no case where women stab a man even when women hold knives more often than men. The violence is always come from men, women always known as the soft and loveable person yet some of men abuse and rape women.

2 *Time and time again, we are called out as the emotional ones, the irrational ones. Women don't get drunk like men and hurl insults at strangers or throw rocks in protests. Women use words and reason where men use fists and force. So why are we always second? Why is that my goddess? Why are we always second?* (Lynn, 2020:28)

From the quotation above Medusa felt really unfair how the social system works in her society. Patriarchal society always been a burden to a lot of women in Greek mythology ever since from the beginning.

3.2.5 Sexuality

In patriarchal society imposes the positions of women that always depend on man this means, men's control of women's sexuality. This patriarchal society supports the perception of women as objects of male enjoyment, objectification, and the male gaze. In Greek mythology it is hard for a woman to defend herself, because in the eyes of men women is just an object of enjoyment. Even from the young age, a boy already told that women are just an object to marry, bear children, and provide around the house.

'A priestess alone? Perhaps that is the very thing we have come here for.' He turned back to his men, who jeered in support. *'Perhaps our prize will be more than just the head of the gorgon.'* The air in Medusa's throat grew thin as memories of Poseidon's hands on her body seized her. The way he had forced himself into her, no man would ever do that again. (Lynn, 2020:71)

From the quotation above men that are supposed to be a hero is saying things that is not appropriate. From the phrase "Perhaps our prize will be more than just the head of the gorgon." (Lynn, 2020:71), shows how arrogant they are when saying inappropriate things. Form how he is saying

it could be just an imagination on what will he do to the priestess even when they know that a priestess a sacred status.

3.2.6 Violence

Both male and female experience violence but the majority of victims are female. ²³ Violence against women is a serious violation of human rights. From the theory of Sylvia Walby, Male violence against woman includes rape, sexual assault and wife beating. From the novel Athena's Child by Hannah Lynn there are several parts that lead to violence towards female.

Battles waged in my family's name when my first suitor came calling when I was just eight. Battles I waged when I refused to let men's hands wander where they felt they had a right to, or when I refused to follow them on a walk, down a path or into an olive grove. I know of the battles I have waged as I stood in a marketplace and demanded that men look not at my breasts, or my eyes, or my legs but at the fruit which I was selling (Lynn, 2020:17)

According from the quotation above, Medusa has been told that she has been receiving sexual harassment even when she just a young age. She has been dealing with men trying take advantage from her, all oh her experiences from men trying to touch her in an inappropriate place, and looking at her breast, legs instead of the fruit she was trying to sells.

*Her trembling shook loose the tears brimming in her eyes.
As gently as a butterfly on a petal, Medusa laid a cloth around the
woman's wrist and began wiping away the blood.
'I believe he wished me dead,' she said.
'I fear that may be true,' Medusa agreed. (Lynn, 2020:22)*

According to the quotation above Medusa's is helping Cornelia, a woman that came to the temple to seek for safety from her husband. Her husband was beating her because she has caught him in an affair with another woman. Her husband is seeking a sense of power and control over Cornelia's life, and he threatened by any moves from her. He doesn't want Cornelia to tell everyone that he is having affair with another woman. In Greek mythology ²⁰ women were expected to be faithful to their husbands. Therefore, Cornelia does not have anything to do except accept her role.

*A chill ran the length of Medusa's spine, and she muttered a prayer to Athena. The sounds of caterwauling from the city streets masked the silence as the Priestess waited. She knew what would come next. Slowly, Cornelia unwrapped the shawl from around her hips. The blood stain reached her knees.
'I was with child,' she said. 'I was with another child. But I fear it has gone. My child has gone, hasn't it?' (Lynn, 2020:23)*

The quotation above shows how is the beating of her husband was so bad, and it happens continuously but this time Cornelia lost her baby. Cornelia also was with a child when she is being beaten by her husband. In Greek mythology a married women were under the complete authority of

their husband. So, Cornelia does not have any strengths to defend herself even when she seeks for help.

Children were beaten, babies died and, every year, countless women were lost in the same way as Cornelia. Some of them had come to the temple seeking the strength to pull away. Few had had the courage to see it through. Some stayed with their husbands for the children, some for the gold. Many because they held fast to a hope, no matter how ill-founded, that their husbands might change. (Lynn, 2020:27)

According to Greek mythology, women are weak and had a limited role. They can only avoid an assault through death. The victims of abusive relationships frequently say they stayed for fear of breaking up the family unit or they put up with the abuse for the sake of the children. They may be religious or strongly feel that divorce is not an option. Financial and economical control often comes hand in hand with domestic violence.

From the quotation above explain how being a woman is hard in Greek mythology, women being the victims of violence from their husbands. It is so hard to pull away when a woman in a toxic relationship, even when violence come in between. Women stay with their husband only for their children and some gold. It is not that a woman is materialistic but in Greek mythology it is hard for a woman to work with a good payment, usually women doesn't get a good payment even when the jobs is the same as men do.

One of the forms of violence is sexual harassment. From the quotation below sexual activity or act that was unwanted or happened without consent is described in these paragraphs.

She herself abstained from the wine; the sweetness would be soured by the bile of her wrath, which grew with every passing moment. She watched as his hand slid effortlessly into that of another woman, and then from her hand to her thigh and higher still. She watched as laughter rocked his belly and he raised toasts, not to his wife but to his good fortune in life. (Lynn, 2020:29)

From the quotation above, Cornelia's husband is touching another woman without her permission. This shows how arrogant her husband is, Cornelia's husband does not show any respect towards her after her death. The woman that is being touch is helpless because the one who is touching her is a person who has wealth and power. If she defends herself, it would just make her get kicked out of her work place, as it mentions before women in Greek mythology are hard to get well paid job.

Her arms and legs were pinned, her voice silenced by his hand, which, tasting of salt and sea, he clasped over her mouth to drown her screams. Even with her eyes screwed shut, tears ran unendingly down her cheeks. How long it lasted, she could not say, for time lost all meaning, stretched and elongated beyond all possibility. At that moment, Medusa naively thought and believed this would be the worst that would befall her in this lifetime. She had no idea how wrong she was. (Lynn, 2020:36)

Another violence portrayed on in this novel is from the quotation above. In this paragraph medusa in being sexually violented by Poseidon. From the quotation above, Medusa is pinned down, with her mouth covered with Poseidon salty hand. Medusa does not have any options at this point she could only cry out of her helplessness. Rape in Ancient Greek Mythology is portrayed as common and even

acceptable. The gods in particular are primarily responsible for committing this crime, the gods choose to rape the women that they desire instead of courting them because courting is seen as a waste of their time.

'You have lied to me.' He spat the words at his wife.

'My love, you must understand —' Acrisius stepped forwards and struck his wife with the back of his hand. Eurydice and Danae gasped in unison as the older woman was knocked sideways, blood spilling from her split lips onto the grey-gold shingles of the beach. (Lynn, 2020:83-84)

From the quotation above King Acrisius struck his wife with the back of his hand because he felt her wife has lied to him. From this paragraph it is shown that violence comes from him because he felt betrayal from his wife. In Greek mythology women were expected to be faithful to their husbands. Any woman who dares against her husband are viewed as going against patriarchal standards and might result in social consequences. In patriarchal society, violence against women is an expression of unequal power relationships between men and women. So, the causes of this violence are to be found not only at the individual level but also, and particularly, at the structural level. As from this scene King Acrisius held so much power over her wife.

3.3 The effect of patriarchy to the victims

The effect of patriarchy to the victims in this novel is various. Patriarchy refers to male domination both in public and personal scope. Male domination is an important aspect of patriarchal society and is perhaps the number one reason for patriarchy in any sort of society men see themselves as better, stronger, and smarter than women. But the main factor to support Male to be the centered character is social status, strength and wealth. Male can be more superior than other male if they have more power, strength and wealth. Therefore, the victims of patriarchy are not only woman but also male.

Battles waged in my family's name when my first suitor came calling when I was just eight. Battles I waged when I refused to let men's hands wander where they felt they had a right to, or when I refused to follow them on a walk, down a path or into an olive grove. I know of the battles I have waged as I stood in a marketplace and demanded that men look not at my breasts, or my eyes, or my legs but at the fruit which I was selling. (Lynn, 2020:17)

The first victim of patriarchal society is Medusa. From the quotation above when Medusa was just eight years old, she has been receiving sexual harassment from men. From the phrase "battles I have waged as I stood in a marketplace and demanded that men look not at my breasts, or my eyes, or my legs but at the fruit which I was selling." (Lynn, 2020:17), Medusa was brave enough to scold men that were disrespecting her. The impact is that she does not feel safe around the society she lives in.

Some men brought bribes disguised as gifts before offering their hand in marriage. Some brought lies disguised as promises or an agreement that their brothers would marry Medusa. She had been through these routines countless times since she turned eight, and the frequency of such events had increased with every year.

For the first time since leaving her family home, it was Medusa's turn to smile. Her lips turned upwards, the smile rising to her cheeks. But the glimmer that came from her eyes was not one of joy. It was dark and hollow and not earned in her lifetime but in all the thousands of lifetimes that had gone before her. By her aunt, by her aunt's aunt, and by generations too far back to recall. 'Those battles,' she said. 'They don't ever end.' (Lynn, 2020:17)

when she is in the temple of Athena, she feels safe, according to the quotation above Medusa smiles but deeply in her heart she knows that lots of woman back in Medusa's lifetime including her aunt have been suffering the same thing as her. From the phrase *"'Those battles,' she said. 'They don't ever end.'"* (Lynn, 2020:17), Medusa know that if the patriarchal society is still in the norms woman will continue to suffer because of the arrogances of male domination.

Medusa tried to cry out to them and, at that moment, realised her mouth was no longer gagged. Her arms no longer pinned, but flat by her side, her legs spread open. Poseidon was gone. Too numb to move or speak or cry, she lay on the cold marble, her eyes locked on the mother and, as the woman clutched her infant to her chest, undisguised disgust adorned her face. Medusa's heart fell like a stone statue and shattered into a thousand pieces. (Lynn, 2020:36)

Her suffering did not end even when she is a Priestess in the temple of Athena. According from the quotation above after Poseidon rape her in the temple of Athena, she felt disgusted and broken. From the phrase *"Too numb to move or speak or cry"* (Lynn, 2020:36), shows how deeply she felt. She knows deeply that rape in Ancient Greek Mythology is portrayed as common and even acceptable.

According this phrase *"You were seen Medusa. You were seen eyes wide, on your back, moaning with pleasure, allowing him to enter you"* (Lynn, 2020:39), burst into an anger after hearing that Medusa having sex with Poseidon Athena. Athena accused Medusa that she is moaning with pleasure. Athena continues her anger and burst it all out to Medusa. The anger of Athena causes the curse of Medusa. In this condition Athena could only cursed Medusa because she is a mortal and also Poseidon is her uncle. Athena is always known to put her family first therefore she curses Medusa.

The reason that Medusa brave enough to scolds men when she is being disrespected is because those Men do not have power over her but, different with Poseidon he is a God. She is only a mortal, when she is being compare with Poseidon, she is only a helpless creature. Rape in Ancient Greek Mythology is portrayed as common and even acceptable. Therefore, she could only accept what Poseidon do to her.

From the phrase *"The air in Medusa's throat grew thin as memories of Poseidon's hands on her body seized her. The way he had forced himself into her, no man would ever do that again."* (Lynn, 2020:71), Medusa still have the trauma from the incident that happens to her. The memories of Poseidon hands all over her body is still in her mind. Although what happened to Medusa is not her fault, she experiences both guilt and shame after being sexually assaulted she even felt disgusted with her own body.

The second victim of the patriarchy system is, Cornelia. Cornelia is a bride, which Medusa attend to the wedding prior as an indication of Athena's approval towards the pairing. She was the same age as Medusa, when the suitors came calling, it was impossible not to feel a bond between them. They both suffer from the same incident.

But the joy did not touch Medusa. For when, during the blessing, the young woman's eyes had looked at Medusa, they conveyed only fear. Fear of the unknown. Fear of the known, but not yet experienced. Fear, possibly of the experiences so far. It was not an unusual response, Medusa knew. Most women looked fearful on the wedding night, and those who didn't generally showed no emotion at all. (Lynn, 2020:22)

From the quotation above, Cornelia is not happy with her wedding by the look from her eyes she is in fear. From the phrase *"Fear of the known, but not yet experienced. Fear, possibly of the experiences so far."* (Lynn, 2020:22), Cornelia knows how society works in Greek mythology. The known fear is the fear of woman being seen and treated by male in the patriarchal society. The fear of being abused, the fear of being mis treated by the man she is marrying. Cornelia is not happy with the wedding from the start until months passed. But unfortunately, months pass, and the look did not fade.

Even when her belly grew big with child, she did not beam and grin the way so many did when they were to bear their first, or any offspring. And when the child arrived, it was as though her will detached from her body altogether. Over the past two years, she had often arrived with bruised cheeks and blue ribs, although none so dark as these. (Lynn, 2020:22-21)

From the quotation above even after the wedding, Cornelia is not happy by the fear in her eyes. From the phrase *"Over the past two years, she had often arrived with bruised cheeks and blue ribs, although none so dark as these."* (Lynn, 2020:22-23), she often goes to the temple of Athena with bruises all over her body. She always seeks help from Medusa but she always returns to her husband with the fear that her husband will find her and kill her.

From the phrase *"So, when he finds me, he will kill a skilled woman? And my daughter, what sort of life would she have by growing up on the rocks of an island?"* (Lynn, 2020:23), shows how that her husband will find a way to find her even if she goes to another island. This shows how powerful her husband is over her. Therefore, all she ever could do is to go back to her husband even that her husband is abusing her. The reason that all she ever could do is go back to her husband is that she has a daughter and if she dared to raise her it would be so hard because she has to start from the bottom. For a widow to live in patriarchal society would be very harsh.

At these points all the fear and the violation she received from her husband become the nightmares, Cornelia abused by her husband when she is with a child and the child is dead all because of her husband. When Cornelia decided to return to her husband, her life was taken by her husband. But before she returns to her husband, she gives a glance at Medusa and she mouthed something, perhaps a word of endearment, perhaps an apology. Because Cornelia knows that her life will be taken from her in the hand of her husband himself.

The third is Dictys, he is a man, but he is a victim of the patriarchal society. In the patriarchal society man is expected to be wealthy and have power in the society itself. But Dictys is not a wealthy man, he is not a man with a social status too, this causes oppression towards Dictys from another man. In patriarchal society, the norms of masculinity are important. If a male is lower than another, they could easily be degraded by another male who has more power.

'I tried my best for you and your mother, Perseus. It might not be a union that I would want for your mother, but I have no sway over Polydeuces. To him, I am a simple, contemptible fisherman,

no more than that despite our shared parentage. If anything, I fear if I try to exert any sway, it would simply make matters worse.' (Lynn, 2020:23)

From the quotation above, Dictys does not have power to save Perseus mother from his brother. His brother is a King and Dictys is only a fisherman. To the King Polydectes, Dictys is just an easy opponent to deal with. King Polydectes is using his power to oppressed other people does not matter whether it is a female or a male.

For the last victim of the patriarchy system in this novel is Perseus. From the moment he is born he is being sent away by his grandmother, because his grandfather King Acrisius has a destiny that he will be killed by the son of her daughter Danae. So, Eurydice sent Danae and her son, Perseus away from King Acrisius kingdom so that they would be save. From this is already Perseus is a victim of this grandfather, power over her mother. Perseus cannot have a good life in the castle as he should be because his grandfather afraid that he will kill him.

'Tell me then, Father-who-has-never-lied. What kind of husband would the great King Polydectes make for my mother? A fair one? A just one? Would he be like you and never raise a fist? Tell me, Dictys. What will this marriage entail for my mother? What right does he have to come here and claim any woman he chooses? (Lynn, 2020:87)

Another scene where Perseus is the victim of patriarchal system is according to the quotation above is that King Polydectes wants to marry his mother, Danae. Perseus cannot do anything at this point to save his beloved mother. Perseus do not have wealth and power to save defeat King Polydectes. He needs to find a way, a way that do not involve wealth and power. Therefore, he brings the head of Medusa and seen as a hero and by then Perseus is labelled as a hero.

4. CONCLUSION

The topic of this research begin in the Patriarchal system that occurs in the novel entitled Athena's Child by Hanna Lynn. **In patriarchal society, men are in a superior position than women.** In this society **men should be in charge and women should follow along, this causes women to be placed in a subordinate or inferior position.** The novel that is being used based on the famous Greek mythology retelling of the story of **Medusa, one of the three monstrous Gorgons, Medusa was a snake-haired female who turned anybody who looked upon her to stone.**

In this novel, told from the start of medusa from how she is being cursed until **she was finally killed by the hero Perseus, who used her severed head as a weapon against his enemies.** The author stated from this book that Medusa lived as a monster but she is not born as a monster because she is being cursed by Athena, the god of war. From her storyline in this novel medusa and other women in this novel has face several harassment and oppression from male with high status in society. She also being oppressed and **sexually harassed** by the gods and later she is being cursed on something that she cannot control. **The aims of the research are to analyze how is the reflection, how the patriarchal systems portrayed and how is the effects of patriarchy to the victims in the novel.**

Reflecting upon the patriarchy in this novel, what it would mean to live in a society that support male needs more than female. Male have power against woman, male corruption is being reflected and dominant male can be in a society based on this novel. Male are seen as superiors and the main

characters in patriarchal society. When a man has wealth and high social status he is basically seen as a powerful human being. The power of a man can be used to oppress female or male to be under his control.

The effect of patriarchy to the victims in this novel is various. Patriarchy refers to male domination both in public and personal scope. Male domination is an important aspect of patriarchal society and is perhaps the number one reason for patriarchy in any sort of society men see themselves as better, stronger, and smarter than women. But the main factor to support Male to be the centered character is social status, strength and wealth. Male can be more superior than other male if they have more power, strength and wealth. Therefore, the victims of patriarchy are not only woman but also male.

The topic of this research begin in the Patriarchal system that occurs in the novel entitled *Athena's Child* by Hanna Lynn. In patriarchal society, men are in a superior position than women. In this society men should be in charge and women should follow along, this causes women to be placed in a subordinate or inferior position. The novel that is being used based on the famous Greek mythology retelling of the story of Medusa, one of the three monstrous Gorgons, Medusa was a snake-haired female who turned anybody who looked upon her to stone.

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