is only because of the co-existence of various elements of nature that human life arose and has been sustained for so long. It is this common characteristic of nurturing that weaves an important and critical bond between nature and women, which is cemented by the very real relationship of caring that women have had with the natural world, both in achieving sustenance from nature’s bounty, as well as caring for nature to ensure she can continue to do the same for all people.

At the first world conference on women in 1975, held in Mexico City, the “women and environment” issue was brought into public consciousness by the physicist Vandana Shiva, now a global environment leader (see also Schultz et al.). She reported the struggle of the Chipko Movement in the Himalayan region of India, where Chipko village women embraced the trees to protect them against threats of deforestation. It is one of the oldest environmental protests by women against government and business joint policies. Various other movements such as the Women, Environment and Development; Alliance for the Future; and Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (dawn) came up in the late 1990s.

It is evident that women are major contributors, if not the majority stakeholders, and they share equal burden in this regard. Moreover, women have proven to be effective instruments in bringing reform and adopting ecological practices on a large scale. Their stake in environment and development cannot be ignored.

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References


CHRISTINA LLOYD

ON THE CHAMPS ELYSEES

she tells me that three doctors peered in to declare her hymen intact, that church edict demanded such proof.

I imagine Agnes’ daggered throat, Agatha’s severed breasts and this woman splayed, her faith tested clinically.

In the Louvre I join the procession of tourists gawking at Murillo’s numb-faced Madonnas, Fra Angelico’s shocking pinks.

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