Virgins, Mystics, and Reformers: The Creation of Female Constructed Identites in the Medieval and Early Modern Period

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Abstract
During the medieval and early modern periods in England, women were not expected to enter into the realm of politics or to comment on religion, and yet many women did find ways of entering into discourse on these topics. For these women the creation of public identities that would protect them from attacks against their characters were necessary to their success in areas of politics and religious commentary. Aristocratic women who wished to enter into politics tended to construct their public identities around their religious piety, using their faith as justification for their actions and also to insulate them from the dangers of meddling in current events. Common women used visions to comment on religion, sometimes with success and sometimes with mixed results; however, when these women strayed into predicting political outcomes they found themselves in trouble. Similarly, women who were unable to create an identity to protect themselves and were problematic for society might be label as witches. Other women found themselves at the center of competing constructed identities, when the persona that they created of themselves was contradicted by identities created by their enemies. This thesis will argue that the female identities constructed by women and men were created around certain concepts like virginity or witchcraft, but also had to be flexible to work in the realms of politics and religious commentary.

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Lack of Creativity in the Medieval Period. 1161 words - 5 pages Lack of ego, violence, and unproductiveness were some of the few characteristics Manchester attributed to the medieval mind. During this period of history, the people lacked creativity and only used the mechanisms that were created by the generations before. Trace the development of the female figure in freestanding sculpture through the Archaic Period making reference to at least three korai. 2242 words - 9 pages in freestanding sculpture such as kouroi and korai. During this period the Ancient Greeks also started to travel further and to trade with other countries, particularly Egypt (or Phoenicia, as it was then known). In his epic, The Odyssey, Homer says in one of Odysseus' lies that he made 'an expedition to Egypt'. 