

## The significance of the stallion in D.H. Lawrence 's *St Mawr*

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### Abstract :

D.H. Lawrence's *St Mawr* (1925) is a very entrancing short novel which talks about a woman and her dissatisfaction with men as whole . It 's a very well – structured story , and one of the wisest story as Lawrence presents a clash between the fictional ( the horse ) world , and the real world ( men world ) . Through it , Lawrence creates a world with very few words and with real characters .It is the first of his writings to be set in America on a ranch in Arizona .

Lawrence's intention in *St Mawr* is to show the vitality of a splendid stallion which is lacking in men .For Lawrence , men have abused their own powers , the phallic power embodied in the stallion ,*St Mawr* , and allowed women to become powerful , the female principle to assume the ascendant .It is quite clear that *St Mawr* conveys a lament for the loss of maleness , which Lawrence attributes to the modern , mechanistic ,money grubbing world – the world of men .It is only in the face of such a loss that women can become powerful and independent .

Lawrence , as a result , presents *St Mawr* as the antithesis of the modern man .He endows *St Mawr* with those qualities which are more properly aspects of male principles such as life – power,energy,and courage .The horse figure utterly dominates the whole of *St Mawr* .

The significance of the stallion ,*St Mawr* , is first imparted to the reader through the heroine's , Lou's , sense of it ; then it is developed and enforced by a wealth of poetic language and dramatic means ;i.e , Lawrence uses poetic language in giving a minute description of the stallion .

The stallion , as a powerful and vital animal , makes Lou senses the emptiness of her life and discovers the illusion of her marriage .Thus ,at the end of the novel she decides , after realizing that men are not men enough , to live alone with her mother in a ranch in Mexico , as her heart has been broken by men .She prefers to stay alone and starts new life with nature ; she thinks that nature will keep her soul and sex from being cheap .In this respect , Lawrence believes that if men refuse to be men , " babies and playboys ,poor things showing off all the time , even to themselves " , then it is right that women should forsake them and find new ways to live without them .Such as an action is not a denial of sexuality , but a proper respect for it ; not a denial of relation and community , but refusal to cheapen either , not a negative and cynical move , but a brave and positive one .

Hence, the present study focuses on the importance and significance of the stallion as viewed through the eyes of the heroine of *St Mawr*

#### **The significance of stallion in D.H. Lawrence's *St Mawr***

**Horses , always horses ! How the horse dominated the mind of the early races , especially of the Mediterranean ! you were a lord if you had a horse .Far back ,far back in our dark soul the horse prances .He is a dominant symbol : he gives us lordship ; he links us , the first palpable and throbbing link with ruddy –glowing Almighty of potency : he is the beginning even of our godhead in the flesh .And as a symbol he roams the dark underworld meadows of the soul .....Within the last fifty years man has lost the horse . Now man is lost ! Man is lost to life and power – an underlying and a wastrel . While horses thrashed the streets of London , London lived .... The red horse is choler : not mere anger , but natural fieryness what we call passion**

**( Lawrence , quoted in Pinion , p 257 )**

It can be seen from above passage , which is quoted from Lawrence's last book , *Apocalypse* , what the horse symbol meant to

Lawrence and how the horse figure embodies so many of Lawrence's deepest and most lasting preoccupations with a reference to mythology or psychology imported from outside the short novella , *St Mawr* , rather through vivid scenes and the perfect control of evocative language .He is able to endow his stallion with such a range and depth of significance .Thus , the genesis of *St Mawr* can be attributed to Lawrence's allegiance to the horse which plays a vital role in shaping the theme and characters of *St.Mawr*.

*St Mawr* is a short novel ( or novella ) , first published in 1925 . Lawrence wrote most of this brief novel while spending five months of the summer of 1924 at what is now known as the D.H Lawrence Ranch , a property which he and his wife Frieda acquired

*St Mawr* is written to show " the individual's sense of meaninglessness in the midst of so –called civilized English society and his attempts to establish some pattern of sense and meaning in life by with drawing to an isolated ranch in New Mexico " . (Moore ,P.111). The heroine ,Lou Witt , is married to Rico , a society playboy , but life with him is empty and meaningless ; her sense of alienation is associated with her encounter with a high spirited stallion ; the *St Mawr* whose name provides the title for this tale.

The image of the horse and rider become for Lawrence a symbol of the human will bullying the body , or the instincts , or the life of nature .Lawrence's admiration for horses appears not only in *St Mawr* , but in his novels like *The Rainbow* , Which begins and ends with horses ."They mounted their horses , and held life between the grip of their knees , they harnessed their horses at the wagon , and with the hand on the bridle –rings , drew the hearing of the horses after their will"( *Rainbow ,p 67* ) .

In fact ,Lawrence 's interest in horses might be attributed to his early reading ; in the Bible , for example : " Be ye not as the horse , or as the mule , which have no understanding : whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle " (Psalms 32 :9) ; in a book he borrowed from Koteliansky in 1918 .The book was almost certainly *Psychology of the Unconscious* ( now called *Symbols of Transformation* ) published in England in 1917 by Jung .In it , especially in the chapter

called The Battle for Deliverance from the mother ', Lawrence would have found a great deal about horses:

**Legends attributes properties to the horse which psychologically belong to the uncurious of man : there are clairvoyant and clairaudient horses ,path-finding horse who show the way when the wanderer is lost , horses with mantic powers ..... Horses also see ghosts .All these things are typical manifestations of the unconscious . We can therefore see why the horse , as symbol of the animal component in man , has numerous connections with the devil .... The sexual nature of the devil is imparted to the horse as well , so that this symbol is found in contexts where the sexual interpretation is the only one that fits ..... lightning, too , is represented theriomorphically as a horse**

( p.277)

But there Lawrence shies a way from Jung's insistence on placing horse symbolism in a context of incest. Rather, Lawrence offers his own interpretation in which he tries to relate what he has taken from Jung into his own earlier use of horse symbolism and to his growing sense of his own father as prototype of the repressed sensual male:

**The horse is presented as an object of terror , which means that to the man's automatic dream –soul , which loves automatism , the great sensual male activity is the greatest menace . The automatic pseudo –soul , which ha : got the sensual nature repressed , would keep to keep it repressed .whereas the greatest desire of the living spontaneous soul is that this very male sensual nature ,**

**represented as a menace , shall be  
actually accomplished in life .... The dream  
may mean a love of the dreamer  
for the sensual male who is his father .  
But it has nothing to do with incest ,The  
love is probably a just love.**

( Lawrence ,quoted in Pinion , 250 )

Despite his gentle mockery of Jung's muddled mysticism , Lawrence was captivated by the muddled mysticism of Apocalypse .Images from the book of Revelation had been implanted in his mind since boyhood .By the beginning of 1918 he had already begun the analyses of that book which was to result in his final completed work ,Apocalypse .This essay was published in the English Review in 1919 .Accordingly from this came the landscape background of St Mawr and the red horse it self

This account of the genesis of *St Mawr* illustrates how the horse occupies the central role in *St .Mawr*. So , " it is the horse that is dominant: he is the symbol of the unconquerable maleness Lawrence was celebrating " (Moore ,226) .*St .Mawr* is an untamable horse purchased in London by Lou Carrington , an unfulfilled American woman married to an English man . Lou and her mother, Mrs. .Witt, takes *St Mawr* to the American south west, where the landscape has a striving effect upon the two women.

Lou Carrington and her mother, Mrs. Witt, are two of the most interesting and convincing women Lawrence ever wrote about. Lou has all the shrewdness and toughness necessary for survival in our decade . She is " not exactly pretty , but very attractive , and her quaint air of playing well-bred , in a sort of charade game , and her queer familiarity with foreign cities and foreign languages , and the lurking sense of being an outsider every where , like a sort of gipsy , who is at home anywhere and nowhere : all this made up her charm and her failure ... of course she was American ; moved down to Texas . And she was moderately ,rich , with no close relation except her mother ." (*St M* ,3)

Mrs. Witt is a widow , a fine healthy woman of fifty-one , who has had nothing to do with men for the past fifteen years . " she loved men –real men . But , on close contact , it was difficult to define what she meant by "real men " She never met any " : (*St M.*,6) She dislikes men because they are not men enough .Mrs .Witt is pretty ,energetic and sardonically inclined ; although she says little , what she does say , bites , " and her terrible grey eyes with the touch of a leer looked on at the hollow mockery of things ' in a ' queer ,democratic New Orleans sort of conceit " (*St M*, 6) .When Lou tells her that "Rico has proposed to me , and I have accepted him."Mrs .Witt seems dissatisfied with the proposal because she looks on Rico ,as he is known , as little more than a handsome cipher " she would almost have preferred Lou to elope with one of the great , evil porters at Les Halles . Mrs.Witt was at the age when the malevolent male in man , the old Adom begins to loom above the social tailoring " (*St.M.*,6)

Mrs. Witt is right to have her doubts about the marriage which is not successful , like a potent well- dressed demon , full of un-canny energy and a shattering sort of sense "(*St.M.*,8). Lou and Rico are fond of one another ."A nervous attachment, rather than a sexual love .A curious tension of will rather than a spontaneous passion ". (*St M* 9 ) .Their marriage becomes without sex ."sex was shattering and exhausting , they shrank away from it and become like brother and sister . But they were still husband and wife . And the lack of physical relation was a source of uneasiness and chagrin to them both " (*STM*.11)

Lou and her mother go riding in Hyde Park and decide that " Rico dear , You must have a horse " so that he can join them . St Mawr seems the ideal purchase to Lou :

**He was of such a lovely red –gold color ,  
and a dark invisible fire seemed  
to come out of him . But in his big  
black eyes there was a lurking after-  
thought . Something told her that the  
horse was not quite happy ; that  
somewhere deep in his animal consciousness**

**lived a dangerous ,half-revealed resentment ,  
a diffused sense of hostility .**

**(St.M.11)**

The life – power in St.Mawr gives Lou a vision of another world making her think how her marriage has failed her .she realizes that St.Mawr is worthy of respect and admiration ; Lou is determined to buy him because he makes her want to cry – some thing she , as a modern women , never does . She senses the desperation and emptiness of the civilization (symbolically Rico ) is the representative of modern –civilized life ) , in which she lives. But now ,

**As if that mysterious fire of the horse's  
body had split some rock in her ,she went  
home and hid herself in her room , and just  
cried .The wild ,brilliant ,alert head of St .  
Mawr seemed to look at her out of another  
world .It was as if she had a vision ,as if  
the walls of her own world had suddenly  
melted away , leaving her in a great  
darkness in the midst of which the large  
brilliant eyes of that horse looked at  
her with diminish question ,while his  
naked ears stood up like daggers from  
the naked lines of his inhuman head ,  
and his great body glowed red with power .**

**(St.M13)**

The horse haunts Lou ,and her human relationships begin to seem superficial by contrast ." she hid herself away from Rico . she could not bear the triviality and superficiality of her human relationships ." (St.M 14 ) .

This is not simple case of sexual frustration but indicates the repression of the greater sex ' which is demonic and impersonal , promising rebirth :

**What was it ? Almost like a  
god looking at her terribly out of  
the everlasting dark , she had felt  
the eyes of that horse ; great ,  
glowing ,fearsome eyes ,arched with  
a question and containing a white  
blade of light like a threat. What  
was his non – human question , and  
his uncanny threat ? she didn't  
know , He was some splendid demon  
and she must worship him .**

**(St.M ,13-14)**

Perhaps , in writing these passages ,Lawrence draws on one of the favorite sections of "Song of Myself " , where Whitman ,asserting that animals bring him tokens of himself , goes on to describe :

**A gigantic beauty of a stallion ,  
fresh and responsive to mycaresses ,  
Heading high in the forehead  
wide between the ears  
Limbs glossy and supple ,  
tail dusting the ground ,  
Eyes full of sparking wicked-  
ness ,ears finely cut flexibly moving**

**(Song of Myself ,quoted in Pinion )**

The question Lou asks St Mawr "can be articulated in many ways."if" ' Iam real , what are you ? ; What in you can answer to my god head? ; can you cross into my world?" (*St M,41*) .Through this question ,Lou senses that what is required of her is her death to her former self and life .And what has hither to constituted her world she is now able to recognize as unreal , in spite of the almost universal conspiracy to pretend that it is reality ; Lou's vision of St.Mawr is "the only thing that was real " (*St.M,32*) , and :



the talk , the eating and drinking , the flirtation , the endless dancing : it all seemed far more bodiless and in a strange way, .wraith –like , than any fairy story .She seemed to be eating Barmecide food , that had been conjured up out of thin air , by the power of words .She seemed to be talking to handsome young bare- faced unrealities, not men at all ; as she slid about with them , in the perpetual dance , they too seemed to have been conjured up out of the air , merely for this soaring , slithering dance –business .And she could not believe that , when the lights went out , they wouldn't melt back into thin air again , and complete nonentity

(St.M,112 )

But at first St Mawr's world seems so alien from her own that Lou can see it only as non-human .It seems as a world of horses , of long-dead heroes like centaurs , of long –dead gods or demons like satyrs .So *St Mawr* seems to look at Lou out of another world ; but this kind of suggestion in Lawrence is ,as the critic F.R.Leavis states , "often dismissed as romantic –that is ,as indulgence of imagination or fancy that can not be credited with any real significance or taken seriously ". (p240 ).

It seems that Rico is "the antithesis of St Mawr ,he represents the irremediable defeat of all that St Mawr stands for ." (Leavis ,238) .In fact , the passage quoted below conveys the main difference between St Mawr and Rico ; and shows why Lou is obsessed with horse and fascinated by him :

**He {Rico } , too, was rather like a horse – but forever quivering with a sort of cold , dangerous mistrust , which he covered with anxious Love .**

**At the middle of his eye was a central powerlessness, that left him anxious .It used to touch her to pity , that central look of powerlessness in him .But now , since she had seen the full ,dark ,passionate blaze of power and of different life in the eyes of the thwarted horse , the anxious powerlessness of the man drove her mad .Rico was so handsome ,and he was so self –controlled ,he had a gallant sort of kindness and a real worldly shrewdness**

**One had to admire him at least she had to . but after all , after all , it was bluff, an attitude . It was an attitude .she read psycho lists who said that every thing was an attitude .Even the best of every thing .But now she realizes that , with men and women , every thing is an attitude only when something else is lacking .Some thing is lacking and they are thrown back on their own devices . That black fiery flow in the eyes of the horse was not 'attitude' .It was something much more terrifying ,and real , the only thing that was real ,Gushing from the darkness in menace and question , and plazing out in the splendid body of the horse.**

**(St M ,34-35)**

This passage suggests Lou's concept of maleness .Lou and her mother, Mrs. .Witt , are at odds on the subject of men:

**I think one gets so tired of your men with mind ,as you call it .  
..... It seems to me {Lou} there's something else besides mind and cleverness .Perhaps it is the animal .Just think of St Mawr  
I've thought so much about him . we call**

**him an animal , but we never know what  
It means .He seems a far greater  
mystery to me than a clever man .He's  
a horse . why can't one say the same  
of a man : He's a man ?**

*(St M, 45)*

Clearly , Lou's concept of maleness does not consist intellectual ability. And neither does it consist in sexual prowess .It consists rather in a self –awareness which is not accessible to consciousness .(Macheod,143) .

Lou despises men because the animal (which embodies such self –awareness ) in them has become tamed , and is now servile and cringing .According to her it is St Mawr and the two grooms ,Lewis and Phoenix ,who most truly represent the male principle ; it is they – the horse , the Celt , and the American Indian- who should be the masters rather than the servants they are .Here Lawrence comes so near to saying something so profoundly true that it is amazing for him to persist in identifying the male principle with a mindless indifference and cruelty .(Ibid ,143)

For Mrs. Witt , man is wonderful because he is able to think , " rather than for his animal attributes , and it is a lack of mind which makes the common place .For Lou , men's minds are common place :

**Most men have a deadness in them that  
frightens me because of my own deadness.  
Why can't men get their life straight ,  
like St Mawr , and then think ? why cant  
they think quick , mother :quick as a woman :  
only further than we do ?  
why isn't men's thinking quick like fire ,  
mother? Why is it so slow , so dead , so deadly dull ?**

*(St M,46)*

Here, Lou is asking the pertinent question: why are men so inferior to women that there is little reason for us to respect and admire them? It

seems that the knowledge that , more especially men , are empty and dull , gives her no pleasure ; on the contrary , it is driving her very near to despair .Although she has her husband and her mother , she feels detached from them both. Rico and Mrs.Witt are "deadly enemies ,yet neither could keep clear of the other .It might have been they who were married to one another , their duel and their duet were so relentless ".(St M,20)

When Mrs. Witt takes a house in Shropshire for the summer , the Carrington join her , and Rico immediately becomes involved in the social round ."Every thing intensely thrilling , and so utterly wearisome , Lou felt " (St M,63) she begins to spend a lot of time alone , learning to do nothing ,while Rico consorts with the bright young Manbys ,and Mrs.Witt takes on the role of lady Bountiful among the villagers .All Lou wants is to be peaceful ,but Mrs.Witt can't believe that her daughter " can be content to lie on a hammock and do nothing , not even read or improve her mind " Lou replies that she is " the harem type ...only I never want the men in side the lattice ".(St M,64) Thus last point shows Lou's dissatisfaction with the modern world of men .She declares that " I can't live .mother ,I just can't ," retorting , " I don't see why not I'm full of life " .She believes that men are unworthy creatures .She can not live by 'shattering ' people from a position of detachment and enjoy the process, "I've got to live , And the thing that is offered to me as life just starves me ,starves me to death ,mother " (St M, 43) .This dull life with men attracts her unconsciously to St Mawr for :

**I don't want intimacy , mother ,I'm  
too tired of it all . I love St Mawr because  
he isn't intimate .He stands where one  
can't Get at him .And he burns with life  
.And where does his life come from ,  
to him ? That's the mystery .That  
great burning life in him , which never  
is dead .**

**(St M,46)**

Lou makes it plain that what she wants is the real intelligence, the power of real thinking , that the clever men seem to her not to have , She repudiates any backing of 'blood' and 'instinct' against intelligence , and she repudiates any primitivistic leaning " Mrs.Witt accuses Lou of wanting a cave man who would knock her on the head with a club .But she is voicing the early man as brute . Don't be silly, mother .That's much more your subconscious line, you admirer of mind – I don't consider the cave man is a real human animal at all . He's a brute, degenerate ". (St M , 45 ) Then ,she further adds that :

**A pure animal would be as lovely as  
a deer or a leopard , burning like a flame  
fed straight from underneath .And he'd  
be part of the unseen like a mouse is , even .  
And he'd never cease to wonder , he'd  
breathe silence and unseen wonder ,as the  
partridges do , running in the stubble .He'd  
be all the animals in turn , instead of one , fixed  
automatic thing , which is now ,grinding on the nerves  
(St M ,49)**

Thus the kind of the intelligence "burning like a flame fed straight from underneath " that Lou postulates – the intelligence of a full thinking man who has a good intuitive mind ,and 'knows things without thinking them ". In fact Lou has little hope of meeting the man she would care to mate with .But this marvelous creative intelligence ,as Lou believes ,is present in St Mawr .

It is clear that Rico has tried to extirpate his own animal nature .That spark , which Rico has extinguished in himself ,blazes in St Mawr ; but Rico in his visionlessness, can not see it .It is the spark of intuitive sympathy and creativity ".(Pinion ,272) Without it Rico becomes representative of "our whole eunuch civilization ,nasty – minded as eunuchs are , with their kind of sneaking ,sterilizing cruelty ." (St M,96).

When St Mawr throws Rico again , partially crushing him ,Rico and the sisters ,Flora and Elsie Manby ,want to have him shot .He had been treated cruelly in the past , and has twice 'made a break ' ; killing two men , in one case by smashing a young man's head against an oak In this respect ,St Mawr is depicted as "representative of Nature herself at her most sensitive and vulnerable ,yet capable of terrible revenge when injured or denied , and of man's own deepest nature which turns upon him and rears against him when denied " (Pinion ,274) Lou proves herself a real woman in defending the male principle .She believes that if St Mawr is not after all noble ,but man is treacherous ,perhaps he should be shot .Watching him ,she feels " great animal sadness come from him ",and a great woe ," the woe of human unworthiness .The race of men judged in the consciousness of the animals they have subdued , and there found unworthy , ignoble "(St M,30) She is full with grief and sympathy for the stallion , a grief which makes her want to be alone .In fact ,

**some thing told Her that the horse was not quite happy :that some where deep in his animal consciousness lived a dangerous ,half revealed resentment , a diffused sense of hostility .She realized that he was sensitive ,in spite of his flaming ,healthy strength , and nervous with a touchy uneasiness that might make him vindictive ....He looked like something finely bred and passionate ,that has been judged and condemned .**

**(St M,28-29)**

" She knew now what it all amounted to .She knew that horse ,born to serve nobly ,had waited in vain for someone noble to serve .His spirit knew that nobility had gone out of men .And this left him high and dry ;in a sort of despair " (St M 97) .It is of course Lou's own despair , the despair of a woman who has not found a man worth 'serving ' .It is the despair of a sensitive and intelligent woman who has never found her equal , a man worth loving .

The despair shared by Lou and St Mawr is that of the disappointed idealist or ' the grief of the generous creature which sees all ends turn

to the morass of ignoble living ; Life , for such creature , has become meaningless .As far as Lawrence is concerned in this novel , the way towards meaning lies in submission : a recognition of that which is bigger than ourselves .For both women and horses , this elusive entity should be the adult human male .But this is not how it works out in the end .(Macleod ,145).

Mrs. Witt is apparently less despairing than Lou , But essentially engaged in the some sort of quest :

**Examining herself , she had long ago  
decided that her nature was a destructive  
force .But then she justified herself , she  
had only destroyed that which was destructible  
If she could have found some thing  
indestructible , especially in men , thong she  
Would have fought it , she would have  
been glad at last to be defeated by it .**

**(St .M ,133)**

Nobody has ever defeated her , and when she is on on the point of crying out ."Conquer me, oh. God, before I die." , she realizes that "she had a terrible contempt for the God that was supposed to rule this universe .She felt she could make Him kiss her hand ." (St M,133) .But it is clear that her strength does not make her happy .Nothing in her life has ever really affected her , not even the thought of her own death , which she sees as a passing into mere nothingness ,she can not realize death because she has never fully realized life , never even submitted fully to the process of aging , but has remained as :

**Timeless as an hour-glass that turns  
morning and night , and spills the hours  
of sleep one way , the hours of consciousness  
the other way , without it self being  
affected .Nothing in my life has ever  
truly affected me ....Nothing had ever  
really had any effect on her ..Then try  
death , see if that trick would work .If  
she would lose herself to herself that way –  
ah, death !**

**But Mrs.Witt mistrusted death ,too .she  
felt she might pass out as a bed of asters  
passes out in autumn to mere nothingness**

*(St M ,137)*

When Rico decides to sell St Mawr to the Manby –who will have him gelded , if not shot – Mrs .Witt saves St Mawr from gelding by spiriting him away .She and Lewis will take St. Mawr across country to some friends of hers , and then leave for America , taking phoenix and the horse with them .It is on this journey that she meets her match .During this journey Mrs .Witt makes a proposal of marriage to Lewis , who may have 'no mind ' , and be strictly a nonentity ' , but who seems to ' inhabit another world from hers ,'It emphasizes the irony of the situation that the admirer of 'mind ' and of 'clever men ' ,Mrs.Witt ,makes her proposal –to this man who has no mind – to be coldly rejected .Lewis is a quiet little Welshman who refuses to cut off his beard because it is a part of him .He dislikes people because he dislikes the aunt and the uncle who brought him up , and because they were religious ,he dislikes religion .When Mrs.Witt makes her fantastic proposal ,Lewis says such a marriage "would never do ".He has to work for women now ,be their servants , but the woman he marries would have to respect his body –and Mrs.Witt respects no man ."No woman shall touch my body and mock me and despise me ." He would feel shame to have a woman mocking and shouting at him as he has seen married women do : "But if I touch a woman with my body ,it must put a lock on her to respect what I will never have despised :never." ( St M 99) .Mrs. Witt becomes cutting , looking at him with a "touch of contemptuous mockery ,raillery ' : What is so precious about his body ? But he refuses to answer and rides on .

**She was in love with him .And he ,in  
an odd way , was in love with her ... But  
he would not have her come physically  
near him .Unapproachable there is a cactus ,  
guarding his body from her contact .As  
if contact with her would be mortal  
insult and fatal injury to his marvelous  
'body'**

**What a little cock –sparrow !**

*(St M,100)*



In fact it is at this point in the novel that Mrs.Witt begins to change .She becomes listless and wishes for the first time in her life that she had a maid , feeling that her electric energy ,her power ,has been switched off .It could be said that Mrs.Witt's rejection by Lewis is not an act of vengeance ; it is clear from the outset that Mrs.Witt and her groom are incompatible .she has no respect for male body ,and is not likely to react to it .Lewis Loves her ,"in an odd way " ,but holds back and feels insulted by her approach ; and she privately attributes his refusal to conventional male self –conceit .What she seems to have learned from this foolish act is defeat , the defeat which will give meaning to her life and death .The suggestion is that at last she has met a real man ; and that he has given her what she has really wanted .(Macleod.147) .

Left alone in Shropshire with the injured Rico and Manbys ,Lou feels herself to be in a minority ,and writes to her mother : "It's an awful thought ,to think that most all the young people in the world are like this : so bright and cheerful and sporting ,and so brimming with libido ." (St M 105 ) .It is only phoenix seems to understand her .When she talks to Lewis ,trying to persuade him to go to America with St Mawr , she surmises :

**I think you and Phoenix and mother and  
I might live in a far way wild  
place , and make a good life :so long as  
we didn't begin to mix up marriage ,or  
love or that sort of thing into it .It seems  
to me men and women have really hurt  
one another so much ,nowadays ,that  
they had better stay a part till they  
have learned to be gentle with one  
another .Not all this enforced passion  
and philandering .**

*(St M, 107)*

Here , Lou suggests to establish some sort of a sexual community which is neither ascetic nor monastic ,the sexes living in side –by –side segregation .She proposes utopia by making the four of

them sound like babes in the wood .It seems that Lou is tired of pretence of intimacy ' for the very thought 'fills me {Lou} me ashes , and the pretence of it exhausts me beyond myself " (*St M* ,88)

On the voyage from Southampton .Galveston Mrs.Witt spends most of her time in her cabin , lying on her bunk , "silent ,shut up like a steel trap ,as if in her tomb ."(*St M* ,117) Lou lunches with the captain and feels "she out to be flirty " , but has no stomach for the exercises .She watches England fade away with no regrets , not even Rico , all of her life there " passing in a grey curtain of rainy drizzle ,and she , with not a feeling left " .(*St M* ,116) .

It sounds that Lou and her mother are going to America to be reborn .When they arrive in Texas, she tells Lou that she has come home to die , and that she has made her last decision : never to make another decision .From now on ,If Lou wants decisions , she must make them herself ."This abandonment of super consciousness , the sort of consciousness which inflicts itself on reality in order to dominate it , is what Mrs. Witt has learned from her relationship with Lewis –and ultimately from *St .Mawr* ." (Macleod ,148)

It is left to Lou to go and look at a ranch which has been advertised for sale , and it is Phoenix who drives the car into the mountains .In this rugged territory he becomes himself "impassive ,detached ,self-satisfied and silently assertive " (*St M* ,124) , and begins to entertain fantasies about himself and Lou ."He wanted her to allow him to make advances to her ,to allow him to suggest that he should be her lover .And then , finally , she would marry him , and he would be on the same footing as she and her mother " ( *St M* ,124) .In return , he will look after her , gives her his support , and remains loyal in his fashion : his relations with Mexican or Indian women will be none of her business .She is "one of these white women who talk clever and know things ,like a man " (*St M* ,125) .To him she is hardly a woman at all , "yet it would flatter his vanity and self –esteem to possess her " while finding the answer to "the phallic male in him " elsewhere .But :

**Before Lou's straight forwardness and utter sexual incompetence ,he just stood in contempt  
And to him even a French co cote was utterly devoid of the right sort of sex .she couldn't really move him .she couldn't satisfy the furtiveness in him .  
He needed this plaintive ,squeaky ,dark – fringed Indian quality ,some thing furtiveness and soft and rat –like ,really to rouse him .  
Nevertheless , he was ready to trade his sex ,which ,in his opinion ,every white woman was secretly pining ,for the white woman's money and social privileges .**

**(St M ,126)**

Unlike Lewis ,who respects his body and is therefore worthy of a woman's respect ,Phoenix is prepared to prostitute himself .Lou does not judge him too harshly .She too may be at fault in that she can not be the sort of woman he finds desirable .Somewhere , Lou feels , Phoenix is just like Rico in his real 'meaninglessness ' , but pleasanter because more childish :

**He was so different from Rico .Yet , after all ,was he ? In his rootlessness ,his drifting ,his real meaninglessness, was he different from Rico ?and his childish ,spellbound absorption in the motor car .....was it very different from Rico ?Anyhow ,was it really any better ? pleasanter ,perhaps ,to a woman , because of the childishness of it .  
The same with his opinion of himself as A sexual male ! so childish ,really ,it was almost thrilling to a woman .But then , so stupid also ,with that furtive lurking in holes and imagining it could not be detected .He imagined he kept himself dark ,in his sexual rat –holes .He imagined he was not detected .**

**(St M,126)**

Phoenix is 'ridiculously mistaken " in thinking that Lou is looking for "some secretly sexual male such as himself ".The missing animal in modern man is clearly not a rat . Lou can not fool herself into seeing Phoenix as husband or mate ."There was a certain physical sympathy between them .His obtuseness made him think it was also a sexual sympathy ".(St M 127 ) .

Lou as a superconscious modern women, is not devoid of wisdom when she can also be intuitive .For Lou."mere sex " has become repellent ,and she will never prostitute herself again ,and will stay alone unless something touches her very spirit .

**She understood now the meaning of the  
vestal virgins ,the virgins of the holy  
fire in old temples .They were symbolic  
of herself ,of woman weary of the embrace  
of incompetent men ,weary ,weary wear of  
all that ,turning to unseen gods  
,the unseen spirits ,the hidden fire ,and devoting  
herself to that ,and that alone .**

*(St M ,128)*

She becomes sure now that the sum of relationships with her former lovers and her marriage to Rico are "almost nothing .It was as if only the outside of herself ,her top layers ,were human within these outer layers of herself lay the successive inner sanctuaries of herself .And these were inviolable ."(St M , 129 ) .She tells herself that :

**I am not a marrying woman ... I am a lover  
nor a mistress nor a wife .It is no good .  
Love can't really come into me from the  
outside , and I can never , never mate with  
Amy man ,since the new mystic man will  
never come to me .No ,no let me know myself  
and my role .I am one of the eternal  
Virgins ,....My dealings with men have only  
broken my stillness and messed up my  
doorways .It has been my fault .I ought  
to stay virgin ,and still ,very ,very still .I**

**want my temple and my loneliness and my Apollo  
mystery of the inner fire**

**( St M ,129)**

In fact it is St Mawr who has given her some idea ,some revelatory delineation of the 'mystic new man ' .The hidden fire to which Lou will devote herself is alive and burning out there in the mountains and in the desert .Lou has now cut herself off from all her former attachment ; she has emptied herself.

For Lou ." the marvelous beauty and fascination of natural wild things " is contrasted with "the horror of man's unnatural life , his heaped –up civilization :

**The flying –fishes burst out of the  
sea in clouds of silvery ,transparent  
motion .Blue above and below ,the Gulf  
seemed a silent ,empty , timeless place where  
man did not really reach .And Lou was again  
fascinated by the glamour  
of the universe .**

**(St M,136)**

When she sees the ranch,Las Chiras , she wants it at once , although it is rat–infested and practically derelict .When MrsWitt asks her what she hopes to achieve at Las Chivas ,Lou replies :

**I was rather hoping, mother, to escape  
achievement .I'll tell you –and you must  
not get cross if it sounds silly .As far  
as people go ,my heart is quite broken .  
And far as people go , I don't want  
any more .I can't stand any more .What  
heart I ever had for it – for life with  
people – is quite broken .I want to be  
alone ,mother : with you here ...  
I want to be my self , really.**

**( St M , 144)**

Mrs.Witt ,now gradually emerging from her lethargy ,both argues and understands :

**I'm concerned that ever men were men  
and women were women ,people who took  
things seriously ,and had time for it ,got  
their heart broken .Haven't I had mine  
broken ! It's as sure as having your virginity  
broken and it amounts to about as much .It's  
A beginning rather than an end .**

**( St M ,145)**

On this last point Lou agrees with her mother : " so it is ,mother ,  
It's the beginning of something else ,and the end of something that's  
done with .I know and there is no altering it , that I've got to live  
differently . And I think sex would matter ,to my very soul ,if it was  
really sacred .But cheap sex kills me "(*St M*,145) .

Lou then explains to her mother that she dislikes men because  
"they're not men enough :babies ,and playboys ,and poor things  
showing off all the time ,even to themselves .I don't say I'm any better.  
I only wish , with all my soul ,that some men were bigger and stronger  
and deeper than Iam ..." (*St M*,145)

She further adds that "either my taking a man shall have a meaning  
and a mystery that penetrates my very soul ,or I will keep to myself "  
(*St M*,146) . Mrs .Witt's understandably cynical answer is that her  
daughter will probably spend her life keeping to herself .Lou ,  
however ,is quite prepared for this possibility , knowing that there is  
something else for her there on the ranch : a spirit

**There's something else for me ,mother .  
There's some thing else even that loves me  
and wants me .I can't tell what it is .  
It's a spirit ,and it's here ,on this ranch ,  
It's here ,in this landscape .It is something  
more real to me than men are ,and it  
soothes me ,and it holds me .I don't  
know what it is ,definitely .It's something**

**wild ,that will hurt me sometimes and  
Will wear me down sometimes .I know  
It ,but it is something big ,bigger than  
men ,bigger than people ,bigger than religion .  
It's something to do with wild  
America ... And to it ,my sex is deep and sacred  
,deeper than I am ,with  
a deep nature a aware deep down  
of my sex .It saves me from cheapness  
,mother .And even you could never do that for me .  
(St M,146)**

This spirit – a spirit of place - will save her from cheapness in needing her ,craving her .It will keep her virgin or intact , which is to say ,integral .It will give meaning to her life and death .Lou looks at her ranch and sees beauty and hope .

Lawrence was exhausted when he finally completed St Mawr .He wrote to Secker on 13 September 1924 :

**Yes ,the novelette St Mawr is finished  
And Brett is typing it out .it's good –  
takes place in England ,then moves to this  
Ranch –some beautiful creation of this  
local and landscape here .But thank  
God I don't have to write it again .  
It took it out of me .  
( Lawrence ,quoted in Pinion ,177)**

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