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Sex, Man's Self-Esteem and Muder of Woman in Russian Novel of 19th and 20th  
Century

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The paper refers to a phenomenon in Russian literature—methodologically, one located in the area between literature, gender studies, psychology, and sociology— which is an aspect of misogyny: namely, the mental and emotional state of the male who finds himself in a sexual situation. The situation causes him humiliation, eliciting a desire on his part to restore his dignity by taking revenge and punishing the woman who aroused his sexual feeling and against whom he directs his fury and vengeance.

Sexual relations bear in civilized society shameful associations. While engaged in sex, the man and the woman become animals. The man, who sees himself as a highly spiritual human being, finds it difficult to accept his descent to this level as an integral part of himself. Instead, he attempts to purge himself of shame by casting the guilt for sexual relations upon the woman.

The man's feelings of humiliation are even stronger if the woman attempts to dominate him, thereby causing him also feelings of rape and castration. In that case, his desire for revenge may go to the extent of wishing to kill her.

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