

## THE MAN OR THE BEAR?

*by:*

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The internet has its dark and bright side that often leads to various controversial discussions where everyone who has access on the web can participate. The most recent discussion - well, not so recent as this topic has taken many forms all throughout the century, is about the question, "Who becomes lost in the woods: the human or the bear?"

To better understand the gravity of the question, there are underlying factors that need to be considered. Responses could differ depending on who is asked the question. But the point of the question is to be asked without any further details and see what is the first choice that comes to the mind of the one being asked. Online, this question is majorly asked to women with varying ages and life experiences. Mothers, students, teenagers, rich, poor, and all classification of women you can think of. Mothers have been asked one of the versions of this question. "Who would you choose to be stuck in the woods with your young child, the man or the bear?" Occasionally, mothers wouldn't respond immediately and would inquire further, such as, "Am I familiar with the man?"

"Does my child know the man?", or "Is the man part of our family?" Frequently, the reply is given promptly and confidently, "I'd go with the bear."

Women of different ages, ethnicity, class standing, and occupation were also asked who they would prefer to get stranded in the forest with and majority of them answered, the bear. A lot of people who didn't understand the concept and gravity of the question may wonder, why would they choose a wild animal to be with instead of someone who can accompany you? Well, have you heard about the news going around America right now?

All throughout the history of mankind, women have been fighting for their rights and privileges as if they are not cut out from the same cloth as men. They have been ostracized and controlled all their life because men make these laws that limit women's rights and capacity to navigate this world through their own will. With the recent win of President Trump, his comments regarding women's reproductive rights pose a threat to women's overall health and well-being, especially mothers who risk their lives all throughout the process of pregnancy. This incites the president's backers, predominantly white males, to seize the moment to assert their dominance and initiate a campaign against women, proclaiming, "Your body, our rules." This outrageous ideology that men have the right over women's overall well-being sparked concerns all throughout the world mostly from women as they felt like humanity is devolving to the most degenerate version of mankind in which again, women have to fight for their lives and their rights all over again.

Each and every woman in this world has their own stories to tell regarding their personal experiences with the men around them. Starting with the age where women are aware of their surroundings, up to the age of retirement, more than 80% of women have stories of sexual and other forms of harassment inflicted to them by men. These stories vary in severity but this does not take away the thought that women have less rights and control over their own well-being even after what the past generations have done to fight the forces that control them. So when asked whether to choose between the man and the bear, the question sounded more like making women choose between two wild animals to be stranded with in the forest, they just have to identify which one will give them more mercy.

One woman was asked the infamous question and answered, "I would rather allow my body to be consumed by a hungry animal for its survival, than give it to a man where even in death will not give my body any peace." This sentiment goes way back to the time of ancient Egypt, where Egyptians were known to bind the legs of female mummies as tightly as they can so men cannot dig their bodies up to perform sexual acts with the corpse. This proves that women have been cautious ever since to the atrocities that men can do to a woman may she be alive or buried six feet under. This question does not only invoke the oppressed feelings of women across the world towards men and their horrible acts, it also proves that women are aware of the dangers of this world inflicted by men and their ongoing everyday battle for their rights and overall safety and well-being. Some men were also asked the same question regarding who they will choose to be stranded with their loved ones, and they answered the bear simply because they do not trust other men as they are thinking creatures capable of deciding what actions they can take when no other men are around them.

This question opens a lot of discussions and topics regarding women's rights and their overall relationship with the male being. his question is more complex than it appears, as it isn't merely a matter of preference. Women have been getting fewer choices and control over their lives as to the point where they will rather choose to be savaged by an animal and give nature their body than surrender to a much wilder beast capable of unimaginable things where even in death will not give them peace and proper respect. So ponder. Which one will it be? The man or the bear?.

## *References:*

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