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### Sexual Submission, Fantasy, & Docility: What if "Sexual Liberation" is a Patriarchal Trap?

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# Submission, Fantasy, & Docility: What if “Sexual Liberation” is a Patriarchal Trap?

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## Research Question

How does submission within women’s private lives translate to docile bodies in the real world?

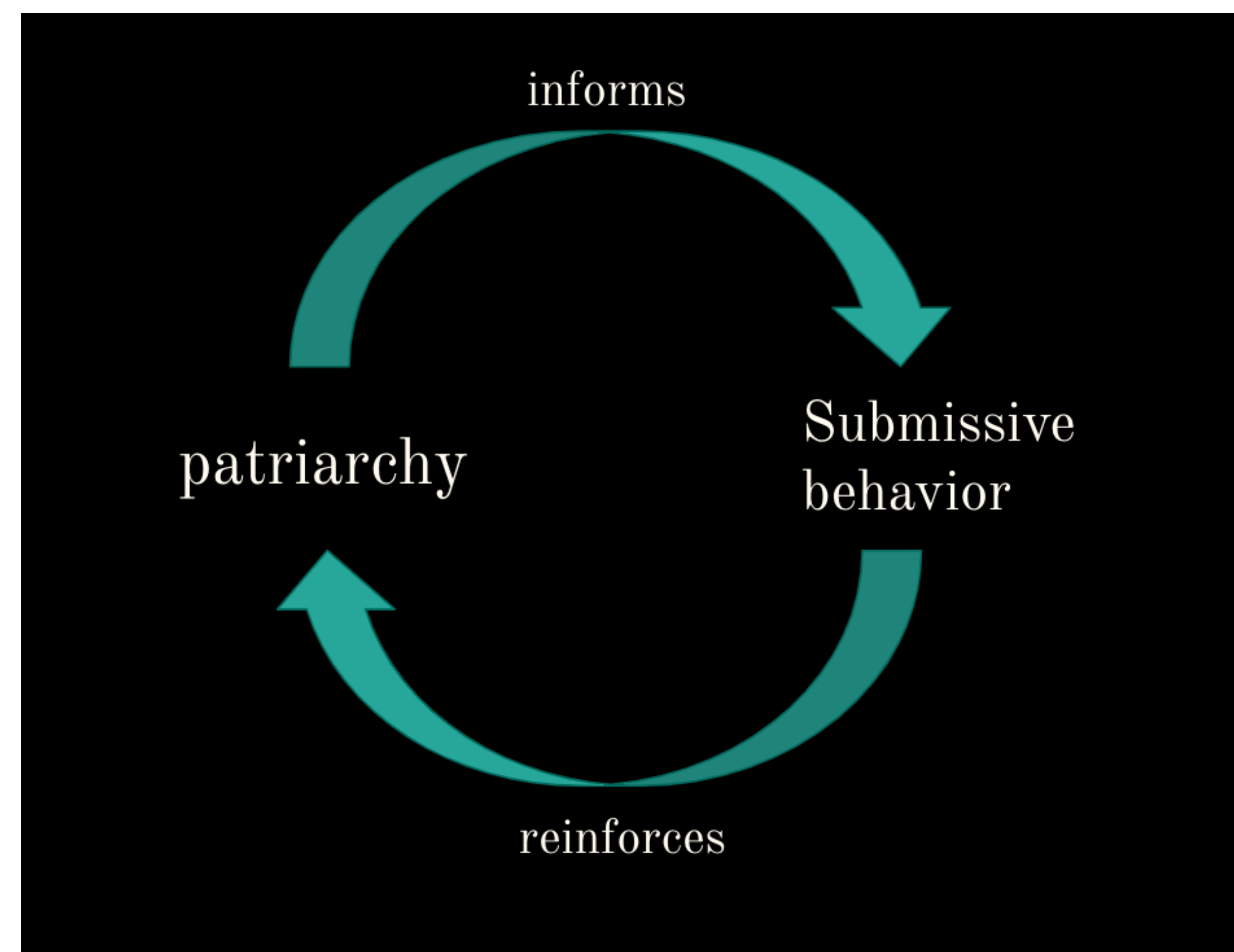
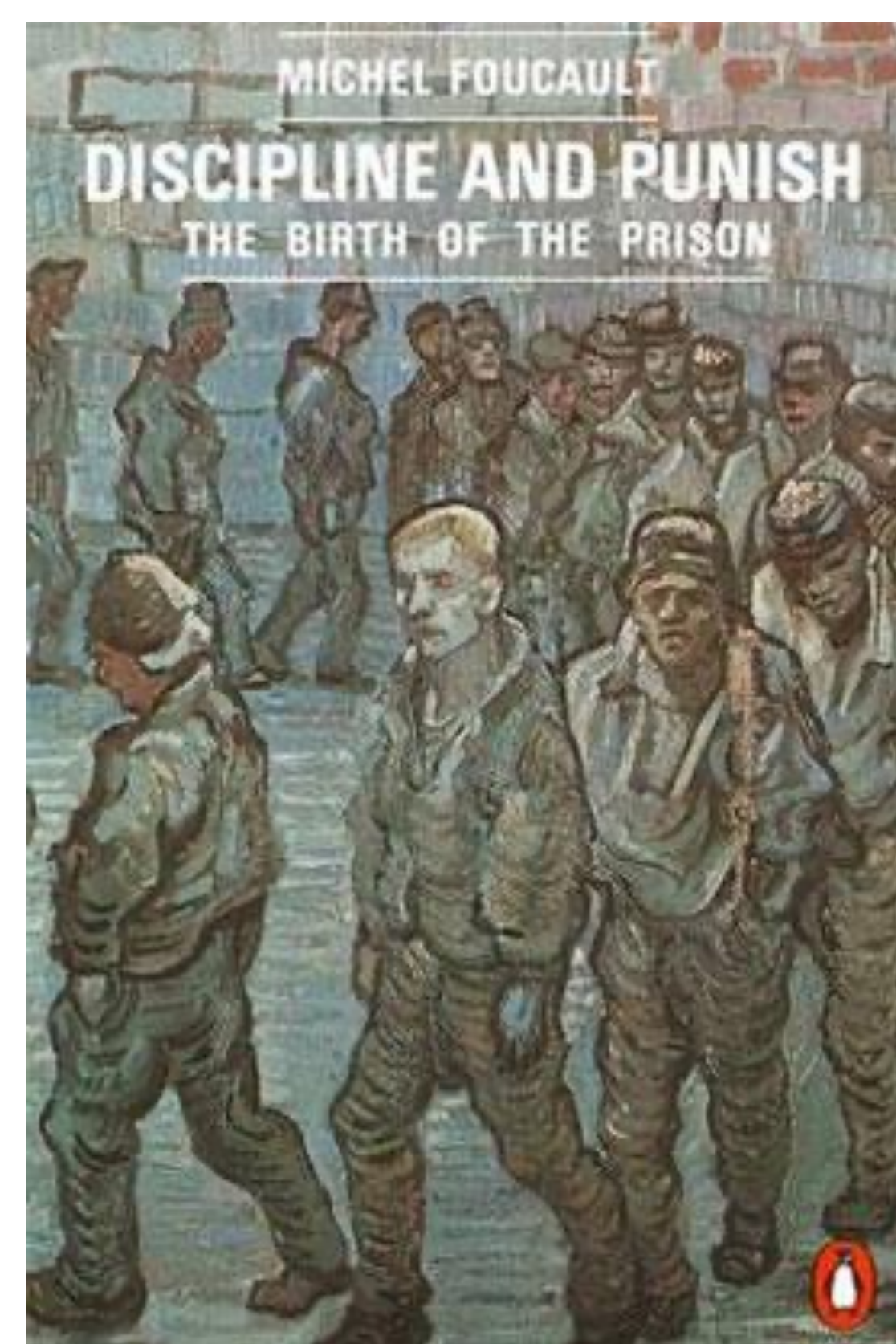
\*& can private sexual choices be separated from the real/public lives of women?

### Key Concepts:

- Women’s sexual fantasies
- Foucault’s ‘Docile Bodies’ concept
- Submission within sexual scripts, attitudes, roles, & behaviors

### Methods:

- Textual Analysis with Reddit Data Scrape
- Current feminist literature and data surrounding female sexual behavior were used as a guide for forum searches.
- Reddit data was then used to support various submissive theories & to emphasize real-life relevance.



Not only am I interested in the perpetuation of this cycle, but I am focused on the negative space within it: where real women’s lives exist.

- There may still be value within this cycle for women who are trapped in a system larger than themselves
- It is with this hope that we can emphasize women being their own creative & sexual trailblazers — create new choices *for* women, *by* women.

## Relevance

- What other areas of society rely on illusive choice to pacify feminist’s drive for agency?
- The future of pornography and erotica— how can we create representative media that puts women & their pleasure at the center?
- Sex positivity movements — we can use what we know about rape myth acceptance and the careful art of fantasy to keep women safe and begin to.

## Key Findings

### - Submission & The Illusion of Choice:

Choices are not made in a vacuum  
Docility is internalized & cannot be set aside  
We cannot label submission, however freely chosen, as empowering.

### - 3 Theories of Submission:

- 1) *Alter-Ego theory*: Women are constantly rejecting oppression. Sex is a place to find solace from that defense.
- 2) *Safety & Privilege theory*: There is safety in traditional sexual roles, and privilege in diverging from them. Women of color often don’t have that privilege
- 3) *Imitation theory*: Women are informed of what is “sexy” from pornography, media, erotica, etc. and they mimic that in heterosexual contexts.

### - Rape Myth Acceptance

Rape fantasies serve as a case study for the far side of the submissive spectrum.  
Engaging in CNC (consensual non-consent) fantasies impacts men’s real-life attitudes and increases rape myth acceptance far more than for women. These findings showcase the relationship between private sexual behaviors and real-life attitudes for men specifically.