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Hope, destruction, and rebirth: acts of recovery in gender separatist feminist utopian literature

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Propositions

1. While feminist utopian literature engages in imagined literary worlds that aim to be better than the reality they set out to criticize, it underlines that these worlds contribute to societal progress through the act of desire and imagination, even when there is conflict and perceived failure in these literary worlds.
2. Acknowledging utopia as a method instead of a blueprint practice widens the spectrum of possibilities and encourages thinking vigorously about societal issues.
3. Feminist theory is inherently utopian due to its nature of constant revision and improvement despite the fact that the feminist utopian project is far from its destination, especially beyond the Global West.
4. On the surface level, the gender separatist aspects of the subgenre of feminist utopian literature seem to erase any gender identity that falls outside the binary, while it actually problematizes some of the most common assumptions about gender identity and performativity.
5. Many worlds in feminist utopian literature are conservative and even totalitarian in the sense that their leaders and/or leading councils have the strong tendency to adhere to certain rules to avoid a repetition of the devastations of the past patriarchal worlds.
6. Contrary to the belief of some, utopianism is not some unrealistic juvenile dreaming but the eternally imperfect journey towards a better state of affairs.
7. I interpret Audre Lorde's famous adage "Revolution is not a one-time event" from *Sister Outsider* as an allusion to utopian thought, emphasizing the need for constant revolution for a better world.
8. Whether a utopian work of literature is meant to be satire or not, or whether an imagined world in literature is dystopian or not, can be quite ambiguous at times and this ambiguity is what makes utopian literature self-reflexive and transformative.
9. The literary setting of utopia underlines the necessity of an intersectional critique on power relations because the acts of oppression in these utopias are not only gender-based but diverse and intertwined.
10. Being an external PhD candidate, while having a full-time job at the same time, requires quite a utopian mentality, with the risk of stumbling upon cruel optimism along the way.