

# Femmes Revees

*Albert Ferland*

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Pour lire a la femme aimee.

[Illustration]

ALBERT FERLAND

FEMMES REVEES

\_ Preface de M. Louis Frechette\_  
Laureat de l'Academie francaise.

MDCCCXCIX

Preface

Femmes revees, tres joli titre, mais encore plus joli sujet. Les reves, les femmes! La poesie, la jeunesse! Toutes les sonorites du coeur, tous les rayonnements de l'intelligence!

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En dehors de cela, c'est-a-dire du Beau--sous ses formes les plus subtiles comme les plus tangibles--et de l'Art qui en est la formule et la plus sublime manifestation symbolique, qu'est-ce que la vie, sinon la vegetation de la plante ou l'inconsciente croissance du mollusque? Oui, joli titre, joli sujet, et je puis ajouter: joli petit volume, qui possede, entre autres qualites, celle d'etre modeste comme son auteur, et sans pretention comme les precedents ecris tombes de la meme plume.

Je ne sais si M. Ferland est un sentimental; il doit l'etre un peu: tous les poetes et les fervents de l'Art le sont plus ou moins. Mais il a le bon esprit, ce dont je ne saurais trop le feliciter, de ne pas exhiber devant le public les recoins intimes de son etre, de son \_moi\_ --pour me servir d'une expression en vogue--et de ne pas arreter les passant par les basques de leur habit pour leur seriner sur tous les tons la gamme de ses joies et de ses tristesses.

Il n'appartient pas a cette categorie de poetes saules-pleureurs qui semblent ne pouvoir respirer ni soupirer sans servir a tout propos et a tous venants les fragments avaries de leur coeur ranges sur un plateau comme des tranches de melons; de ces poetes qui ne peuvent savourer un moment d'ivresse ni eprouver un acces de chagrin, sans etre piques du desir d'epancher tout cela dans le sein de la publicite; un de ces poetes qui ne saurait aimer ni etre aimés sans mettre leurs contemporains dans leurs confidences, afin que nul n'en ignore.

Chacun son gout, mais moi j'ai peu de sympathies pour ces poetes a consciences deboutonnees, a commencer par Alfred de Musset, qui, lui au moins, semait du genie dans ses jeremiades d'amoureux deconfit.

Vous avez aime, la belle affaire! On vous a aime, la belle histoire!  
Vous avez pleure... Est-ce quelque chose de si rare? et vous croyez-vous une exception pour cela?

A mon avis, on doit aimer dans l'ombre et pleurer en silence,--surtout les poetes qui, dit-on, ont le privilege d'aimer te partant de pleurer plus souvent qu'a leur tour.

M. Ferland a aime, je n'en doute pas; il a du pleurer quelquefois, on n'a pas l'ame d'un artiste sans cela. Mais sa plume est trop discrete pour nous reveler le mystere de ses intimites. Il connaît trop le public, du reste--surtout celui de notre epoque et de notre pays--pour s'imaginer un instant qu'on puisse ressusciter...

.... Page illisible .

.... Page illisible .

...n'est plus que le reve du souvenir, helas!

Lorsque Zeuxis eut a peindre sa JUNON LACINIENNE, les Agrigentins lui permirent de choisir pour modeles les plus belles femmes de leur ville.

Elles defilerent toutes devant lui, et son choix tomba sur cinq d'entre elles, qu'il fit poser ensemble ou separement, prenant a chacune la principale caracteristique de sa beaute propre, et reunissant le tout dans une seule et meme conception ideale, afin d'arriver le plus pres possible de la perfection des formes et des couleurs.

Il en resultat un chef-d'oeuvre qui, bien que detruit depuis des milliers d'ans, vit encore dans la tradition des siecles et des generations.

M. Ferland a use du meme procede: et c'est ce qui fait que tous peuvent reconnaître dans son oeuvre quelques-uns des traits qu'ils on adores, quelques-unes des facettes particulières aux diamants de leur ecrin; que chacun peut retrouver, comme égarées dans ces feuillets, quelques reminiscences des parfums qu'ont laissés derrière eux les chers et doux fantomes qui ont illuminé sa vie.

Maintenant, si je me permettais un reproche, je dirais au jeune poète:

"Vous avez célébré la femme dans sa beauté plastique, dans sa beauté païenne--un peu trop païenne peut-être. J'aimerais, dans vos strophes, entendre chanter un peu plus clair, un peu plus sonore, cet harmonieux clavier qui est l'ame de la femme."

Cela viendra sans doute.

LOUIS FRECHETTE.

### A la femme

Qu'en tous lieux où l'on s'aime,  
Feuilllets, un vent vous seme!  
Sans treve et sans retour,  
Allez! et que dans l'ombre  
Des retraites sans nombre  
Ou l'on rêve d'amour,  
Melancolique, un jour,  
La Femme vous recueille,  
Comme une fleur des bois  
Qu'un vent d'octobre effeuille  
Et fait rouler parfois  
Humide et parfumée  
Sous les pas de l'aimee.

A. F.

### Femmes Revees

### Adoration

### Exaltation

Quant on exalterait les femme d'Occident  
Ou des mystérieux royaumes de l'Asie,  
Le galbe de l'almeé ou le regard ardent  
Des filles de Florence et de l'Andalousie,

Quand on exalterait les brunes cancanis  
Dont la danse aux palais des radjahs se déroule  
Et l'hetaire hellene immolant à Cypris  
Sa parfaite beauté de femme hierodoule,

Quand on exalterait les graces de Lia  
L'heroique Judith, Susanne et Madeleine,

Les charmes de Lucrece et de Marozzia,  
La reine de Lemnos ou la princesse Helene

Je douterais encor qu'un poete ait chante,  
Dans ses heures d'extase et d'amoureuse ivresse,  
Une femme du siecle ou de l'antiquite  
Plus que toi gracieuse, aimante et charmeresse.

#### Litanies de la Femme

O toi que l'Eternel forma des chairs de l'homme  
Et qui fais tressaillir nos coeurs des qu'on te nomme

Femme, daigne repondre au noble amour de l'homme!

Souveraine des coeurs et gloire de l'hymen,  
Toi dont nous sommes nes, tige du genre humain,

Femme, daigne repondre au noble amour de l'homme!

Chef-d'oeuvre du Tres-Haut, toi par qui sa feconde  
Et sage omnipotence a termine le monde,

Femme, daigne repondre au noble amour de l'homme!

O toi qui sans unir la force a la fierte,  
Sais regner par l'attrait, la grace et la bonte

Femme, daigne repondre au noble amour de l'homme!

Toi par qui s'accomplit, adorable mystere,  
La generation des peuples de la terre,

Femme, daigne repondre au noble amour de l'homme!

Toi dont l'amour eleve et fait l'homme plus fort  
Pour combattre le mal et marcher vers la mort

Femme, daigne repondre au noble amour de l'homme!

O toi seule qui sais d'un baiser de tes levres  
Pacifier nos coeurs et temperer nos fievres,

Femme, daigne repondre au noble amour de l'homme!

Toi qui portes dans l'ame et dans ta chair en feu  
Le vestige eclatant du passage de Dieu,

Femme, daigne repondre au noble amour de l'homme!

#### PRIERE

O femme, gloire a toi! Qu'en son idolatrie,  
Chacun des fils d'Adam se prosterne et te prie  
D'agreer le tribut de sa virilite!  
Fais que tout homme aspire a devenir ton pretre  
Et sans cesse altere des charmes de ton etre

Soit a jamais heureux d'exalter ta beaute!

#### Holocauste

Puisque vous ne sauriez vous lasser, o mes yeux,  
D'admirer la splendeur de sa beaute charnelle,  
Subissez a jamais son charme imperieux  
Et soyez obsedes des feux de sa prunelle.

Puisqu'il m'est dououreux d'oser, en mon amour,  
Vous sevrer du nectar de sa bouche incarnate,  
Mes levres, brulez donc de boire chaque jour  
Son baiser qui parfume ainsi qu'un aromate.

Puisque en moi s'est accru le desir obsesseur  
D'etreindre follement ses mains d'imperatrice,  
O mes mains, recherchez leur contact enchanteur  
Jusqu'a ce que le temps pour toujours les fletrisse.

#### CHANTS D'AMOUR

\_Tires du "Cantique des Cantiques"\_

Va, mange et bois; parce qu'a Dieu plaisent  
tes oeuvres. Qu'en tout temps tes vetements  
soient blancs et que l'huile parfumee  
ne manque pas sur ta tete. Jouis de la vie  
avec la femme que tu aimes, pendant tous  
les jours de ta vie de vanite que Dieu t'a  
donne sous le soleil, car il n'y a ni oeuvre,  
ni pensee, ni sagesse, dans le sejour des  
morts, ou tu vas.

ECCLESIASTE IX, 7, 10.

#### Chants d'Amour

I

#### LES FILLES DE JERUSALEM

Dis-nous, o jeune femme  
Dis-nous ton bien-aime  
L'aime qui, d'un pur cinname,  
Ton lit doit etre parfume.

#### L'EPOUSE

Celui que mon coeur aime est un bouquet de myrrhe;  
Son baiser dont l'ardeur est celle du midi  
Est non moins odorant que le nard de Palmyre  
Et meilleur que le sang des vignes d'Eugaddi.

#### LES FILLES DE JERUSALEM

Dis-nous, o jeune femme  
Dis-nous ton bien-aime  
L'aime qui, d'un pur cinname,  
Ton lit doit etre parfume.

#### L'EPOUSE

Que ne m'est-il donne d'etre a son ombre assise!  
Son aspect est pareil a celui de l'Hermon;  
Des filles de Sion plus d'une en est eprise;  
C'est une huile epandue et rare que son nom.

#### LES FILLES DE JERUSALEM

Dis-nous, o jeune femme  
Dis-nous ton bien-aime  
L'aime qui, d'un pur cinname,  
Ton lit doit etre parfume.

#### L'EPOUSE

Admise en ses celliers, j'inclinerai l'amphore,  
Et, vous distribuant le nectar des festins,  
Je me plairai, joyeuse, a vous redire encore  
Que son baiser vainqueur est meilleur que les vins.

#### LES FILLES DE JERUSALEM

Dis-nous, o jeune femme  
Dis-nous ton bien-aime  
L'aime qui, d'un pur cinname,  
Ton lit doit etre parfume.

#### L'EPOUSE

Je suis brune et pourtant mon roi m'a comparee  
A ses coursiers trainant le char de Pharaon;  
Je suis belle a ses yeux, quoique decoloree,  
Plus que les pavillons du sage Salomon.

#### LES FILLES DE JERUSALEM

Dis-nous, o jeune femme  
Dis-nous ton bien-aime  
L'aime qui, d'un pur cinname,  
Ton lit doit etre parfume.

#### L'EPOUSE

Ne considerez plus que je me sais halee,  
Dans les flots lumineux qui baignaient les sentiers,  
Lorsqu'en mai je m'en suis septante fois allee  
Garder ma vigne en fleur au jardin des noyers.

#### LES FILLES DE JERUSALEM

Dis-nous, o jeune femme  
Dis-nous ton bien-aime  
L'aime qui, d'un pur cinname,

Ton lit doit etre parfume.

### L'EPOUSE

Celui que mon coeur aime est un bouquet de myrrhe;  
Son baiser dont l'ardeur est celle du midi  
Est non moins odorant que le nard de Palmyre  
Et meilleur que le sang des vignes d'Engaddi.

II

### Beaute des Epoux

### L'EPOUX

Vois donc, ma soeur, epouse, o fontaine scellee,  
Comme ton corps est svelte et d'aspect gracieux!

### L'EPOUSE

Vois donc, o mon epoux, o lis de la vallee,  
Comme en toi toute chose est parfaite a mes yeux!

### L'EPOUX

Tes cheveux sont pareils a des troupeaux de chevres  
Poursuivant sur les monts leurs chemins coutumiers.

### L'EPOUSE

La myrrhe, o bien-aime, distille de tes levres,  
Tes cheveux sont pareils aux pousses des palmiers.

### L'EPOUX

Tes mains qui des couleurs de l'aurore sont teintes  
Semblent deux papillons autour de toi volant.

### L'EPOUSE

Tes mains, faites au tour, sont pleines d'hyacinthes,  
Et ta tete superbe est un or excellent.

### L'EPOUX

Tes yeux dont le regard a blesse ma prunelle  
Sont purs comme les flots des vasques d'Hesebon.

### L'EPOUSE

Tes yeux a qui mon corps chastement se revele  
Sont clairs comme les eaux des puits de Salomon.

### FEMMES REVEES

A l'ideal ouvre ton ame,  
Mets dans ton coeur beaucoup de ciel,  
Aime une nue, aime une femme,  
Mais aime!--C'est l'essentiel!

THEOPHILE GAUTHIER

### L'Inconnue

Cette femme qui passe au lever de la lune,  
Voilee et dont le voile est le jouet du vent,  
Cette femme qui passe et se deult sur la dune,  
Me disais-je revant,

Est-elle une beaute brune, blonde ou chataine,  
Cachant, le coeur emu, sous un voile jaloux,  
Des epaules de neige ou des tresses d'ebene,  
Ou des yeux andalous?

Vient-elle de l'Attique ou de l'Occitanie,  
Du Nil ou de l'Indus, de Rome ou de Paris,  
Ou se dit-elle enfant de la Lusitanie  
Ou d'un autre pays?

Se nomme-t-elle Ea, Berenice ou Pauline,  
Armide ou Madeleine, Eliane ou Ninon,  
Isaure, Iole, Ida Nohemie, Jacqueline,  
Ou d'un plus joli nom,

Cette femme qui passe au lever de la lune,  
Voilee et dont le voile est le jouet du vent  
Cette femme qui passe et se deult sur la dune?  
Me disais-je en revant...

### Reve

Les cheveux flottants et la gorge nue,  
Au sein d'un val ou j'étais seul,  
Une femme est venue

Calme, en traversant l'ombre d'un tilleul,  
Elle s'embellit d'un sourire  
Quand elle me vit seul,

Et, parfumant l'air d'une odeur de myrrhe,  
Elle vint s'asseoir pres de moi  
Ne cessant de sourire.

Puis elle m'offrit, vibrante d'emoi,  
Le baiser de sa levre rose,  
En s'inclinant sur moi,

Les cheveux flottants, la bouche mi-close.

### La Chasseresse

J'aime a fantasier la sereine beaute  
De cette virginale et blonde chasseresse  
Que, telle qu'aux accents d'un sylvain redoute  
Fuyaient dans les roseaux les nymphes en detresse,  
En me voyant, furtif, pres d'elle, en tapinois,  
Oeillader sa demarche altiere, s'est enfuie  
Adorablement belle, a travers les grands bois,  
Un jour que le soleil souriait dans la pluie.

### Chant des Pleureuses

Ayons comme les jours de la triste saison  
Nos heures de soleil et de melancolie;  
Autant qu'il nous est doux de rire a la folie,  
Qu'il nous plaise parfois de pleurer sans raison.

Pleurons, pleurons pleureuses que nous sommes  
Pleurons, pleurons, loin du regard des hommes,  
Pleurons quand la tristesse entenebre nos yeux,  
Pleurons lorsque le coeur s'enamoure et s'ennuie;  
Que nos chagrins, pareils aux nuages des cieux,  
Se dissipent en pleurs comme ils tombent en pluie!

Qu'il est plaisir de voir, ainsi que brusquement  
S'ensoleille en avril l'azur apres l'ondee,  
Une pleureuse encor de larmes inondee  
S'illuminer soudain d'un sourire charmant!

Pleurons, pleurons pleureuses que nous sommes  
Pleurons, pleurons, loin du regard des hommes,  
Pleurons quand la tristesse entenebre nos yeux,  
Pleurons lorsque le coeur s'enamoure et s'ennuie;  
Que nos chagrins, pareils aux nuages des cieux,  
Se dissipent en pleurs comme ils tombent en pluie!

Dolentes et les yeux empreints de nonchaloir  
Sachons parfois, ainsi qu'a l'ombre des platanes  
Le coeur alangouri soupirent les sultanes,  
Meme au doux mois des fleurs gemir et nous doloir.

Pleurons, pleurons pleureuses que nous sommes  
Pleurons, pleurons, loin du regard des hommes,  
Pleurons quand la tristesse entenebre nos yeux,  
Pleurons lorsque le coeur s'enamoure et s'ennuie;  
Que nos chagrins, pareils aux nuages des cieux,  
Se dissipent en pleurs comme ils tombent en pluie!

### Le Bois

Vous souvient-il qu'un jour aupres des flots tranquilles,  
Sous le dais de ces bois moussus et parfumes  
Ainsi que les pastours des anciennes idylles,  
Nous nous sommes aimés?

Vous souvient-il encor des bois ou nous allames  
Alors qu'aux vents de mai neigeaient les eglantiers,  
Alors que sans retour s'allumait en nos ames

L'amour que vous chantiez?

Le divin souvenir de ces heures lointaines,  
Doux, triste, vous fait-il quelquefois regretter  
De n'avoir plus au coeur les esperances vaines  
Qui vous faisaient chanter?

Helas! nos corps ainsi que ces bois seculaires  
Par les soleils d'avril ne sont plus rajeunis,  
Car, o femme, a jamais sont mortes nos chimeres  
Et nos fronts sont ternis!

#### Les Preceptes de l'Amour

Adolescent ta chair dompteras,  
Afin de vivre longuement.

Vierge ton corps tu garderas  
Jusqu'a l'hymen jalousement

Honnête point ne marcheras  
Devers la tombe isolement.

Nulle femme ne connaitras  
Hors de l'hymen charnellement.

Selon ton coeur tu choisiras  
Une femme discrètement.

Chretien tu te multiplieras  
Par le sang et l'enseignement.

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