

Woman and knowledge (2)

ABSTRACT

In the introduction of *Women's access to culture* (1598–1715), Linda TIMMERMANS treats “women's access to knowledge in the Renaissance”, from 3 perspectives, that is, (1) feminism and problems of women's access to knowledge, (2) humanism, the Reformation, and women's access to knowledge, and (3) the movement for the education of women ; limits and prospects of the affirmation in 16th century. In the *Bulletin of Faculty of Sociology*, No. 78, I treated the 1st item : (1) feminism and problems of women's access to knowledge, and in this number, I present the 2nd item : (2) humanism and the Reformation, and women's access to knowledge in 3 problems : 1. woman's religious culture, 2. marriage and instruction 3. love and knowledge.

In 〈woman's religious culture〉, the author points out that the evangelical humanists and, a little later, Reformers made a revolutionary appeal, that is, “every person, beyond any age, sex, fortune and social condition, can make access to the Bible, above all, the New Testament, the origin of the teachings of Jesus-Christ”. However, women were prohibited from making sermons in church, and the study of theology by woman was not recommended.

〈Marriage and instruction〉, the author indicates the importance of young women's instructions before marriage in order to ensure their virtuous and happy marriage life.

〈Love and marriage〉, the author says that neo-platonicians of the Renaissance treated the education of women at the view point of love, not of marriage. Male writers considered it as an instrument to improve women's morals, but women writers emphasized study for study's sake, not as a moral object.

Key words : woman, knowledge, education