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A drum is created to produce beautiful music. A Christmas ornament is created to be a beautiful addition to its surroundings. Although both of these are beautiful, they can be fundamentally different. Instruments are active, and ornaments are often inactive.

It is no secret that women are often objectified and sometimes participate in objectifying themselves. When women act primarily as ornaments, they can inadvertently limit their possibilities as instruments. However, both roles can enrich life; ornamentation is only a liability when it is the *end* of the story.

There is much truth in our ability to create goodness and beauty, and whether we conceptualize that as instrumentation or ornamentation, we can find meaning in those contributions. If we focus on what role the violin plays in the symphony, there is no need to argue whether or not it holds worth.

As women (and men, for that matter) we have an inherent duty to do, think, and be a force for good. Whether you're the cowbell being played softly by the fellow in the shadows, or the trombone driving the front row audience nuts—we need each other to make music worth listening to.