Women in the City of Algiers
Change and Resistance

In the cities of the Arab world, the relationship between public and private is governed by a world of spectacles, which is occurring at the expense of villages, the old city and its hierarchies. The modern urban environment is a spectator's world of spectacle, which is in contradiction with the diversity and complexity of Algerian society.

The current social and identity crisis in Algeria is unfolding against the background of spectacular urban growth, which is occurring at the expense of villages, the old city and its hierarchies. The modern urban environment is a spectator's world of spectacle, which is in contradiction with the diversity and complexity of Algerian society. The practice of making personal impulses. Faced with this difficulty, the strategies of women in daily life are often implicit, in view of the weight and inertia of society. The practice of making personal impulses. Faced with this difficulty, the strategies of women in daily life are often implicit, in view of the weight and inertia of society. The practice of making personal impulses. Faced with this difficulty, the strategies of women in daily life are often implicit, in view of the weight and inertia of society.

Changing from the inside

Women have periodically swept onto the public stage in the course of Algeria’s recent history. In such circumstances, the political power of women in the city is recoded by events (the War of Liberation, demonstrations, etc.). It is then associated with the social values that justify such an intrusion into the public space. This exceptional situations of conflict revolving around the occupation of public space and the public debate in Algeria shake up the limits imposed on women. They momentarily acquire the status of protagonists, even as extremist violence reminds them that they are not in their place.

Women in going out. Men will fight against the intrusion of women into their space (the workplace, marketplace, leisure space) as long as there is not enough work for everybody and they consider that the authority is vested solely in them. Nevertheless, society’s ability to recompile, renegotiate and even invent new relationships should not be dismissed. Contemporary Algerian history has shown that women remain at the heart of change. Today the conflict is exacerbated because of the economic crisis, demographic burdens, power plays, opposition from crime networks, the deterioration of living conditions and the inability of governments to meet citizens’ basic needs.

Algerian society will not escape the process of renegotiating the identities of men and women who have broken with patriarchal, Muslim communitarianism and the hegemony instituted by colonialism and prolonged by the State. The reclusion of women, defended by some as the symbol of a past frozen by the closed nature of the Islamic debate that is holding the Muslim world prisoner, and bolstered by a Oternal vision, will not be able to withstand this development, which is changing society from the inside.

Notes

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