

La mode sous le voile

31 MAI 2001. HAMEDÂN.

Sur la route de Téhéran, nous faisons halte à Qazvin, puis à Hamedân, située dans la province du même nom proche de l'Irak.

Nombreux sont les Iraniens qui, comme nous, viennent admirer les grottes d'Ali Sadr, mais c'est surtout pour nous l'occasion de nous familiariser avec le pays. Nous nous attendions à ce que les femmes soient invisibles : elles sont partout, derrière les guichets des banques et des administrations, balayant les trottoirs de leurs tchadors... En 1979, à l'encontre de la décision du Shah qui avait en 1936 ordonné l'abandon du voile, Khomeyni a imposé d'y revenir, mais ne les a pas pour autant cloîtrées. Rapidement, nous remarquons que ma tenue importée

de Turquie attire l'attention. Pour me soumettre à la mode en vigueur, je décide d'acheter un manteau. Dans la boutique, le choix est restreint ! J'en essaie un court. « Cela ne convient pas », me prévient en anglais Atefeh, une jeune cliente. Et de m'expliquer que le manteau court, qui s'arrête aux genoux, ne se porte qu'avec un pantalon : l'usage veut qu'avec une jupe on porte un manteau long. Car sous le voile, la mode survit...

Dans les foyers moins traditionalistes, la féminité l'emporte. À la maison, Atefeh, sa sœur et même sa mère qui nous invite à dîner sont vêtues de jeans et de tee-shirts moulants, maquillées et coiffées. Car, malgré le code vestimentaire draconien qui règne à l'extérieur, les Iraniennes se rappellent chez elles qu'avant d'être filles, mères ou épouses, elles sont avant tout des femmes.



Signalétique locale que l'on trouve sur toutes les portes de toilettes. Partout, les femmes sont représentées avec leur voile.



En Iran, les femmes ne possèdent que de peu d'alternatives pour se vêtir. Les plus rigoristes portent le tchador, une grande cape noire tenue par un élastique dans la nuque. Littéralement, ce terme signifie « tente »

en farsi. Ne peuvent apparaître que visage, mains et pieds. Les autres portent un manteau sur un pantalon. Mais quelle que soit la tenue, le foulard reste obligatoire.

Pollution et bureaucratie

3 JUIN 2001. TÉHÉRAN.

C'est sans grand enthousiasme que nous rejoignons la capitale. Rien qu'à le regarder, le plan de la ville fait tourner la tête. Quadrillage d'avenues immenses, sillonnées de voitures – de préférence des Paycan, le modèle national –, Téhéran étale ses 12 millions d'habitants au pied de la chaîne de l'Alborz que l'on peut apercevoir vers le nord entre deux quintes d'échappement. Sur les murs, c'est ici encore le visage de l'imam Khomeyni qui se décline en posters et peintures, entre les textes à la gloire des martyrs de la guerre Iran-Irak, et les slogans anti-américains.

Dans notre quête des consulats, nous nous perdons cent fois dans des quartiers où les noms de rues ne sont plus inscrits qu'en farsi. Terrible legs de la bureaucratie soviétique, nous devons fournir un monticule de papiers, et payer en dollars imprimés après 1996, ni pliés, ni froissés, ni écrits, le tarif le plus élevé qu'on nous ait jamais

demandé (130 U\$ pour deux pays seulement). Nos compagnons d'attente s'étonnent que nous ayions encore envie d'aller en Asie centrale. Ensuite, pas même une terrasse de café où se détendre. Pour nous distraire, nous décidons d'aller au cinéma : peu de films étrangers ont franchi la censure. La production nationale résiste tant bien que mal (on connaît en France Kiarostami ou Makhmalbaf, plus controversé dans son pays). Les Iraniens, comme les Égyptiens ou les Turcs sont surtout

friands de kung-fu. Et nous ressortons sévèrement déprimés : le héros a conclu le film en achevant sa femme à coups de pied dans la salle de bains. Vivement les oasis du Sud...



Three Women in the Next Cabinet



EFTIKAR

IRAN NEWS WOMEN'S DESK
Tehran - Iranian women Majlis deputies proposed three women for the President Khatami's next Cabinet.

Head of the Women and Family Committee of the Majlis Fatemeh Rakeie told IRNA that the proposal was made following the talks the women faction made with President Khatami in which he approved and underscored efficiency and capability of women to play an active part in higher state managerial posts.



RAHNAVAR

Rakeie, a Tehran MP, named Zahra Rahnavard (chancellor of al-Zahra University), Soheila Jelodarzadeh (MP) and Masoumeh Ebtekar (vice president) as the proposed ministers for the future government.

She said that the three nominees, in addition to having the required expertise and long record of efficient management are also well known within the country, adding that the government is expected to preserve the status that women deserve in the new Cabinet.

Rakeie said the three are proposed for ministerial posts at the



JELODARZADEH

ministries dealing with social, cultural and scientific affairs.

Pointing to the share that women enjoy in the Cabinet set-up in other countries, she said Iranian women have never asked for such a share at senior managerial level but expect qualified women to play effective role in the government reforms.

She said the women fraction of Majlis believes that women who have been proposed to the president are highly qualified and have the required capabilities and ex-

perience.
The MP however called on other members of the Cabinet to refrain from magnifying performance of women ministers and expressed her hope that upon the approval of the leader of the Islamic Revolution and the president women will reach the status they deserve.
Furthermore, she added, in the meetings of the women faction held with officials at the ministries of foreign affairs, health, and physical education organization women are expected to be also assigned to the posts of ambassador, cultural attaché, heads of hospitals and sports federations.
She also expressed hope that appointment of women in such posts as minister, deputy minister and director general in the second term of President Khatami's office will provide a good opportunity for dynamic activities of women and their stronger presence in the next terms of majlis and future Cabinets.

Shojaie: Women Are Global Peace Messengers



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Presidential Advisor on Women's Affairs Zahra Shojaie in a meeting with Secretary-General of the "Global Peace Millennium" Conference A. Bavagani here Saturday described women "the global peace messengers".

Shojaie said, that if women are encouraged to have greater communications with the international

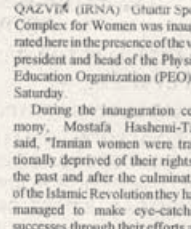
governmental and non-governmental organizations and they are spared of rude social, domestic and office treatments, peace and security will further expand.

She added, "Through the global mass media have never presented a true image of Muslim women, the expansion of direct communication between individuals as well as states may pave the way for revealing the truth and contributing to the establishment of a uniform global rule, expected by all of us."

Referring to women's progress in the Islamic Republic of Iran, she said, "In the past two decades, grounds have been prepared for boosting women's participation in various fields, as well as strengthening family foundations and while using women's expertise at the international level, we have always stressed our Islamic national culture."

Further examination of "woman" as a word, which initiates with the prefix "wo", which is a converted form of the Middle and

Ghadir Sports Complex for Women Inaugurated in Qazvin



IRAN NEWS WOMEN'S DESK

QAZVIN (IRNA) - Ghadir Sports Complex for Women was inaugurated here in the presence of the vice president and head of the Physical Education Organization (PEO) on Saturday.

During the inauguration ceremony, Mostafa Hashemi-Taba said, "Iranian women were traditionally deprived of their rights in the past and after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution they have managed to make eye-catching successes through their efforts and insight."

The Physical Education Organization has paid due attention to promotion of sports in different parts of the country and in particular the most deprived, remote and rural areas. The PEO head adding that the organization has trained 20 thousand coaches in different sports fields to achieve the objective.

The director general of Qazvin Province, Physical Education Department, general said, "The construction operations of the sports complex started in 1997 and after around four years it has become operational."

The Ghadir Complex has been built in a parcel of land with an area of 18 thousand hectares and its built-up area is 14 thousand square meters.

159 Sportswomen to Represent Iran in Tehran Games

IRAN NEWS WOMEN'S DESK
TEHRAN - 159 Sportswomen will participate Iran in October Tehran Games, Iranian official announced last week.
159 woman athletes, 44 coaches, and 15 heads will represent Iran in the 3rd Tehran Muslim Women's Games to start on October 25.
The Muslim states are to take part in the contests consisting of 15 different sporting fields.
The manager in charge of common affairs of Iranian Women's Sports Associations said, "Iran will participate in the tournament with 4 tennis players, 4 chess players, 5

table tennis sportswomen, 6 gymnasts, 7 badminton athletes, 8 marksmen, 8 taekwon do players, 12 basketball players, 12 fencers, 12 volleyballers, 12 futsal players, 13 karatekas, 15 track-and-field sportswomen, 16 handball players, and 25 swimmers."
Ms. Robab Shahrian added, "The sportswomen have attended the training sessions of the national teams as of the new Iranian year (started March 21)."
The Iranian sportswomen are to play friendly matches against home and foreign-based athletes ahead of the Tehran Games, concluded the manager.

Women MPs to Field Women Lawyers at Guardian Council

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A group of women deputies at Iran's reformist-majority Parliament will field for the first time several women lawyers for seats at the oversight Guardian Council, its head and MP from Tehran Fatemeh Rakeie said here last week.

She said the Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mahmood Hashemi Shahroudi has welcomed the proposal and the names of at least four women will be submitted to the body in the upcoming days.
"Members of the women faction of the Majlis (Parliament), during their meetings with the judiciary chief, highlighted the need for the membership of women lawyers in the Guardian Council which was welcomed by Ayatollah Shahroudi," Rakeie said.

Rakeie hoped that at least two women to be appointed to the post, saying Iranian women are currently not provided with necessary judicial protection at the courts and that they are faced with many legal impediments.

The names of the likely candi-



RAKEIE

dates for the top posts have been elected from among "expert, competent and committed" women lawyers who were well aware of "social and legal issues" of the women, she added.

The group of women deputies of the Parliament, she said, have also asked women to be appointed to the heads of the courts and judicial headquarters.

The Guardian Council, comprising of six jurists appointed by the Supreme Leader and six lawyers, oversees laws which are passed by the Parliament to confirm their conformity with the Islamic teachings. The lawyers, proposed by the judiciary, are elected by the Parliament.

The Etymology of Woman as a World

A deep look into the roots of "woman" as a word brings to light its origin and reflects the idea of woman's dependence on man, thus giving rise to the formula: "woman=wo+man". Similarly the word "female" (fu+male) and its French equivalent "feminine" (fu+masculine) as well as the French equivalent of woman, i.e. "femme" (fu+homme) underline the idea of such dependence suggested by the words of occidental origin.

A closer look into the roots of the words under question sheds further light on woman's "Raison d'être" in the Western mentality. The ancient German word "weib" (woman) compared to its equivalent in Pahlavi (Middle Persian) i.e. "wisp" (a copulated woman), and its Avestan (an Old Persian language) i.e. "vad" (marriage, and copulation), as well as the English word "fuck" and its German equivalent "ficken" reveals the story behind the Western approach towards women.

Further examination of "woman" as a word, which initiates with the prefix "wo", which is a converted form of the Middle and

ancient Persian words "wisp" and "vad" refers to its obvious meaning of woman as someone with whom a man copulates. Since her "Raison d'être" is just meant for man and copulation. Likewise the French equivalent "femme" (fu+homme) comprised of the prefix "fu" derived from "fuck" plus "homme" (man) once more suggest the same idea.

The ancient English word "wifemans" is yet another example. Moreover, as suggested by Webster New World Dictionary (1984), since the English word "wife" and the German "weib" both come from the Indo-European word "wep" meaning "to twist" or "marriage". How can a bilateral bond between two persons (a man and a woman) just refer to one (the man)? This may again be taken to reflect the Occidental perspective towards "woman" which is meant to be used by "man" in order to satisfy him.

Thus the etymological evidences suggest the idea that in the Western mentality, woman is taken as the second sex, and this is widely discussed by Western authors, poets, and journalists, while cases of

violence, rudeness, and discrimination against women is constantly being observed in the developed and civilized countries. This accounts for Simon De Boire's "The Second Sex", an attempt to avert the European minds from this perspective and make the so-called modern community to reconsider the "discriminative" approach by suggesting the idea of considering the female simply "a human being" rather than "The Second Sex".

While among some of the more ancient European nations such as Italy, Serbia, Greece, and Russia, "woman" is designated by a separate word independent from "man". It is interesting to note that the Avesta equivalent of "women" i.e. "genika" derived from gene, and Nairika designate "right" and "businesslike" as well. Meanwhile, the Avesta equivalent of "man", i.e. "manreta" also means "to die" and "pass away". Thus from the etymological point of view, woman in the ancient Persian culture is considered as the "house-owner".

Reference: "Human Rights in Iran" by F. Joneidi Mary Parhuzgari

Lire la presse anglophone dans les pays qui en proposent comme ici en Iran nous permet d'en apprendre un peu plus sur la politique, la vie locale ou les mœurs. Dans ce journal acheté à Téhéran, l'article situé en bas à droite de la page illustre parfaitement la propagande faite ici contre l'Occident. L'auteur y démontre par une tortueuse dérive étymologique comment la femme européenne est l'objet de l'homme et souffre de discrimination. L'extrait : « (...) Le dictionnaire étymologique latin indique que la première partie du mot mariage, à savoir "mar", vient de la racine latine "mas" (masculus). C'est donc cette première syllabe qui est utilisée en français et en anglais dans le mot « mariage ». Comment se fait-il que le mot utilisé pour nommer le lien réciproque qui unit l'homme et la femme ne se réfère qu'à l'homme? Cela pourrait encore être interprété comme reflétant la vision de la femme occidentale dont l'unique fonction se limiterait à satisfaire l'homme. Ainsi l'étymologie nous fournirait la preuve que dans les mentalités occidentales, la femme est considérée comme le sexe faible, [...] et ceci au sein de pays civilisés et développés où les violences et discriminations à l'encontre des femmes sont légion. »