

THE TRAGEDY OF WOMAN IN THE WEST

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THE TRAGEDY OF WOMAN IN THE WEST

By Professor Khurshid Ahmad

In history the ages of disintegration were usually the ages in which women had left the home. In fifth-century Greece, the high point of classical history, women stayed in the home. But after Alexander's time when city-states were breaking up, there was a feminist movement like our own.

Prof. Arnold J. Toynbee

One of the most revolutionary movements of our times has been the movement of the emancipation" of woman. It has been so dynamic in character, so cataclysmic in effect' and so tragic in its results that it deserves a careful study by all students of sociology. The movement rose with the emergence of capitalism and spread like wild fire. It tore asunder the bonds of custom and religion. It set to fire the curtains which separated the male and the female, in the present century the movement has reached its zenith. The results this movement bequeathed are now crystal-clear. They are alarming and baffling and appalling. Even those who once paddled the movement now stand dumbfounded at the sight of the wretchedness and depravity which it has created.

But true to our traditions of slavery, we are now embracing the movement which has been proved in Europe to be a bear's embrace. It seems as if we are always behind the march of time. We believe in what Europe believed half a century ago and what it has already spurned. We only wear those thought garments which are Europe's refuse!

Now in the Muslim world this movement of women's so-called emancipation is firmly afoot. Women are being tried to be smuggled into the rough and tumble of life. They are being made to leave their hearth and home. Purdah is being discarded and free-mingling of both the sexes encouraged. It is time that the conscientious men and women of our country give thought to the problem. We invite them to "know the tree by the fruits it has already brought forth." The effects of this movement are only too clear on the European way of life. Let us not play with fire, like a blind man. Let us think, for:-

"Moral sense is almost completely ignored by modern society. We have, in fact, suppressed its manifestations. All are imbued with irresponsibility. Those who discern good and evil, those who are industrious and provident remain poor and are looked upon as backward. The woman who has several children, who devotes herself to their education instead of her own career, is considered weak-minded.... Robbers enjoy prosperity in peace. Gangsters are protected by politicians and respected by judges.....Homosexuality flourishes. Sexual morals have been cast aside;..... (and thus) despite the marvels of scientific civilization, human personality tends to dissolve." **(Dr. Alexis Carrel: "Man the Unknown".)**

Imposing upon woman the obligation of earning bread by working laboriously in mills, in factories and on farms has proved to be a great curse. It has struck a fatal blow to the family life. An acute disintegration has set in. The once noble institution of the family, the guardian of culture and the protector of civilization, has collapsed like a house of cards. Women abandoned it. Men disliked it. Streets became the centres of activities. Restaurants and parks became the places of romantic

ventures. This further fanned the flames of sexual fire. And today we (have come to such a stage that even George Ryley Scott has to say:

"Today by far more than ever before in the world's history there are for the finding large numbers of girls of respectability who are willing for all sorts of reasons to meet men halfway for sexual excitement and satisfaction. *These are the amateur prostitutes of modern civilisation.* (**"A History of Prostitution"**)

This emancipation has not stopped here. *Amateurism* has further progressed. It has assumed such an unknown gravity that now it has become a veritable threat to *Professional Prostitution*. A governmental report about Vienna says that the main reason for the decline of prostitution there is "that owing to the change in the sex morals now in vogue the young man no longer has the need which once existed for the use of prostitutes." (Reuter -Jan. 7, 1952) Ah yes, this is the emancipation of woman!

Peaceful marriage-life has become a mirage. Illegitimate births are on the increase. In France their number is more than 77,000 a year. About England, the report presented to the Diocesan Conference in 1946 is highly revealing'. Its authors say:

At least one in every eight children born in England and Wales is conceived outside wedlock. One hundred thousand women in England and Wales are becoming pregnant outside of marriage every year. Of those who marry under 20 years of age no less than 40 per cent are already pregnant on their wedding day:

Dr. Oswald Schwarz's estimates further endorse the same view. He says:

"The average number of women who give birth to extra-martially conceived children was for each year almost, exact 80,000 (1 in every 8 of all first maternities. In 1938, 40 per cent of girls marrying under the age of 20 and 20 per cent of those aged 21 came under this category. These figures, impressive as they are, represent only those affairs in which something has gone wrong, that is to say, only a small fraction of those which actually have existed."

The Kinsey Report is even more revealing. About the American male population the findings are:

95 per cent of the population is corrupt according to the current moral standard. Children are caught in the whirl-pool of sexual immorality even at the age of four and five.

Pre-marital sex relations have assumed battling proportions. The doctors say:

"Among the males going to college about 67 per cent have such experience before marriage. Among those who go to a high school, about 84 per cent have such intercourses, and among the boys who do not go beyond the grade school, the accumulative incidence is 98 per cent."

(Sexual Behaviour in Human Male, p. 552.)

Regular violation of marriage-bed is a common feature of American life. Neatly 50 per cent of the males succumb to it. Homosexuality is on the increase and one in every three males has some such experience.

Even contacts with animals are rampant and one male out of every twelve is involved in such dirty affairs. (*Ibid*, p. 670.)

On the whole the doctors hold that according to the current laws 95 per cent of the American males should be behind the bars as they violate the law in one way or the other.

As regards the Female population of America, the Kinsey Report says:

50 per cent of the American women (of all ages) lose their virginity before marriage.

More than 25 per cent violate the marriage-bed and feel no regrets for betraying their husbands.

20 per cent have Homosexual relations.

62 per cent masturbate.

95 per cent succumb to petting.

The rate of sexual violations and malpractices is high among the college-girls and educated women.

43 per cent of the women have learned the malpractices from printed or verbal sources primarily designed discourage the practices.

Only those groups are living a noble life of decency who follow religion. Religious devotion is the "prime" and "potent" factor in arresting the sexual laxity.

The above statistics prove beyond any shadow of doubt that, under the spell of materialistic creeds, morals dwindle, manners deteriorate, corruption increases and vulgarity becomes the order of the day. The English psychologist Mr. Noel Brain rightly remarks:

"In fact the thing that really stands out of Dr. Kinsey'- reports both on the American male and the American female is that, all of them are living in a corrupt and frustrating society."

Addressing himself to those Englishmen who want to import the American morals and manners in their country, Mr. Brain declares emphatically:

"Nevertheless the picture he (Kinsey) presents is enough to show once more how far the American Way of Life is from being a civilization we want either to import or to emulate.

"Dr Kinsey's girls and boys are deeply to be pitied for what they have done to themselves. But we don't want them over here till the American people find a cure."

The Kinsey Report has shown that the world is immensely in need of moral values and never was that need so imperative as it is today. The western society is breathing its last. Only the rediscovery of morality can give it a new lease of life. It must be clearly understood that the

current moral chaos in the West is not of accidental growth. It is not a thunderbolt but only the natural (although bitter) fruit of the seeds sown by the so-called "emancipation", "freedom from morals" and the materialistic attitude towards life.

THE REACTION

These results have shocked all thinking minds. In the West itself a strong reaction has set in. Western thinkers are themselves condemning this mad craze for immorality, they have become doubtful of their own ideology and standards, and they have now started saying what, the "Mulla" had been saying all along. Thus, for instance, Bertrand Russell says:-

"Within the classes that are dwindling, it is the best element that is dwindling most rapidly. It seems unquestionable that if our economic system and our moral standards remain unchanged, there will be in the next two or three generations a rapid change for the worse in the character of the population in all civilized countries, The problem is one which applies to the whole Western civilization." **(The Principles of Social Reconstruction)**

SEXUAL ANARCHY:

A learned woman medical scientist, Mrs. Hudson Shaw, advocates the need of Marriage in the background of the evil of sex-anarchy in the following words:

"In all this argument I have tried to reach those realities of human nature on which human morality must be based. I believe that the fundamental things which we must take into account are, first, the complex nature of human beings who have body, soul and spirit to reckon with and who cannot neglect any one of these without insincerity and secondly, the solidarity of the human race which makes it futile to act as though the morals of any one of us could be his personal affair alone. It is because of this solidarity that marriage has always been regarded as a matter of public interest to be recognized by law, celebrated by some public ceremony and protected by legal contract." **(Sex and Commonsense, p. 49)**

COLLAPSE OF CIVILIZATION:

The views of this lady might irritate our ultra modern "Begums" who aspire to imitate the West, because it is a fact that she has administered a slap on the face of all those who want to popularize the Western conception of sex relations in our country. Thus she says:

"Now when our civilization is indeed tottering on the verge of collapse we see that in fact the last decades have been marked by a choice of licence for both sexes rather than discipline. The result has been an enormous waste of creative power. Prostitution and promiscuity, combined with the prevention of conception and not combined with any kind of creative results whatever, homosexuality in both sexes, and various forms of abnormality, represent to us the unwholesome swamp into which the waters of energy

have flowed. *"Is this a Symptom or a Cause of our Collapse? Both, I think."* (*Sex and Commonsense*).

HISTORIANS VERDICT:

Modern thinkers of almost all shades of opinion now think that Western society has become a "swamp" with dirt swirl. They have begun to visualise a dismal future, because the historians are warning them in most clear terms:

Prof. J .D. Unwin says that disintegration and moral laxity have always gone hand in hand. His marvelous book *"Sex and Culture"* is replete with eloquent historical illustrations.

Anthony M. Ludivici says that:

"the mere fact that in all periods of decline woman has always come to the fore shows (the historical fact) that feminism is undeniably a phenomenon of male disintegration." (**Woman: A Vindication**)

Prof. Arnold J. Toynbee proclaims that:

"In history the ages of disintegration were usually the ages in which the woman had left the home." (**World- Review, March 1949**)

The author of the articles on "Feminine influence in Politics" arrays a wealth of detail from the histories of Greece, Rome, England, France, etc., to prove his theme that the disintegration of civilization has always coincided with baneful feminist movement; and their influence in social and political life and that:

"The hey-day of their (i.e., the women's) power happened to coincide with the greatest degree of degeneracy among the male population."
(**Universal History of the World, Vol. VII, p. 3985**)

The author believes in separate spheres of work for men and women and concludes with the remark that:

"All that our thesis and the historical data collected above entitle us to argue is that at the healthiest period in the history of all peoples the male population appears to distinguish so sharply between its public functions and duties and its relationship to women that no such phenomenon as direct or indirect feminine influence in politics is possible. Feminine domination is as a rule only an accompanying symptom of the general decline." (**Ibid] p. 4004**)

WOMAN DEWOMANISED:

The historian is not alone in his condemnation. The philosopher, the scientist, the journalist, the social reformer, all are raising their voice against the tragedy of woman's life in the modern West. For instance, Dr. Henri C Link is alarmed at the mounting divorce-rate and says:

"The divorce rate, certainly an aspect of social harmony, is at an all-time high, more than one in every five marriages, and promises in twenty years *to be one in every two marriages.*" (**The Rediscovery of Morals, p. 17**)

The journalist, Dorothy Thompson, very frankly declares that:

"Woman put on precisely the same level as man has been dewomanised." And who can refute the learned lady who is saying this after much thought and experience!

Prof. C. E. M. Joad, once an enthusiastic supporter of the Feminist movement and leader of the "Men's Political Union for Women's Enfranchisement" now repents over his mistakes and declares that the real place of woman is not the social circus but the home. In his autobiography he argues by giving an example and says:

"If you want to build a bridge or a town hall you don't pick up a chance-collection of persons out of the street and ask them to undertake the job; you call in an expert engineer and an expert architect. But if you want to build what is after all more important than a bridge or a town-hall, namely, a modern citizen, you leave the job to any chance-couple of persons who are able to produce one. Now any pair of persons, provided they be of opposite sexes, are capable of producing a citizen—the job is indeed all-too-fatally easy. But the ability to produce does not connote any ability to educate, to build a character, to guide an intellect, to develop a personality. Very much the contrary! And it is just because we leave the task of making citizens to chance-couples that, our bridges are so much better than our citizens and we ourselves are on the whole the grubby, unworthy, ill-shaped, ill-mannered and meagre-minded lot that you see around you." (**The Book of Joad, p. 26**)

This belief of Dr. Joad has been further strengthened lately. In a recent interview he says:

"I believe the world would be a happier place if women were content to look after their homes and their children, even if some slight lowering of the standard of living were involved thereby." (**'Variety', Dec: 1, 1952**)

FAMILY: THE BASIS OF NATIONAL CHARACTER:

Prof. Fulton J. Sheen is also of the same opinion. He says:

"The disturbance of family life in America is more desperate than at any other period in our history. The family is the barometer of the nation. What the average home is that is America. If the average home is living on credit,

spending' money lavishly, running into debt, then America will be a nation which will pile national debt on national debt until the day of the Great Collapse. If the average husband and wife are not faithful to their marriage vows, then America will not insist on fidelity to the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms. If there is a deliberate frustration of the fruits of love, then the nation will develop economic policies of flowing undue cotton, throwing coffee into the sea and frustrating nature for the sake of economic prices. If the husband and wife live only for self and not for each other, if they fail to see that their individual happiness is conditioned on mutuality, then we shall have a country where capital and labour fight like husband and wife, both making social life barren and economic peace impossible. If the husband or wife permits outside solicitations to woo one away from the other, then we shall become a nation where alien philosophies will infiltrate as Communism sweep, away that basic loyalty which was known as patriotism. If husband and wife live as if there is no God, then America shall have bureaucrats pleading for atheism as a national policy repudiating the Declaration of Independence and denying that all our rights and liberties come to us from God. It is the home which decides the nation. What happens in the family will happen later in the Congress, the White House and the Supreme Court. Every country gets the kind of Government it deserves. As we live in the house, so shall the nation live."

(Communism and Conscience of the West)

NECESSITY OF RELIGION:

This learned author is very much perturbed at the vulgarisation of family life. He sees no way out of the impasse except, that of the return of women to the home and the revival of the family life. About this Dr. Sheen says:

"Every revolution, whatever its nature, is carried out only through the use of force and this violence and force throws up such individuals into position of responsibility and power as combine practical capacities with the ability to command and exact obedience. When such people attain power, it is impossible to oust them except by the use of force. Else, why should a person who attained power and position through force, give up his advantages without a fight for them? There has been no such example in history and the theory lacks any real psychological basis. The Communists believe and propagate that the proletarian dictatorship, after enjoying absolute power for an indefinite period, will willingly lay down all its powers and end its authority of its own accord. This is arguing against common-sense and against all principles of psychology.

It would seem that distance lends charm. It is not surprising that such ideas have a great attraction, since the greater part of the world has not yet experienced the process of the Communist revolution. If we assess at their true worth the forces which have brought success to the Communist movement, and then try to judge the constructive work which the Communists will have to undertake to give Communism a sound footing,

then the ideal does not present a very happy picture. It is this to which Bertrand Russell refers when he points out that Marxism appeals to the lower passions of man, like enmity, jealousy and hatred. It is because of this that we find many persons, who were once active protagonists of Communism turning with hatred against it after sometime. It is true that Marx has made Communism a living and powerful movement by playing upon such sentiments and passions. The easiest way of achieving success in war is to rouse the sense of hatred as was done during the world wars. But the evil results of such a course become apparent when we attempt constructive work after victory in war. We, who have witnessed the consequences of two world wars, cannot but feel that a war of hatred, even if successful, brings in its wake lasting evil effects. And the most important fact is that in the present stage of scientific development, it is very difficult for the proletariat to fight single-handed against capitalists and to overpower them. Contrary to Marx's expectations, the number of persons whose interests lie on the side of capitalism is ever increasing. Also the industrial and military experts without whom no modern war can be fought, are either themselves rank capitalists or else they are the allies of capitalists. Under such circumstances what chance can there be for a successful Communist revolution?

America is a democracy; hence the only way —and the right way—we can arrest the rot is not by a Presidential decree, not by a uniform divorce law, not by handling the problem of juvenile delinquency in each new age without even stopping it at its source, HOME,—but only by a conscience enlightened by religion and morality."

These are the views of the Western thinkers. Their reaction against the West now too manifest. They are baffled at the menace of sex-anarchy—the natural offshoot of the so-called movement of feminine emancipation which instead of restoring woman to her natural status "emancipated" her by driving her out of the home and the family-life, by auctioning her feminity in the streets and the bazars and by making her a society-toy. The West is realising the folly. But, alas! the westernised Muslim is still lost in his vagaries. He still wants to sexualise the society and, by propagating the Western ways of life, to establish an Almighty-Sex-Dictatorship in our country. Ah! the vision and the wisdom of Western Mullah!! It is time we open our eyes and learn to call a spade a spade. Let us ponder over the eye-opening views of Dr. Cyrill Garbett and decide here and now what load we have to tread—the one heading towards anarchy, crime and corruption or the one leading to home, peace and prosperity. She says:—

"It is a matter of common knowledge that large numbers of men and women have sexual intercourse without any thought of marriage with their casual partners. This is the result of the greater freedom between young people of both sexes, of the nervous strain of war, of life under conditions which make abstinence extremely difficult, and of the erotic atmosphere created by an unending stream of emotional novels and films. Only definite moral conviction based upon religious faith will give the necessary self-control."

(In an Age of Revolution, p. 76)
