

FEMINISM REACHES IRAN

Mahsa Amini was just the beginning. The body count is rising in Iran. As of now 92 people have been killed. The Iranian women are burning their hijabs and burqas and are on a war path. They are refusing to abide by the centuries old patriarchal dress code which says that women can be seen in public only through various layers of veils and screens. To clear any confusion in the matter, let us see what "The Book" says about this. So, here's the quote from the Quran, Chapter 24, Verse 31:

"Enjoin the Believing women to restrain their gaze and guard their private parts. and not to display their adornment except that which is displayed of itself, and to draw their veils over their bosoms and not to display their adornment except before their husbands, their fathers, the fathers of their husbands, their sons and the sons of their husbands (from other wives), their brothers, their brothers' sons, their sisters' sons, their female associates and those in their possession and male attendants incapable of sex desire and those boys who have not yet attained knowledge of sex matters concerning women...."

"Draw their veils over their bosoms...." indicates that a veil is to be worn. The readers should judge for themselves whether this is patriarchal and against feminism. But now the Iranian women are saying they shall not have anything to do with a "veil." Period. And they are asserting their freedom. They are laying down their lives for their freedom.

Let us come to India now. Here Muslim women are fighting for their "freedom" to wear the veil! They are insisting on wearing all kinds of veils, hijabs and burqas even inside schools and colleges! And this fight has gone up to the Supreme Court. The Indian women too insist that wearing the veil is their freedom! The Iranian women are burning their hijabs in the name of freedom and the Indian women are donning their hijabs in the name of freedom. So, this raises the question "what is freedom?" Is it an absolute?

And what is feminism? If we assume, that the Iranian women are fighting for feminism, can we say that the Indian women are against feminism? But the Indian women are insisting that they are being "feminine" by veiling their womanhood! So, what is "feminism?" Who defines it? Is it an absolute?