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Help Them Have A Voice

The Iranian Revolution has caused the word “freedom” to be a foreign word, to both the teenagers and women. A lot of them are losing their lives because they are fighting against the Shah. A lot of teenage boys have to go into war. It’s not considered an option, you either have to go to war or suffer consequences, which at times lead to death. Due to being enlisted into the army, a lot of them won’t fully finish their learning. Since Iran is a Muslim country they don’t believe in having Christianity as an ethnicity so the Iranians were deprived from the teachings of Armenians schools. Their education isn’t the only thing that is being violated. Both teenagers and women don’t necessarily have a voice. Teenage boys can’t stand up for themselves and say that they don’t want to participate in going to war and that instead want to finish their education. Teenage girls can’t say that they don’t plan on covering themselves from head to toe. Iranian teenagers have the most difficulty in expressing themselves because a lot of their privileges are being taken away from them. While the adults have their lives figured out the teenagers have to reconstruct what they plan on doing once they are fully an adult.

Marjane Satrapi tells us how hard it is for teenagers to fully express themselves. According to her you always have to be on the lookout when you are in the black market. “They were Guardians of the Revolution, The Women’s Branch. Their job was to put us back on the straight and narrow by explaining the duties of Muslim women.” (Satrapi 133) Not being able

to understand the concept results in taking a trip to “The Committee”. Do not be fooled by the trip, no one had to know that you were taken, the Guardians of the Revolution were able to hold you there for as long they want. Anything could and would happen. She also tells us about the time when her parents went on a trip to Turkey and had to hide things that they bought for her. “It’s so hard for kids in Iran.” (Satrapi 127) If you were caught having some sort of fun you were easily taken to The Committee or beaten. Marjane’s thoughts became clear when she talked about her uncle, Anoosh. “My ideas were the same as Fereydoon but your grandfather remained faithful to the Shah” (Satrapi 55) Anoosh was kicked out of his house because his father claimed him to be a traitor. When Fereydoon was assassinated he went into hiding. This indicates that even adults have to be careful in what they are saying and doing. It wasn’t necessarily about the teenagers and what they can and cannot do. Everyone is in danger, but no one has the courage to help and/or stand up. “Azerbaijan is only the beginning we are going to free Iran province by province.” (Satrapi 55) Everyone should be able to show and give the encouragement as to what the Iranian people believe is true.

You don’t normally picture teenagers sitting around the house doing nothing rather out and about either with friends, at a party, etc. Here in Iran you see teenagers in their homes following rules. Their entertainment relies in going to the black market and buying what they can afford but even then it’s risky. Not being able to have any fun consists of not having or associating in any time of party, not being able to play any sort of game, as well as not being able to drink any alcoholic beverages. Teenagers can’t count on anyone to tell you what exactly is happening at the time. Their teacher and them might have a very different perspective on what is happening with the war. It basically means that you can’t rely on anyone telling you anything.

Their main reliance is the radio but even then they never really do get their questions answered.

Their college privilege will soon be taken away from students that wished to create a professional career for themselves. We have it easy compared to Iranian people.

Iran can be a wonderful and beautiful place but it's impossible to live in. There is no such thing as winning against the Shah, both their protest and actions created little help in having what the Iranian people wanted. No one can easily say I like living here, when there is current bombing and protests. The Iranian people shouldn't be fighting this war alone. They should have the acknowledgement and encouragement to stand up for themselves and have something go their way.

Bibliography:

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