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# Les Femmes Nues: The Evolution and Devolution of Women as Sexual Fantasies in Le Pain Nu by Mohamed Choukri

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# Les Femmes Nues: The Evolution and Devolution of Women as Sexual Fantasies in *Le pain nu* by Mohamed Choukri

**Then:** “Only prostitutes and insane women wandered freely in the streets,” reports Fatima Mernissi in *Beyond the Veil*, as she describes the role of women in traditional Moroccan society. Women were expected to remain within the confines of their house or harem walls, toiling on behalf of the family” (Alpert 11).

## Mother = Childhood

“Tais-toi. Il ne faut pas que les voisins nous entendent” (Choukri 14).

*Be quiet. I don't want the neighbors to hear us.*

Choukri's mother gave birth to six children.

Two lived.



“If a husband catches his wife in the act of adultery and kills her, he risks only one to five years in jail. If a married woman flees a violent husband without his authorization, whoever gives her refuge risks up to five years in prison” (Howe 169).

***“...wives obey them and care for the household...”(Evrard 184).***

## Prostitutes / Assia = Adolescence

“C'était normal. Elle vendait son corps et nous l'achetions” (Choukri 41).

*It was normal. She was selling her body and we were buying.*



*“The woman's body is ugly...definitely ugly...” (Choukri 34)*

***“Women have more obligations than rights” (Howe 157).***

“[Women] get pregnant and are repudiated by their husbands, with no means of livelihood. If they can't go home, their only solution is to get rid of the baby and become a prostitute” (Howe 160).

## Sallafa = Adulthood

“Elle dirige tout ici !” (Choukri 101).

*She is in charge of everything here!*

Kabil drugs her and shaves her head and eyebrows to stop her from running away. *She flees anyway.*



Moroccan men must be made to understand the utility of women in society” (Howe 149).

***“Before 1953, talk of women's rights had been practically taboo” (Howe 149).***

**Now:** “Today's women are the most dynamic sector of Moroccan society, pressing to improve the lives of their families, correct social ills, and eliminate lingering inequalities” (Howe 145).