

In Bahrain and some of the other countries in the area, preference is given to Western school system and western teachers are hired preferentially. Recently a friend of mine was visiting with his family from a mid-eastern country and his rather lovely and smart little daughter entertained us during our long drive. She sang many Christmas songs and drew for me pictures with the words "holly" and the cross.. She was attending the American school. Even such little girls were learning dances and she told me about writing letters to boys on Valentine's day. >From the Bahrain T.V. Christmas celebrations are broadcast, not only from the stationed American soldiers camps but also from Bahraini schools. Vulgar Indian films with hip swinging, pelvis twitching dances are beamed especially on Thursday nights. It was not uncommon for Muslim families to sit around TVs waiting for these Indian films to start and this often made it difficult for them to wake up for Fajr prayers and go to Jum'a on time. Often news coming from Bahraini, Dubai and other stations are pro-Indian anti-Pakistan and anti-Muslim, as most of the news writers, readers and program managers are Hindus or Christians; perhaps there were Jews too (there is a thriving Jewish population in Bahrain who own key financial centres).

After the Gulf War, the popularity of America reached its zenith, Children were named after Bush and anything and everything American was highly prized. One needs to own an American made car before proposing to a girl, otherwise his status was considered low. American culture – from coke, Hamburger, Marlboro to designer jeans are a mainstay.

When Muslims emigrate to a land, they start building places of worship, schools and architectural monuments such as those which abound in Spain, India and other parts of the world and now in the West. Unfortunately, after the Americans arrived in countries like the Philippines, Korea, Vietnam and Thailand, these once cultured and religious lands were turned into brothels. Now, there is a large number of American and British soldiers stationed in Muslim countries of the middle east. One cannot expect anything other than what befell the Asian countries. So, when the atmosphere is so polluted, it is almost impossible for parents to raise their children as good, pious Muslims and for children to grow up dutiful and loyal to parents. Frankly, I could not see what the princess found so attractive in the man with whom she eloped. Being white and being American was all the allure needed to tempt a princess to throw away her palace and live in a dingy army barrack room. She deserves not our anger, but our pity.

(Engr. Meer Sahib.)

Fiqh-e-Islami Newsdesk.

Falling in Love is No Sin

The Eloping of the Bahraini Princess.

Many Muslims must have been anguished by the news of the Bahraini Princes Merian Al-Khalifa eloping with an American G.I. (yesterday's prime time news). Falling in love is no sin, but how it is done can cause much pains and embarrassment to the parents, immediate families and the community at large. Many of us have married American, Canadian and other Western women. Similarly, a Muslim sister has all the rights in Islam to marry an American or an European. However, should Muslims fall in love, live an adulterous life, and then get married or elope with a man whose character and upbringing and other pertinent information is unknown? This is what causes us grief. But blaming the princess for her actions will be simply addressing the symptoms without analysing its causes. It is not the first time "Muslim" princes and princesses have brought disgrace and it is not going to be last. When the causes are not addressed, there will be many more princes and princesses repeating this shameful act.

The secularist rulers in the middle east are bending over backwards to westernize their countries. They want the West to admire the changes they have wrought upon their countries and commend them as "progressives", and "moderates" as compared to the well abused "Islamic Fundamentalists". Sheik Isa, who was known as the "Evil Dwarf" and his government opened Bahrain to alcohol, pork and prostitution. Once I almost ended up eating pork at the Bahrain air port, as having lived in Saudi Arabia, I got used to eating meat without questioning if it was halal or not.

After the causeway between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain was opened, the sin-flights to Philippines and Thailand brothels dropped and 'business' in Bahrain picked up. Not only the expatriates flocked to Bahrain, but also the secularists who hated Muslims from the bottom of their hearts for standing against liberalizing - i.e. free flow of alcohol, gambling, prostitution and so on. Many otherwise innocent youth were also tempted by the availability of sinful adventure within a couple of hours of drive. The Muslims in Bahrain couldn't do much, as the wrath of these governments are well known, except for sometimes going around these well known sin spots and smashing up windshields of cars bearing non-Bahraini number plates.