

When the Signs of the Cause Fade Away

They live with the fear of tomorrow. Their young bodies and their minds, which yearn to open up on the world and the future, are exhausted with such questions as: Is their future going to be better than their present? Are they going to find a job? Or are they going to be as the olders jobless? Are they going to live in an age in which their country will really develop? Or is the way still long before all of them and even their grandchildren will not live this dream?

They are always asking themselves many questions, and seeking answers, in search of a compass enabling them to know the goal for which they are living for.

It has been impossible that their physiological changes would occur without resulting in an intellectual revolution, leading to an infinite set of questions and wanders.

During my participation in achieving a documentary on adolescents of both sexes in the Arab world, many questions and views expressed by Maghreb adolescentss drew my attention. Among these adolescents those who are still pursuing their studies and those whose family drove them to leave for the job market.

What really held my attention was their ability to fully understand and be aware of their reality which will help them think ahead.

Their dreams are hugging the sky and their questions are digging the earth, and they keep on looking for a real answer to cherish their hope.

They live with the Internet and the different technological revolutions as if it is an ending world. Most of them know how to deal with it, and others feel they are missing something great, so they have to go to the nearest Internet cafe to find out about this world.

This world does not only provide the opportunity for them to dream, but also broadens the notion of disappoint-

ment as well as open doors for them, it makes them feel the shape of the doors are shut and immigration is the solution. A lot of today's Maghreb children, adolescentss and think that way.

Be it a temporary immigration or not, legal or illegal, it does not matter. Each one has his own circumstances, his conception of the future of his relationship with his family and country. But most of them agree that immigration might be some solutions, referred to by "Ali Zoua" in Nabil Ayouch's film, remains the sun of all, and the point of light that they see.

Do not be astonished if you ask about the role model for them. They answer, Ossama Ben Laden.

Some of them think that he is the only person who can say no.

Most of them want to say no to their parents. Some of them were recruited by extremist groups who brainwashed them and turned their young bodies into human bombs that exploded last May 16 and killed innocent people. Some others chose to immigrate by the boats or death, even ending up in the bellies of fish, while others became addicted to the Internet.

Concurrently, some are able to pursue their studies, others resort to work in farms or factories. Inisistently say that their family conditions compelled them to leave the school and go to work even with a very low wage.

I did not forget what Dr. Chahida El Bez said that she feels sorry for today's youth, underlining that we used to have a cause, defend it, and dream about a better future, and we, actually, lived in periods where the signs of the cause start to fade away. With the present generation, the cause has become many causes that are difficult to believe in.

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